



Radio Waves

*The Great Lakes Division
Monthly Journal*

June 2025

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Scott's Stuff



Hi Everyone,

It's June, and Hamvention Memories Still Warm My Heart!

It's finally June, though the weather outside might suggest otherwise! This past May felt more like a blustery extension of winter than the prelude to summer we all crave. But despite the chilly winds whipping through, I find myself warmed by the memories of a recent, truly spectacular event: Hamvention!

If you missed Hamvention this year, you genuinely missed out. I can't recall a time when the weather was more cooperative. Sunny skies, comfortable temperatures, and, most importantly, absolutely *no* humidity made for an unforgettable experience.

The Great Lakes Division booth was buzzing from start to finish on Friday and Saturday, with crowds six to eight people deep, eager to connect and share their passion for ham radio. Sunday was a bit calmer, but the energy remained high until the very end of the show. The overall atmosphere was one of pure joy and excitement, with everyone seemingly thrilled to be there.

Saturday's ARRL Forum was another highlight. I, along with the First Vice President, the CEO, and the Director of Marketing & Innovation, had the opportunity to discuss the latest developments and initiatives within the Great Lakes Division and the ARRL. It was a chance to share our vision for the future of amateur radio.

The ARRL Forum, as informative and engaging as it was, was overshadowed by a very special moment: the presentation of the Great Lakes Division George S. Wilson III W4OYI Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, the honor was bestowed upon **Dale Williams, WA8EFK**, a name synonymous with dedication and service within the amateur radio community.

I described the stringent criteria required to even be considered for such a prestigious award. I then proceeded to detail the incredible contributions Dale has made over the years, not only to the ARRL and the Great Lakes Division but also to his local community of Dundee, Michigan.



Dale's commitment to amateur radio is truly inspiring. He's a tireless advocate, a dedicated volunteer, and a true ambassador for the hobby. His efforts have helped to grow and strengthen the ham radio community, both locally and nationally.

The moment Dale received the award was truly special. The entire room erupted in a standing ovation, a testament to the respect and admiration he has earned over the years. It was a powerful and emotional moment, and a fitting tribute to someone who has given so much to the world of amateur radio.

We in the Great Lakes Division are immensely proud to have recognized Dale with the **George S. Wilson III W4OYI Lifetime Achievement Award**. This award isn't just about acknowledging past accomplishments; it's about celebrating a lifelong commitment to service, innovation, and the spirit of amateur radio. It's about recognizing someone who embodies the values that the ARRL holds dear.

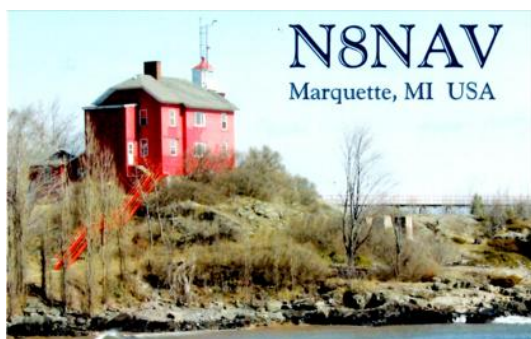
The George S. Wilson III W4OYI Lifetime Achievement Award acknowledges a lifetime of dedication and contribution to the amateur radio community. It's an honor reserved for those individuals who have gone above and beyond in their service to the ARRL, their local communities, and the hobby as a whole.

Dale is a shining example of what it means to be a true ham radio enthusiast, and his accomplishments serve as an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations again! Your contributions to amateur radio are invaluable, and your dedication is truly inspiring. You are a role model for all of us in the ham radio community. Witnessing your recognition at Hamvention was a privilege, and it's a memory I will cherish for years to come. The legacy of Dale and his impact on the ARRL and the wider ham radio community will undoubtedly continue to inspire generations of amateur radio enthusiasts.

Keeping with the Convention theme just a bit more...

As I reflect on the recent buzz surrounding our Division's Brag Board, I can't help but feel a surge of excitement and gratitude. The response was truly heartwarming! Seeing all those QSL cards pinned up, each a testament to connections made and distances bridged, filled me with a real sense of pride. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their cards; they certainly sparked a lot of interest and conversations among passersby.



On the way home, my ever-creative YL had a brilliant idea to inject a bit more fun into the mix. We decided to hold a random drawing, offering a prize to one lucky individual whose card graced our Brag Board. And the winner is... **Jim Belles – N8NAV** from Marquette, Michigan! Jim, congratulations on winning a copy of the bestselling book from Hamvention, **"Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Sketchbook"**! We hope you enjoy it and find plenty of inspiration for your future portable operations.

We also showcased a rolling photo gallery featuring over 2,000 pictures of hams in action from the Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky Sections.

The reactions were priceless! It was a joy to witness people excitedly pointing and exclaiming, "Hey, I know that guy! That's me!" Moments like these truly highlight the camaraderie and shared passion within the amateur radio community.

Now, with summer in full swing, another much-anticipated event is rapidly approaching -- Field Day, scheduled for June 28th and 29th. This is our chance to showcase amateur radio to the public, test our emergency communication capabilities, and, most importantly, have a fantastic time! Is your club gearing up for Field Day this year? If so, be sure to register your site on the ARRL Field Day locator at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>. This will help other hams and interested individuals find you and participate in the fun.



But the preparations shouldn't stop there! I strongly encourage you to reach out to your local government officials and request a Proclamation for Amateur Radio that weekend. Most local governments are happy to support this initiative, and it's an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about the vital role amateur radio plays in our communities. Don't forget to invite the news media to cover your Field Day event!

Also, share the proclamations with ARRL via pr@arrl.org. ARRL uses these proclamations to advance legislative efforts, creating additional support of awareness for amateur radio among lawmakers... This is fantastic PR for everyone involved.



And here's an often overlooked, but crucial point: designate someone to be the official photographer! These days, most of us carry a phone with a built-in camera, so there's no excuse for missing out on capturing those memorable moments. Take lots and lots of pictures! And please, send them to me at n8sy@n8sy.com. I will add them to the gallery that we already have started. Let's document the excitement and share the joy of Field Day with the wider amateur radio community. Embrace your inner

Alan Funt and remember, "Smile, you're on Candid Camera!"

As for my own Field Day plans, I'm still weighing my options. A part of me wants to embark on a whirlwind tour, visiting multiple Field Day sites and offering support and encouragement wherever I can. But another part of me longs to settle down at one location, immerse myself in the experience, and build stronger bonds with a particular group of hams. It's a tough decision!

The dartboard is ready for action, and I'm sure I'll reach a conclusion soon. The most important thing is that there are numerous incredible Field Day sites to visit and support. Wherever I end up, I know I'll be surrounded by passionate individuals who share my love for amateur radio. And that, my friends, is what truly makes Field Day so special.

So, let's get those antennas up, those radios humming, and those smiles shining! Let's make this Field Day the best one yet! I look forward to seeing your pictures and hearing all about your experiences. Happy Field Day, everyone!

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

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.

Did You Know?

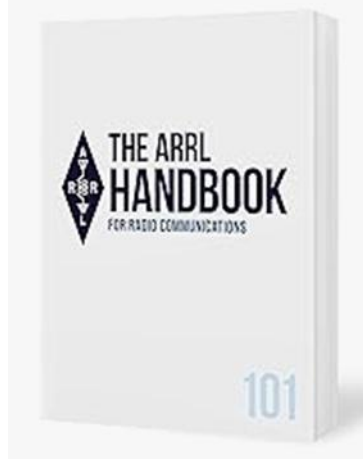
You can give the gift of ARRL Membership. By purchasing a gift membership, you'll be helping a ham become more active and involved in amateur radio. Gift memberships are available for both U.S. and International individuals and for our Associate (non-licensed) and Full membership types.

By gifting a membership to ARRL you are opening up a world of information, education and fun for that special radio enthusiast in your life! Please call our Member Services team at 860-594-0200 and they will be happy to assist you.

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.



Handbook Give Away Winner!!



Ok... now, can I have a drum roll please?

The winner of the Handbook Give Away is none other than...

*Robert Stoddard, WB8ZBH
from
Lima, Ohio*

Did you enter? You can't win if you don't enter, so keep your eyes peeled for the next time the Give Away comes up on the website, click on that link and get yourself entered.

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.

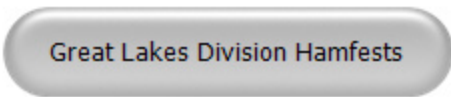
Let's fully support all of our hamfests in every way possible. It means success for everyone. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set.

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.**

You can always find the latest information about upcoming hamfests on the Great Lakes Division website.

Just click to get the latest hamfest updates.



06/07/2025 - FCARC Summer Hamfest Location: Delta, OH Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More	06/07/2025 - IRA Hudsonville Hamfest Location: Hudsonville, MI Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association Website: http://www.w8ira.org Learn More
06/07/2025 - LARS Yooper Hamfest Location: Newberry, MI Sponsor: Luce Amateur Radio Services Website: http://www.w8nby.org Learn More	06/08/2025 - Crossroads Hamfest Location: Marshall, MI Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society Website: http://www.w8df.com Learn More
06/14/2025 - Midland Amateur Radio Club Swap Location: Midland, MI Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club Website: http://www.w8kea.org Learn More	6/15/2025 - Monroe Hamfest Location: Monroe , MI Sponsor: Monroe County Radio Communications Association Website: http://mcrca.org Learn More
07/19/2025 - NOARSfest Location: Elyria, OH Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Website: https://www.noars.net/hamfests/noarsfest/ Learn More	07/19/2025 - Williams County ARA Hamfest Location: Montpelier, OH Sponsor: Williams County ARA Learn More
07/20/2025 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8fy.org Learn More	07/26/2025 - BARA / MCRN Trunk Swap Location: Berrien Center, MI Sponsor: Blossomland Amateur Radio Association and the Midwest Classic Radio Net Website: https://www.w8mai.org/index.php/club-information/bara-trunk-swap Learn More



From Roy

Roy Hook, W8REH@arrrl.org

ARRL Great Lakes Division

Vice Director

The month of May brought a wonderful Dayton Hamvention event where all three days handed us the best weather I can recall over the many years I have attended. I was overwhelmed with the masses of volunteers I encountered with extremely positive attitudes and friendly faces making me feel I was being driven around in little cart limos like the family we are. Comparisons to the old Hara Arena with its exploding flea market days seemed to be mostly gone, now pointing to how this next-door Xenia venue has rapidly improved and is certainly here to stay.

The common theme I saw is that it's all about the people and how they are working hard together for the future. I sensed a growing movement to listen to what your mother said, "If you can't say something nice (positive), don't say anything at all." I am amazed how a single club can produce this high quantity event year after year that influenced me so much as my first hamfest almost 60 years ago and continues as such a premiere event today. If you look at the photo on page 4 the of this year's Hamvention program you will see a large group of people working hand in hand together as Committee chairs. Thanks to DARA for consistently orchestrating all the volunteers that make it happen.

Scott and I were in the ARRL booth all three days. The time you may have spent with us and your thoughts are of great value and sincerely appreciated. As I pointed out last month, you should think of Hamvention as much more than the world's largest "candy store". I hope you found much more than what you were looking for because much was there at no additional charge. I met many new people pointing out that even though our relative numbers as hams worldwide may be small, there are people and interests we frequently miss and should explore.



Last month I wrote about my Cave City Kentucky experience. At Dayton I met some folks from the Lake Cumberland Amateur Radio Association, KY and I discovered there is much about the Great Lakes Division I have not yet discovered.

Just as I realized my lack of knowledge about our small portion of the United States I represent, I met VU2MUH, Ram Mohan from India representing their National Institute of Amateur Radio. He shared with me their positive attitudes and efforts in India focusing on Communication for Societal Development. With current events here in the US it is easy to lose sight of the fact that we share the same radio spectrum over the entire world.

Through June 15, I will be participating in the nationwide Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air special operating event activating with Highland County HARA, K8HO. It is important to note this is not a contest. Information about the event can be found at www.lctota.org. June also brings the longest running event I know of in Amateur Radio, Field Day. If you think of Field Day as just another contest you are missing a great opportunity that will likely entice people to join our ranks for a lifetime of education and enjoyment like it did me. Use it as a club building opportunity and make the most of it. This year I will not be able to visit you at your Field Day site as I have many in the past. My wife and I will be duplicating a trip we did 20 years ago to Alaska. This provides an opportunity in my absence for you to provide a guest article for July.

Please let me know your thoughts before the middle of June so we can meet deadlines.

73,

Roy



White Wire Blues:

A Deep Dive into Your Home's Electrical Neutral and the Importance of Ground Fault Interrupters (GFIs)

Ever wondered about the different colored wires lurking behind your outlet covers? Let's talk about one in particular: the neutral wire, often identified by its white color. This wire plays a crucial role in the electrical system of your home, even though it might seem less potent than the "hot" wire. However, don't be fooled – it still carries a potential danger.

In modern electrical systems, grounding is paramount. It's a safety feature designed to protect you from severe shocks. But what about those older homes with non-grounded outlets? Can they still be safe? The answer, surprisingly, is yes, but with a caveat. You can use a Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) in place of an ungrounded outlet, but only under very specific circumstances dictated by the national electric code.

GFIs: The Super-Smart Outlets

So, what's so special about a GFI? It's essentially a super-smart outlet that constantly monitors the flow of electricity. It's designed to detect imbalances between the outgoing alternating current (AC) and the returning current through the neutral wire. Under normal conditions, these currents should be virtually identical. However, if there's a fault, such as electricity leaking through you to the ground, the GFI instantly detects this difference.

When the GFI senses a difference exceeding the threshold set by the national electric code, it trips, cutting off the power in milliseconds. This rapid response protects you not only from a potentially lethal shock but also from the risk of fire caused by short circuits and overheating. Think of it as a super-fast, super-sensitive circuit breaker. While a standard circuit breaker protects the wiring from overloads, a GFI protects you from dangerous electrical leaks.

A Quick Recap: AC vs. DC and Voltage

Before we move on, let's quickly touch on a couple of key electrical concepts:

1. **Alternating Current (AC):** This is the standard type of electricity used in most homes. The flow of current periodically reverses direction.
2. **Direct Current (DC):** This is electricity that flows in only one direction, like from a battery.
3. **Voltage:** This is the electrical potential difference, or the "pressure," that pushes the current through a circuit. Higher voltage means a greater potential for shock.

When and Where to Use GFIs for Non-Grounded Outlets

The national electric code allows the replacement of non-grounded outlets with GFIs in specific situations. This is typically permitted when extending or replacing existing circuits in older homes that don't have grounding wires. However, it's crucial to properly label the GFI-protected outlet as "No Equipment Ground." This informs future users that the outlet isn't technically grounded.

It's important to note that relying on GFIs as a substitute for proper grounding is not an ideal long-term solution. If possible, upgrading to grounded outlets is always the best and safest solution. Electricity is not something to play with. Treat it with respect, and it will treat you with respect.

Navigating the world of electrical safety can feel like deciphering a complex code. Understanding the different types of circuit breakers and their specific functions is crucial for ensuring the safety of your home or business. This article delves into the distinctions between Ground Fault Interrupters (GFIs) and Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs), providing you with the knowledge to make informed decisions about your electrical protection.

Will a GFI protect me better than an Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter?

Ground Fault Interrupters (GFIs): Protecting Against Leakage

GFIs are designed to protect you from electric shock. They constantly monitor the current flowing in a circuit and compare the amount of current leaving the circuit to the amount returning. If there's a difference – indicating that current is leaking to the ground (perhaps through a person) – the GFI will trip, cutting off the power almost instantaneously.

The National Electrical Code (NEC) mandates GFIs in areas where water is present, such as bathrooms, kitchens, garages, and outdoor outlets. This is because water significantly increases the risk of electric shock. GFIs are typically outlet-based or breaker-based (installed in the circuit breaker panel).

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs): Preventing Electrical Fires

While GFIs protect against electric shock, Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) are designed to prevent electrical fires. Arcing faults occur when electricity jumps from one conductor to another, creating intense heat that can ignite nearby flammable materials. This can be caused by damaged wiring, loose connections, or even nails driven through walls.

AFCIs are much more sophisticated than standard circuit breakers. They can distinguish between normal arcing (like that which occurs when a switch is flipped) and dangerous arcing faults. When an AFCI detects a hazardous arc, it trips, cutting off the power and preventing a fire from starting. The NEC requires AFCIs in many areas of the home, including bedrooms, living rooms, and dining rooms.

FAQs about Neutral Wires and GFIs

Q: Can the white neutral wire shock me?

A: Yes, absolutely. While it's considered the "return" path, it still carries electricity and can deliver a dangerous shock if you come into contact with it under certain circumstances.

Q: How do I know if my outlets are grounded?

A: A grounded outlet has a third, round hole for the grounding pin. If your outlet only has two slots, it's likely not grounded.

Q: Do GFIs need to be replaced periodically?

A: Yes, it's a good idea to test your GFIs monthly and replace them every 10-15 years, or sooner if they fail the test.

Q: Can I install a GFI outlet myself?

A: While it's possible with the right knowledge and tools, it's always best to hire a qualified electrician to ensure proper installation and safety.

Q: What if my GFI keeps tripping?

A: A frequently tripping GFI indicates a fault in the circuit. Disconnect any appliances or devices plugged into the outlet and try resetting the GFI. If it continues to trip, call an electrician.

- **Can a GFI replace a standard circuit breaker?** No. A GFI protects against ground faults, while a standard circuit breaker protects against overloads and short circuits. They serve different purposes and often work together.
- **Can an AFCI replace a standard circuit breaker?** No, similar to GFIs, AFCIs serve a different purpose than standard circuit breakers. They are specialized to detect arc faults, a condition standard breakers aren't designed to protect against.
- **Do I need both GFI and AFCI protection?** In many areas, the National Electrical Code (NEC) requires both GFI and AFCI protection. They protect against different hazards, so having both provides comprehensive electrical safety.
- **How do I know what type of circuit breaker I need?** Consult with a qualified electrician. They can assess your electrical system and determine the appropriate circuit breakers for your specific needs, ensuring compliance with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and local regulations.

Understanding the differences between GFI and AFCI Breakers is crucial for ensuring the safety and functionality of your electrical system. GFIs and AFCIs primarily serve residential needs by preventing shocks and fires, respectively. Knowing the purpose of each type empowers you to make informed decisions about your electrical safety and collaborate effectively with qualified electricians.

Understanding the role of the neutral wire and the importance of GFIs can empower you to make informed decisions about your home's electrical safety. When in doubt, always consult a qualified electrician to ensure your wiring is up to code and your home is a safe environment.

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.

The 2025 Cleveland Marathon, Every Volunteer Counts for Success

Ron Hollas, K8RJH & Chuck Mehozonek K8CVM

The Cleveland Marathon is a celebrated annual event that highlights the invaluable role of Amateur Radio operators in supporting communication and public service efforts within the local community. Now in its 48th year, this marathon holds the distinction of being one of the longest-running programs of its kind in the United States.

Spanning two days, the event took place on May 17-18, 2025, offering five different challenge levels to accommodate participants of all abilities.

Beyond the runners themselves, the marathon's true impact extends to the many community charities it benefits, reinforcing its reputation as a highly worthwhile endeavor.

This year's race saw impressive participation, with over 10 K runners and spectators being a part of the weekend event.

Such an ambitious event would not be possible without the dedication of numerous volunteers, including individuals and organizations that contributed their time and effort to ensure smooth operations.



Cuyahoga County ARES provided 36 amateur radio operators for the weekend event.

Saturday of the weekend had the 5K and 10K races take place. Net Control was run from the Emergency Operation Center of the Cuyahoga County EMA with 3 operators staffing the net.

The Cleveland Marathon Sunday event is a Served Agency activation request by the City of Cleveland. On Sunday, the City of Cleveland Emergency Operations Center was activated, and two radio operators were stationed in the EOC radio room.

Cuyahoga County ARES/ESG had the opportunity of running the Sunday Full and Half Marathon Net Control from the Cuyahoga County Fire Mobile Command vehicle.

Cuyahoga ARES/ESG responsibilities for the Cleveland Marathon are for Radio operators to monitor Water Stops, provide SAG support dispatch, general course situational awareness and to relay all medical requests to the University Hospital staff as well as keeping the Cleveland EOC aware of on route situations. We also relay medical requests from the Cleveland EOC to the medical staff.

The use of the Command Vehicle affords Cuyahoga County ARES/ESG the ability to have the University Hospital Medical dispatch personnel located in the same radio area of the Command Vehicle for immediate relay of medical situations.

University Hospital Medical dispatch personnel located in the same radio area of the Command Vehicle for immediate relay of medical situations.



University Hospital personal

Cuyahoga ARES Net Control



By all measures, the 2025 Cleveland Marathon was a resounding success. It provided an excellent opportunity to refine operating skills, connect with fellow amateur radio enthusiasts, and contribute meaningfully to a local event.

For those looking to volunteer their communication expertise for the first time, this marathon remains a highly recommended annual experience.

Next Year's Cleveland Marathon is scheduled on May 16-17, 2026

For Additional Information.

The Cleveland Marathon Event and Planning - <https://www.clevelandmarathon.com>
Amateur Radio (ARES) and Volunteer Scheduling - <https://n8esg.org>

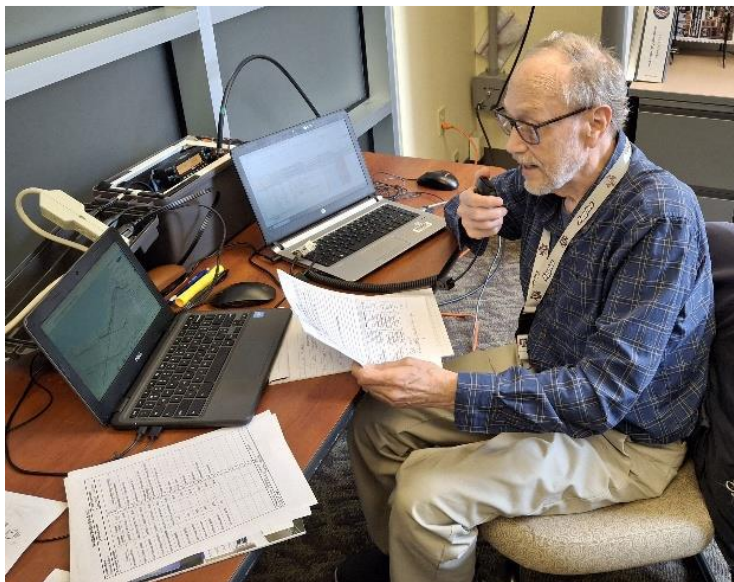
Stretching from Downtown Cleveland through Edgewater Park, Amateur Radio provided a core communication and situational awareness coverage of the 2025 Cleveland Marathon.

The running course had 36 Amateur Radio volunteers strategically deployed using VHF/UHF Voice and APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System), offering the Race Organizers with real-time conditions and race progress.



Street view of the 10,000 plus runners and spectators competing in the 2025 Cleveland Marathon.

View of the Cleveland EOC during the Cleveland 2025 EOC activation.



his is the view from within the Cleveland EOC position staffed by Ron Hollas, K8RJH. The assignment at this location was to be a liaison resource to the Mobile Command vehicle, and function as backup net control if necessary. Note the 2 computer displays shown in the operating position. The left display reports the APRS beacons of the Marathon course The second display located in the center contains real time logging and situational reports that are shared and updated from the Net Comms post.

Chris Roseboro (N8RFE) in his first EOC assignment with this year's Cleveland Marathon. His net control skills were welcome for the "running" of highly effective EOC radio communications with the Marathon net.

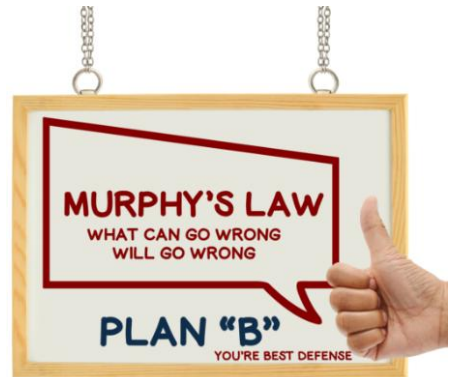


Bryson's Law of Repairs

1. Anything you try to fix will take longer and cost more than you thought.
2. If you fool around with a thing for very long you will screw it up.

Considine's Law

Whenever one word or letter can change the entire meaning of a sentence, the probability of an error being made will be in direct proportion to the embarrassment it will cause.



Doc's Laws of Automotive Repair

1. If you can reach the faulty part, you don't have the tool to get it off.
2. Quality is inversely proportional to the time left to complete the job.
3. If it jams-force it. If it breaks, it needed replacing anyhow.

STOP!!!

We've come to the end...



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