



### Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 3, 6pm.

At Bullock's BBQ

Business Meeting starts at 7pm

### Program:

**2025 Field Day!**

**By: David Snyder, W4SAR**

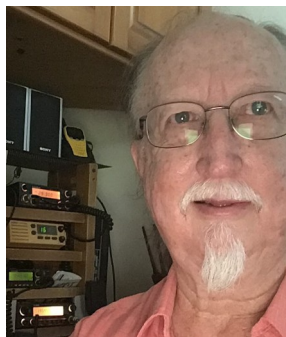
Dave will give an overview about Field Day, and go over some of the plans and logistics for this year. He will have a PowerPoint presentation and will be able to answer questions. All are encouraged to participate!

### President's Korner

Hello DFMA!

Welcome to June. Let's see... what happens in June? Oh, I know, it's the beginning of Hurricane season. Not the hockey club which at the time of writing looks like their season is over.

The 2025 Hurricane season is predicted to be above normal with 13-19 named storms and 3-5 being category 3 or higher. If you haven't already then it's a good time to have a plan and make sure your supplies are adequate. The Thursday night net is a good place to test your 2 meter radio weekly.



The other big deal in June is Field Day! Hope to see everyone there and at the meeting too.

Bob Cook  
W4FK  
President of DFMA  
73

### DAYTON HAMVENTION - 2025

By: NC4CD

Two weeks ago I made a trip to an event that every amateur radio operator should make at least once in a lifetime, the Dayton Hamvention. The Dayton

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Hamvention is the largest hamfest in the US and possibly the world, even though the hams in Japan claim that theirs is the largest.

The Dayton Hamvention was first held in 1952 in a hotel in downtown Dayton. In 1964 the Hamvention was moved to Hara Arena and was held there every year until 2016 when Hara Arena was shut down. I first went in 1972 and I thought Hara was a bit of a dump but it had multiple buildings and plenty of paved parking spaces. At some point in its lifetime, Hara hosted ice

hockey and basketball. Over forty years went by and Hara saw very few improvements. Hara was finally closed in 2016. A tornado took care of the demolition. Concrete slabs and asphalt parking lots are all that remain of Hara Arena, a sad site with many memories. Hamvention moved to the Greene County Fairgrounds in nearby Xenia Ohio, where the buildings were much newer and nicer.

My first trip to Dayton was in 1972. Four of us drove to Dayton, a trip of almost 500 miles. Also on the trip was Sidney Edwards W4QWM, Phil Greenspan (W4HUB – sk), and Ken MacNeill WA4HTZ. Hamvention is a three day event, Friday through Sunday. We stayed until the Sunday afternoon prize drawing in hopes of winning one of many great door prizes. We started the drive home, but all were so tired we stopped somewhere in Ohio and spent the night.

A number of years passed until we wanted to make the long trip to Dayton again. Ken and I decided to go again but, since Ken had moved to Tampa, we flew to Dayton, which was much easier. If we bought something bigger than would fit in a suitcase, UPS or FEDEX had a booth and would box and ship your purchases home. A few years later, Ken and I decided to drive to Dayton. Additional four lane roads made driving a good decision.

On Wednesdays we drove to Dayton. Then on Thursday we usually spent the day in the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. It is gigantic and has everything in aviation from the Wright Brothers to Space Shuttles. The Wright

brothers invented their airplane in Dayton but had to come to North Carolina to make the first flights.

This year's attendance at Hamvention was 36,814. Every major manufacturer and vendor of ham radio equipment is there to show off their latest products. And if you can't find what you want in the flea market, you probably didn't need it !! Every ham should go at least once, and if you do, you will probably want to go again and again.

- 73 de NC4CD

## The Haj of the Infidel

By: W4BOH

Do you have a bucket list? They seem to be all the rage, but since they smack of organization they are not something in which I'm interested. I do have a few things I'd like to do in my few remaining years. I've been to Oshkosh a few times, so that's done and I'm way too old (and poor) to fly fighters, so that's off too. I'm capable of going to hamfests, however, as proven by many BOHmobile trips. So, after hearing about so many Dayton trips from local friends, I decided to give it a go. Starting late (Remember what I said about organization.) I found that rooms were fairly expensive and either far from the fest or in by-the-hour looking places. All would necessitate renting a car and/or taking shuttle rides each morning and afternoon. Then I remembered I had heard of a charter bus run for hams to go to Dayton. Googling "ham bus Dayton" instantly got me the ad for last year's trip and an email to the contact, Bill Lundy, who informed me there was indeed a bus this year and that there were just two seats left. After a few milliseconds of vacillation, I decided to throw in with the bus crowd and give it a try.

This was Bill's 37th year at Dayton, but I don't know how many were bus trips. Among other things, Bill used to be a driver for the small company that owns two buses, so he gets a good rate on the bus and knows how to use it. The more I thought about not driving, not dealing with the room search, not having to get a ride to the fest or home, etc., the better it sounded! I boarded in Burlington, the easternmost pickup, and off we went, with a hired driver because Bill is 82 and can't get commercial insurance. We made brief stops to pick up people (more hams) in Greensboro, Kernersville, Winston, Mayberry, and Wythville, Va. Every single passenger was on time and it only took a minute to put their bags in the cavernous belly of the beast and get going again. We made rest stops at

reasonable intervals, had lunch at a Bob Evans (don't bother), and rolled to a stop at our Univ. of Dayton dorm right about 1700. That's about an hour longer than the drive in a car, but having no responsibility for navigation, buying fuel, or checking the oil made the time very enjoyable. One could chat with the 34 new friends on the bus, read, or nap. The big bus was quiet and smooth riding.

Did I mention a dorm? Yes. UD is a smallish Catholic school smack in the city of Dayton. It's a 15 minute ride from the fest, but the bus dropped us at the gate every morning! On the way we had breakfast, one day at the UD cafeteria and one day at Golden Corral (not a bad breakfast at all). Then the bus sat in the lot near the gate and we could use it to rest our legs or have a quiet lunch. Those who wished could buy subs at the UD cafeteria and leave them on the bus or carry them around (not a good idea). At the end of the day, we boarded the beast again for dinner at a local pizza/Italian place or Golden Corral. The pizza place is a local institution and does an enormous business. It's not a chain and the food has character (good).

Then it was back to the dorm for bull sessions or reading. After a day at the fest, there was not a lot of BS energy available, however, and with no TV we tended to go to bed early to be ready for the 0700 boarding the next day. The dorm was spotless, the bed OK, and cost almost nothing. What's not to like?

So what about the Hamfest, or Hamvention as they call it? As Oshkosh has more planes than one can take in, Hamvention has more "stuff" than one can take in.

The flea market was much bigger (several times) than anything close, maybe four-five times Shelby. There was a lot of stuff, much of it good and some that should have been left at home. I clearly missed the glory days, because there were very few classic components like coils, caps, transformers or chokes. There was almost no HB gear, just a couple of amps. There were boat anchors and some more modern rigs, mostly at fairly fanciful prices but bargaining was possible in many cases. There were all sorts of nice tools and more old two way stuff than anyone could use. Tadd found some usable rigs. It could be seen in a day, but not thoroughly. Best way was to buy what you were sure you wanted, with some haggling if necessary, unless it was something expensive, and make note of what else you wanted. Then work on the else items and the haggling for the expensive

items on day two. Some people realized that some markets are very thin and would be reasonable and some would not. It's a sad fact that lots of the stuff there is obsolete beyond reason and that very few are left who know how to use it, even if they wanted to! There were a few nice boat anchors, some at reasonable prices and some not. I'm old, have more than I can work on, and am getting more lazy every day, so all I bought was a couple of coils, a couple of meters, and a couple of relays, and one small transformer (30 cents, it had a broken wire.), maybe fifteen pounds in all.

Inside was a new ham's Mecca (You do remember it was a Haj, don't you?). Almost everything you see in QST, and more, was there, as well as some small company stuff and even some non-ham stuff. I have almost no interest in most of the commercial stuff. One decent solid state rig is all I need, so they are not much fun to look at. The SDR stuff, including displays from transceivers, is "pretty", but I'm guessing almost no one really understands it and even fewer have any real use for it, so it's a big ho hum for me. The big distributors like HRO were doing a land office business. If you know prices and buy right, cheating the government of sales tax and getting free shipping, it may be worthwhile. I glanced at the new mid-range Yaesu, with the screen like a 746, but was not enthralled. Besides, the screen will eventually go bad, probably when they are no longer available, and make the rig another unrepeatable relic. There was all manner of hardware from DX Engineering and the like. They are quite a good company, unless you happen to need a schematic of something you bought. "Sorry, we don't hand those out." has been heard from them a few times! The Hexbeam people, MFJ (and all its brands), Elecraft, and a host of others were there in mind numbing profusion. Our own Howie sold all his KX-3 heatsinks and took orders for many more! Who would have thought a \$1000+ QRP rig would need an add on heatsink to be usable for some of the modes it can work? There's some engineering for you! So I ran the whole inside, some of it with Mac (WQ8U), who joined up on day two, Saturday. It was fun, especially getting the cold beer. It cured me of wanting to buy anything new for quite a while!

The ride home was pretty much a replay of the ride up, except for stopping at Tamarack Lodge, in WV. It has decent food and many displays of craft work by West Virginians. I'm told it was the pioneer setup of such stuff, now seen in many states. I bought a pair of earrings. No not for me, for Dee

Anne! And we were back to Burlington around 1700. A guy from Raleigh gave me a ride home.

Would you believe Bill has been 37 times? Many of the guys on the bus had been 10+ times, mostly with Bill. He's been saying for several years he wasn't going to organize another trip, which he did perfectly, but has kept it up. The bus company is for sale, so the next trip will cost a little more, but it might happen. He passed around a sheet and almost everyone on the bus signed up for next year, if it does! The bus and room cost \$175. Dirt cheap considering what one received. Meals were all modest, so the whole thing was very reasonable.

Was it fun? You bet; it was great! Would I go back? Probably, but not for a couple of years and for sure not next year. It's better than Shelby, but not overwhelmingly better and the time investment (I don't have much left, you know.) is considerable. I'd rather use the travel days fixing something or making one of my improbable creations generate some RF. I could even do some of the things Dee Anne wants done. I might even use some time to get my tower up, only a year, or ten, late! Isn't it amazing how much shorter years are as we age!

73,  
Wilson  
W4BOH

PS: One of our guys won the grand prize, a \$9000 radio! I got a free peppermint from a vendor.



## Question of the Month:

### Which Morse Code?

Something I learned recently is that there were various versions of Morse Code.

What we use on the radio airwaves is International Morse Code. Banks, Railroads, and Newspapers used American Morse Code on Telegraphs up until the 1960's.

Here is a link to a seven minute video explaining some of it:

<https://youtu.be/-jM10EvASBE?si=tNrmxFi0b0C3cl-2>

## Interesting Facts:

### POTA or POTA?

We all know POTA as Parks On The Air. But for those unable to get out to the parks, perhaps there should also be Porch On The Air? If a person has restrictions and can't get out to the parks, this may be a good compromise. Even if just to check into local or HF nets.

### Triangle Mutual Aid Wednesday Net

This is a new net in the area and on the WR4AGC 145.450 repeater, Wednesdays at High Noon. For more information contact either Adam NovakKK6NNN or Steven Pinkham KC2CBI.

## Amateur/RNSS Coexistence — 23cm Band

After review and approval by the IARU Region 1 Executive Committee and the IARU Administrative Council this link is to a presentation on preliminary Amateur / RNSS (Radio Navigation Satellite Services) Coexistence in the 23cm band. This is a presentation from 2022 but I found very fascinating.

Regulatory Status for the Amateur Services allocation in the ITU-R Radio Regulations:

- 1240 – 1300MHz is allocated to the RNSS on a primary basis across all 3 regions.
- 1240 – 1300MHz is allocated to the amateur service (AS) on a secondary basis with 1260-1270 MHz also allocated by footnote to the amateur satellite service (ASS) also effectively on a secondary basis both across all 3 regions.

The issue the presentation addresses is that the Amateur station operators do not know where or when an RNSS user is active and an RNSS user will most likely be unaware that interference is occurring. There are new "High Accuracy" services under development with commercial ambitions and widespread deployment of RNSS receivers.

The full presentation, along with proposed solutions, can be found at:

<https://www.iaru.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/23cm-Band-and-RNSS-June2022.pdf>

## Buy – Sell – Trade

### ICOM PW-1 Solid State Amplifier.

Selling for friend, good shape.

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Wilson, W4BOH

Contact: [infomet@embarqmail.com](mailto:infomet@embarqmail.com)

### Icom Microphones IC-HM9 and IC-HM14

NEW in boxes

HM9 has two pin plug, for handhelds. \$20

HM14 has 8 pin plug and 16 key keypad. \$30

Pick up in Hillsborough OR I will mail for \$10 each.

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Contact: [infomet@embarqmail.com](mailto:infomet@embarqmail.com)

### Alliance HD-73-1 Rotator Controller SK Stuff

Untested, no rotator available, so returnable.

Two Speed, six wire controller.

Picture available.

\$50, in Hillsborough.

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Contact: [infomet@embarqmail.com](mailto:infomet@embarqmail.com)

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sure to include contact info and feel free to include a picture (that is yours – please no copyrighted stuff from the web).

73, Tim, KC1TWR

### 73 – Tim KC1TWR, Newsletter Editor

Send copy to [TimKc1twr@gmail.com](mailto:TimKc1twr@gmail.com)

Deadline: one week before the Club Meeting

(Images and copy: KC1TWR or as credited)

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### The DFMA Mailing Address

This is actually a mail service which costs less than a post office box and provides some extra services.

Please address any mail you have for the club to:

**Durham FM Association**

**9169 W State St #644**

**Garden City ID 83714**

**Web Site: [dfma.org](http://dfma.org)**

### Upcoming Events ([dfma.org](http://dfma.org) for details)

06/03 DFMA Meeting, Bullock's BBQ, 6pm

06/09 OCRA Meeting, Efland Baha'i Center, 7:30pm

06/17 DFMA Board Meeting, 7pm

06/21 VE Test Session, Efland Baha'i Center, 10am



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