

# Centurion



3905 Century Club  
**July 11-14 2019 Eyeball** Cost: \$65 per  
 Adult, \$25 for Children 7-12, & FREE for 6/under  
**Important information**

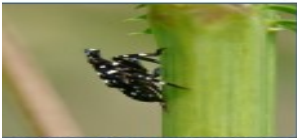


## Have You Spotted Me?

### Living in Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Areas

**IMPORTANT:** Before you move outdoor items check for spotted lanternfly egg masses, adults, and nymphs. Make sure all items are pest free before you move them. Help keep this pest from spreading by removing and killing them.

### Stop and Report a #HitchHikerBug



Nymph found in late spring / summer.

#### 1. Take a picture:

With the GPS function turned on your cellphone or camera with GPS, take a photograph of any life stage (including egg masses). Upload your photo to Facebook or Instagram, using the hashtag #HitchHikerBug. If you don't have GPS capabilities and/or access to social media, submit the photo via email to: [HitchHikerBug@state.de.us](mailto:HitchHikerBug@state.de.us) Include your name, contact information, and the address or georeference of where the photo was taken.

#### 2. Collect a specimen:

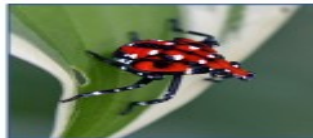
Suspected specimens of any life stage can be collected and placed in a vial or plastic zip-lock bag with the name and contact information of the collector, and turned in to the Delaware Department of Agriculture CAPS program for verification.



Adult - late summer / fall.



Adult - late summer / fall.



Nymph found in summer prior to adulthood.



Fresh Spotted Lanternfly egg mass on tree bark (outlined in white). Present in fall and winter. Blends in with surroundings.

#### 3. Report a site:

If you can't take a specimen or photograph, call (302) 698-4632 or send an email to: [HitchHikerBug@state.de.us](mailto:HitchHikerBug@state.de.us) In the message, provide the location of the sighting and your contact information.

## Have You Spotted Me?

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**IMPORTANT:** Before you move outdoor items check for spotted lanternfly egg masses, adults, and nymphs. Make sure all items are pest free before you move them. Help keep this pest from spreading by removing and killing them.

### Check before you move:

#### Recreational or Camping Items

- |  |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks             | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood    | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball backboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Grills      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles              | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Chests  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boats/Boat trailers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Tents                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                 |

#### Other Household Items

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrels                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant containers       | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm/Screen doors and windows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard or wooden boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Propane or oil tanks   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Refrigerators/Freezers | <input type="checkbox"/> Window awnings                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flag poles                | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor furniture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds          |   |

#### Building Materials

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricks/Cinder blocks | <input type="checkbox"/> Pipes                | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and toolboxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cement mixing tubs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Roofing materials    | <input type="checkbox"/> Workbenches         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber               | <input type="checkbox"/> Skidsteers/Forklifts | <input type="checkbox"/> Other               |

#### Yard and Garden Items

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backhoes                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbecue grills                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tillers  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tractors and trailers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carts   | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tools    | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees, shrubs, and plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cold frames                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawnmowers      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog houses, chicken coops, rabbit sheds, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and posts |  |

#### Children's Playthings

- |   |                                      |                                    |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles, scooters | <input type="checkbox"/> Play houses | <input type="checkbox"/> Swingsets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kiddie pools       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandboxes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other     |

By signing this checklist, I am confirming that I have inspected my vehicle and those items I am moving from the spotted lanternfly quarantine area, and do not see any egg masses or insects in or on anything I am moving.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign, date, and keep this checklist in your vehicle with you - use it each time you need it.

For more info, visit: [de.gov/hitchhikerbug](http://de.gov/hitchhikerbug)  
 Stop and Report a #HitchHikerBug



Special points of interest:

- Election results
- New editor
- Member Column
- Awards for the quarter

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# Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine

Learn what this new quarantine means for residents, businesses, municipalities, and government agencies.

## Quick Take

### What:

The spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, (SLF) is a destructive, invasive plant hopper that attacks many hosts including forests, ornamental trees, orchards, and grapes—has been confirmed in northern New Castle County.

### Significance:

The spotted lanternfly is a threat to Delaware and the United States. The insect is detrimental to Delaware's agricultural industries, the environment, and residential areas.

Agriculture is Delaware's #1 industry, providing more than 20,000 jobs and \$8 billion of economic activity, including \$1.2 billion in direct sales from our 2,500 family farms.

This insect is a threat to several important commercial crops including grapes, peaches, apples, hops, and timber. Early detection is vital for the protection of Delaware businesses and agriculture.

### Areas Impacted:

The following Delaware zipcodes are quarantined in their entirety as of February 28, 2019:

19702, 19703, 19707, 19711,  
19801, 19802, 19803, 19805,  
19807, 19808, and 19810.

Spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, is a threat to Delaware and the United States. It lays egg masses of 30-50 eggs wherever it chooses, especially on flat surfaces. All other life stages of this insect, from nymphs to adults can fly, hop, or drop into a vehicle – meaning that this pest can easily be transported to new areas where it can develop an infestation. Therefore, a quarantine over an area found to have spotted lanternfly means that any material or object that could harbor the pest cannot be moved without taking precautions to prevent that spread.

## Current Quarantine Area

The goal of the quarantine is to eradicate, control, and prevent the spread of spotted lanternfly in Delaware and to surrounding states. The following zip codes in New Castle County have been quarantined in their entirety:

19702 • 19703 • 19707 • 19711 • 19801 • 19802  
19803 • 19805 • 19807 • 19808 • 19810

The quarantine can expand if there is reason to believe that the pest has moved into a non-quarantined area.

## Examples of Regulated Articles

- Any living life stage of the spotted lanternfly
- Landscaping, remodeling or construction materials
- Firewood of any species
- Packing materials (e.g., wood crates, boxes)
- All plants and plant parts including all live and dead trees, perennial and annual plants, and mulch
- Outdoor household articles like RVs, lawnmowers, chairs, grills, tarps, tile, stone, deckboards, and other vehicles not stored indoors

## How Can Regulated Items Be Moved?

### General Public

Complete a residential compliance checklist indicating that you inspected and know that no living life stage of spotted lanternfly is present on the articles. The checklist is available online at <https://de.gov/hitchhikerbug>.

### Business, Municipalities, Government Agencies

Any person conducting business requiring the movement of any regulated item within or from the quarantine area must have a permit.

# Permits for Business, Municipalities, Government Agencies

To obtain a permit, a designated individual from an organization must receive training and pass an online test to demonstrate a working knowledge and understanding of the pest and quarantine requirements. Training of other employees, inspection of vehicles and products, and removal of living stages of spotted lanternfly must be completed. The permit demonstrates that you have the understanding to identify the pest and can ensure the item you transport are not carrying the insect.

- Managers, supervisors, or persons with authority for your business work group must receive approved training. Training is available online through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) at: [https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted\\_lanternfly/quarantine/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/quarantine/Pages/default.aspx)
- A designated manager or supervisor taking the multiple choice exam must receive a passing grade of at least 70 percent. The business name, number of vehicles and/or conveyances, address, and contact information is required to register for the exam.
- The manager or supervisor taking the exam agrees to train all employees in the work group to identify the pest and prevent it from movement on products, vehicles and other methods of conveyance..
- The permit will be issued by the Delaware Department of Agriculture upon successful completion of the PDA training and exam. The permit will be valid for a period of one year.
- Contractors and subcontractors must possess their own permit indicating they have completed training if they are working within or outside of a quarantine zone.
- The permit must be kept inside the business vehicle when working within or outside of the quarantine zone.
- Recordkeeping of training, inspection of vehicles, incoming and outgoing shipments of regulated articles, and control measures taken (such as vehicle washes, destruction of living life stages of spotted lanternfly, etc.) must be maintained for a minimum of two years and may be requested from the Department.

## Movement of Regulated Articles

All regulated articles, including vehicles and conveyances, shall be inspected and all life stages of the spotted lanternfly shall be removed and destroyed prior to movement within or out of the quarantine area. Regulated articles, other than vehicles and conveyances, must be packaged and safeguarded prior to shipping, such as within a closed container, shrink wrapped, tight tarp or similar covering, to maintain isolation from the environment during storage or transportation.

If any living life stage of the spotted lanternfly is found during an inspection, those items will remain within the quarantine area, be placed in a separate area away from other regulated articles and will be processed, treated, burned, or buried, in accordance with all federal, state, or local laws.

A regulated article, including vehicles and conveyances, may be shipped through the quarantine area if it originates outside of the quarantine area and the destination is outside of a quarantine area, including the quarantine areas of other states. This must be designated on the waybill accompanying the regulated items. As long as the item has been stored, packed, or handled only at locations outside the quarantine area, the item including the vehicle and conveyance, may move through the quarantine zone without stopping (except for refueling, traffic control devices, or emergency conditions).

If any other area, inside or outside of Delaware, is determined to have spotted lanternfly present, movement from that area into the State will require a permit issued either under Delaware's regulations, a Department approved permitting process, or other program carried out by the state of origin.

## Additional Information

- For more information, visit: <https://de.gov/hitchhikerbug>
- For questions related to the quarantine, permitting, treatment, or to report a sighting of spotted lanternfly, especially outside of the quarantine zone, call (302) 698-4632 or email: [HitchHikerBug@delaware.gov](mailto:HitchHikerBug@delaware.gov). In your message, provide the location of the sighting and your contact information.



# Awards Highlights

By Ben – AE4NT, Awards Secretary ([ae4nt@mrbig.com](mailto:ae4nt@mrbig.com))

May 25, 2019

Awards highlights include listings of major awards – new members, major progressive awards, DX Awards, and WAS awards – along with other awards-oriented information. Each month, we'll wrap up the column with either an in-depth presentation of one of the Club's more than sixty awards, or with hints and tips for efficient pursuit of that wallpaper we all seek.

## Recent Awards

During the period from February 16, 2019 to May 25, 2019, we issued 88 awards to 44 members in nine call areas. What you'll see below are the highlights of several categories of awards; a complete listing is provided elsewhere.

### New Members

Earning their first 100-point awards on our nets during the period, our newest members are: **Rich Carstensen W8VK** and wife, **Carol Carstensen, W8AYL**, of Sidney, OH; **Ed Lewis, KC2WVX**, of Unadilla, NY; **Rich Sammarco, KN4CQB**, of Monroe, NC; **Don Bush, WA2TPU**, of Afton, NY; **Des Sopha, W8USR**, of Livonia, MI; **Win McCracken, W6PNY**, of Grand Forks, ND; **Kyle Hoover, K0KYE**, of Webster City, IA; **Don Dison, WW5DD**, of Burnet, TX; **Michael Paul, AC0AB**, of Lee's Summit, MO; and **Jonny Dorminy, KN4LGM** of McDonough, GA. Congratulations and welcome to all!

### Major Progression Awards

In this section, I'll shine the spotlight on those who have earned major progressive awards during the period. Starting with the 100-point award, progression awards recognize significant, well-rounded achievements on our nets. The Master's Degree, our pinnacle award, requires 1000- and 2000-point certificates on primary and secondary bands. Here, I'll list from 1000-point and up, except that I'll also include 500-point awards for CW, digital modes and 160M all modes.

23,000 Points

**Ralph Mitchell, KG8WL** (Master #71, Eight Area Director), of Colon, MI – 40 SSB. Ralph also earned the 22,000 Point award at the same time. This lofty pinnacle was achieved after over 30 years of membership by the former N8IFS, whose first 100-point certificate was awarded in 1987. Congratulations, Ralph!

4,000 Points

**Rob Lunsford, KB8UEY** (Co-Mgr, 3905 CCN QSL Bureau), of Kettering, MI – 40 SSB. Rob is no stranger to QSL cards and he had to earn a lot of them to get to this level. Rob has been with us since 2007 and has served the club in many capacities.

3,000 Points

**Alex Lapinski, K9FZ** of Hudson, WI – 40M SSB.

2,000 Points

**Kirk Frazier, AA1NA** (5<sup>th</sup> Area Awards Manager) – 40M SSB.

1,000 Points

**Donnie Hurst, KG4ZOD** (75M Late Net Coordinator), of Burlington, NC – 160M SSB.

**Kirk Frazier, AA1NA** (5<sup>th</sup> Area Awards Manager), of Hattiesburg, MS – 40M SSB.

**Randy Hanrahan, K7PGL**, of White Tail, MT – 75M SSB.

500 Points (CW, Digital, or 160M)

**Donnie Hurst, KG4ZOD** (Master #62, 75M Late Net Coordinator), of Burlington, NC – 160M SSB.

**Richard Smale, W5IL** (Master #10), of Los Alamos, NM – 160M SSB.

## WAS Awards

We issue several flavors of WAS awards. The **WAS General Award** can be earned on each band/mode combination. WAS General is required on both primary and secondary bands for the Master's Degree, as well as WAS YL at Level 35 on the primary band. WAS Awards in the list are WAS General unless otherwise noted and are listed in the order they were issued.

Special shout-out to **Richard Smale, W5IL** (Master #10), who earned the WAS General Award on 160M SSB. This accomplishment requires persistence, dedication, time, and an antenna I don't have (LOL). Congratulations, Richard!

Also earning a WAS variant this period was Randy Hanrahan, K7PGL (Assistant 7<sup>th</sup> Area Director), who scored the Two-Letter Call Sign version of the award. Congratulations, Randy!

## DX Award

Our DX award is simple in concept, but difficult to complete when we run afoul of the propagation gods, requiring twenty-five confirmed contacts with twenty-five unique countries other than the US. Alas, for this period of low sunspot activity, we issued none.

## Fortieth Anniversary Award

We had only one new submission this month – **Bill Hildebrand, N9BFI**, checked in with 156 points. **Peter Summers, N2XTT** (Master #6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Area Director), is still king of the hill with 4,670 points. Please remember that although this award entails contacts made during the Fortieth Anniversary Year only, it can be submitted from now until forever.

## Award Spotlight – Clint Wise Memorial Award & Reginald Fessenden Award

These awards recognize extensive mobile/portable operation in the U.S. (Clint Wise) and Canada (Reginald Fessenden).

### Clint Wise Memorial Award

If you operate mobile or portable in many U.S. states, this award is for you. The award comes in both flavors – mobile and portable – and is issued individually for each band/mode on which the 3905 Century Club runs nets. It honors Clint E. Wise, W1XN (SK), a valued erstwhile member of the Club.

To earn the basic award, you must provide proof that you have worked five different call signs while you are mobile or portable in twenty states. (Note that the award is for EITHER mobile OR portable operation – you cannot mix mobile and portable in the same award).

Once you have earned the basic award, you can endorse it upwards to 30, 40, 48, 49, and 50 states. When you reach 48, you are eligible to receive a free plaque, with a brass plate indicating 48 states. Then, when you move upward to 49 and 50, you will receive brass plates reflecting those accomplishments, which you can add to the plaque.

When you achieve the 50-state level, you will be officially identified on our nets as a “Roadrunner”. Only a few such critters exist in the Club’s history.

### Reginald Fessenden Award

Doing your mobile operation in Canada? You’ll be interested in the Reginald Fessenden Award. Like the Clint Wise Award, it is issued individually for mobile or portable operation. It honors Reginald Fessenden, a great Canadian inventor responsible for many early radio achievements.

The Fessenden Award follows a pattern like the Clint Wise, but due to the smaller number of entities, requires ten contacts made while operating mobile or portable from each of nine Canadian provinces. (Note once again that the award is for EITHER mobile OR portable operation – you cannot mix mobile and portable in the same award).

Once you have earned the basic award, you can endorse it to 11, 12, and 13 provinces.



When you reach 13, you'll get a free plaque, and you'll be officially announced on the 3905 Century Club nets as a "Snowrunner". If you do that, you'll be breaking new ground for the Club, as none have reached this lofty pinnacle.

## Go Get 'Em!

With the summer ahead, now's the time to plan those mobile trips. See the U.S.A and Canada and earn Club awards while touring. You'll be surprised at how popular you'll be on the nets if you haven't roamed before. Everybody needs mobile contacts for their progressive awards. The Clint Wise and Reginald Fessenden Award are added incentive to provide those mobile contacts, but if you don't have a mobile rig, you can still earn them by operating portable.

For more information and detailed rules, please refer to the latest versions of the award applications on the Club website.

*Want to see a specific award featured in this segment? Send me an email with your suggestions for what I should include here.*

*We hope you enjoyed reading about the awards earned by your fellow members and other interesting awards factoids. Please look for Awards Highlights in the next issue of the Centurion. In the meanwhile, Awards News, listing all the awards issued during each week is published on the 3905ChatGrp, 3905Checkins, 3905AwdTalk, and Hamtown reflectors each Friday except around Eyeball and Hamcation® weeks.*

## Smithsonian Institution station NN3SI

The Smithsonian Institution station NN3SI was in continuous operation from the bicentennial 1976 to 2008. The station was shut down and dismantled in 2008 after a building renovation.

Now in 2019 we have renewed the callsign as the Smithsonian Institution Amateur Radio Group. We have a small number of members and will operate as an employee radio club for now. We do not have a station or equipment yet, but we hope to build up slowly and someday return to a museum. NN3SI will be back on the air this year for most radio events and we will be sending a special QSL card. Please listen out for us! The best way to show your interest is to work NN3SI on the air. The Smithsonian is interested to see how many people we reach on the air and the demand for the QSL card.

We are not equipped to accept donations for now, it will be a while before we get there. We will be on HF from 6-40 phone and digital, but a large amount of activity will be 20 meter digital FT8/PSK31/RTTY due to limited equipment for now.

For more information email us at [nn3si@si.edu](mailto:nn3si@si.edu)



# Hams in action

Garage door repair people, local ham radio enthusiasts, and other volunteer investigators descended on a neighborhood near Cleveland OH, with various meters, to determine the something powerful that was interfering with the radio frequency that many key fobs and garage door openers use. More than a dozen residents reported intermittent issues getting their key fobs and garage door openers to operate, and most lived within a few blocks of each other. At one point, the local power utility started shutting off power to areas where the strongest RF signal was detected, but the signal persisted. Dan Dalessandro, WB8ZQH, a TV repairer, was among several hams who investigated. He initially picked up "little blips" on a signal detector, but finally, on one block and at a particular house, the signal was quite loud.

The source of the problem was a homebrew, battery-operated device designed by a local resident to alert him if someone was upstairs when he was working in his basement by turning off a light. The individual, who has special needs, had no malicious intent. He was unaware his device was wreaking havoc on the neighborhood until a North Olmstead City Council member knocked on his door. The device operated on 315 MHz, the frequency many keyless-entry devices use under FCC Part 15 rules. The device's battery was removed- the issue stopped.

## News from Call area 4

Having just returned from an extended trip to Dayton and points beyond, I am late in submitting this month's information for the Centurion. Apologies to our intrepid editor, Michelle. I'll make up for my lack of proper planning by writing a Hamvention travelogue, which appears separately.

Among Fourth Area members present at Hamvention were (in no particular order): **Bob NC8I**, **Robert W4RHB**, **Bill KM4AJW**, **Dave W4CPO**, **Dave W5DMT**, **Phil K4LO**. I'm sure there were many others I didn't run into in one way or the other. By the way, if you ever get a chance to go to a barbecue catered by Dave Zelinski, W4CPO, don't hesitate. If there was an award for best chef in the 3905 Century Club, Dave would be a candidate. For more on this, see my Hamvention trip story.

Major congratulations to Donnie Hurst, KG4ZOD for earning a 1000-point award on 160M SSB! This is a difficult award to earn because the 160M nets operate only part of

the year and don't get as many check-ins as the others. Donnie tells me he had been working on this one for at least 10 years.



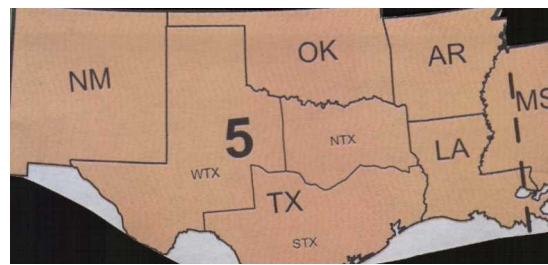
Did you know that the Fourth Area has its own message board and email reflector? We use it for communications of interest to area members, including agendas and minutes of Board meetings. To subscribe to it, send an email to

[3905ccn-4th-area+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:3905ccn-4th-area+subscribe@groups.io)

We do accept guest subscriptions from other call areas, which are read-only. Fourth area members get full posting privileges. Your Fourth Area Team, Dave, KI4DFS (AAD), Ron, NC4JR (AAM) and I, are here to serve the needs of area members. Please feel free to discuss matters of importance to you with any of us either directly or through the Fourth Area reflector. Our email addresses are available on the Club website.

By Ben – AE4NT, Fourth Area Director  
([ae4nt@mrbig.com](mailto:ae4nt@mrbig.com))

## News from Call area 5



As one of the new “Kids” on the board, I was asked to give a quick introduction. In pondering what to say about myself I have discovered how hard this can be.

I am Clay Mayrose, WA6LBU and I reside in Guthrie Oklahoma. I join the club officially in March 2008. I currently hold 17 awards. I have served the club as the 2018 Eyeball Host and now the Area Director for the Fifth Area.

I started in radio very young, my father, received the callsign WA6LBU in the mail the day I was born. I can remember dismantling military radios with my dad so he could use the parts for his home brew projects. I went to sleep at night with the sound of mechanical RTTY. I still love the sound of Model 28's. I had a novice ticket at the age of 9. I let that lapse and was re-licensed in 1982. I am an Extra Class.

I have spent time in Law Enforcement. One of my supervisors talked me in to joining the Air Force Reserve. I became a Radio Operator and that lead to an offer to join the active Air Force. I served overseas in the Philippines and Italy and was sent TDY (Temporary Duty) to many locations. Most of my career was in tactical or contingency comm. I spent a few years at the HF Site at Elkhorn Nebraska. I am currently employed by a Jimmy John's Franchise as a Cratering and Marketing Manager.

I still have a fondness for setting up radios in places where it is hard to operate. I would love to do a DXpedition to somewhere above the arctic circle. Right now, working tri-points and portable operations from state lines will have to do.

My other hobbies include Photography, Astronomy, Hunting, Fishing and I am getting back into competition shooting.

I am Vice President, and PIO of the Edmond Amateur Radio Society (EARS). EARS is heavily involved with public service. I work with Edmond Emergency Management as the Siren Test Coordinator. We test the operation of the outdoor warning system every month. Most of the city hates me on the first Saturday of the month at noon.

I look forward to serving the Fifth Area and 3905 Century Club. I enjoyed meeting everyone who attended the 2018 Eyeball and look forward to meeting the members of the Fifth Area face to face at hamfests throughout the area. If you have any questions for me, drop me an email or give me a call.

## News from Call area 6

Summer is almost here and many of our members hit the road giving out mobile contacts as they travel across our country. If you work any of them please remember to list the state they were mobile in on your QSL card and both signal reports. Mobile stations may not be logging, and if so, they are relying on the incoming QSL cards to provide the contact information.

On a personal level, both of my hip replacements were successful, and I am returning to normal activities. I still have some limits on what my doctor allows me to do, but I am hoping I can get back on the road in the weeks ahead. I am allowed to drive, but only for short trips.

I should be back on the air from my home QTH by Field Day. I've acquired a new Alpha-Delta DX-EE and members of my local radio club will be installing it soon. My first priority will be to get on 20M SSB and make the few contacts I still need to my 100 pt. number.

At this time, we do not have an Assistant 6<sup>th</sup> Area Director. I did not get any responses from my last post looking for someone to fill the position. The Assistant Director does not have a lot of duties. They attend BOD meetings if I am unavailable, and they provide valuable input to the BOD and to me. We do not have many active 6<sup>th</sup> area stations and we need more. Any one have any ideas what we can do to attract more stations from California and Hawaii to our nets?

If you just want to share your feelings or ideas for the club contact me. I can be reached via email at [ab6yl@earthlink.net](mailto:ab6yl@earthlink.net).

73,

Ginger



# About our newsletter

## This is our newsletter!

It is to share news and information about the club, its activities, and its members. Since the club is spread across the globe, the editor can't be everywhere and therefore relies on the rest of the members to provide the information. Please help make this the best by being my eyes & ears there.

Did you do a mobile expedition-send where you went, what you visited, who you contacted, what you learned, & pictures. Made a new discovery, learned a new mode, or got a cool QSL card - please share. Have a question we have lots of members...I suspect some member knows an answer.

Did you think of something that you want to share with fellow members? Know a fellow member who could use some assist? Think of a column that would be useful to see in the newsletter...send me a note.

Please be patient as we build the newsletter to what you like...but let me know suggestions and especially columns you like or don't like. I'm not trying to just copy what is elsewhere but want to highlight and inform our members. I can't report if folks don't let me know. I'm especially interested in getting input from the members about the members. See the Who are we question of the quarter!

I accept input **all the time** but if received by 1 week before the 1st of March, June, September, & December can be in that edition otherwise will appear in the following quarter.

Provide input by emailing to **msack@verizon.net** or your area **director**.

**Snail mail Michelle Sack PO Box 1182, Waldorf, MD 20604**

## WHO ARE WE?

### Question of the quarter:

What item could you bring to the Eyeball to represent your call area?

For example, I'm from the 3<sup>rd</sup> call area which has Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. I could choose crabs that Maryland is famous for, cheesesteak, Amish quilt, or terrible towels for PA, or first things or train stuff for DE. So since I'm in Maryland, I'm making a crab kit. See next page for the answers received to last months question.

Answers from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter...what got you into ham radio

K5GEB, Gary Brewer- a 20 year amateur radio operator did. He elaborates that when he was an over the road trucker, N4UPX Bobby Statzer talked him into trying a different frequency at a field day in MS. He joined 3905 in 2010 and has been an NCS off & on; reminiscing about times when propagation allowed 120-150 check-ins with many DX a part of them. Though he's moved and lost many QSL cards...he still has enough to probably get a baker's baker's dozen . Homebrew antennas and working on building an amp keep him interested. His initial call in 2009 KE5ZCF, but changed while in FL to K5GEB (his initials) and now lives in Louisiana. One memorable net contact is with Trinidad. Now he uses an Yaesu FT-857D still with homebrew antennas. He relates that he is a preacher is grateful that he was able to be NCS in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake.

AA1NA: jokes "they said I'd meet more girls hihi"

I'll close with my reason...as a nurse I wanted to be prepared for emergencies and communication is a part of being prepared. When I took my Cub Scout den to visit a ham station, I learned what I'd need to do to get my license. However never thought I'd be the one in the emergency. When the tornado hit LaPlata, MD heading at the hospital, I called the mayday, so we'd have help. I cannot express how grateful I was when a fellow club member came back a few minutes later asking for damage reports. It let us know we had survived, helped us focus, and from my third-floor location I was able to send info about the devastation around us so emergency folks could begin operations. The tornado jumped over the hospital with minimal damage to the building, but over 1000 buildings were badly damaged or destroyed. Five lives were lost and at least 120 people were injured. No one mentions but there were 203 vehicles in the lots around the hospital...and 201 were very damaged. Cell phone and landline phones were knocked out and for many hours amateur and police radios were the only communications available.

## Charles H. MARSH WOALW SK

Passed peacefully at his winter home April 8, 2019, age 97 Survived by companion of 16 years, Barbara Stephens; children, Charles (Debbie), Marlene (Dale) Howey; grandchildren, Kris (Jon) Mueller, Tony Howey; great-granddaughter, Savanna Mueller. Preceded in death by parents, Charles and Olga; wife, Arlene Marsh; 5 sisters. Charles enjoyed a career with the United States Postal Service/RPO, and was active in the Snow-bird ham radio club. A veteran of the US Navy, Charles was a lifetime member of the White Bear Lake VFW. He enjoyed splitting his time between his homes in San Juan, TX and on Lake Alexander in Cushing, MN. Interment was at Fort Snelling on Tuesday, April 23.

Published in Pioneer Press on Apr. 20, 2019



## Kevin Burkhart WMOF Master # 18

Kevin was born in western Kansas, wheat country, moved to Colorado when he was a child. He lives now in Loveland, CO. Retired, formerly an IC designer on microprocessor projects for HP and Intel.

Working on the Communications merit badge in Boy Scouts got him interested in amateur radio and was first licensed as a Novice in 1969. Was active then until the Novice expired. At that time, he was not able to travel to an FCC office to take the General test.-back then, that was the only way. Kevin always enjoyed DX contacts and getting that rare contact to finish a CC award are what he thinks are his most interesting contacts.

Formerly, used a Yaesu FT1000MP with wire and vertical antennas. Also, an FT100 with Yaesu screwdriver for mobile awards. Currently, he has no HF antennas so is inactive on HF.



Kevin found the CC nets tuning around the bands, then found a web page. It took 5 years to get Masters April 9, 2005. His advice for others to get their masters? Be consistently active on all the nets you can. Send your cards promptly and don't be afraid to beg for cards or contacts to finish a difficult award. He also holds the ARRL DXCC award. He does contesting and enjoyed the ARRL DX and Sweeps. His other interests include 4 wheeling, Fishing, Hiking, and Photography



His son has a Tech license, but is not active on the bands. He passed the Tech exam at age 10. No other family has a license.

These days, most of my radio operation is VHF when traveling with other hams on 4 wheel drive trips. "I used to be active on local repeaters during commuting hours, but not much now that I am retired. I still own my Hammarlund and Johnson Viking boat anchors. "

# Use Our Discone Antenna <https://titanmissilemuseum.org/ham-radio-operators/>

## **Titan Missile Museum** Sahuarita, Arizona

Ham Radio Operators, you can now broadcast and listen on the discone antenna at the Titan Missile Museum. When the Titan II 571-7 became operational in 1963, its communication system included a large, broadband discone antenna that is still standing today.

Built by Collins Radio Company, the antenna is 80 feet tall and has a large crown, enabling it to radiate signals over a wide range of frequencies.



If you're an amateur radio operator, you can use the antenna free of charge when the museum is open. Here's what you need to know:

Step into the Visitor Center and ask for the antenna log book. Read the instructions and sign the book

Drive to the antenna and park near the table

Open the metal box and roll out the coax cable Connect your radio using the PL-259 connector on the end of the cable When finished, please roll up and return the cable to the box

*For more information, check in with **Green Valley Amateur Radio Club**. <https://www.gvarc.us/>*

**Titan Missile Museum** 1580 W. Duval Mine Rd. Sahuarita, Arizona 85629

LOST: Gary Brewer K5GEB has lost QSL cards in moving. Some that he knows he worked in 2010 dx are US7WW and club UR4WWT, NE9DH, and VE9SX.

There are more contacts that he made with this club. He lost both domestic and DX so **everyone please check** your logs -if you find K5GEB or his former call KE5ZCF listed please contact him.

## Team Exuberance - The K3LR All-Youth Team

2019 CQ WW WPX SSB Contest March 30-31st, 2019

K3LR, in Pennsylvania, is a superstation that is active in many contests, and yes, Tim Duffy, its owner, hosted an amazing team this year. Not only is this year the first time that K3LR participated in CQ WW WPX SSB, but this is also the first time there has been a team of only youth ham radio operators! Each of these fine operators, all under the age of 21, are quickly becoming household names in the world of contesting. Dubbed "Team Exuberance," they are determined to use their youthful energy and love for the hobby to give the other competitors in Multi-Two a run for their money. The international team members include six operators: Violetta, KM4ATT; Marty, NN1C (ex-KC1CWF); Bryant, KG5HVO; David, VE7DZO; Tomi, HA8RT; and Levi, K6JO.

As a result of the 2018 Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure to Curacao, a desire to form a youth contesting team was sparked. Upon her return to the states, Violetta, shared her idea with Tim Duffy. He eagerly jumped on the idea and offered his support and his station. Tim is approaching this contest as a excellent way to mentor youth through the use of his station. Each youth operator will have one parent on the trip with them. Tim and his team, advise and coach, don't make any contacts. "It is really exciting that the initiative has begun for an all youth contest team. All of the youth testers have been selected for the individual contributions they will be bringing to the team effort. Above all else, Tim wants this to be a learning opportunity for the team. "Our number one goal is to have fun. This is passing the torch. Our second goal is to learn something. Being a good contest operator sharpens a lot of skills that are good in life - how to interact with people, how to understand people with various accents, how to work with people to get certain information, and how to work together as a team. The focus on the team. It's not just all about you and how fast you can run, but are you doing things that benefit the team. So emphasizing teamwork is important for a successful contest." There are multiple operators but only two transmitters. We will use four radios at a given time and a stack of antennas for each operator. One operator is running while the other is interweaving QSOs search and pounce. As a result, four stations are manned for the 48 hour contest. The team hopes that this will be the start of many future all youth contest teams. We want to continue doing these from multiple stations. There have been very successful programs in IARU Region One; what YOTA is doing. We really want to bring that to the U.S. in a big way.

Condensed from article written by Ruth Willet, KM4LAO <http://www.k3lr.com/youth/WPX19PH/Team%20Exuberance%202019.pdf>

More info <http://www.k3lr.com/youth/WPX19PH/>

And inspired by them...<http://n0ssc.com/posts/830-announcing-yarc-youth-contesting-program>

More youth groups !!!





# KB8UEY

## on the Road Again

As many folks realized in the middle of April, I ended up with a week off work and nothing really to do. Original plans included a road trip to FL for a birthday party the fell apart so that left 7 days off work to find something to do. So, having been 2 years since the last visit to FSB Elmo (W4CPO's name for his QTH) it started off with a quick text to him and the process was set in motion. Next a quick message to KG4ZOD to check his schedule and the second leg was set. The state line visit was literally a "on a whim" decision while at Donnie's.

Before sunrise on April 11, the trip began. Normally the trip from Dayton, OH to Newport News, VA is just a little over 8 hours. Due to a bumper crop of orange barrels already in full bloom in SE Virginia this ended up being a little over 9 hours. Upon arrival there the shenanigans commenced! Of course, I dropped a stack of cards on the table for him from the buro (why not take the USPS out of the equation if I am going there anyway). He had brisket in the smoker and his other half had the rest of dinner ready to go. After dinner we adjourned to the radio room and hit the nets. Now if you recall, there was no NCS scheduled for the 75m Late Net that night. W4CPO got what I guess was a shock for him and that was to see me run a net. He had never seen anything of the sort apparently. I had my computer I was logging on and running NetLogger from in front of me, my 2<sup>nd</sup> computer I was logging K1CCN contacts on to my left (also keeping an eye to verify NL had not puked) and beyond my computer in front of where I was sitting was his computer with his NL up (I ended up logging his stuff so he

would not have to lean over everything to do it). Apparently, he was blown away by my ability to multi-task but being a former police dispatcher, it comes second nature to me and I just never really give it any thought. Day 2 we traveled a few minutes down the street to one of his favorite local establishments for lunch, Hoss's Deli. Then back to FSB Elmo for more radio related stuff, outside of net stuff. Unfortunately, Dave had to work the next day so night number 2 was just me. Even having been to FSB Elmo in March 2017 I still made 61 Qs from there and CPO was able to run K1CCN/p on Thursday evening and give out an additional 23 Qs as portable VA. A huge thanks to Dave W4CPO and Allison for their hospitality.



The sign at the entrance gate of FSB Elmo!

At about 0700 local on 4/13 I left FSB Elmo and started my trek toward the KG4ZOD Ham Shack. I got to see first hand that not only do drivers in Ohio lose their ever-loving minds when it rains, but so do drivers in southern Virginia (and even more so than they do in Ohio). I arrived at KG4ZOD's home about an hour before the 20m SSB Net. Of course, just like at Dave's I dropped a (much larger) stack of QSL cards in Donnie's hand. As we walked through the house to the shack he introduced me to his oldest daughter and the 2 dogs. While we visited, and he gave me the tour we discussed lunch and whether or not to try the 20m SSB net. We were going to try it, and in fact I think he made the list finally after about 20 tries, but the band (from that QTH anyway) was

(Continued from page 20)

horrible. So, with the band in the dumper we opted for lunch. He introduced me to Zack's Hot Dogs in Burlington, NC. Apparently, this place has been around so long Donnie first went there before he was tall enough to get up on a stool at the counter by himself (established in 1928). After this we went to visit another local ham, WA4FFW, who was checking out Donnie's primary amp after it had a little issue the day before and something popped while it was sitting idle (and in Donnie's words sounded like a gunshot). After much looking and discussing it was determined more looking was needed. By this time Donnie had received a text from NC4JR who was on the way to meet Donnie at his house. So, we zipped back across town to meet up with Ronnie and his XYL. While there Ronnie checked a couple 100-point applications for WF4ROG (I guess the 4<sup>th</sup> area Awards Manager makes house calls). Right as Ronnie was finishing up Lee, K4LAL, stopped by. Ronnie had to leave, and we sat and talked to Lee for a while. By the way folks, Lee had a computer die and was unable to retrieve his old log. He wants to get back on the nets but did not want to keep working folks he had already worked which is why he has been missing in action. He may be back on soon! Shortly after Lee departed Donnie took me to dinner at what I hear is KC0MS's favorite place to eat dinner in Burlington, Hursey's Bar-B-Q. After dinner we went back to Donnie's Ham Shack and hit 40m SSB & 75m SSB early and 75m SSB Late. Before 75m SSB Late, KJ4OFD arrived to visit and stayed for the net as well. Upon completion of the nets (including Donnie re-checking mobile and working me from the bank parking lot next door) I had made 48 Qs as portable NC. A huge thanks to Donnie and his daughter for the hospitality there and thanks to NC4JR,

K4LAL, and KJ4OFD for stopping by and being able to put a face with a callsign!



Donnie KG4ZOD standing out front of his Ham Shack.



Bacon, Chili, Cheese Hot Dogs at Zack's

On Sunday 4/14 about 1400 local the trek west for the day began. During the nets the night before I had been scoping out possibilities of where to operate the TN / NC state line mobile (2 states I had NEVER operated mobile from). I found a spot in NW North Carolina that butted up against Tennessee and had a small town with lodging possibilities on either side of the line (according to Google, keep this in mind). As I traveled west out of nowhere my phone started making this hideous noise and I glance down to see TORNADO WARNING for this area. So, I pop in to a rest area (was about that time anyway) and look at the radar and see the storm is already NE of my location moving east, so



no biggie. I continue my trek west through mostly sparsely inhabited areas with no real signs of much of anything. Out of nowhere up pops 4 lane highways, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc. in Boone, NC. Not being familiar with Boone, NC it was quite impressive (as Google did not indicate anything of this size). Then I pop over a hill and find Appalachian State University (never heard of that school till they beat Michigan a couple years ago...GO BUCKYES!) and now I know where it is. I travel right out of civilization almost as quick as I centered and go 30 more minutes to find the state line. I find a suitable spot to operate and take a couple pictures and decide to go find a hotel (easier in daylight). I venture in to TN and find that Google lied. The "town" was about 4 houses and the "hotels" were the same building, it was closed (for a long time), and resembled something out of a bad B movie from 1975. As this point I decide Boone, NC looks like not only a better option, but a safer one if I want to live long enough to print the QSL cards and not be the plot of the next episode of Criminal Minds. Back to Boone, secure lodging, grab food, and back to the state line. Now let me just say this, Boone is on the east side of a ridge line of the Blue Ridge Mountains just down from a town called Blowing Rock, NC (which I know how it got that name). Over at the state line (18 miles away) it was sunny, 68 degrees, and a light breeze. In Boone, it was raining, 58 degrees, and the wind was blowing like a wind tunnel because the weather moving across the peak was concentrating all its energy on Boone. Back up to the line I go. I ended up only doing the 40m & 75m SSB Early nets from there for a couple reasons. 40m at that location by the time I moved to 75m had nearly died off to nothing, 75m by the end of the early net was filled with static crashes from storms rolling through

just south of me, and I really needed to get some sleep as I had an 8-hour drive home on Monday. That said I still managed to make 40 Qs from the state line.



The conditions in Boone, NC while it is clear skies at the state line 18 miles away.







IC7300, 100 watts, and Hamsticks powered with a 32 AH lead acid battery.

I am pleased to say the trip home was uneventful. Overall, I returned the rental car with nearly 1600 more miles on it than when I picked it up and had 396 cards to print (2 NCN mixed in there). I had a blast and it was a much-needed week off work.



*396 QSL Cards, printed and sorted by call area ready to go out.*

**KB8UEY/p** 1 Officer Point  
Buro Manager

Rob Lunsford  
2812 San Rae Dr. Apt. 3  
Kettering, OH 45419

Newport News, VA FM17sc  
40m SSR - 100pt 2539 500pt 97 1000pt 554 2000pt 290  
3000pt 144 - 75m SSB 100pt 2778 500pt 76 1000pt 510  
2000pt 244 - 160m SSB 100pt 477 20m SSB 100pt 35 40m SSB Number Rocket 252  
Other 100pt 20CW 86 40 CW 216 PSK 104 RTTY 190 80 CW 157 PSK 79 RTTY 9.

WELCOME TO  
FIRE SUPPORT BASE  
ELMO

Station	Date	Time	Freq	Mode	Rev'd	Sent
AAINA	4/12/2019	02:32:38	3.902	SSB	\$9	\$9

☒ PSE QSL ☐ TNX QSL 73 de Rob KB8UEY

# New Volunteer Monitor Program

ARRL and the FCC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that paves the way to implement the new and enhanced Volunteer Monitor program. The memorandum establishes the Volunteer Monitors as a replacement for the Official Observers (OO) program.

"We are excited by the opportunity to codify our partnership with the FCC and to work together to achieve our mutual interests of protecting the integrity of our Amateur Radio bands," said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. "This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as the foundation for a new level of partnership on this very important issue."

ARRL has contracted with retired FCC special counsel Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to oversee the ARRL's role in the development and implementation of the Volunteer Monitor program. Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors at its July 2018 meeting, The new Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL in which volunteers trained and vetted by the ARRL will monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used both to correct misconduct or recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations will be referred to the FCC by the ARRL for action in accordance with FCC guidelines. The intent of this program is to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands. It was proposed by the FCC in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff. "Under this program, the FCC will give enforcement priority to cases developed by the Volunteer Monitor program, without the delay of ARRL having to refer cases through the FCC online complaint process," Hollingsworth said.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program: Development, Solicitation and Training, and Implementation.

- \* The Development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining the ARRL's and FCC's requirements and needs as part of the program, writing a job description for volunteer monitors, and developing a training manual for volunteers.

- \* The Solicitation and Training phase will involve identifying the geographic locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications and guidance from Section Managers in reviewing applicants. (Those currently volunteering as Official Observers are invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors.)

- \* The Implementation phase will involve having the volunteers provide field reports to ARRL, with staff offering guidance to volunteers to ensure that the information collected meets requirements for FCC enforcement action.

Hollingsworth has committed to FCC and ARRL officials to ensure the adequacy of training for the new positions, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement actions, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC. ARRL officials estimate that within 6 to 9 months the first Volunteer Monitors will be in place and ready to begin their duties.

# Hamvention Trip Notes

By Ben, AE4NT ay 27, 2019

I had never been to Dayton Hamvention, reputed to be the largest hamfest in the U.S. This year, I was inspired to drop the hint to XYL Jenny (KM4NEK) that we go there. She likened it to the Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, which every Muslim is expected to make at least once in his or her lifetime. While I don't believe Hamism (I made that word up) is a religion, this signaled to me that she was on board with the notion. So, I started planning the road trip to Xenia, the Mecca which all hams must visit at least once during their lifetimes.

You can read about the event elsewhere. I'm just covering events of interest to 3905 Century Club members. We left on Wednesday morning and operated the nets mobile from Spartanburg, SC, on Wednesday night. It was interesting that Rusty, WU2T was NCS of the 75M SSB Early Net that night. I found out he lives only a couple miles from our hotel QTH. Alas, we couldn't have a face-to-face visit, as we were headed out toward Dayton early Thursday morning.

Thursday Night W8BI Open House for 3905 Members

Rob, KB8UEY, invited 3905 Century Club members to the DARA Clubhouse, which houses club station W8BI, in Huber Heights, Ohio, on Thursday night, so that would be the first stop on our Hamvention agenda.

When we arrived at the parking lot of the impressive, 4000-square foot clubhouse, a former AT&T site, Dave W5DMT was there handing out adult beverages. Thus fortified, we carried our requisite red plastic cups of flavored ethanol toward the door, where Rob, K8GIB introduced himself. I was dog tired from the long drive, made even longer by my insolent GPS taking me through city streets in Cincinnati during rush hour, but this was going to be fun. I would finally get to meet "The Robs" and see the legendary W8BI station.

I could smell something barbecuing. Later, we would find out that Dave W4CPO had smoked some beef and brought it all the way from Virginia. *It was delicious.*

We had to see who all was there. In addition to those already mentioned, we found an aggregation in the main room housing the 3905 Century Club QSL Bureaus and a few W8BI operating positions. Crammed into the room were Rob KB8UEY, Phil K4LO, Dan K9EA, Gary K9GWS, Bob NC8I, Ed N1JBC, and Bill N3WD. The plan was to work the 3905 SSB nets that night, and of course, chat and eat.

For those who checked into the nets, we played "pass the mic". Of course, in my road weary condition, the first mic I picked up was connected to a two-meter rig, but never mind that! I'm certain the confusion, laughter, and noise we generated during our turns on the net were notable. I hope we didn't get on anyone's nerves! We were having fun.

Then, of course, we got to eat some delicious offerings, including the famous W4CPO Slow-Smoked beef. If there's one thing Jenny and I like to do, it's eat! Fortunately, the donuts were gone before we got to the kitchen. Nevertheless, we were well fed – thanks to the Robs, Dave, and the DARA folks.



Pictured above are some of the 3905 Century Club group at the DARA clubhouse. The rest were probably eating or getting into trouble somewhere. (Photo stolen from KB8UEY Facebook post).

After the 75-meter Early Net, it was time to drag our weary selves back to the hotel having enjoyed some great Dayton hospitality.

#### Friday at Hamvention

A storm had passed through Dayton overnight, so we had concerns about the dreaded Hamvention mud. However, the volunteers manning the DARA two-meter talk-in frequency on the way to Xenia helped us find a parking area in downtown Xenia, so we could avoid the potential mud and congestion of the main Greene County Fairgrounds parking areas. Still feeling tired from the trip, I dragged my 72-year-old butt around the flea market area, dodging a few puddles and a little mud – not bad at all.

We decided to attend a lecture about F2-Layer variability, just to take a load off, and this is where the big calamity of the trip happened. It appeared that the thirty or so folding chairs set up for presentations by Ham Science had been reclaimed from the



scrap heap. Yea, verily, these were chairs from hell! Their plastic was brittle, and metal was rusty. When I sat on one, it immediately collapsed under the strain and I wound up on the floor, suffering no major injuries other than a scratched-up leg and my pride, but come on, folks! Get some decent chairs!

After laughing that one off, we enjoyed the rest of the day at Hamvention, doing the usual browsing and fawning over the new stuff.

#### Working the IN-OH Line

We operated mobile from the Ohio-Indiana line on Friday night. This is one of the easiest and most comfortable state lines I have worked. From Dayton, take I-70 west to the Indiana line and get off on U.S. 40 (National Road) heading east. Right at the exit is a fireworks store with a large parking lot that straddles the state line.

We first had dinner at Cracker Barrel in Richmond, IN. Looking for a suitable dining spot, we had crossed the state line about eight times. Jenny also wanted to buy a lotto ticket in each state we visited, so we stopped to address that need, too. Once we accomplished those tasks, it was back over the line to find our best operating position. We got to the spot a little late, right around sunset, after the start of the 40M Early Net.

First thing was to ensure that operating in the parking lot was OK with the fireworks store. Jenny went inside to get permission, which was granted. She asked them about the exact location of the state line. They directed her to a red line painted on the pavement just outside the store. We were in the right place!



We made lots of contacts on the 40M Early Net. The noise level was too atrocious to work the 75M net, so we went back to the hotel.

Back to the Show

Anyhow, the rest of the show was great. Saturday seemed less crowded, but hotter, although we're used to much worse in Florida, so it didn't bother us but it made the cold beer taste even better. I enjoyed a couple more forums, where the chairs were in better condition. I was privileged to see a presentation by my favorite solar scientist, Dr. Tamitha Skov, who gave us some hope that we might be seeing rapidly improving propagation from mid-2020, when the solar cycle terminator is expected to occur.

We had a fun time in Xenia, especially on Saturday when we checked out some of the local merchants downtown. On Sunday, the Hamvention sponsors opened the gates for everyone with no ticket necessary, but we were in the wind.

On the Road Again – Featuring KG4ZOD

After the show, we headed out to Pennsylvania, to my childhood home of Pittsburgh, and my birth town of Altoona, followed by a couple of very relaxing and energizing days at Bald Eagle State Park. Along the way, Donnie, KG4ZOD, had been telling me I had to visit with him, so we planned to stay overnight in Burlington on the way back.

We met Donnie for dinner and then a trip to the cemetery to pay our respects to his late wife, Ginger. Donnie told us about a Geocache he had been unable to find at the cemetery, so we two experts, Jennifla and Condomax, decided to demonstrate our superior caching skills while helping him bolster his find count. With that added element of challenge, Donnie wound up finding the cache himself!



Of course, Donnie offered his rig so I could work portable from Burlington. What an excellent set-up he has! A separate, huge, air-conditioned ham shack in his backyard with a wrap-around operating position provided uncramped accommodation for the three of us, although the ambient temperature was a little cold for Jenny, who went to the car and returned wearing a ski parka. For me, the temperature was just right!



Sitting on Donnie's operating desk was a brightly colored m&m dispenser full of brightly colored jellybeans. Never put jellybeans in front of a fat guy if you don't want to lose them! Hey, I didn't have dessert! Those jellybeans provided fuel for me to operate the 40M and 75M SSB Early Nets, during which I made lots of contacts operating as AE4NT/P NC while Donnie complained about his disappearing jellybeans. A great time was had by all!

We thank Donnie for his warm, welcoming hospitality and for ending our road trip on a very pleasant note!

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# Masters Writeups

To recognize the work put in to get the masters degree for the Century Club, we want to make sure each has been spotlighted in the newsletter. Over the next few months, we will be contacting those who haven't yet appeared in a newsletter for information if we missed you please help us by contacting N3YRZ Michelle [msack@verizon.net](mailto:msack@verizon.net)

I am aware of 19 more needed to catch up.

Okay, so I'm not the smartest ham:

I got a new radio. I'm checking it out. I program in a local repeater and toss out my call sign. I hear music. It only lasts a few seconds. I try again. Yep I hear music but it's not from the radio. It's in my room. Yes, turn down power as I'm investigating. TV is off walk to it-nope. It's coming from where I was sitting at computer desk. Ah the computer you probably think like I did-nope. The laptop-no. HF rig, nope. Okay pulling everything off desk. There it is in the outgoing mail pile! What? How? My niece's musical birthday card. Have a good laugh at the N3YRZ remote. (No reply on the radio though guess 0.05 not enough power.)

So I thought this was odd...but then recently I read of another member on 40meters only, backyard sprinklers come on as long as he was talking. Oh the fun when RF can't read. So his xyl has the clothes & dish washers loaded and the vacuum cleaner plugged in in anticipation of the next time on the radio.