



# RF



## ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. LX NO. 04

P.O. BOX 3454, TUSTIN, CA 92781-3454

April 2019

### The Prez Sez.....

by Dan KI6X



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](http://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 If you see an outdated webpage and the theme interests you, contact the webmasters to help.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.

I again thank all of those that help keep OCARC running and for new and old members that attend our meeting that keep our club a good, viable source for amateur radio information, support, and comradery in the Orange County area...

Dan KI6X

### OCARC Next General Meeting

The next General Meeting will be on:

**Friday, April 26, 2019**

ENTER from the WEST SIDE entrance of the  
**Red Cross Building, Room 208**  
Take elevator to the 2nd Floor.  
See you there!

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## 2019 Board of Directors:

### President:

Dan Violette KI6X  
(714) 637- 4632  
[ki6x@w6ze.org](mailto:ki6x@w6ze.org)

### Vice President:

Tim Millard  
(714) 744-8909  
[n6tmt@w6ze.org](mailto:n6tmt@w6ze.org)

### Secretary:

Ken Konechy, W6HHC  
(714) 348-1636  
[W6HHC@W6ZE.ORG](mailto:W6HHC@W6ZE.ORG)

### Treasurer:

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

### Membership:

Corey Miller KE6YHX  
(714) 322-0395  
[ke6yhx@w6ze.org](mailto:ke6yhx@w6ze.org)

### Activities:

Ron Mudry W6WG  
(714) 840-3613  
[w6wg@w6ze.org](mailto:w6wg@w6ze.org)

### Publicity:

Vijay Anand, KM6IZO  
[km6izo@w6ze.org](mailto:km6izo@w6ze.org)

### Technical:

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

### Directors-At-Large:

Tim Goepfinger, N6GP  
(714) 730-0395  
[n6gp@w6ze.org](mailto:n6gp@w6ze.org)

Nicholas Haban, AF6CF  
(714) 693-8778  
[af6cf@w6ze.org](mailto:af6cf@w6ze.org)

## 2019 Club Appointments:

### W6ZE Club License Trustee:

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

### Club Historian(s)

Corey Miller KE6YHX  
(714) 639-5475  
[ke6yhx@w6ze.org](mailto:ke6yhx@w6ze.org)

Bob Evans, WB6IXN (Emeritus)  
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[w6etc@w6ze.org](mailto:w6etc@w6ze.org)

### Webmaster:

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(714) 348-1636  
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Tim Millard, N6TMT  
(714) 744-8909  
[n6tmt@w6ze.org](mailto:n6tmt@w6ze.org)

### ARRL Awards Appointees:

Arnie Shatz, N6HC  
(714) 573-2965  
[N6HC@aol.com](mailto:N6HC@aol.com)

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

### Contact the Newsletter:

Feedback & Corrections:  
[rf\\_feedback@w6ze.org](mailto:rf_feedback@w6ze.org)

### Submit articles:

[editors@w6ze.org](mailto:editors@w6ze.org)

### Donations to OCARC:

Bob Eckweiler, AF6C  
(714) 639-5074  
[af6c@w6ze.org](mailto:af6c@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. & 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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<sup>1</sup> \$3

Use one of our our interactive on-line forms to calculate current prices, join, renew, or order badges:

[Dues and Badges Forms](#)

<sup>1</sup> \$3 or less + mailing. See form.



**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.

## OCARC Activities Officer

### Ron Mudry W6WG

by Dan Violette [ki6x@w6ze.org](mailto: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\*.



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](mailto: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.



**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>

**APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2019** .....  
**FT8 Contesting by Arnie N6HC and Chip K7JA**

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

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Baker-2-Vegas presentation by Ken W6HHC**

**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 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>





## 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**

- **7<sup>TH</sup> 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 6<sup>TH</sup> of the month. 1200 Sat. to 2359Z Sunday.
- **SKCC** Sprint (Straight Key CW) 0000Z to 0200Z on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

Source: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/wfd-2019-outdoors> & <https://www.winterfieldday.com/2018-results>



WINTER FIELD DAY OUTDOOR RESULTS - 2019 TOP TEN of 220 STATIONS											
#	CALLSIGN	CAT	SECT	PH	CW	DI	MULT.	PWR X	BONUS	CLAIMED	SCORE
1	W6ZE	6O	ORG	806	505	17	32	2	6,000	124,016	112,499
2	N1FD	4O	NH	731	321	59	15	2	6,000	50,520	46,485
3	K7E	4O	AZ	676	70	81	21	2	4,500	45,786	39,778
4	W1SYE	2O	RI	377	292	79	15	2	6,000	39,450	35,286
5	N4FR	3O	TN	277	455	99	11	2	4,500	34,750	31,449
6	K4HOG	2O	NFL	446	216	114	11	2	4,500	28,700	26,339
7	K5RWK	3O	NTX	890	43	24	10	2	6,000	26,320	25,160
8	W4CVY	3O	GA	488	70	39	13	2	6,000	24,252	21,254
9	K4PAR	3O	GA	240	9	22	27	2	4,500	20,754	18,561
10	ND9E	2O	MO	363	22	104	13	2	4,500	23,070	18,536
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
220	WA4AAK	1O	NC	0	1	0	1	2	0	4,504	4



WINTER FIELD DAY OUTDOOR RESULTS - 2018 TOP TEN of 201 STATIONS											
#	CALLSIGN	CAT	SECT	PH	CW	DI	MULT.	PWR X	BONUS	CLAIMED	SCORE
1	N7Q	4O	AZ	705	33	119	21	2	6,000	50,440	45,902
2	W1SYE	2O	RI	733	292	68	11	2	6,000	37,966	35,743
3	W0WX	3O	MN	360	10	56	30	2	4,500	33,960	32,075
4	W6ZE	4O	ORG	544	59	71	17	2	6,000	33,336	30,869
5	ND9E	2O	MO	496	14	84	13	2	4,500	22,310	21,180
6	N4FR	4O	TN	123	291	70	9	2	4,500	19,710	16,853
7	W4K	3O	TN	427	138	38	8	2	4,500	16,964	15,980
8	W4CVY	3O	GA	318	11	69	10	2	6,000	15,520	14,664
9	K4HOG	2O	NFL	338	143	0	8	2	4,500	18,340	13,566
10	K14ITI	2O	AL	139	15	103	13	2	4,500	14,250	13,373
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
201	KC1GGP	2O	EMA	5	0	0	1	2	0	10	10



Provided by Tim N6GP

For those of you who participated with OCARC during the 2019 Winter Field Day event here's your Certificate!

# Winter Field Day



## 2019 Winter Field Day Event

### Orange County ARC - W6ZE

Class: 6    Category: Outside    ARRL Section: ORG

Total Score: 112,499    Position: 1st



## 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 21<sup>st</sup>** and runs through to the end of the event on **June 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

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](#)

*Image by Tom W6ETC*



## OCARC Group Order of ARRL Field Day gear.

You 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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

## OCARC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2019-03-15

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

..... OCARC Secretary

## OCARC BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2019-04-06

The OCARC Board meeting was held at the Marie Calendar's Restaurant at 307 E Katella Ave. in Orange on Saturday, April 06. NOTE; this a NEW location for a club board meetings, since the earlier Marie Calendar's Restaurant located on Grand Ave in Santa Ana has permanently closed down. There were a total of 11 club members and one visitor present. A quorum of club officers was achieved with only Corey KE6YHX absent.

### Director Reports:

#### • Treasurer

Greg W6ATB reported that the club was in a “net profit positive” mode with a YTD net profit of \$1,031. Greg confirmed the issue of a \$966 check had still not been resolved by Bank of America. Ken W6HHC is continuing to work with BoA to resolve the issue.

Greg also reported that the 199N report had been filed with California and a Form 990N was filed with the IRS.

### Old Business:

#### • Newspaper Editors

Apr – Tom W6ETC

May – Bob AF6C

Jun – Jim AF6N

Jul – Like to Volunteer? Contact: [w6hhc@w6ze.org](mailto:w6hhc@w6ze.org)

Aug – Tim N6GP

#### • General Mtg Programs

Apr – “FT8 in Contests” by Arnie N6HC and Chip K7JA

May – “Baker-2-Vegas race support” by Ken W6HHC

Jun – “Field Day Prep Talk / Video”

Jul – “APRS plus Satellites” by Robert KE6BLR

Aug – To Be Determined

Sept – “Ducie Island DXpedition” by Arnie N6HC

Oct – “OCARC Radio Auction”

#### • Bylaws Update Committee

Tim N6GP reported that the “Bylaws Committee” was making progress for updating some old areas of the club bylaws. The question of “whether to assign the “for Sale POC in the Bylaws” was voted down. The plan is to use the club website and RF Pg2 to identify the Point Of Contact for FOR SALE & estate activities. Bob AF6C agreed to be the POC for 2019.

#### • Field Day 2019

Tim N6GP reported:

(a) The Walter Knott school site has been secured for the 2019 FD location.

(b) Current planning is for the CLASS size to be probably 6.

(c) Plans are being finalized for a group order by the club for FD shirts/hats.

(d) The first FD planning meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, April 23.

*Continued on next page...*



## OCARC BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2019-04-06 CONTINUED

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



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

**10 Meters Net**  
28.375 ± MHz SSB  
Wed- 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Corey, KE6YHX, Net Control

**80 Meters Net**  
3.883 MHz LSB SLX  
Wed- 9:00 PM Following 2M Net  
Corey, KE6YHX, Net Control

[WWW.W6ZE.ORG](http://WWW.W6ZE.ORG)





**ARRL**  
The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO



**FIELD DAY 2019**

## Field Day 2019

**Saturday June 22nd 11AM to Sunday June 23rd 11AM**

# 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.



Aerial view of the Fairgrounds. Source: Dayton Daily News\*

The 1<sup>st</sup> thing I did was to make a hotel reservation as close to the Hamvention event way in advance. In 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).



Image source: [www.daytonlocal.com](http://www.daytonlocal.com)\_

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.



Source: [www.wheelchairtravel.org](http://www.wheelchairtravel.org)\*

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.



Source: <https://hamvention.org/about/history/>

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.



View once through the entrance gate by Tom Cowart W6ETC



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.



Muddy Flea Market. Source: [www.KB6NU.com](http://www.KB6NU.com)

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, lesser 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.



Source: <https://hamvention.org/about/history/>

Interesting to note the Green County Fairground complex itself is multifunctional. Let me remind you that it's called 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.



Flea Market. Image source: W8WKY.org

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 become 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..



Vintage and misc. items for sale. Image source Tom Cowart W6ETC. Strange man with umbrella is Nicholas AF6CF



**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 times 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.



Walking in to the Main Arena. Image by Tom W6ETC

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

**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



Tent vendors. Image source:  
www.beavercreeknewscurrent.com



**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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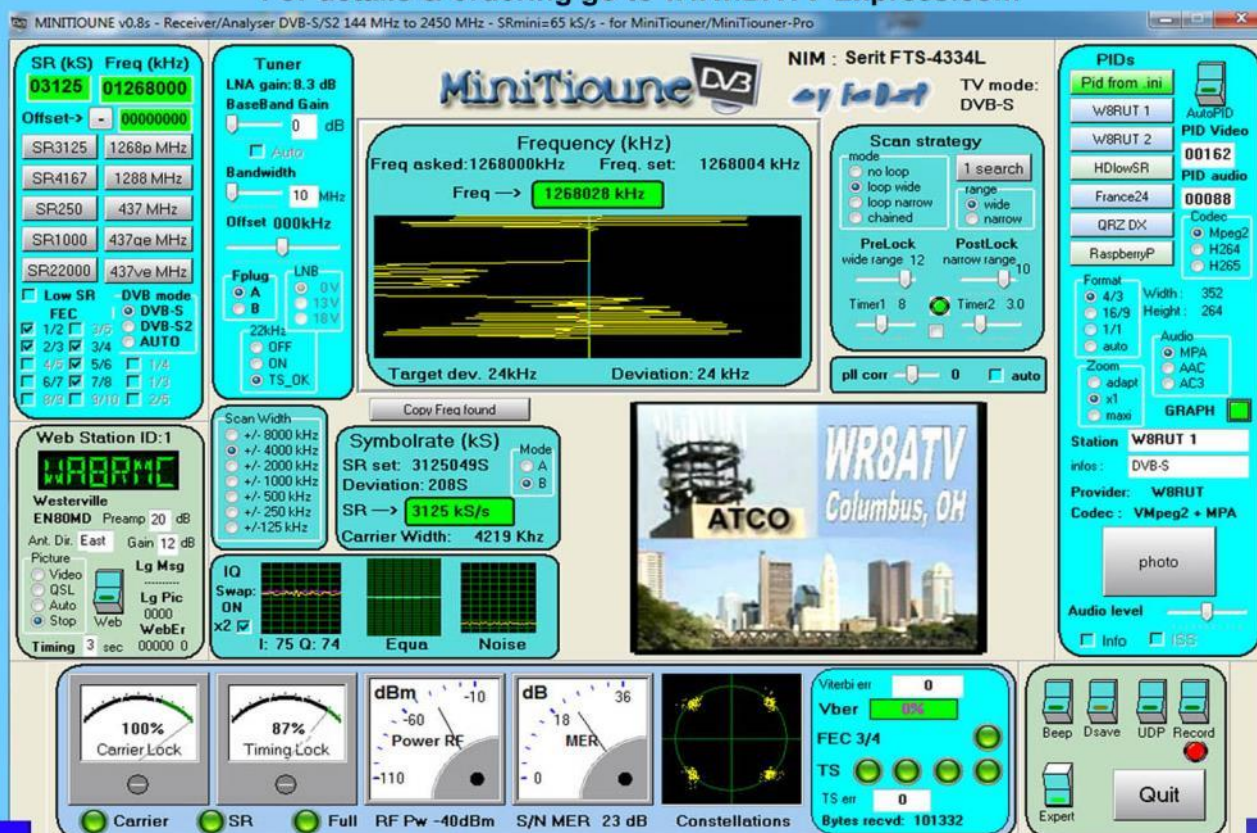
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(MiniTioune display above is the ATCO 1268MHz DVB-S repeater signal at WA8RMC QTH 15 miles away).