It is that time of year again to get into full swing in preparation for Field Day. We are 100% set on FD Chairman (thanks Tim N6GP), 99% set on location (Walter Knott School), and 1% set on details (number of stations, station captains, pool of operators, etc.). The “details” will get started to be hashed out at the first FD planning meeting (see announcement elsewhere). Please volunteer for some role or let us know you plan to be there to operate with any preferences, etc. as you hear about or participate in the planning. Last option – just show up. Never can have too many participants!

I also want to open up the possibility of any one of you being the RF Newsletter editor for a month (we rotate the editor). Someone already sends out the article due dates, sends out a template, and finalizes the look. The monthly Editor collects the articles and images and then will paste and format them into the provided template. The Editor will play close attention to preserving the template format by getting it as close to ready as possible. The end result is then submitted to our unsung hero (Ken, W6HHC) to review and make any last minute formatting changes. He will then create a PDF, and get it distributed out to the membership and posting to the club’s website (www.w6ze.org).

In regard to the monthly meeting, we have speakers or activities planned for every month except two (2) for the rest of the year. So, if you have a speaker idea, get them in so we can think about it and maybe schedule this year or next year (see Tim, N6TMT, VP). A variety of interesting talks are coming up. FT8 digital mode this month, Baker-to-Vegas race May, some FD Pep Talk+ in June.

All the Officer contact information are always in the Newsletter. We noticed missing items from the change in Officers, but all should be corrected now. We also have webmasters (Ken W6HHC, Bob AF6C) who have been amazing keeping the website up-to-date. We know there are sections that are dated, but the important ones are maintained. They can always use additional help. We do put some limitations the webpage site editors to avoid issues with too many persons making modifications, but they would love to have someone willing to edit a section for upload. If you see an outdated webpage and the theme interests you, contact the webmasters to help. We currently are working on updating the EmComm section.
2019 Board of Directors:

President:  
Dan Violette KI6X  
(714) 637- 4632  
ki6x@w6ze.org

Vice President:  
Tim Millard  
(714) 744-8909  
n6tmt@w6ze.org

Secretary:  
Ken Konechy, W6HHC  
(714) 348-1636  
W6HHC@W6ZE.ORG

Treasurer:  
Greg Bohning, W6ATB  
(714) 767-7617  
w6atb@w6ze.org

Membership:  
Corey Miller KE6YHX  
(714) 322-0395  
ke6yhx@w6ze.org

Activities:  
Ron Mudry W6WG  
(714) 840-3613  
w6wg@w6ze.org

Publicity:  
Vijay Anand, KM6IZO  
km6izo@w6ze.org

Technical:  
Bob Eckweiler, AF6C  
(714) 639-5074  
af6c@w6ze.org

2019 Club Appointments:

W6ZE Club License Trustee:  
Bob Eckweiler, AF6C  
(714) 639-5074  
af6c@w6ze.org

Club Historian(s):  
Corey Miller KE6YHX  
(714) 639-5475  
ke6yhx@w6ze.org

Bob Evans, WB6IXN (Emeritus)  
(714) 543-9111  
wb6ixm@w6ze.org

RF Editor for April:  
Tom Cowart, W6ETC  
w6etc@w6ze.org

Webmaster:  
Ken Konechy W6HHC  
(714) 348-1636  
W6HHC@W6ZE.org

Assistant Webmaster:  
Bob Eckweiler, AF6C  
(714) 639-5074  
af6c@w6ze.org

Tim Millard, N6TMT  
(714) 744-8909  
n6tmt@w6ze.org

ARRL Awards Appointees:  
Arnie Shatz, N6HC  
(714) 573-2965  
N6HC@aol.com

John Schroeder, N6QQ  
West Orange Co.)  
(562) 404-1112  
N6QQ@msn.com

Contact the Newsletter:  
Feedback & Corrections:  
rf_feedback@w6ze.org

Submit articles:  
editors@w6ze.org

Monthly Events:

General Meeting time & location:  
Held third Friday of the month  
at 7:00 PM held at:  
American Red Cross  
600 Parkcenter Drive  
Santa Ana, CA  
(Near Tustin Ave. & 4th St.)

Club Breakfast (Board Mtg):  
Held the First Saturday*  
of the month at 8am  
Marie Callender’s Restaurant  
307 E. Katella Ave  
Orange, CA 92867  
*unless otherwise advised

Club Nets (Listen for W6ZE):  
10M: 28.375 ± MHz SSB  
Wed- 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Bob AF6C, Net Control  
Alt: Corey, KE6YHX, Net Control

2M: 146.55 MHz Simplex FM  
Wed- 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
Corey, KE6YHX, Net Control

80M 3.883 MHz LSB  
Wed- 9:00(+-) PM  
Follows right after end of 2M Net  
Corey, KE6YHX, Net Control

Donations to OCARC:  
Bob Eckweiler, AF6C  
(714) 639-5074  
af6c@w6ze.org

2019 DUES:  
OCARC Membership period is:  
1 January to 31 December

Individual New or Renewal: $30  
Family New or Renewal: $45  
Teen New or Renewal: $15

New Member Dues are prorated quarterly and includes a badge:  
Additional Badges$  
$3

Use one of our interactive online forms to calculate current prices, join, renew, or order badges:  
Dues and Badges Form
Orange County Amateur Radio Club general meeting dates and presentation topics are listed below. We meet on the third Friday of each month (unless otherwise indicated). Please plan to join us!

**American Red Cross**
600 Parkcenter Drive, Santa Ana, 92705
For more information go to: [http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html](http://www.w6ze.org/MeetingInfo.html)

**Orange County Amateur Radio Club**

**April 26th, 2019**
FT8 Contesting by Arnie N6HC and Chip K7JA

**May 17th, 2019**
Baker-2-Vegas presentation by Ken W6HHC

**June, July and August 2019**
To Be Announced

**September 20th, 2019**
Ducie Island DX-expedition by Arnie N6HC

For the most current Upcoming event information go to the OCARC EVENTS website:
[http://www.w6ze.org/Events.htm](http://www.w6ze.org/Events.htm)

### OCARC Activities Officer

**Ron Mudry W6WG**

by Dan Violette ki6x@w6ze.org
2019 President of the OCARC

**Note:** This will be a monthly Newsletter feature highlighting an officer position, their duties and where you can assist.

**Duties:** The OCARC By-laws list the following as duties of the Activities Officer:

- Organize club activities with assistants of his choice, such as picnics, camping trips, etc. for the enjoyment of the members.
- Obtain prizes for and manage the raffle at each of the regular club meetings. Select prizes having general value to radio amateurs and when possible solicit prize donations from retailers or manufacturers. Strive to maintain a net positive cash flow from the raffle activities.
- Provide refreshments, with assistants of his choice, at each of the regular club meetings.
- Help with the organization of the annual Field Day.
- Perform other duties required by the president or the Board.

The Activities Manager has been very active in the club joint events (Field Days, Dinners) and with the raffle at the meetings.

**Current Officer:** Ron Mudry, W6WG (w6wg@w6ze.org)

*Areas that club members may assist the Officer: It would be very nice if there were volunteers to be the lead for Field Day and assist in the other areas such as willing to help gather raffle prizes or man the table during a meeting. Please contact Ron or volunteer when you hear there is an opportunity to assist.
Upcoming Activities:

**APRIL**

- **Rookie Roundup:** Sunday April 21, 1800 UTC through to 2359 UTC.
- **10-10 International Spring Contest/Digital:** 0001 UTC Saturday April 27 through 2359 UTC Sunday April 28

**MAY**

- **7TH Call Area QSO Party:** 1300 UTC Saturday May 4 through 0700 UTC Sunday May 5
- **10-10 International Spring Contest/CW:** 0001 UTC Saturday May 4 through to 2359 UTC Sunday May 5
- **FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint:** 1700 UTC through 2100 UTC Sunday May 11
- **CQ World Wide WPX Contest/CW:** 0000 UTC Saturday May 25 through to 2359 UTC Sunday May 26

State QSO Parties:

- **Georgia QSO Party:** 1800 UTC Sunday April 13 to 2359 UTC Monday April 14
- **Michigan QSO Party:** 1600 UTC Saturday April 20 to 0400 UTC Sunday April 21
- **Michigan QSO Party:** 1600 UTC Saturday April 20 to 0400 UTC Sunday April 21
- **Florida QSO Party:** 1600 UTC Saturday April 27 to 2159 UTC Sunday April 29
- **Indiana QSO Party:** 1600 UTC Saturday May 4 to 0400 UTC Sunday May 5
- **Delaware QSO Party:** 1700 UTC Saturday May 4 to 2359 UTC Sunday May 5
- **New England QSO Party:** 2000 UTC May 4 Saturday to 2400 UTC Sunday May 5

Repeating Activities:

- **Phone Fry** Every Tuesday night at 0230Z to 0300Z
- **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW)** on the first weekend of the month after the 6TH of the month. 1200 Sat. to 2359Z Sunday.
- **SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW)** 0000Z to 0200Z on the 4TH Tuesday night (USA) of the month.
- **CWops** Every Wednesday 1300 UTC to 1400 UTC 1900 UTC to 2000 UTC and Thursday 0300 UTC to 0400 UTC

Send an email to Ron W6WG; w6wg@w6ze.org to have your favorite activity or your recent RadioActivity listed in next month’s column.

* Indicates club entries are accepted  
** Indicates team entries are accepted

Note: When submitting logs for ARRL Contests please indicate your club affiliation as… “Orange County ARC”
WINTER FIELD DAY 2019 OUTDOOR RESULTS


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WINTER FIELD DAY OUTDOOR RESULTS - 2018 TOP TEN of 201 STATIONS

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For those of you who participated with OCARC during the 2019 Winter Field Day event here’s your Certificate!
OCARC Field Day 2019 Information Update
By Tom W6ETC

Field Day 2019 is a once a year event and a fantastic opportunity awaits both new and old hams alike. If you’re new to Amateur Radio or who would like to explore this hobby, I suggest you come out to Field Day 2019 to try your hand at getting on the air. The Orange County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC) will provide all interested operators the opportunity to experience new and different modes including but not limited to various forms of Digital operations; Satellite, FT8, etc., etc...

The illustrious Tim N6GP will be heading up the group of interested operators who will be in the process of planning for the 2019 Field Day event. Good planning is a key factor to facilitate the logistical, operational and resource requirements of the different stations. It’s important to know how to manage the tasks associated with the site at the Walter Knott Educational Center site in Buena Park adjacent to Knott’s Berry Farm.

It takes a team effort to ensure that the guidelines, rules and standards of the event are met and an atmosphere of fun, Emergency Communications (aka EmComm) practice/instruction and active communications contesting is given proper priority. The Event planner realizes that it’s not just about numbers on a paper. It’s also about developing and maintain the relationships generated by those having an interest in Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. It’s also about having a good time learning and practicing together as a group with interests in common to be better prepared for when, not if a disaster would strike. Let’s not forget what the true intended spirit is and the camaraderie afforded at Field Day 2019.

Important note: Field Day 2019 activities actually begins Friday June 21st and runs through to the end of the event on June 23rd.

You don’t need to be a member of OCARC or the ARRL to participate in the event. You don’t even need to be a licensed operator. But being a licensed Ham operator helps! Commit yourself to at least find out more about this exciting, fun filled, learning opportunity. Participate in the planning meeting to know more of what’s involved and how to get involved.

You can also be part of the Planning Committee to get behind the scenes look into the Event’s organizational details, requirements and timelines. If you would like more information regarding OCARC and the FD2019 Event please click here> Tim N6GP
OCARC Group Order of ARRL Field Day gear.

Your have the Opportunity to save on shipping cost when ordering this year’s ARRL Field Day shirt or Field Day hat. Here’s how it works:

We are offering an ARRL Field Day shirt for $19.90 (this includes CA sales tax and shipping) or a 2019 FD Hat for $14.50 (including tax and shipping).

All shirts and hats are only available in the same color: Charcoal. Shirts at the time of this notice are available in sizes Small to 6XL. Please choose your shirt size wisely since you will receive exactly what you ordered and are non-returnable.

How to Order:

You can order In person at our April 26th General Meeting or by emailing your request to n6tmt@w6ze.org but either way no later than April 26th at 7PM. Please make sure the Email Subject line states: “ARRL Order FD 2019”

Also please use separate (individual) lines for each item ordered within the email. Do NOT combine quantity. In other words, if you want 3 shirts then each shirt would need to be indicated on their own individual line (hence three (3) shirts would be listed on three lines, one on each line). Each line also needs to indicate the size even if they are the same. This would also apply for Field Day ‘Hat” orders as well.

Payment:

Payments must be received prior to or on the night of our April General Meeting Friday 4/26/19. *IMPORTANT NOTE: The OCARC General Meeting normally scheduled for 4/19/2019 was moved up one week later to 4/26/2019. If you can’t be at the Friday April 26th meeting please make arrangements to get your money there that night, otherwise we will need to skip your order for this year.

Remember each shirt is $19.90 and/or a hat is $14.50 total. One of each would be a total of $34.40. ARRL would charge you $10.50 for shipping on that order and you will only pay $1.10 as your portion of our group order if you got both items.

Any questions contact: n6tmt@w6ze.org
Announcing the:

Yonex FT-8

The first radio built exclusively for FT8 operators! This radio supports all of the WSJT-x digital modes, including FT8 & MSK144. Why pay more for a rig with SSB and CW modes that you never use? Get on FT8 in 5 minutes! Plug in USB keyboard and mouse, enter your callsign and grid, and start calling the world! The FT-8 is great for DXpeditions, portable use, or Field Day.

FEATURES:

- Digital Sub-bands of 160m – 6m
- 100 W transmit
- Sensitive SDR Receiver
- 2 USB ports for keyboard and mouse (not included)
- Built-in Raspberry Pi 3 computer
- Pre-loaded WSJT-x 2.0.1 software (upgradable)
- Ethernet and WIFI
- HDMI for external monitor

See us at Dayton booth #C103
Yonex Radio Systems USA
117 Marconi Dr.
Irvine, CA 92612
The OCARC General meeting was held at the Red Cross Complex in Santa Ana on March 15, at 7:00 PM. A total of 39 members and visitors attended. A quorum of club officers for this meeting was achieved with all directors present.

Program:
The main March program was presented by William Phinizy (K6WHP) & Dave Martin (KD6QIY) on “Civil Air Patrol (CAP)”

Bill and Dave explained that the mission of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is to be an auxiliary of the USAF. The Civil Air Patrol was formed just before Pearl Harbor. The original role was “combative” to provide looking/bombing of submarines.

After WW2, the non-combative role became mainly search-and-rescue, photo-recon, and humanitarian/disaster-relief. Primary communications is via non-ham FM. CAP has 60,000 members selflessly devoting their time, energy and expertise.

Bill K6WHP pointed out that 97% of the ELT (aircraft Emergency Locator Transmitter beacons) signals/events are false alarms. Bill K6WHP also pointed out that CAP is always looking for ham radio operators to become involved because of their expertise in communicating via radio.

Business Meeting:
• Date for General Meeting in April
Because of conflicts with Good Friday and Passover on April 19, the board has moved the April General Meeting to Friday, April 26, the fourth Friday of the month.

• Summer FD 2019 Plans
FD co-chair Tim N6GP announced that the OCARC is again planning to be held at the Walter Knott Education Center on LaPalma Ave. in Buena Park, just one block west of Knotts Berry Farm Amusement park.

• OCARC Elmer Session
Clem WØMEC is looking to borrow a microphone to test out an old (1980’s) Kenwood TS530S transceiver. Several hams pointed out that many Kenwood mikes for other Kenwood transceiver models will also work with the TS530S. A promise of a loaner mike was obtained by Clem.

Submitted by Ken, W6HHC

Continued on next page…
Winter Field Day Score Revision
Ron W6WG and Tim N6GP reported that the WFD sponsors agreed that the W6ZE score was incorrect and would be increased.

New Business:
- New Location for Board meetings
  The board learned that the Marie Calendar’s Restaurant located on Grand Ave in Santa Ana has permanently closed down. The new location is Marie Calendar’s Restaurant at 307 E Katella Ave in Orange, CA and it is very acceptable and free.

- OCARC Badge problem
  Bob AF6C (the OCARC “badge maker”) reported that many new badges have never been picked up. Bob will prepare a letter to members to address this growing problem.

Submitted by Ken, W6HHC
OCARC Secretary
HamVentures to Xenia
An adventure to and through
Dayton Hamvention 2018
by Tom Cowart W6ETC

The Dayton Hamvention congers up visions of grandiose radios and exciting Amateur radio opportunities. Just exactly what is it about the Dayton Hamvention that gets most Amateur Radio Operators dreaming about the day they can experience this supposed extravaganza for themselves?

If you’re in any way connected with an Amateur Radio Club or a member of the ARRL there’s an annual buzz about the Dayton Hamvention that happens in May. It’s not like any Ham Radio Convention you’ve been to see! Going for the first time after hearing all the marking hype feels like you’re going to see the Great (Radio) OZ. I had hoped to find new and exciting technology. Some look for solutions to their greatest radio communication problems or on a quest to discover that next generation of equipment that sets them apart from fellow Hams.

It just might be possible you have a more balanced mindset with goals to check out the major (and minor) manufacturers and suppliers and get the straight poop … I mean scoop on latest and greatest equipment, software, devices, etc.. I’ve heard stories of what’s been reviewed as the world largest famous Flea market of Amateur radio gear. Some have bragged of picking up equipment at tremendous bargains. Some comments like this may be the truth? Some go to take advantage of many instructional and educational opportunities. Or maybe you’re really a glutton for punishment and look forward to narrow airline seats having little to no legroom, or to renting cars designed to comfortable fit little people, or potentially enjoy the aroma of public restrooms? Maybe, just maybe you might enjoy the occasional long lines at food trucks and concessions or even restrooms. If that’s the case have I got an event for you!

Life is an Adventure!

You’ve heard it said the life is an adventure. From my point of view I can say with certainty that the Dayton Hamvention was an adventure in various ways.

Background: My adventure began more than 5 years ago. Like many Amateur radio OP’s I got bit by the ‘Dayton Bug’ when I heard stories and saw advertisements of the wonders of the Hamvention. I’ve been to other various local Ham swap meets and regional conferences but the thought of going to the big Granddaddy of all the ‘Dayton Hamvention’ meant that all my dreams would come true! When I finally made a serious decision to take the time and spend the monies to go I began to take action.

The 1st thing I did was to make a hotel reservation as close to the Hamvention event way in advance. If fact it was almost a year in advance to tell you the truth. Even then it was to some degree slim pickings of decent rooms near the Green County Fairgrounds.

Looking to the logistics of planning transportation and hotels I discovered that the ‘Dayton Hamvention’ wasn’t actually in ‘Dayton’ anymore per say.
Like I stated above it’s held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center which is in Xenia, OH, some 20 miles+- from Dayton, OH.
Maybe they should actually call it the Xenia Hamvention?

Calling it the Xenia Hamvention I doubt is going to happen! I’m sure it may have to do with its history and the fact that the primary sponsor is the ‘Dayton Amateur Radio Association’ (aka DARA).

In case you missed it… it’s best to make your hotel accommodations way in advance and as close to the Fairgrounds as possible. Did I mention fun and adventure? For me the real fun and adventure began about a month prior to the Event. One my knee’s decided to go in reverse one day and after discussing my options with my physician he mentioned the possibility of surgery to correct the injury. No way Jose. Even if it kills me I’m not going to miss the Dayton Hamvention. So like many of you I will ‘grin and bear it’ and show no fear. This was just the beginning in the process to figure out ways to get in and out and around airlines, vehicles, and into and through the Dayton Hamvention.

The knee injury changed my plans and my goals to some degree. It became necessary to come up with creative ideas to get around. The process began when I realized that I had to change previous plans to upgrade my HF radio to upgrading my airline seat for more room. Next I upgraded the size of the vehicle and made then arrangements to rent a scooter at the Dayton Hamvention to get around. I also discovered that Airlines were very accommodating at the major terminals for those who are somewhat incapacitated.

Once arriving in Dayton International Airport and because of good planning, getting around was fairly quick and easy… that is until I went to the airport car rental company with my reservation. Unfortunately this major car rental company didn’t have their act together and quick and easy wasn’t in their vocabulary.

I hobble over to another car rental company next door… which by the way was owned by the same major corporation to get a vehicle that I could drive! There are a handful of hotels near the Fairgrounds and tons of them within 10-15 miles.

On the first day out Nicholas Af6CF and I took my first trip to a ‘Waffle House.’ It was nothing notable. They do offer all sorts of waffles!
Parking: Now let’s talk about parking and the conditions at the Green County Fairgrounds. In California there’s asphalt everywhere but you’re dealing with a County Fairground mind you. Parking is had on grass and dirt and potentially mud.

I read that previous attendee’s reviews that mentioned parking is a nightmare. Frankly it wasn’t so bad for us. It rained briefly a few times while we were there. I was able to park in a grass field adjacent to the Fairground’s entrance. When we arrive somewhat early there were many volunteers helping to direct cars. Be on the lookout for muddy patches here and there. If really rained for a period of time it might be a real challenge. We made it a point to arrive well ahead to the time the Event was to open, which in turn made parking a lot easier and provided a location that is closer to the Hamvention entrance and the scooter rental tent.
The Dayton Hamvention has what I would call ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ exhibitors. Inside exhibitors would be defined as sellers inside the various steel buildings located within the paved areas and the ‘outside’ exhibitors, aka the Flea market would be those located obviously outside - within, on and around the grass or dirt horse race track area. Walkways to the Flea Market are primarily dirt. If it rains, as it can at times, the result to the pathway’s mean it becomes a muddy mess. This occurred at least once while we were there.

The inside exhibitors have a big advantage during inclement weather. Rain would shut down the Flea Market but for those in the larger steel building it could be business as usual. In fact rain could drive additional buyers into their area as they seek shelter. Once through the gate you will see three large steel buildings on the left and assorted smaller buildings or tents to the right. The largest buildings are numbered 1, 2 and 3. Most of the major manufacturers are located in them. Smaller buildings are numbered 5-8. Although the smaller buildings have smaller, lessor known exhibits or exhibitors you don’t want to pass them by. There a lot of gold in them there hills if you know what to look for.

Interesting to note the Green County Fairground complex itself is multifunctional. Let me remind you that it’s called a a “Fairground” for a reason. As weather permits the complex is used for musical concerts, pulling and plowing contests, and parts of the facility is also used for horse racing.

The buildings often house the exhibition and sale of livestock. At times Heifers and Cows, Goats, Sheep, Poultry, Rabbits, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, etc., etc., may have been their occupants. Truthfully I saw little evidence of this mixed use in the building themselves. The largest building all seemed to be well kept and clean. The smaller buildings are obviously older and not in perfect condition. Also keep in mind that there are all kinds of products and paraphernalia being sold at the Dayton Hamvention, not just Amateur Radio trinkets. Heck you might be able to buy Spinning Wheels and Looms, Vegetables, Flowers, Computers, Laptops, Monitors, Software, Lamps, Lighters, you name it.
The Flea Market reminds me of a swap meet. In comparison it’s in some ways similar to the TRW swap meet yet it held on grass or dirt with dirt pathways but a 100 times bigger perhaps! Pouring rain would be a disaster for sellers and for buyers alike. Unfortunately this has happened during a previous Hamvention with flooding the Flea Market following an unexpected downpour. I believe it was on the 2nd day that a sudden severe thunderstorm approached the Event and organizers began to announce on their PA’s to immediately evacuate the grounds and the Flea Market area into the steel building and out from being in the open. It just took minutes for the larger buildings to became standing room only until the storm passed. Those of us from the west coast, especially California don’t often get this type of excitement! In conclusion the Flea Market was interesting and fun but disappointing also. Initially there’s a lot of expensive junk and even more expensive good stuff. You can expect to bargain to drive the costs down but most real bargaining didn’t happen until the last day of the Event.

I saw a bunch of vintage gear, old amplifiers, tubes, parts and pieces of radio’s. Nicholas AF6CF see below was happiest in this area. There’s also cheap+crappy tools from China, crafting supplies, home brewing supplies, garage sale items, etc..
Restroom Facilities: Most of the restrooms came in the form of porta-potties! Any bathroom(s) that are located inside the smaller, older buildings (where conferences are held) can at time become problematic and challenging. Expect long lines at certain times of the day. The Portable outhouses (aka Porta-potties) seem to be strategy placed throughout the complex. You see row of Porta-potties between the larger buildings. These are located out from and between the larger buildings and can provide attendees with unexpected consequence of unpleasant aromas. Frankly I would try to avoid them. There’s a lot of people compress into a small area. Expect a pile up or two. They do try to maintain the restroom facilities but then again… they are portable restrooms, Porta-potties.

If you’re lucky you might be able to locate a restroom inside a building that works expect a line and be patient. Their location can be the best kept secret.

Big Buildings: Inside the three largest steel buildings are most of the major HF equipment companies all competing for a piece of the sales pie. You have Kenwood, ICOM, Yeasu, Elecraft and Flex Radio all with nice booths, some nicer than others. Kenwood didn’t seem to have much in terms of new, exciting technology or radios offered.

But the major manufacturers such as Icom, Yaesu, Elecraft and Flex Radio were all well represented. At times but you might find yourself fighting for your space when dealing with a lot of people traffic, noise, interesting smells and at times rude, pushy, inconsiderate ya-hoo’s.

Also know that there are a lot of scooters moving around. I was one of them. I choose to give people the right of way. Some OP’s think otherwise. Be on the alert at all times.
Attire: Come with clothing that is comfortable to wear and walk in. I carried a poncho with me just in case of rain. A few select attendees went the extra mile to dress for the occasion (see image below).

![Dressing Up! Image by Tom W6ETC](image)

Food: To be totally honest I didn’t buy much in terms of food or drinks at the Hamvention. Some reviews thought the food to be excellent. I thought the few items I purchased were uneventful. It is like most other Fairground type food. I didn’t have BBQ but most of it seem a bit overpriced. You can bring your own snacks and water if you want to and can haul them around. Otherwise you can buy the overpriced plastic water bottles at many of the food booths.

Keep in mind that near the lunch period time these food booths begin to gather long lines. Those that didn’t have long lines during this time I suggest you may want to avoid?
Some of the characters, events and items found at the 2018 Dayton Hamvention:

AF6CF, W6ETC and a Walking Antenna Tower ....

Information conference inside small structure

Some of the vintage equipment being marked down nearing the end of the show. Images above Tom W6ETC
**Bottom Line:** The Dayton Hamvention ‘HamVenture’ in my opinion is well worth the trip. Although it didn’t go exactly as planned it’s something that I’ll remember, and perhaps someday I’ll return. If you do go don’t just go to the big buildings. Make sure you check out the Flea Market. That alone could take you ½ to a full day and might require you to return. The biggest challenge with buying things at the Flea Market, especially radios is handling, packaging and freight back to your QTH. Obviously it’s not that big a deal for manufacturers and suppliers who have an online presence, exhibited at the Dayton Hamvention and are better prepared to ship larger items from a central warehouse to your location, for example.

*My closing comments are:*

**Be HamVenturous.**

If there’s any way you can arrange to GO...
Carefully plan. Make your reservations now.
Set reasonable goals and expectations.
Expect the unexpected.
Pack your bags and GO.

---Tom W6ETC

‘HamVentures’ and ‘HamVenturous’ is a made up word by Tom W6ETC that combines the words ‘Ham’ + ‘Adventure or Adventurous’

*Images by Tom W6ETC*
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