



Danielle Edgington, KE8JNU, was featured in an Amateur Radio Newline [podcast](http://bit.ly/2FspD7p) (<http://bit.ly/2FspD7p>) recently where she leads the Young Operators Digital Voice Net. She is our youngest member at 10 years old I believe. A transcript of the podcast is on page 4.

Wavelengths

Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net XWARN (W8XRN)

April 2019

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

President's Message

Spring is officially here. And with this warm weather, many will be eager to get out and do some antenna maintenance. Which, brings me to a pretty serious theme - tower safety. There have been several good talks lately on tower safety. I know we all want to feel like we can do anything, but some things are better left to the professionals. We just recently had our second well known Silent Key from a serious fall. Please remember your proper safety gear for any tower

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Basics of DMR Code Plugs

Bob Baker will give a presentation on how to create and/or edit a codeplug for a DMR radio for April's program. Bob is also writing an article about issues with using DMR radio for net operations. We'll publish it in the newsletter when ready.

Upcoming Events Needing Help

Sunday, April 7. ORRRC Half and Full Marathon. New location and route this year due to the new YMCA location in Xenia. Contact Mike Crawford if you'd like to volunteer.

Saturday, May 11 Founder's Run 5K, Start Finish at Trebein Elementary on Dayton-Xenia Rd; Additional details to be announced.

Minutes: Mar 11, 2019

Club Contacts

- Liz Kline, KE8FMJ
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- Newsletter, Jason Bowman, WG8B
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Meeting was opened by Liz at 1934. 21 members present, 0 guests present.

Motion to accept the February Minutes made by Richard and Janese. 1 opposed. Motion passed.

Cracker Barrel. None.

Committee Reports

Membership. 40 total. 9 life, 31 paid members.

Treasurer's Report. We have money. See the Secretary or Treasurer for the detailed report. Fred motions, Richard motions. 1 opposed. Motion passes.

Public Service. April 7 Xenia Full and Half Marathon. Completely new course starting at Progress Rd by new YMCA. Need Bike Mobiles going out to Spring Valley. ORRRC website for new map. Race starts at 0800. Sat Mar 23 No Butts About It 5K. Spots all filled without sending out emails. If you'd like to get in on it let Bob Baker know.

Trailer. No report on the trailer.

Repeater. N/A

Website. When to renew added to website.

Facebook. 268 Likes

Newsletter. Without more input from members, the newsletter may be reduced to a

President's Message, Minutes, and maybe upcoming events.

Mesh. Bob hasn't been able to make it to the meetings. \$160 for an XWARN-to-DARA link for Hamvention.

Old Business. None.

New Business

Field Day. Jim Beller is going to check with Michelle on schedule for Station 61. Still want to do a joint thing with DARA? XWARN ok with it.

Presentations. Bob Baker was going to arrange an update on FLDigi, but a lot of us are buying DMR radios. Would we like to have a session on how to edit a DMR code plug? Ok from members for April program.

Presentation

Ron Cramer gave us a presentation on Hamvention – past, present, and future.

Next meeting April 8, 2019

Motion to adjourn. Motion passed.

Meeting ended at approximately 2045.

Jason Bowman (WG8B)

Secretary, XWARN

President's Message (cont'd)

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work.

Also with Spring comes the opportunity to participate in more events. Most everyone knows about Hamvention, May 17th-19th, and Field Day, June 22nd-23rd, but what other opportunities are out there? If you want to become more involved, please contact Mike Crawford, KC8GLE, at KC8GLE@earthlink.net or Bob Baker, N8ADO, at n8ado@arrl.net.

Speaking of Hamvention, our annual souvenir t-shirts are coming along well. It is our responsibility as members to donate a couple hours working the t-shirt sales. We will start a sign up list coming around at the next meeting. Please plan to sign up for some shifts.

Our next meeting is April 8th at 7:30.

73 Elizabeth, KE8FMJ



An MVRC amateur radio operator at Bataan Memorial Death March Mile 23. Note the antenna setup in the back of his truck. They operate on simplex, and getting your antenna up high is important on some areas of the course because some stations are in depressions. Full story begins on page 5.

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.

Young Operators Digital Voice Net

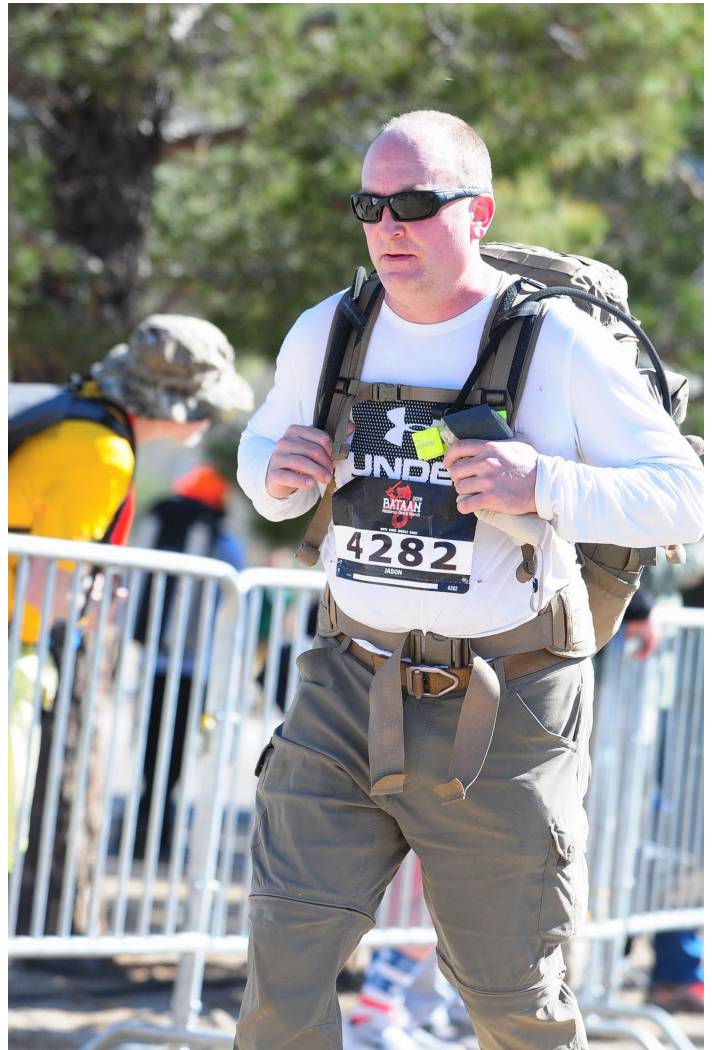
Our youngest member, Danielle Edgington, was featured on [Amateur Radio Newsline](http://bit.ly/2FspD7p) (<http://bit.ly/2FspD7p>) recently. Fast forward to 12:15 for the story. Here's the transcript

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Our occasional series "Nets of Note," looks at creative ways hams get together on the radio to share their interests. This week we hear about a very young group of amateurs - and would-be amateurs - who are discovering friendships over a net on DMR. Mike Askins KE5CXP tells us more.

MIKE: On Sunday nights at 7 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time, some of the world's youngest radio enthusiasts are taking time out to get to know one another better. This is the Young Operators Digital Voice Net and it's hosted on the Quadnet Array which draws operators from DMR, D-STAR and Yaesu Fusion. At the helm is 10-year-old Danielle Edgington KE8JNU, daughter of Dan N8YMD and Cindy KE8JNT. Though Danielle is a relatively new ticket holder her enthusiasm for radio dates back to all those car rides listening to her father's scanners and radios. Now she's spreading that enthusiasm with other new licensees - or license candidates who check in as a third-party using the call sign of a nearby parent. Danielle told Newsline they including Katie in Alabama, whose father Russell KV4S, helps her participate and who might become net control one day too. They recently included seven-year-old Carson who checked in from Georgia with his father Aaron N4ARY coaching him. The net has even had DX from young hams in Trinidad & Tobago, the Philippines and England. Danielle told Newsline that even if the kids start out a little nervous - as they often do - they always check out knowing they are very welcome.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mike Askins KE5CXP

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Youngsters wishing to check in should visit the Quadnet Array Website at openquad.net (<http://bit.ly/2FAAHAJ>) for details on how to gain access via Yaesu Fusion, D-STAR, EchoLink, DMR and even the Peanut app on Android smartphones.



Your's truly, Jason (WG8B), on the last 1/10th mile of Bataan Memorial Death March 2019. For the record, I am carrying an HT inside my pack. But, by mutual agreement with the Bataan Memorial Death March Net Manager, I don't check into the net or communicate with the amateur radio team out there unless I have emergency traffic. They tell me the net is busy enough already.

Bataan Memorial Death March — 2019

In 1989, Army ROTC cadets from New Mexico State University started an event known as the Bataan Memorial Death March to honor the Bataan veterans from WWII. They had 134 participants in that first march. The connection to New Mexico is the 200th Coast Artillery, which was one of the units forced to march in Bataan by the Japanese and grew out of militia units from New Mexico.

The Bataan Death March is estimated to be 60-70 miles long. The Memorial March is a regulation marathon distance — 26.2

a 3% average grade, and, at around mile 21 when you start hitting a brick wall, there's the 1.5 mile long Sand Pit. Sometimes participants have to deal with dust storms, too! The difficulty of the course is designed to, at least in a small way, pay respect to the difficulty of the real Bataan Death March.

And did I mention some of us choose to do this with 35lbs on our back? The Memorial March has two other basic divisions, Light and Heavy. In Light, you do whatever you want — run, walk, carry a pack or don't carry a pack. In Heavy, you must



miles — with an Honorary March that is roughly 14.5 miles. A few years after the first Memorial March in 1989, the event was moved to White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). At about the same time, the Mesilla Valley Radio Club began providing amateur radio services to the event. More on this later.

The Bataan Memorial Death March is unlike any other event I've been involved with either as a participant or as a volunteer. The event is first and foremost a memorial to the veterans of Bataan from the opening ceremonies to the difficulty of the course.

The opening ceremonies typically involve a roll call of Bataan veterans, first the survivors present then those who have passed in the previous year. One Bataan veteran has even walked part of the course since anyone can remember. Another way they honor the Bataan veterans is to offer a Team Division in addition to Individual. Teams consist of five members, and you have to march together and finish together just like any military unit would.

Of course, the Bataan Memorial Death March is also an athletic competition. The course is one of the most challenging I know of. While a regulation marathon course, that's where similarities to other marathons end — the altitude ranges from 4,300ft to 5,400ft, most of the March is in the desert off road, there's a 5-mile hill (Mineral Hill) you have to climb with

have at least 35lbs dry in a pack at the end of the course. Because it's a desert and the mileage is quite high, I always pack plenty of water and a little food even though water is provided along the course. It isn't uncommon for packs to weigh in at 45lbs or more at the start of the course! By the way, 35lbs is the typical weight for rucking events and derives from the Army's Air Assault standard — 12 miles in 3 hrs with 35lbs.

Now onto how amateur radio supports the event.

The Mesilla Valley Radio Club of Las Cruces, NM, provides the amateur radio support. They provide at least two hams at each of the 12 or so water and first aid check points primarily working logistics but can also relay emergency traffic. They also provide two hams at the EOC, two in Security, and one to follow the event Director. Like any amateur radio supported event, they tell me they never have enough hams out there and could always use more. Any one up for doing your Spring Break next year out in New Mexico? March 15, 2020, is the date!

Did you know that about 20-25% of participants call it quits during the event and have to be driven off the course, and that all has to be coordinated? A typical marathon only has a 2% do-not-finish rate. With the last two years having over 8,000 participants, this means that you have to find a way to

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No Butts About 5K



I'm told that, for the first time in the history of amateur radio, we actually had full radio operator support for an event without even asking :-) Photos from the No Butts About It 5K.

Bataan Memorial Death March — 2019



MVRC operators at the Mile 23 water stop. They were even prepared with a fat bike for the trails if necessary.



Customs and Border Patrol provides route monitoring and security around Mineral Hill, Mile 11-17-ish. Some are on horseback and others on ATVs.

Bataan Memorial Death March — 2019

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get 1,600-2,000 drop outs off the course in the desert!

Amazingly, they can do what they need to do primarily on simplex. The wide open spaces and lack of trees help. But the course does provide its simplex challenges. Mile 9-20 is basically either going up, around, or down Mineral Hill. Mineral Hill provides a 3% grade and line-of-sight blockages re-

don't tie up the repeater. By the way, there's nothing on the WSMR side of St. Augustine Pass until you get to Holloman AFB on the other side of the range. So that one local repeater is basically it at least on the east side of pass (Las Cruces is on the west side).

One of the MVRC hams kept mentioning Ham Camp and that I should try to stop by. Well, I was too beat up by the end to even consider finding it. So I finally asked what it is. Ham



quiring antennas to be on a mast. Around Mile 22 in the Sand Pit, the course runs through what I would describe as a wash or eroded area. In any case, you're surrounded by desert that's higher than you. Between some stations, simplex relays are required.

But MVRC does have a repeater available to them that's situated in the St. Augustine Pass. The pass sits between Las Cruces and WSMR at a relatively high elevation. Also in the pass is a repeater linked to a state-wide network. I never got a response — I'm not sure I even asked — why they use simplex instead of the repeater. But simplex works and they

Camp at Bataan is an alternate position for support of the water stations and EOC. It also allows hams to get onto the base on the day before and stay over without having to get up at 0200 to fight with the rest of the traffic trying to get onto WSMR Sunday morning. And the event traffic is brutal coming from Las Cruces. The El Paso gate isn't so bad. Finally, they try to run an event station, K5B, from Ham Camp. This year, 40m and 20m with both voice and digital was tried, but no contacts were made! The long term goal is to also use Ham Camp to provide information and technical demonstrations on amateur radio.

Bataan Memorial Death March — 2019



MVRC operators at the Mile 8/20 water and first aid stop



MVRC operators at the Mile 9.5-ish water and first aid stop

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«FNAME» «LNAME» - «CALL»
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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.

