



FEEDBACK

VOLUME 66 ISSUE 5

May 2021

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**MRN NET Sundays at 8:00 PM
3599.50 KHZ**

**WEST STARK INFO NET
Friday's 8:00 PM 147.180 MHz**

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MAY MEETING

The meeting for the month of May 7th will be held at the R. G. Klein Museum, downtown at the corner of Erie and Federal Avenue. Doors open at 7:00 PM with meeting starting at 7:30 PM.

PROGRAM

The program for our May 7th meeting will be:

"Technicians: Life beyond repeaters"

This will be dedicated to our new batch of Techs who just received their licenses.

Massillon ARC Spring Tailgate Fest

Our Tailgate Fest was held at the MAPS Air Museum on Saturday, April 10th and although it was a bit chilly it was well attended and early reports were attendees had a great time.

Vice Director Scott Yonally, N8SY and Ohio Section Manager Tom SLY, WB8LCD. Both had lots of good comments about our spring event as well as those attending.

The concept may be catching on as we know that both Mansfield and the Cuyahoga Falls ARC are planning to hold similar Tailgate Fests.

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MARC Meeting Minutes

MARC W8NP Minutes April 2nd, 2021 Meeting held at R.G. Klein Museum & on Zoom

Perry W8AU called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at Rodney G. Klein Museum and Library, 22 Federal Ave. NE, Massillon, OH 44646 and on Zoom for those not at the Museum. Social distancing was done due to the Corona virus pandemic.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the group with Perry W8AU leading. Perry W8AU introduced the speaker, Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ (Mr. Drake) speaking on "Emergency Power for the Home, the Easy Way". Jeff's easy way solution mainly used rechargeable Li ion batteries, solar panels and an EGO 120VAC pure sine inverter, and a method to disconnect from the grid. After the presentation, the business meeting started.

The minutes from the March meeting were distributed in the newsletter. Perry W8AU asked if there were any corrections, and hearing none, the minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Don N8IVJ read the Treasurer's Report which provided account balances. Perry W8AU identified the Senior Center was concerned about recent snow on

the roof; however, Senior Center management needed a key to the Ham Shack to check for any possible leaks. Perry W8AU himself looked for leaks, but found none. So, a key is to be provided to the Senior Center management in case there are any problems which must be checked.

Nominations for officers for 2021 were opened. Only the current officers were nominated; at the next meeting any additional nominations will be taken from the floor. If there is anyone else nominated, voting will be done then.

Perry W8AU identified the Code and License classes will end Friday April 9, 2021. A test, led by REX NX8G, will be given the next day, Saturday April 10, 2021.

For those in the code class, an extra session was held on Thursday nights for the code on 10 Meter with backup voice on 2M.



Get Ready For Solar Cycle 25

As we've written about before, the [Solar Cycle](#) is one of many things about Ham Radio that we wish we had more control over—right up there with our HOA boards and thunderstorms on Field Day.

A lack of solar activity makes working the bands from 14-28 MHz (20 through 10 meters) and 50 MHz (6 meters) a challenge. The amount of sunspots, and correlating solar activity, decreases or increases according to a predictable 11-year cycle. The next solar cycle (the 25th since they were first recorded in 1755) looms ahead as we enter the new year.

As with most things relating to Ham Radio, opinions on what we can expect from Solar Cycle 25 vary widely, so whether operators will be grumbling about a dearth of sunspots or happily filling log books with a ridiculous number of long-distance contacts is yet to be seen. The general belief among the scientific community is that we're in for another 11 years comparable to the less-than-stellar Solar Cycle 24—and we all know how much everyone enjoyed that.

Published December 9, a [report](#) on Solar Cycle 25 from an NOAA/NASA co-chaired, international panel predicted “a peak in July, 2025 (+/- 8 months), with a smoothed sunspot number (SSN) of 115. The panel agreed that Cycle 25 will be average in intensity and similar to Cycle 24. Additionally, the panel concurred that solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25 will occur in April, 2020 (+/- 6 months).

If the solar minimum prediction is correct, this would make Solar Cycle 24 the 7th longest on record (11.4 years).”

Just for fun, we took a look back at predictions for Solar Cycle 24. Some camps predicted it would be the weakest cycle in more than a century; others trumpeted the arrival of one of the most intense cycles on record. A May 2009 article on Space-weather.com summarized what the experts at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction center anticipated:

“The panel predicts the upcoming Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a daily sunspot number of 90. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since number 16, which peaked at 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.”

By 2012—three years into Cycle 24—experts generally agreed that Hams wouldn't be jumping for joy over what they could expect for the next eight years. And they were right. Solar Cycle 24, which began in December 2008, peaked in April 2014 with a 23-month smooth sunspot cycle of 81.1. In 2019, the sun displayed no visible sunspots for well over 269 days—surpassing the number of blank days in 2008 (268) and making it the quietest sunspot year since 1913.

What lies ahead for Solar Cycle 25? We'll just have to get on the air and find out for ourselves. And remember, this may be a good opportunity to enjoy the many perks of UHF/VHF operation.

Hamvention Weekend Virtual Activities

That magical weekend in May approaching. With no Hamvention this year, due to continuing Coronavirus restrictions, we have been developing several activities to keep Hams busy and engaged in the hobby.

Thursday May 20. 2021

The Virtual Contest University will be held starting at 9 AM EDT 1300Z. The course outline will be available soon. This will be a free event!

Even if you are not a contester you will learn so much about Amateur Radio and hear the techniques and critiques of many of the world's foremost Hams.

Hamvention is a proud sponsor along with Icom and DxEngineering. Plan on attending this amazing free event!

Several Icom radios will be given away during the all-day event. You must be registered on Zoom and present online at the time of the drawing to win the radios.

Please check <https://contestuniversity.com> where registration will be available after April 21st.

Friday May 21 Starting at 11 AM EDT 1500Z

We will have the 2021 Virtual Hamvention Forums.

The Hamvention Virtual Forums celebrates the 2021 Hamvention Award winners. Each awardee will give a 45 minute presentation followed by Q&A.

The Hamvention Forums will be presented via Zoom Webinar. Registration for the Zoom Webinar will start 30 days before the event – look for the registration information on the Hamvention Website. Several Icom radios will be given away during the 2021 Hamvention Forums. The winners will be selected at random.

The winner must have registered on Zoom for Hamvention Forums and be present during the drawing to win. Drawing times are random throughout the Virtual Forums event. Thanks to Hamvention, Icom and DX Engineering for their support of the 2021 Hamvention Virtual Forums.

Our presenters are:

Technical Achievement: WX6SWW – Tamitha Mulligan Skov is well known as the “Space Weather Woman”. Folks that have seen her space weather forecasting show will freely admit that she is full of energy and excited about her work. She is a real space pioneer.

Special Achievement: W3WL – Wesley Lamboley was nominated by his peers for his lifetime, high energy support for the science and art of amateur radio. Not only has Wesley supported youth coaching, membership recruiting and technical problem assistance, he always does it with a smile and great humor.

Amateur of the Year: WP3R – Angel M. Vazquez is known for being one of the principal support engineers for what was one of the greatest antennas in the world – the National Science Foundation’s Arecibo parabolic dish antenna. Angel’s award stems from his unswerving and diligent support of amateur radio throughout the entire territory of Puerto Rico and extends worldwide.

Club of the Year: K4HTA — The Vienna Wireless society was chosen this year for its 58 years of service to the amateur radio community. K4HTA with its 280 members focus on youth education, public service and promoting the overall growth of radio through the DC area and around the world.

Saturday May 22

Participate in the Hamvention QSO Party 8 AM to 8 PM EDST (1200 May 22 to 0000 May 23 UTC)

W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, will be a bonus station scored at 10 points per band and mode.

Bands: 10M, 15M, 20M, 40M, 80M. Typical call will be: CQ CQ HVQP (HamVention QSO Party) W8XX (Your call)

Typical exchange will be signal report and first year you attended Hamvention; eg on CW: KB8XXX 599 1998 W4XX

If you have never attended Hamvention, please send 2021 in place of the year.

Send your score (number of QSOs including bonus points) to 3830scores.com within 5 days of the event.

You will be able to print a certificate after the contest.

Radio Amateur Helps Rescuers to Locate Lost Hiker

The keen and practiced eye of ARRL member Ben Kuo, AI6YR, helped to guide rescuers to a hiker stranded on a mountainside on April 12. Hiker Rene Compean, 45, had spent the night in a remote region of the Angeles National Forest after getting in a tough spot. After a concerned friend reported Compean missing on Monday, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department dispatched search-and-rescue (SAR) teams. Although amateur radio played no direct role in the rescue, Kuo cited his enthusiasm for technology and ham radio satellites and for Summits on the Air (**SOTA**) for helping him to develop the skills he needed to guide searchers to the most appropriate area.

“This is actually very applicable to being a SOTA activator — map, navigation skills,” Kuo told ARRL. “Also, understanding RF propagation was key to this. The SAR teams were searching the other side of the mountain, where there is no cell signal.” Kuo knew that from having hiked there before. As Kuo described it, Compean was found between four SOTA peaks.

SAR teams were deployed in the Mount Waterman area of the San Gabriel Mountains to find the hiker. According to the LA Sheriff’s Department, a low-flying helicopter team spotted him Tuesday afternoon between Triplet Rocks and the east bump of Twin Peaks in the San Gabriel Mountains, and he was airlifted to safety with no serious injuries. Kuo pointed the rescuers to the likely search area by matching satellite images with what Compean had transmitted over Twitter.

Kuo **told** the *Los Angeles Times* that he has an odd hobby of looking at photos and determining where they had been taken. He was able to employ his skill to determine the hiker’s likely location using the tiny photo the hiker posted on Twitter that shows his legs and the valley below. As the newspaper reported on April 15, “When [Kuo] saw the photo posted by the Sheriff’s Department, he set to work pulling publicly available satellite images and matching them to the vegetation and terrain below the hiker’s legs.”

Kuo’s eye was good. He sent authorities the GPS coordinates of the most likely area, and the rescue team found Compean less than a mile from that location.

Updated Radio Frequency Exposure Rules Become Effective on May 3.

The FCC has announced that rule changes detailed in a lengthy 2019 [Report and Order](#) governing RF exposure standards go into effect on May 3, 2021. The new rules do not change existing RF exposure (RFE) limits but do require that stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its RFE profile — such as different antenna or placement or greater power — will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.

“In the *RF Report and Order*, the Commission anticipated that few parties would have to conduct reevaluations under the new rules and that such evaluations will be relatively straightforward,” the FCC said in an April 2 *Public Notice*. “It nevertheless adopted a 2-year period for parties to verify and ensure compliance under the new rules.”

The Amateur Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the rules, as amended, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

“For most amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio, which means that ham station owners must determine if they either qualify for an exemption or must perform a routine environmental evaluation,” said Greg Lapin, N9GL, chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee and a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC).

“Ham stations previously excluded from performing environmental evaluations will have until May 3, 2023, to perform these. After May 3, 2021, any new stations or those modified in a way that affects RF exposure must comply before being put into service,” Lapin said.

The December 2019 *RF Report and Order* changes the methods that many radio services use to determine and achieve compliance with FCC limits on human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The FCC also modified the process for determining whether a particular device or deployment is exempt from a more thorough analysis by replacing a service-specific list of transmitters, facilities, and operations for which evaluation is required with new streamlined formula-based criteria. The *R&O* also addressed how to perform evaluations where the exemption does not apply, and how to mitigate exposure.

Amateur radio licensees will have to determine whether any existing facilities previously excluded under the old rules now qualify for an exemption under the new rules. Most will, but some may not.

The ARRL Laboratory staff is available to help amateurs to make these determinations and, if needed, perform the necessary calculations to ensure their stations comply. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who helped prepare ARRL's *RF Exposure and You* book, explained it this way. “The FCC did not change any of the underlying rules applicable to amateur station evaluations,” he said. “The sections of the book on how to perform routine station evaluations are still valid and usable, especially the many charts of common antennas at different heights.” Hare said ARRL Lab staff also would be available to help amateurs understand the rules and evaluate their stations.”



May 2021

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.																																																																																										

**Massillon Amateur Radio Club
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Published by the Massillon Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 73, Massillon, Ohio 44648. The Club meetings are the first Friday of every month (except January) at 7:30 PM at the R. G. Klein Museum located at the corner of Erie St and Federal Avenue in downtown Massillon.