



Editor's Note: We've had some interesting weather lately from record rain to very interesting cloud formations. Details are further down in the newsletter. This particular image was taken by Wm Keith Hughes in West Jefferson, OH, just west of Columbus on the evening of June 19, 2017. He is not only a fellow amateur radio operator (KD8UFD) but is also the Emergency Coordinator for Madison County ARES.

President's Message

We just completed another Field Day operation. I have not had a chance to review the logs yet, but we had a respectable result. Our focus this year was on providing more participants the opportunity to experience operating on bands that were new to them. We had five different set-ups that were tried, but we limited operation to no more than three at any given time. Weather was outstanding and the picnic was well-attended and we had lots of great food. I hope that everyone had as good a time as I did.

Coming up fast is the Young's Dairy Charity Bike Ride (July 15, 16). We have supported this event for a number of years and the organizers have come to depend on our help. It takes a number of operators to provide this support and I hope that many of you will contact Mike Crawford KC8GLE and offer your help. I find this event to be one of the more enjoyable ones, so don't miss it.

The details that I have are still a bit sketchy, but August 5 and 6 will see the first ever Maker Faire in Dayton. It will be held at Carillon Park and there will be significant ham radio exhibitions. I will be involved in rounding up a few volunteers to provide live demonstrations. Mark your calendars and let me know if you would like to be a part of this. I will supply more details as the event gets near.

Jason Bowman WG8B is making great progress toward determining what it would take to get IRS approval toward recognizing XWARN as a non-profit organization. Watch this newsletter for related information.

See you at the next meeting on July 10.

73, Bob Baker N8ADO

Wavelengths

Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net
XWARN (W8XRN)

July 2017

147.1650+ (123.0) (Analog Only)

443.1000+ (123.0) (Analog + System Fusion)

Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7:30PM,
Greene Memorial Hospital ([1141 N Monroe Dr, Xenia, OH](#))
Herman Menapace Auditorium

Online Newsletter: <https://sway.com/4O4iEVKY8ZTKAXvp>

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Vote at July Meeting — Non-Profit Status

Over the past several months, I've made various [pitches](https://goo.gl/6yWZPB) (<https://goo.gl/6yWZPB>) and given status reports to the club about seeking non-profit status. We are already incorporated, and we already have a Constitution Committee set up doing the necessary leg work. At the July meeting, I'd like to ask for a written vote on formerly seeking non-profit status. Here's what the ballot language would look like:

“Do you approve of XWARN filing with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation?”

Before we actually file, we would need to approve an update to the Bylaws the Constitution Committee is working on to add a conflicts-of-interest policy as well as general cleanup. I will have copies of the draft Bylaws available at the July meeting since we should be mostly done by then. But we would take a vote on adopting the proposed Bylaws in August.

Jason (WG8B)

Amateur Radio in Action

This month's [ARES e-letter](https://goo.gl/7fFLxp) (<https://goo.gl/7fFLxp>) has some interesting juxtapositions I'd like to briefly discuss. As [FirstNet](https://www.firstnet.gov/) (<https://www.firstnet.gov/>) (First Responder Network Authority) may alter the nature of how amateur radio and amateur radio operators provide radio services in emergencies here in the US, the recent flooding in Sri Lanka demonstrates one aspect of how amateur radio will likely continue to provide services here in the US even with FirstNet.

FirstNet grew out of the dysfunctional communications apparent after the 9/11 attacks. ATT was just awarded a 25-year deal to build out a first responder network called FirstNet that will provide the desired data, chat, video, etc services that consumers use everyday but in support of emergency services. It will essentially be a separate cellular network.

The June issue of QST had an editorial on FirstNet, and this month's ARES e-letter provides more [discussion](https://goo.gl/yWu3Hn) (<https://goo.gl/yWu3Hn>). The bottom line is that the potential of FirstNet has many in the amateur radio community concerned over the future of organizations such as ARES and RACES as well as whether amateur radio will continue to play a role in emergencies in general.

Like the editorials in QST and the ARES e-Letter, it is my opinion that amateur radio will have to evolve yet stay the same in some respects. As General Eric Shinseki once said about the reluctance of the Army to move away from heavy tanks to lighter and more mobile Stryker brigades, *"If you dislike*

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Calendar of Events

- 7/15,16/2017 Sat Sun All day. Young's Dairy Charity Bike Ride From Young's (Yellow Springs) to Ohio Northern University, Ada & back. Big bike event, lots of territory, overnite is fun [KC8GLE]
- 7/27–30/2017 ThFrSaSu. Pan Ohio Hope Ride. Big bike event Cinci to Cleveland. They mostly provide the SAGs and spotters, we provide DARA Truck and support [N8ADO]
- 8/5,6/2017 Sat,Sun Maker Faire Carillon Park Display DARA Truck, demos
- 8/13/2017 Sun 11–3. DARA Picnic. Thomas Cloud Park Huber Heights
- 8/26,27/2017 Sat 7--7, Sun 7–N. Abi Khan Horse Challenge Caesar Creek Lake area. Keep log of horses on course, exercise in comms across uneven terrain [N8ADO]

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change, you are going to dislike irrelevance even more." If you take classes such as EC-001 from ARRL and AUXCOMM from DHS, you'll quickly discover that the various local, state, and federal governments don't really care about amateur radio per se. They are more interested in using our capabilities as trained radio operators and technicians within their system of emergency services even if they sometimes provide amateur radio stations in their facilities. But, as one instructor once said, sometimes your job is going to be making coffee.

That being said, the more complicated the technology the less likely it will be as robust as a simpler technology. One issue is that FirstNet may use the same backbone as commercial cellular service. Second, I find it highly unlikely that FirstNet will actually be built out into the more rural and remote areas. Third, even in areas where FirstNet will have coverage, 1) there aren't enough first responders in larger scale emergencies 2) FirstNet may become just as swamped as commercial cellular service. If you think I'm beating up on FirstNet, I'm not. Basic radio has its issues, too. While basic radio is more robust, you can only have one conversation at a time per frequency, we can't use encryption, and we simply don't have enough bandwidth with digital modes to sup-

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XWARN Mission

The mission of the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net (XWARN) amateur radio club is to conduct weather spotting nets during severe weather and other communication services for the City Of Xenia and all other Greene County communities.

In this capacity, we are set up to provide communication services as required to the Greene County Ohio Public Service Agencies and other local government entities. The communications services provided to the supported agencies may be for emergency purposes or to simply enhance their communications abilities. On an as needed basis XWARN provides similar services to various government entities of our surrounding counties.

Additionally, XWARN provides communications support to various community organizations in support of marathons, 5K runs, 10K runs, bicycle events, etc. to provide health and safety assistance to the participants and sponsors of said events.

In support of these goals, XWARN operates and maintains amateur radio repeaters and other equipment in Greene County.

Minutes from June 12, 2017



The meeting was called to order at 1934 by Bret Boggs. There were 17 members and 4 guests present. During introductions, it was noted that two firefighters from the Xenia Fire Department were in attendance as guests.

Cracker Barrel: None

Minutes: Minutes from the regular May 2017 meeting were passed

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was submitted, the motion to accept was passed.

Public Service Events: Mike Crawford was absent. However, the membership quickly discussed the upcoming Young's Dairy event in July mainly to remind people that overnighting is possible and to contact Mike if interested.

Property: Mike Crawford was absent. Membership reported that the trailer worked well during Hamvention, but the skylight was damaged and water leaked into the trailer when it rained.

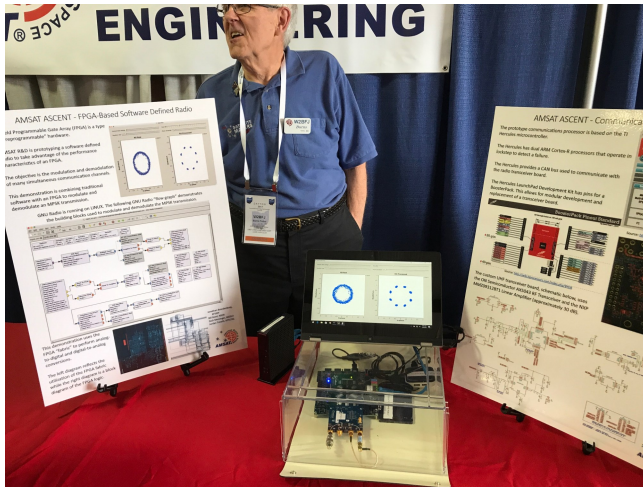
Technical: The 165 repeater is still operational. The new repeater system is being tested by Bret, and he reports that the software is working well on a Raspberry Pi 3 only requiring intervention once every several weeks. The new repeater system will work with Echolink, but XWARN will need to reactive or establish an Echolink account. Bret requested a site survey at Carpenter Rd. This was mainly centered on the discussion of needing a GPS antenna to support the new repeater system. The only purpose of GPS for the new repeater system is to keep accurate time, so the GPS antenna only needs a view of 1 satellite.



Website: Responsibilities were given to Josh Long, but John Seitz determined that he could take them back.

Membership: XWARN has 5 new members since the last report in May 2017.

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Newsletter: Membership recommended we contact a couple of individuals who had stories about Hamvention in the local papers to obtain permission to reprint them in the newsletter. As always, ideas for the newsletter are appreciated.

Hamvention T-shirts: There have been multiple requests for more t-shirts. It was noted that T-shirts ran out on Saturday. Membership discussed the costs of setting up a new run and whether it would be worthwhile. A suggestion was made to ask the question in the XWARN newsletter and the DARA

RF Carrier to gauge interest beyond the current requests. Jason brought up working towards online sales using services already out there. This would keep the club out of the business of having to figure out handling and shipping. Jim Simpson took an action to ask our current vendor if they support online sales and handle the shipping.

Field Day: It was reported that the DARA van and XWARN trailer will be there. Discussion ensued about a budget to support the event, mainly for food. A motion was made to allow for a \$500 budget, and the motion was passed.

Don and Sandy: Don of the Youth DX Adventure was present with his wife Sandy. Don is moving to Colorado and wanted to say goodbye. But he states he will be back for Hamvention.

Incorporation and Non-Profit Status: Jason briefed the club on the status of incorporation and becoming of non-profit. That briefing is available [electronically](https://goo.gl/6yWZPB) (<https://goo.gl/6yWZPB>). Amended Articles will be filed with the State of Ohio due to a misunderstanding in the online application process, but the club remains safely incorporated. As for non-profit status, the briefing covered the application and the things that the club must consider if we are to move forward with this. A motion was made to form an ad hoc Constitution committee to work through the necessary updates to the Bylaws and to help Jason with the application, and the motion passed. Jim Simpson, Jim Beller, Steve Mackey, Don Conover, and Jason Bowman will comprise the committee. Jason also proposed having a written vote on seeking non-profit status at the July meeting. That vote will be outlined in the July newsletter but is essentially a repeat of the briefing at the June meeting. If the vote passes, it will still be up to several months before we can submit the application due to the need to have the Bylaws updated first and resolve any remaining questions on the application.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2040, and the motion passed.

Jason Bowman (Recorder for June 12)

Very Interesting Weather Lately

In the past month, we've had some very interesting weather. Two weather events separated by over a week produced some really neat cloud formations across the area, and Dayton received more than 2.5 inches of rain on two days within a 10-day period. According to [National Weather Service Wilmington](https://goo.gl/T84kjb) (<https://goo.gl/T84kjb>),

Yesterday, Dayton received 2.86" of rain. This was the 2nd time in a span of 10 days that Dayton received 2.5+ inches of rain in a single day (14th - 2.68"). Prior to 06/14/2017, Dayton had recorded a daily rainfall of at least 2.5" only ONCE in the past 11 years! (September of 2011). Moreover, the two single days of at least 2.5" in one month was the first time since June of 1958 that such a feat had been achieved. It's certainly no mystery why grounds are so soggy in parts of the area!

Earlier in the month, we had storms move through on June 14 and 19. The June 14 storm was one of the storms contributing to the rain record. In both storms, some amazing shelf clouds were produced. I contacted the copyright owners of the best shots and obtained permission to reproduce them for the Newsletter. I've included their names in the captions, and two of them are amateur radio operators!

Jason (WG8B)



Darke County just north of Pittsburg, OH. Image courtesy of Jamie Sullivan. Jamie is a volunteer firefighter in Pittsburg, Oh, among other things. He took storm spotter training this past spring.



Taken near Hilliard, OH, on the west side of Columbus. Image courtesy of Danny Criner (KB8VFA).

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port the kinds of services that FirstNet can.

So while amateur radio will likely have to evolve to stay relevant in an age of FirstNet, the old principle of defense in depth still applies in a modern age. FirstNet and existing and future amateur radio capabilities will probably live side by side and complement one another into the future.

Finally, this month's e-Letter illustrates how the old ways will likely continue to coexist with FirstNet. On May 28, torrential monsoon rain caused flooding and landslides in Sri Lanka. The [Radio Society of Sri Lanka](https://www.rslanka.lk/) (<https://goo.gl/1dFpDG>) was asked to step in due to damage to telecommunications infrastructure, especially in remote areas. Within 30 minutes of deploying, they had a HF link established and were coordinating rescue flights, patient movements, and food drops.

Jason (WG8B)

Dayton Hamvention®

From May 19-21, 2017, Dayton Hamvention® was held at Greene County Fairgrounds for the first time since Hara Arena closed down in August of 2016. I follow some related Facebook pages, and several themes emerged. First and foremost was the mud. It is now being called Mudvention! Second was the awesome food. Apparently moving to the fairgrounds opened up many more choices, and everyone was pleasantly surprised. Third was the ventilation in the buildings, which I believe is already being addressed. Fourth was the traffic Friday morning. Traffic flow was adjusted for Saturday and worked smoothly after that. Finally, in spite of a few naysayers, most everyone had a good time in spite of the problems. The final attendance numbers were 29,296, which is approximately an increase of 2,000 from last year.

Hamvention® was covered both before and after in the local papers including the Xenia Gazette and Fairborn Daily Herald, and some of our own members were interviewed for some of those articles. Reproducing those articles in this newsletter simply isn't practical, so I've attempted to excerpt some of the more interesting points. In "[Hamvention Finds New Home at Fairgrounds](https://goo.gl/mrGKUe)" (<https://goo.gl/mrGKUe>), Anna Bolton reports,

According to [Greene County Fairgrounds Secretary Esther] Pierson, Hamvention is the biggest event that the fairgrounds has ever hosted. 'The fact that Hamvention is investing in considerable data network infrastructure at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center really cements the future of the event. The added benefit is the facility is now better positioned to host other events with significant data needs,' [County Administrator Brandon] Huddleson said. Reportedly, DARA has already invested \$60,000 in upgrades to the fairgrounds.

In "[Hams Impressed With New Home](https://goo.gl/W8bYNm)" (<https://goo.gl/W8bYNm>), Scott Halasz reports that both attendees and vendors agree that the new location is an improvement over Hara.

Not knowing what to expect, [Wendy Peitzer] and her contingent arrived at the Greene County Fairgrounds early to beat the opening-day crowd and check out the new digs. '[It's] much better,' she said. 'I think the facilities here are nicer. I think it's better organized. I like the perks. They bring you up [from the parking lot] on a tractor pull.' Vendors also approve of Hamvention's new digs. 'Besides the barns, I like it better,' said Danielle Young from Quicksilver Radio. 'I just think it's cleaner. I like the way it's set up. You can go out to the open air. I like the parking better. The food looks nice.' She added that tongue-in-cheek that it was nice not having ceiling tiles falling.

Continuing in "[Exhibitors Cash in at Hamvention](https://goo.gl/4LpRdG)" (<https://goo.gl/4LpRdG>), Scott Halasz reports,

More than 1,000 exhibitors filled the fairgrounds barns ... And they cashed in. 'It's always a great show for us,' said Denise Bauman of Atlanta-based Diamond Antenna. 'It's great for sales. Our dealers do well here. It's easily a five-figure show for us. This is the biggest show by far.' 'This is probably the single largest weekend sales we do year-round,' [Tom Stone of antenna specialist Hy-Gain] said. 'That's saying something.' While not essential to his overall operational status, Stone compared Hamvention to the Detroit Auto Show. 'You don't have to have it, but it helps,' he said. 'It's a definite boost.'

Then there is the human interest side to what was reported around Hamvention®. From "[Hamvention a 'Family Reunion' for Some](https://goo.gl/fVJyGE)" (https://goo.gl/fVJyGE), Whitney Vickers reports,

Local amateur radio operator Mike Crawford (KC8GLE) has been speaking with people from around the globe via airwaves for a number of years. 'It brings people together from all over the world,' he said. He is looking forward to reconnecting, in person, with a family of five Alabama-native hammers. For him, Hamvention is a 'family reunion' of sorts and he plans to live on the fairgrounds for the duration of the event all for the love of amateur radio. '[Hamvention] is the one time a year where they all travel and meet those people face to face. It's all about camaraderie,' Crawford said.

From "[Ham Radio an Outlet for Vets](https://goo.gl/HM7bCt)" (https://goo.gl/HM7bCt), Whitney Vickers also reports,

While ham radio offers a social opportunity for some, it provides therapeutic relief for others. The Dayton VA grabbed this notion by the horns, opening an on-campus station (W8DVA) in late 2016 to assist veterans living with PTSD. Xenia "hammer" Jim Simpson (WB8QZZ) played a major role in getting the station up and running. Much of the operation was funded by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, which is also sponsoring Hamvention. 'It's intended to assist those with PTSD to focus and get their minds off the bad things that have happened in their life,' Simpson said. 'This is just another one of the things we provide to try to give them something to grab a hold of and pull themselves out of a hole,' [Dr. John] Mathis (WA5FAC) said.

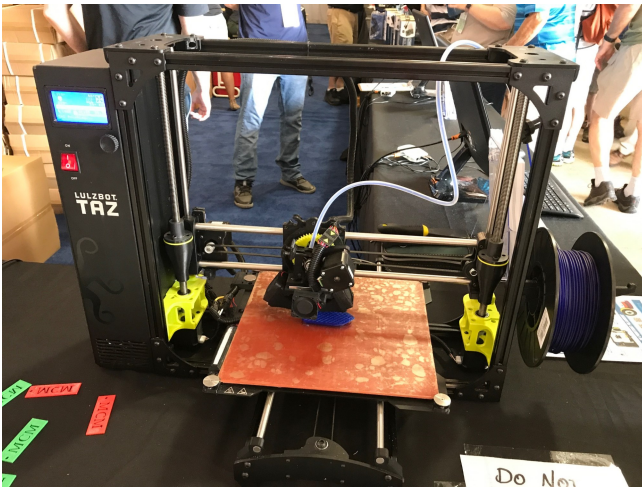
Finally, Scott Halasz in "[Keepin' it in the Family](https://goo.gl/VUBDKM)" (https://goo.gl/VUBDKM) reports,

There's one potential drawback to sharing a passion for amateur radio with two teenage daughters. 'When the girls get on there, all these guys jump on there wanting to talk to them,' said Mobile, Ala., resident Joey McCullough of his daughters, Niki, 19, and Robyn, 16. But the older McCullough can deal with that in exchange for the girls sharing his passion for ham radios. '"We're pretty active,' Joey said. Niki and Robyn both giggled and

pointed when asked what got them into amateur radio at a young age. 'This man,' Niki said looking at dad. For Niki, the best part is going from hearing someone's voice to seeing their face. 'It's cool to be talking to someone on the radio and then meeting them in person,' she said. For Lisa Ferguson, 23, it would be cool to be able to talk to anyone. The Cincinnati resident has been licensed for four years but she has no equipment. 'I'm out here hoping to find some (handy talkies),' she said. She got her start in ham radio while at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. 'I worked on a cube satellite,' she said. This is Ferguson's first Dayton Hamvention. 'This is a lot bigger than the one I used to go to,' she said. 'It's fun how international the community is. [But] this is a bit overwhelming.'

And reporting of Hamvention® wouldn't be complete without some pictures. Two members of our club, Richard Weis and Bret Boggs, provided me with some pictures. If there was a theme with Richard's pictures, it was radio trailers and other support vehicles. If there was a theme with Bret's pictures, it was technology and "Maker". I've included the best pictures below, to the right, and back on the Minutes page.





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Wavelengths

Wavelengths is published monthly by the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net. Our meetings are currently held on the 2nd Monday of each month at **7:30 pm** at the Greene Memorial Hospital Auditorium. You can find additional information about our organization at www.xwarn.net. We welcome new and experienced Amateur operators and those interest in becoming an Amateur operator to attend our meetings.