



Radio Waves

*The Great Lakes
Division
Monthly Journal*



April 2025

What's inside...

→ [Handbook Give Away](#)

→ [2025 Division Hamfests](#)

→ [Club Links](#)

→ [Secret Sauce](#)

Scott's Stuff



Hi Everyone,

Happy April! While the calendar says spring, Mother Nature seems to be playing an April Fool's joke on us with this unpredictable weather. Hopefully, we'll see consistently warmer days soon. And speaking of spring, the hamfest season is definitely in full bloom!

I've had the pleasure of attending several hamfests recently, and the calendar is packed with even more exciting events in the coming weeks.

It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow enthusiasts, learn new things, and maybe even find that elusive piece of equipment you've been searching for.

I'm particularly looking forward to May and the promise of consistently better weather. Of course, May also means the Dayton Hamvention is just around the corner! Have you secured your tickets and accommodations yet? With only 46 days to go, time is of the essence, as hotel rooms are filling up quickly. Don't delay!

The Great Lakes Division will once again have a booth inside the ARRL area at Hamvention, just as we did last year. We're encouraging everyone to participate in our "Brag Board" by bringing a QSL card to display. We had a great display last year, and I hope even more of you will contribute this time around.

To ensure a truly impressive display, please remember to bring your QSL card with you. If you happen to forget, a business card will also work in a pinch! Be sure to stop by the Great Lakes Division booth and say hello. We look forward to seeing you there!

World Amateur Radio Day is approaching on Friday, April 18th. Is your local club planning any special events or activations to celebrate? If not, there's still time to organize something fun and engaging. World Amateur Radio Day is a chance to showcase the invaluable contributions that amateur radio operators make to their communities and to citizens around the world.



Field Day is rapidly approaching (June 28th and 29th). Is your club preparing for this important event? If so, please remind them to register on the ARRL Field Day locator: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>.

Here's another great idea: Reach out to your local government officials and request a Proclamation for Amateur Radio during Field Day weekend. Many local governments are happy to recognize the importance of amateur radio in this way. Be sure to invite the local news media to the proclamation event to generate positive publicity for amateur radio. Amateur radio groups are encouraged to share a copy of their proclamations with ARRL via email at: pr@arrl.org. ARRL will often share these proclamations to advance legislative efforts, creating additional support of awareness for amateur radio among lawmakers.

Club leaders, are your meetings being offered in a hybrid format (e.g., Zoom, Teams, Go-To-Meeting) in addition to in-person attendance? While hybrid meetings require a bit more effort, they offer a fantastic way to include members who may have difficulty traveling at night or attending in person due to distance or other commitments. It truly enhances accessibility and inclusivity. While it does require extra effort on the part of the setup crew, it means so much to those who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend. It also opens the door to attracting new members.

I've heard from several club leaders who have experienced an increase in membership from outside their immediate area or state since implementing hybrid meetings. Furthermore, hybrid meetings can unlock a world of possibilities for your club's programs and guest speakers! Consider showcasing one of the excellent recorded webinars available in the ARRL Learning Center or hosting a live presentation from a guest speaker located hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

Offering hybrid meetings doesn't mean that in-person attendance is discouraged. It simply provides an alternative for those who are unable to attend physically but still want to participate. Many excellent recorded webinars are available from experts around the globe, covering a wide range of topics. Most of these webinars are approximately 30 minutes in length, making them a perfect fit for a club meeting agenda.

Remember the "posterior rule": The brain can only absorb what the seat can endure! Keep things engaging and concise.

That's all for this month. Stay safe, everyone, and I hope to "Catch You On The Air, at a meeting, or at a hamfest!" Most importantly... Have FUN and... Get On The Air!

73,

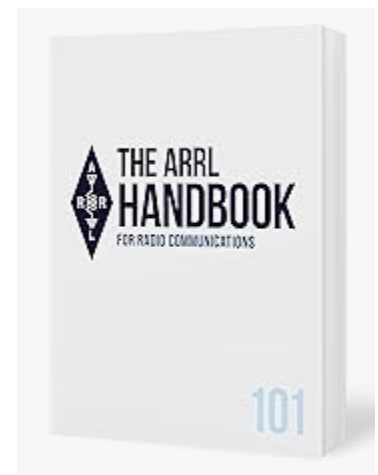
Scott Yonally, N8SY
Director - Great Lakes Division
n8sy@arrl.org

Handbook Give Away

How's about I give away an ARRL softcover Handbook absolutely FREE !!!

Yes, I'm holding a little contest to "GIVE AWAY" a 2025 ARRL softcover Handbook. Why you ask? It's to get you to check-in to the Great Lakes Division website and take a look around.

Getting signed up is just as simple as filling out a couple of quick questions and you're entered!!



>> [Click Here To Enter](#) <<

The drawing ends Friday, April 18th

2025 Great Lakes Division Hamfests

Here in the Great Lakes Division, we have over 50 hamfests a year.

So, if you haven't started planning your hamfest schedule yet, you really need to start now.

Please post this listing in your club's newsletter and announce the swaps on your local nets. Talk them up.

Let's fully support all of our hamfests in every way possible. It means success for everyone. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set.

If you are planning on having your hamfest listed in QST please be sure to start your planning well in advance of your Hamfest date, as this allows adequate time for QST Listings. QST announcements require a 3-month lead time.

To be fair to our division's clubs, the Great Lakes Division policy **now has 2 requirements**. **Any club requesting ARRL sanctioning within the Great Lakes Division must now be an ARRL Affiliated Club with a maximum of two hamfests/swaps in any given calendar year, and they must be at least four months apart.**



<u>04/05/2025 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 69th Hamfest</u> Location: Cuyahoga Falls , OH Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org Learn More	<u>04/05/2025 - E-town Hamfest (The Lincoln Trail Amateur Radio Club's 47th Annual Hamfest)</u> Location: Elizabethtown , KY Sponsor: Lincoln Trail Club Learn More
<u>04/12/2025 - AC8RC Allegan Mini-Swap</u> Location: Burnips, MI Sponsor: AC8RC Allegan County Amateur Radio Club Learn More	<u>04/19/2025 - SJCARC Hamfest</u> Location: Centreville, MI Sponsor: St. Joseph County Amateur Radio Club Learn More
<u>04/26/2025 - Tusco Amateur Radio Club's 2025 Hamfest, Computer & Electronics Show</u> Location: Dover, OH Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club Website: http://www.w8zx.net/hamfest Learn More	<u>04/27/2025 - Athens Hamfest</u> Location: Athens, OH Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.ac-ara.org/ Learn More

05/03/2025 - Wexaukee ARC Swap & Shop Location: Cadillac, MI Sponsor: Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club Website: http://wexaukeearc.org Learn More	05/10/2025 - GMARC Trunk Swap Location: Shelby Township, MI Sponsor: General Motors Amateur Radio Club Website: http://gmarc.org Learn More
05/10/2025 - 05/15/2025 RV Radio Network Rally Location: Navarre, OH Sponsor: RV Radio Network Learn More	05/15/2025 - 05/18/2025 Four Days In May Location: Fairborn , OH Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International Website: http://qrparci.org/fdim Learn More
05/16/2025 - 05/18/2025 Dayton Hamvention Location: Xenia, OH Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association Website: http://Hamvention.org Learn More	06/07/2025 - FCARC Summer Hamfest Location: Delta, OH Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More

You can always find the latest information to upcoming hamfests on the Great Lakes Division website. Just click to get the latest hamfest updates.

[Great Lakes Division Hamfests](#)

Amateur Television Friday Night Dinner.



The ATV Friday Night Dinner will be on Hamvention weekend --- **May 16** at 6:30 PM at the China Garden Buffet Restaurant (937-781-9999), 112 Woodman Drive in Dayton, Ohio 45431 (Airway Shopping Center).

The all you can eat Buffet Dinner is \$11.99. We will have dinner and then ATV presentations with it concluding at 9 PM.

All are invited. Door prizes will be awarded.

Dayton Bus Trip – May 17, 2025

The ARROW Communications Association and the [Toledo Mobile Radio Association \(TMRA\)](#) are proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the [Hamvention 2025](#) in Dayton, Ohio. This one-day trip leaves early in the morning on May 17, 2025 and returns the same day after Hamvention closes for the day at 5:00 p.m.

The bus has two pickup spots, in Ann Arbor and in Toledo (Rossford). Please join us! Tickets are \$70 per person. Please note that this does not include the Hamvention ticket, which you need to [purchase separately](#).

ARROW started a bus in 2002, this annual club activity has grown in size and reputation with Hams across Michigan. We have hosted to over 700 Hams for this event.



Register before the bus fills up

ARROW and TMRA reserves the right to cancel the bus if not enough people sign up. If the bus is cancelled for unforeseen reasons, refunds will be issued.

There are two pickup/drop off locations on May 17th, 2025

Ann Arbor – 601 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI – Departing 4:30 am

Toledo – 727 Lime City Rd. Rossford, OH – Departing 5:30 am

The plan is to arrive at the Hamvention around 8:30 am. On board, you can stretch out, relax, chat with other Hams and enjoy a continental breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the door of the country's largest amateur radio event!

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



Monthly Journal for April

Roy Hook, W8REH@arrl.org

ARRL Great Lakes Division

Vice Director

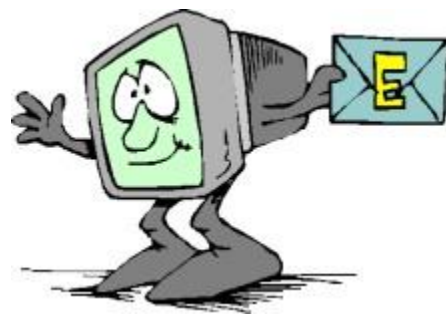
Last month I was traveling and was not able to get an article turned in for Radio Waves. Unfortunately, in my absence no one took me up on my continuing offer to publish guest articles here in my spot.

This month as a follow-up to a conversation I had with an officer of an Affiliated and Special Service club here in central Ohio to provide his firsthand observations of Amateur Radio for all of you. The ham population generally thinks of itself as pretty tech savvy as it should. Guy's observation here should be a reminder that

anyone can fall victim to the ever-increasing sophistication of scams. It doesn't have to be the highly publicized ransomware attack targeting institutions like city governments, schools, hospitals, or even less well-known organizations. It can be our own little clubs of a few dozen members with any kind of public visibility who are falling victim.

Guy Merrill KD8KWH, DELARA Vice President writes for me:

One recent Saturday, I received an email that appeared to be from the president of the Delaware (Ohio) Amateur Radio Association, where I serve as vice president. The email seemed like a simple request—he asked if I could help by purchasing some Amazon gift cards as a token of appreciation for club officers and members who had been especially helpful. He apologized for not handling it himself, citing a busy schedule.



Something about the request didn't sit right with me. Instead of following the email instructions, I sent a quick text to the club president, asking if he really needed me to buy the gift cards. His response confirmed my suspicion—he had no idea what I was talking about. This was a classic phishing attempt, but with a concerning twist: it was highly targeted.

Upon closer inspection, I noticed the email was sent from a Gmail address and in my inbox, it displayed the president's name as expected and even included his correct call sign. This level of detail suggests that whoever was behind this scam had done their homework. It's likely they pulled our names and call signs from our club website (www.k8es.org).

Phishing scams are nothing new, but this experience highlights a growing trend—bad actors are now targeting amateur radio clubs, taking advantage of our strong sense of community and willingness to help one another.

I encourage all clubs to be aware of this type of fraud and spread the word. If you receive an unusual request—especially one involving money or gift cards—always verify it through a trusted channel before taking any action. Staying vigilant can help prevent these scams from harming our clubs and members.

Stay safe, stay aware, and pass it on!

Guy Merrill KD8KWH, DELARA Vice President

Club Links

I've received a number of new requests from clubs to be listed on the "Links" club page.

Club Links



Is your club listed? If not, send the URL of your club website to me n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get it listed.

Wanted... Your Photo's

Have you seen the Photo Gallery on the Great Lakes Division website? If you haven't you really need to, your face may be among the many already posted there.

Great Lakes Division Photo Gallery

I'm always looking for more pictures to use in the Gallery, newsletter, banner and video display. Please, send me your pictures!!! Send them to: n8sy@n8sy.com



An Interview with ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA



A 2-hour interview with ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, is available on The DX Mentor Podcast, hosted by Bill Salyers, AJ8B. Minster was elected by the ARRL Board of Directors as CEO in 2020, and has led the association's operations since.

Minster talked about a wide range of topics from how he [got started in amateur radio as a shortwave listener](#), to the [importance of mentoring new licensees](#).

He also answered many questions from Salyers about [ARRL membership](#), matters involving the [Board of Directors](#), and last year's [cyber-attack](#) which disrupted many systems and services. Minster also talked about and the organization's work [promoting and protecting amateur radio in Washington, D.C.](#), and ARRL's new strategy to [develop the next generation of hams](#) and to inspire youth.

The DX Mentor can be found on your favorite podcast platform, and on [YouTube](#).

The "Secret Sauce" for a Thriving Amateur Radio Club

Activity, Engagement, and a Dash of Fun

The question of what constitutes a successful amateur radio club resonates throughout the ham radio community. While some clubs flourish, radiating activity and boasting overflowing membership rosters, others struggle to maintain momentum. The truth, however, is not a complex formula hidden within the radio waves, but a surprisingly straightforward principle: the key ingredient for a successful club is intentional activity, meaningful engagement, and, dare we say, genuine fun.

Yes, "fun" can seem almost too simplistic. But consider this: in a world saturated with demands on our time, no one willingly dedicates their precious free hours to attending what feels like a monotonous, overly technical lecture.

Members need to leave each meeting or event feeling enriched, as if their time has been invested wisely. Whether it's acquiring new knowledge, nurturing camaraderie, or simply sharing a laugh, the experience must be intrinsically worthwhile. As Dale Carnegie wisely stated, **"People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing."**



Think of your club as a radio signal. A weak, predictable signal fades into the background noise, easily lost amidst the static. A vibrant, engaging signal, however, cuts through the noise and captures attention. The challenge, therefore, lies in amplifying your club's signal strength, increasing the wattage to resonate with both current and potential members.

One of the most crucial steps is to inject vitality into club meetings. Eliminate excessive recitations of bylaws and lengthy committee reports that can often drain the energy from the room. Instead, revitalize the agenda with dynamic presentations, practical workshops, and interactive demonstrations. Facilitate lively question-and-answer sessions that encourage participation and knowledge sharing.

Remember that a wealth of expertise exists within your membership. Invite experienced hams to share their knowledge on topics ranging from practical antenna construction and troubleshooting to the nuances of digital modes and emergency communication protocols. The possibilities are as vast as the radio spectrum itself.

But the vibrancy of a thriving club extends far beyond the confines of formal meetings. Organize activities that spark excitement and foster a sense of adventure. While mainstays like Field Day are essential for practicing emergency preparedness and showcasing amateur radio to the public, consider incorporating more frequent, smaller-scale outings. Summits On The Air (SOTA) or Parks On The Air (POTA) activations provide excellent opportunities for outdoor operating and exploration, combining the thrill of amateur radio with the beauty of nature. Fox hunts offer a thrilling blend of radio direction finding and problem-solving, engaging members in a challenging and rewarding activity.



Even something as simple as a weekly or monthly coffee meet-up can foster valuable connections between members and facilitate informal knowledge sharing. The example of one club's regular Friday breakfast, where discussions range from dipole antenna assembly to breaking news, highlights the power of camaraderie and shared interests.



Furthermore, actively seek opportunities to partner with local community organizations for outreach events. Sharing the wonders of amateur radio with a new generation, and educating the public about its vital role, is crucial for the hobby's continued growth and relevance. Consider giving presentations to local service organizations like the Lions Club or Rotary, or even your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

These events provide platforms to showcase the critical role amateur radio plays in emergency communications, community service during disasters, and even scientific education. Demonstrations of practical radio skills, like setting up a temporary station or demonstrating digital communication modes, can be particularly engaging for audiences.

Ultimately, the success of an amateur radio club hinges on cultivating a strong sense of community and belonging. It needs to be a place where members feel appreciated, where they can freely learn and share their knowledge, and where they can forge lasting friendships, perhaps even sharing a few jokes along the way. Encourage a supportive environment where newcomers feel welcome and experienced operators are eager to mentor. Facilitate connections between members with similar interests or skill levels, creating study groups or project teams where they can learn and collaborate. Recognize and celebrate members' accomplishments, both big and small, through awards, recognition events, or simply a shout-out during a meeting.

Let's be brutally honest: a radio club devoid of laughter, engagement, and genuine connection is simply... static. So, break free from the humdrum routine, inject some fun, and watch your club's signal soar to new heights. The world of amateur radio is a world of innovation, exploration, community service, and camaraderie. Make sure your club reflects that. By focusing on activity, engagement, and a healthy dose of fun, you can unlock the "secret sauce" to a thriving and vibrant amateur radio club that resonates within its community and attracts new members for years to come.



Announcing the 2025 Young Ladies Radio League Scholarships



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Diane Ortiz
VicePresident@ylrl.net

February 13, 2025 — The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) has announced the Memorial Scholarship pro-gram for 2025. The scholarship program is aimed at women Amateur Radio Operators studying radio, communications, electronics or Amateur Radio related arts and sciences.

The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) is an international non-profit organization of women Amateur Radio enthusiasts. It was founded in 1939 and is the longest running YL club in the world. The YLRL is sponsoring three memorial scholarships for 2025:

The Ethel Smith K4LMB Memorial Scholarship—\$2,500 award

The Mary Lou Brown NM7N Memorial Scholarship—\$2,500 award

The Martha “Marte” Wessel K0EPE Memorial Scholarship—\$1,500 award

The YLRL believes that education in the fields of radio, communications, electronics and Amateur Related arts and sciences will play an important role in shaping the world’s future. Through these Memorial Scholarship, YLRL hopes to encourage female students to learn more about Amateur Radio.



“YLRL is committed to investing in women in Amateur Radio, and we believe that every act of volunteerism through Amateur Radio — even a small one — helps turn the world into a better place,” said Vicki Zumwalt, President of YLRL. “We hope that our scholarships will not only encourage students to learn more about science, technology, engineering but also inspire them to take pride in being an Amateur Radio operator and to encourage others to do so as well.”

To qualify, students must be female, have an Amateur Radio License, meet the requirements listed on the YLRL.net website and apply using the online application. Applications are due by April 30, 2025. Winners will be announced in July 2025.

Application link: <https://YLRL.net/Scholarships>

Predicting Repeater Coverage

Steven Harvey, N8RLW

Ever wonder or stopped to think how RF engineers know where to place a 2-way system or how do cell sites get selected and how far it will cover and stay reliable. Before computers became the norm, RF engineers used to have to take long drives to scout out potential sites, use a lot of USGS printed topo maps to make several HAAT (Height Above Average Terrian) calculation runs to see if putting a tower on the site made sense. It used to be the same in ham radio when requesting a new repeater site.

Fast forward to modern times, what does it take hours to figure out the site location, the power needed, the type of antenna, how tall of a tower at the site and will the coverage be reliable is now all done via computer aided software called Radio Mobile online.



Using Radio Mobile online you can take in the site location, HAAT, topography, how reliable you want the signal to be from the site, type of antenna and transmitter power out. Why should we care as a club about such things? Well, when you look at increasing power on the repeater does it really make a difference or is it worse than keeping the current TX Power. It also allows us to make sure we are good neighbors to other repeaters in the state and we don't cause interference. This software can also show you where your potential receive coverage will be the most reliable and where it will be spotty.



I recently did a calculation on the club's repeaters to see what both the 146.790 and the 444.600 look like with the current status and the addition of an amplifier. By setting the information in the software and making the reliability 70%, which would take in account for buildings, hill sides, dips into valleys and the weather during thunderstorm season. You can see in the charts the difference in coverage with green being 100% and red being spotty but likely to get back to the repeater or hearing it. However, this software does not consider handheld coverage, so looking at these maps and thinking your 2-watt HT will get to the repeater 28 miles away will be an unlikely situation without an outside antenna 30 ft in the air on good coax. The software does a good job of taking in the terrain as it shows how we struggle to keep Sunbury and Centerburg fully covered in location due to Rich Hill and the rolling terrain in those locations. The same is shown

when you drive SR 13 to Belleville and Lexington due to terrain and FM being line of site you can't put out enough power to punch through the hillsides.

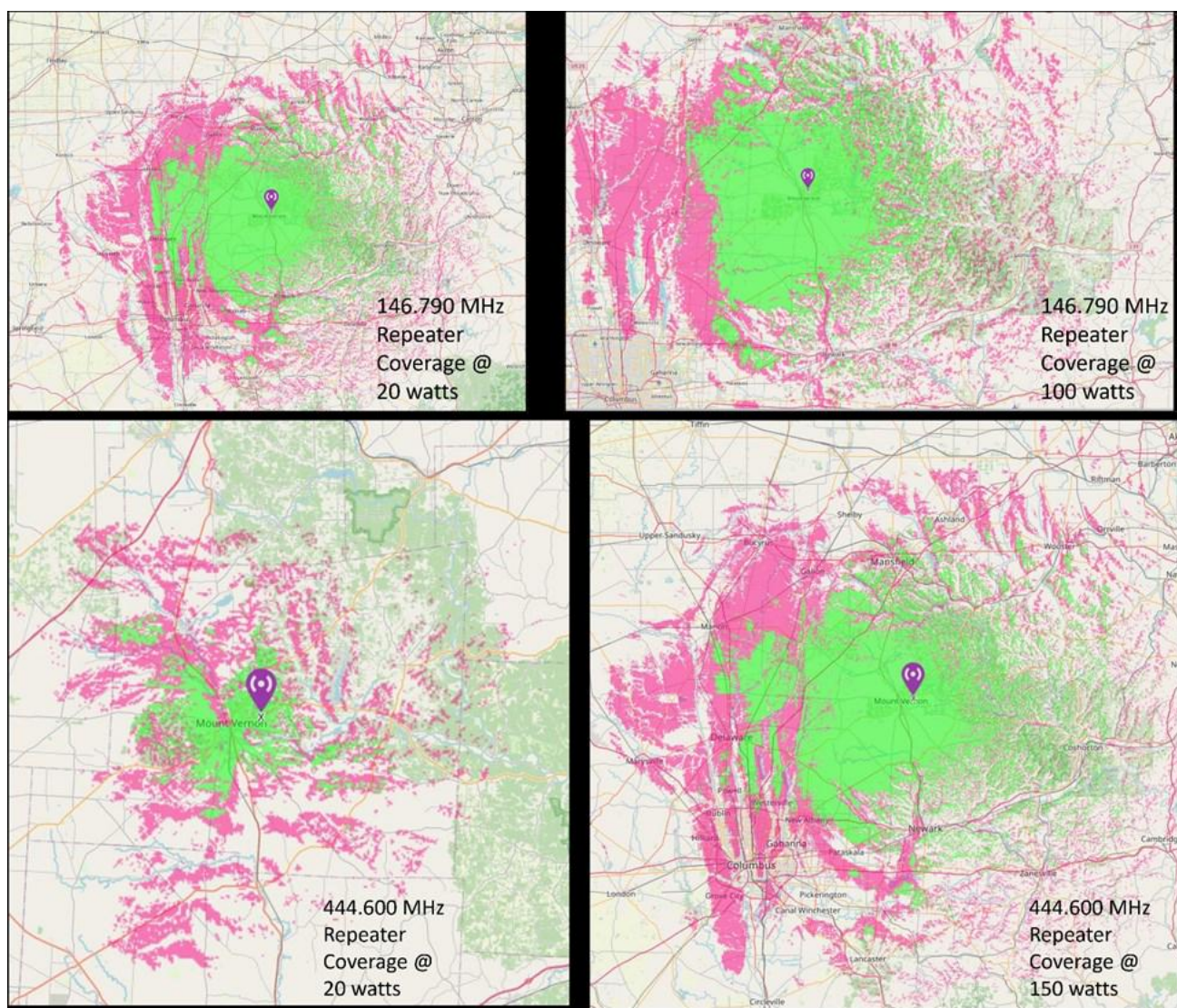
By looking at the maps you can see there is a big difference between the current TX power of 20 watts for 146.790 and the additional power of 100 watts when calculated. The same with the 444.600 current TX of 20 watts and if a 150-watt amp was added the coverage on both machines becomes very solid for all of Knox County and shows the potential receiver coverage without adding multiple receive sites.

Since running these calculations in the software, I have tested it out by driving to different locations on the map with my Yaesu FT-300DR and a diamond dual band antenna with 7.8db gain on 2 meter and 4.5db on 440 and it has been spot on where the receive coverage struggles and how good of a signal you get being mobile.

Some hams have used Radio Mobile online to see how far their FM base station will transmit out from their QTH to see who might be able to hear them when mobile via simplex.

If you decide to use this software to check your FM signal from your home station, please keep in mind it only models Omi-directional antennas as this same software can be used in small radio station coverage. It's a great piece of software for keeping the club's repeaters running, if there was ever a need to add a remote receive site it would allow selecting the best site possible to get the maximum coverage. Give it a try for your home station, you might be surprised how far you cover with your setup with just 50 watts or less.

Radio Mobile Online: <https://www.ve2dbe.com/english1.html>



(Thanks to the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club for allowing me to re-print this story.)

When Disaster Strikes:

The resilience of the amateur radio community is often tested during times of crisis. Whether it's providing vital communication during natural disasters or offering support to those in need, the dedication of these individuals shines through. Today, that spirit of camaraderie is needed more than ever as a fellow ham radio operator faces unimaginable hardship.

On March 30, 2025, severe storms ripped through Williams County, Ohio, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake. Tragically, the home of Beau Zuver, KA8VBR, a valued member of the Williams County Amateur Radio Association, was directly impacted. As fate would have it, Beau was actively participating in the club's Skywarn Net diligently reporting the escalating storm conditions, when disaster struck. He bravely relayed the terrifying moment when the roof of his home was torn away, leaving the structure uninhabitable.



Beau is the Vice President of his club and a District Emergency Coordinator. He's a man who dedicates his time and skills to serving his community, especially during emergencies.

The Williams County Amateur Radio Association is actively seeking support to help Beau and his family recover from this devastating loss. They have already taken several crucial steps, including:

- Posting a message on their club's Facebook page seeking donations.
- Alerting the Ohio ARRL Section Manager and the Ohio ARRL Public Information Officer.
- Informing neighboring ARRL clubs in adjacent counties.

However, more can be done, and that's where the wider amateur radio community comes in. You might consider this a call to action to every ham radio operator, club, and organization that believes in the power of community support.

How Can You Help?

1. **Donate:** A GoFundMe page has been established to directly support Beau and his family as they navigate the daunting process of rebuilding their lives. You can find the page here >> [Go Fund Me](#) << Every contribution, no matter the size, will make a difference.
2. **Send Donations:** If you prefer, you can send donations directly to the Williams County Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 23, Bryan, OH 43506. Be sure to note that the donation is for Beau Zuver.
3. **Share This Message:** Spread the word! Share this article with your fellow ham radio operators, local clubs, and online communities. The more people who are aware of Beau's situation, the greater the potential for support.
4. **Consider Matching Donations:** If your club or organization is in a position to do so, consider offering a matching donation to further incentivize contributions.
5. **Offer Practical Support:** If you are local to the Williams County area, reach out to the Williams County Amateur Radio Association to see if there are opportunities to provide practical assistance, such as helping with cleanup efforts or providing temporary housing.

This is a moment for the amateur radio community to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to helping one another. Beau was on the front lines, providing critical information during a **tornado**. You can show him the true meaning of community by helping him and his family rebuild their lives. Even a small gesture can make a profound impact. Every act of kindness will be deeply appreciated.

R – U – A Member?

Be Radio-Active. Join ARRL Today!

Join ARRL today and get access to benefits, services, and programs to help you get (and stay) active and on the air. Your membership supports ARRL's work to promote and protect amateur radio, and to develop the next generation of radio amateurs.

Join - [Register](#) for a web account and then [Join](#). Already a member? [Renew](#) your ARRL membership or simply call ARRL Member Services at **860-594-0200** during normal business hours.



STOP!!!
We've come to the end...



Be Radio-Active --- See Ya' Soon!