



# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter

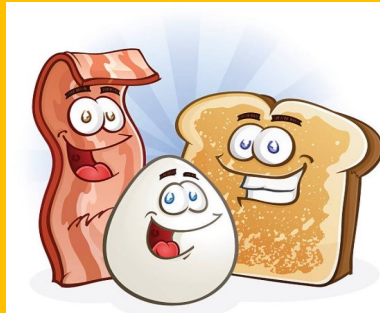
Join Us For Our Monday Night ATARA Off-Grid Radio Team Net at 8:00 PM on  
Simplex 146.400!!

All Amateur Operators Invited. You Do Not Have To Be a Member to Participate.

### ATARA Club Breakfast

When: Sat, March 11th, 2023  
8am – 9am

Where: Scramblers,  
1377 Ety Road  
Lancaster, OH 43130, USA



**CLICK EACH  
LINK BELOW**



### Meeting Schedule

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Exams

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday is ATARA OFF-GRID  
Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Club Meeting

[Hamfest/Convention 3-12-2023 Elyria, Ohio](#)

[Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest 3-19-2023 Perrysburg, Ohio](#)

[Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 4-15-2023 Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio](#)

[Tusco Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 4-22-2023 Dover, Ohio](#)

[Athens Hamfest 4-30-2023 Athens, Ohio](#)

[Dayton HamVention 5-19 to 5-21-2023 Xenia, Ohio](#)

**Remember Our Thursday ATARA Night Net**  
8:00 PM on 145.210 Repeater also now on  
EchoLink W8ATR from 8 PM until 9 PM only.



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**“A Candid Interview with”**

## **Whitey Snouffer “KC4FAX” of ATARA**



When I was 13 years old I began helping out in the sound booth at our church we attended. That immediately sparked my interest in electronics and communication. The gentleman that was head of the sound booth, Ron Curry WA4GSS, also became my elmer. He had asked me if I would like to see his amateur radio station after church one evening, I said “sure that would be neat” ...not having any idea what ham radio was! I was amazed and curious when I saw his station and had to know what it was about and how to be a part of it.

So he helped me study and get my license. Once I got licensed, he set me up a hamshack with some old tube type radios and a 40 meter dipole. I was always on the radio, couldn't get away from it. A few months after passing my novice license, I passed the technician, and then on to the general class license. Once I got the technicians license I became more active on 2 meters more than the HF bands.

As I got older into high school and then into adulthood, I sadly lost interest and eventually let my license expire! About a year and a half ago, I decided I wanted to get back into ham radio so I studied and took the test at an ATARA exam session! And I'm sure glad I chose to do so!

I became KE8SPY. I kept that callsign for about six month and then decided to change it to my original callsign, KC4FAX. Although I'm not the most active radio operator, I sure do enjoy it and Im glad to be a member of ATARA.





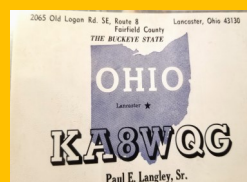
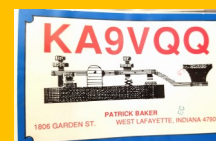
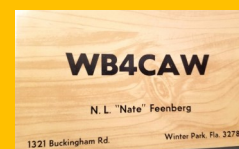
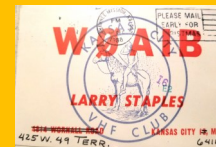
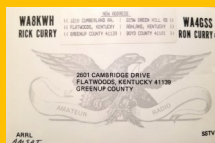
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## "A Candid Interview with" Whitey Snouffer "KC4FAX" of ATARA



**First Ham Shack**



## QSL CARDS



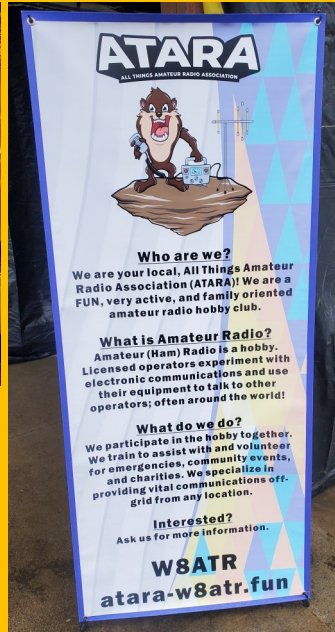




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## Winter Field Day March 2023 Newsletter



**Get Ready Summer Field Day Is Right Around  
The Corner. Great Fun Always at ATARA!!!**



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## March Newsletter

### Central Ohio Weather Spotters Network

[Central Ohio Severe Weather Network – First Responders For Severe Weather – Find us on 146.760 MHz. the Central Ohio Home of the Weather Net](#)



#### NWS WILMINGTON OHIO 2023 SPOTTER TRAINING SCHEDULE

Classes are free and open to the public. Virtual classes require registration via the links provided in each course description. In-person classes require registration only if specified.

Each class lasts about 2 hours and is led by a National Weather Service meteorologist, who will discuss techniques and safety for severe weather spotting. Once you attend a class, you will receive instructions for registering to officially become a trained spotter. You will then be able to report severe weather to your NWS office.

**The 2023 spotter training schedule will be released soon!**

**Spotter Webinar 1:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 (6 PM - 8 PM):

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5226291456582823253>

**Spotter Webinar 2:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 (7 PM - 9 PM):

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4138489627642681945>

**Spotter Webinar 3:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 (6 PM - 8 PM):

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/667251154405043551>

This information and registration links will also become available at our spotter training website -- [https://www.weather.gov/iln/spotter training schedule](https://www.weather.gov/iln/spotter%20training%20schedule) -- and will be promoted through social media by this evening.

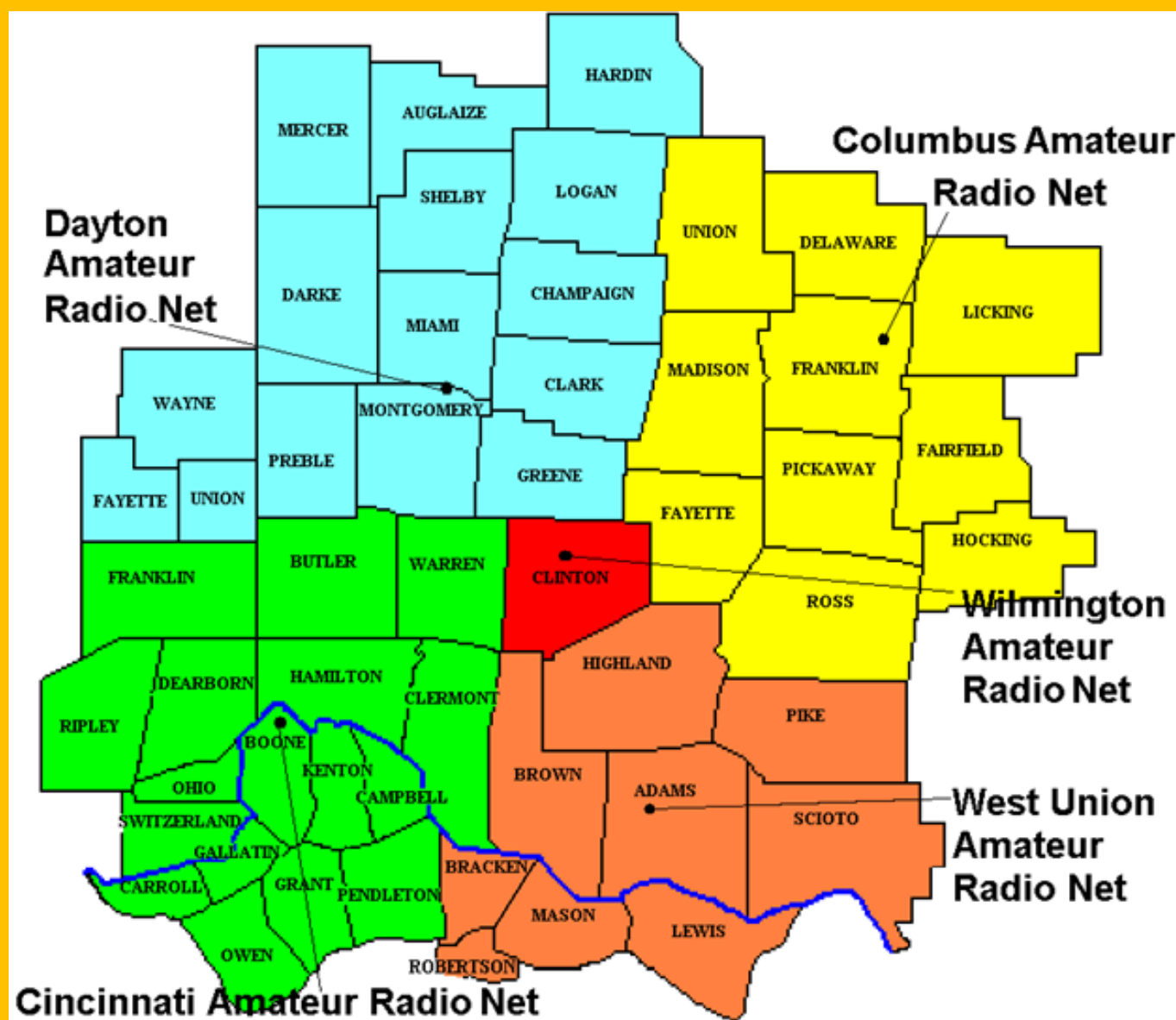


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## March Newsletter

### Central Ohio Weather Spotters Network







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## March Newsletter

### Central Ohio Weather Spotters Network



## Skywarn™ Spotter Report Reference Sheet

National Weather Service, Cleveland, Ohio

### What should I report?

- Tornado, funnel cloud, or wall cloud
- Large hail (0.5" or greater)
- Wind damage
- Winds measured/estimated at 50mph or greater
- Flooding
- Heavy rain (1" or more)
- Heavy snow (6" or more)
- Death or serious injury caused by the weather

### When do I report?

Immediate, real-time reports, are most helpful for warning operations, but delayed reports are also important, even days after an event. Delayed reports are used for climatological and verification purposes.

Never compromise your safety just to give us a report. If you are in danger, move to a safe location and then provide your report.

### How do I report?

Be sure to provide the location where the event occurred (nearest city, county, and state) and the time that the event occurred in your report. If you are unsure of what you are seeing, express your uncertainty in your report. You can relay your report to us by:

- Amateur Radio (Backbone 52.680)
- Telephone (1-800-262-9683)
- eSpotter website (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/StormReport/SubmitReport.php?site=CLE>)
- Facebook (US National Weather Service Cleveland OH)
- Twitter (NWS Cleveland, @NWSCLE)

**Telephone:** 1-800-262-9683  
**Web:** [www.weather.gov/cle](http://www.weather.gov/cle)

### Tornadoes

Several atmospheric and man-made features may be mistaken for tornadoes or funnel clouds. Some of the most common are scud clouds, rain shafts, smoke, and communication towers. To distinguish between a real tornado or funnel and something else, study the feature and answer the following questions:

- Can I see it clearly?
- Is the feature attached to a thunderstorm base?
- Is the feature in the section of the storm where tornadoes/funnels typically develop (i.e., near the updraft)?
- Is there organized rotation present within the feature?
- If it appears to be a tornado, is there debris?



**Please visit**

**<http://www.weather.gov/cle/Skywarn>**  
**for more valuable spotter information,**  
**including a detailed field guide!**

**Twitter:** NWS Cleveland, @NWSCLE  
**Facebook:** US National Weather Service Cleveland OH





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## March Newsletter

### Central Ohio Weather Spotters Network

#### Wind

Report estimated or measured wind speed and wind damage. Wind speed estimation is difficult. A detailed description of moving objects or damage is often more useful.

##### Details to submit for tree damage include:

- What is the height and diameter of the branch, limb or tree that was broken or blown down?
- Was the tree healthy or decayed?
- What type of tree was damaged, e.g., hardwood or softwood?

##### Details to submit for damage to structures.

- Is the damage to a well-built structure or a weak outbuilding?
- What is the main building material for the structure: wood, brick, metal, concrete, etc.?
- If the structure is a mobile home, was it anchored down?

Wind Speed	Effects
25-31 MPH	Large branches in motion
32-38 MPH	Whole trees are in motion
39-54 MPH	Twigs break off trees; wind impedes walking
55-72 MPH	Damage to TV antennas; large branches break off trees
72-112 MPH	Surfaces of roofs peeled off; windows broken; trailer homes overturned
113+ MPH	Roofs blown from houses; weak buildings and trailer homes destroyed; large trees uprooted; train cars blown off tracks



#### Hail

Report the size of the largest stone and any damage. To estimate size, compare hail to well known objects such as coins or balls, but not to marbles, or measure the hail with a ruler.

Pea	0.25"	Baseball	2.75"
Penny	0.75"	Large Apple	3.00"
Nickel	0.88"	Softball	4.00"
Quarter	1.00"	Grapefruit	4.50"
Half Dollar	1.25"		
Ping Pong Ball	1.50"		
Golf Ball	1.75"		
Lime	2.00"		
Tennis Ball	2.50"		



#### Flooding

Report flooded roadways, rivers and streams, giving the approximate water depth. Other details to submit include:

- Does the flooding consist of standing water or is it flowing?
- Is the water level continuing to rise, staying steady, or falling?
- Is the flooding occurring in a well known flood prone area?
- Do you see any damage from the flooding?







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## March Newsletter

### Burn Severity Safety Talk



Safety Officer: Kevin Frank, KSKDF [safety@atara-wSatr.fun](mailto:safety@atara-wSatr.fun)

#### Burn Severity Safety Talk

Burn injuries are common both at home and in the workplace. The American Burn Association states that there are over 40,000 hospitalizations each year due to burns. There are a few different **types of burn injuries**, and the severity of burns is classified into three different levels. These levels are first degree, second degree, and third degree. There is a fourth level as well, but we will not mention it here.

#### Level of Burn Severity

(source: [StanfordChildrens.org](http://StanfordChildrens.org))

**First Degree**– These burns are considered the least serious out of the three levels of severity. They affect the outside layer of the skin (the epidermis). The burn site is red, painful, dry, and with no blisters. A mild sunburn would be an example of a first-degree burn. There are usually no long-term effects to the skin or body resulting from this level of burn.

**Second Degree**– These burns involve the epidermis and part of the dermis layer of skin. The burn site appears red, blistered, and may be swollen and painful.

**Third Degree**– These are the most serious type of burns a person can have. These burns destroy the epidermis and dermis and may go into the subcutaneous tissue. The burn site may appear white or charred.



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## March Newsletter

### Burn Severity Safety Talk

Safety Officer: Kevin Frank, KSKDF [safety@atara-w8atr.fun](mailto:safety@atara-w8atr.fun)







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## March Newsletter

### Burn Severity Safety Talk

Safety Officer: Kevin Frank, KSKDF [safety@atara-w8atr.fun](mailto:safety@atara-w8atr.fun)

#### Treatment of Burns

**First Degree**– Most of these burns can be treated at home with over-the-counter ointments or medicines. A doctor should still be seen if there is a large area of skin affected or a major joint or face is affected by the burn.

**Second Degree**– Right after the burn occurs, run the affected area under cool water for 15 minutes. Over-the-counter medications and ointments can be used to heal these burns in the home. A doctor should be seen if the burn affects a large area or if the burn affects the hands, face, feet, groin area, or buttocks.

**Third Degree**– Do not attempt to address these injuries in the home. Raise the affected area above the heart if possible and get transported to a hospital. Do not remove clothing. This could pull the burned skin from the body.

#### Summary

It is important to understand the different levels of burn severity and the necessary treatments. Sometimes third degrees burns are less painful than first and second-degree burns due to nerve ending loss. A person needs to be able to recognize when they have suffered a serious burn. If a severe burn does not get treated promptly, it could result in permanent scarring or disfigurement.



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## March 2023 Newsletter

**“A Candid Interview with ARRL Ohio Section Manager”**

### **Tom Sly “WB8LCD”**



I grew up on the west side of Cleveland, OH in a town called Parkview (later annexed into Fairview Park). I played with the other kids in the neighborhood, especially the kids right behind us. It was interesting going to their house because their dad – Mr. Hillman (remember this) – had rooms in the house and the basement that we were not allowed to enter. He also had big antennas on towers out behind his house. Another forbidden zone. At 11 years old I couldn't wait to join the Boys Scouts and I did at the first meeting after my birthday. Probably in one of the first issues of Boy's Life magazine that I received there was an article about building a crystal radio set, which I thought looked pretty cool. I asked my dad to help me build one, but he said I'd do better if I went and asked Mr. Hillman for some help. So I did.

I took the magazine with me, and Mr. Hillman said sure, come on in. He took me into one of the forbidden rooms in the basement. I was in AWE at all the electronic equipment he had there and his electronics workbench. I distinctly remember the sound of morse code playing in the background, but it was just noise to me at the time. I gave the magazine, open to the crystal set article to Mr. Hillman. He took a quick glance at it, then put it down and started grabbing some wires and “stuff”. He had me winding a coil. About 45 minutes to an hour he had me complete my first radio project – and it worked!





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## March 2023 Newsletter

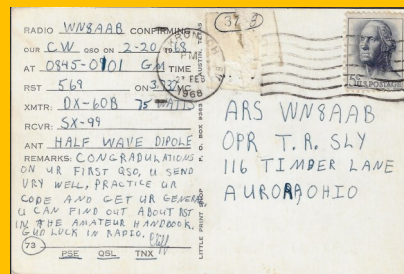
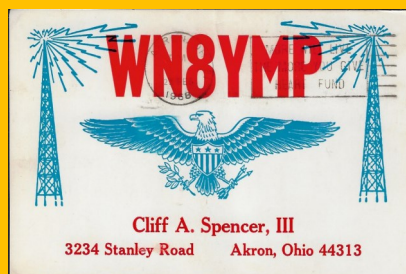
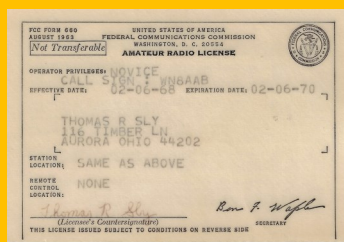
**“A Candid Interview with ARRL Ohio Section Manager”**

### **Tom Sly “WB8LCD”**

Remember that morse code playing in the background? At one point in the process he stopped, told me he had to answer some guy, walked over to the desk and started sending. I knew then that this was all too cool and I had to be a part of it! He helped me get started studying and in February of 1968, at age 15, I had my Novice ticket with the callsign WN8AAB. In the meantime, my family had moved to Aurora, OH. I also attained the rank of Eagle Scout in that time period.

One of the first things I did was to have someone take me to Mr. Hillman's house (now known as W8FZS) so I could show him the license. I was excited. As *always*, I addressed him as “MR. Hillman”. Then he said the most important thing I had ever heard up to that point – he said: “when we're doing HAM stuff, you can call me Stan. You're now one of US.” From that day on, Ham Radio was a “Fraternity” for me. A group of like-minded folks who understood the MAGIC of Radio!

Not having a local mentor, my Novice days were not very successful and on the two year anniversary, I let the license lapse. (I think the smells of gasoline and perfume had a lot to do with that!) Actually, I couldn't stand the idea that I wasn't a ham and within 6 months I had a Technician class license with the new callsign WB8LCD. I finished up high school, went off to college at the University of TN, fell in love with an Aurora girl, came back from college, got married, started a business, graduated from college, not much time for Ham Radio, but I knew I had to upgrade! When I came back to Ohio from Tennessee





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## March 2023 Newsletter

### **“A Candid Interview with ARRL Ohio Section Manager”**

### **Tom Sly “WB8LCD”**

I enrolled at the University of Akron (where I graduated in 1976 with a BSBA in Finance) and I got involved with the Amateur Radio Club there – W8UPD. Many of my friends from there are still friends to this day. One, Mike – WB8VYW – ultimately became my business partner in 1980 until he passed away in 2021. Mike and I spent many late nights in CW QSO's which was got me prepared to go the FCC Field Office in Detroit to pass the code test and upgrade to General in August of 1979. The early 80's were one of my most active times – mostly running CW. The late 90's, my son was very heavy into the Aquarium hobby. Most of my evenings were spent cleaning fish tanks!

After my son graduated from HS in 2001 and headed off to college, I was back on the air! Mostly just goofing around but still having fun. Then, in late 2005, with a few of my Ham Friends, we decided that we needed a new club that would be dedicated to having FUN with Ham Radio. The Portage County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was born out of that in January of 2006. Being the first President of PCARS, I was IN It 100% and have been ever since. In the first year I noticed on the club roster that as President I was listed as a “General” class licensee. I think was at least the next 4 members were all “Extra” class, and that provided all the incentive I needed to study and finally upgraded to Extra.

For most of my ham life, I've operated off wire antennas between the trees. I've worked a lot of good DX off a dipole! For awhile I was wholly into QRP. I really enjoyed using simple rigs, many which were homebrewed (from magazine articles) I always enjoyed the “building” part of the hobby and put together quite a few Heathkits over the years! My two favorite bands to operate on are 15 meters and 6 meters. 15 because I really enjoyed operating DX on CW back in the 80's there. It's still a band where you never know what you'll find on the air there. I made lots of really cool contacts! 6 meters, because it IS the MAGIC Band! Having lived through several sunspot cycles, I can tell you it always lives up the “The Magic Band” reputation! I've played in contesting, there are one or two that I really enjoy working. But, for the most part, contesting is not my thing. I like the “human” side of the hobby, and talking to people on air and having a memorable QSO is more important to me than the quantity of times I can say “59 Ohio, QRZ?”.





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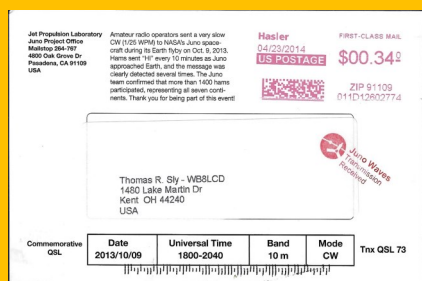
## March 2023 Newsletter

### “A Candid Interview with ARRL Ohio Section Manager”

### Tom Sly “WB8LCD”

I’ve always said that Ham Radio is a whole bunch of “Hobbies within a Hobby”. I think it’s all really cool, and there’s lots of stuff I haven’t done yet, but I sure want to. In the past 20 years, especially with my involvement in PCARS and ARRL I’ve had the opportunity to meet some really interesting, intelligent and friendly people. Most hams are pretty accepting of anyone who is interested and will help you improve yourself if you’re interested in doing that. I encourage everyone to get out there, try new things and make new friends! This really is the Greatest Hobby in the World!

Everyday, we make all kinds of choices in our lives. Some way more important than others. Ham Radio is a choice too. How much do you really want to be involved? Sure, it’s real easy to sit on the couch and watch TV every night until you fall asleep. Same thing with cruising on the internet. But that won’t be near as self-fulfilling as learning and doing Ham Radio! Put your butt in the chair, and get on the Air!





# CLIFF-HANGER



Check out the message at the bottom of the  
Calendar. Never miss a meeting again. It ZOOM Time.

## March Calendar of Events



CLIFF-HANGER W8ATR						
March 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Weds.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 8:00 ATARA Club Net	3	4
5	6 8:00 OGRT Simplex Net	7	8	9 8:00 ATARA Club Net	10	11 8:00 ATARA Breakfast
12	13 8:00 OGRT Simplex Net	14 7:00 VE Test Session	15	16 8:00 ATARA Club Net	17	18
19	20 8:00 OGRT Simplex Net	21 7:00 Off-Grid Radio Team Mtg.	22	23 8:00 ATARA Club Net	24	25
26	27 8:00 OGRT Simplex Net	28 7:00 ATARA Club Mtg.	29	30 8:00 ATARA Club Net	31	



**Zoom Meeting Link will be sent out  
before our regular monthly meeting.**







# CLIFF-HANGER



## Lancaster OH 43130-4048

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### EXAM SESSION

03/14/2023  
**Sponsor:** ATARA  
**Date:** March 14th, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
**Contact:** Jarrod K. Combs  
**Email:** [ke8mbl@outlook.com](mailto:ke8mbl@outlook.com)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** Grace Comm Church and Fellowship  
904 E Main St  
Lancaster OH 43130-4048

## Lancaster OH 43130-4048

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### EXAM SESSION

04/11/2023  
**Sponsor:** ATARA  
**Date:** April 11th, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
**Contact:** Jarrod K. Combs  
**Email:** [ke8mbl@outlook.com](mailto:ke8mbl@outlook.com)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** Grace Comm Church and Fellowship  
904 E Main St  
Lancaster OH 43130-4048

## Lancaster OH 43130-4048

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### EXAM SESSION

05/09/2023  
**Sponsor:** ATARA  
**Date:** May 9th, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
**Contact:** Jarrod K. Combs  
**Email:** [ke8mbl@outlook.com](mailto:ke8mbl@outlook.com)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** Grace Comm Church and Fellowship  
904 E Main St  
Lancaster OH 43130-4048

# E X A M S S C H E D U L E

## Lancaster OH 43130-4048

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### EXAM SESSION

05/09/2023  
06/13/2023  
**Sponsor:** ATARA  
**Date:** June 13th, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
**Contact:** Jarrod K. Combs  
**Email:** [ke8mbl@outlook.com](mailto:ke8mbl@outlook.com)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** Grace Comm Church and Fellowship  
904 E Main St  
Lancaster OH 43130-4048

## Lancaster OH 43130-4048

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### EXAM SESSION

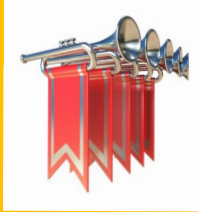
07/11/2023  
**Sponsor:** ATARA  
**Date:** July 11th, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
**Contact:** Jarrod K. Combs  
**Email:** [ke8mbl@outlook.com](mailto:ke8mbl@outlook.com)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** Grace Comm Church and Fellowship  
904 E Main St  
Lancaster OH 43130-4048

## Lancaster OH 43130-4048

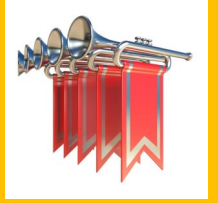
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### EXAM SESSION

08/15/2023  
**Sponsor:** ATARA  
**Date:** August 15th, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
**Contact:** Jarrod K. Combs  
**Email:** [ke8mbl@outlook.com](mailto:ke8mbl@outlook.com)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** Grace Comm Church and Fellowship  
904 E Main St  
Lancaster OH 43130-4048



# CLIFF-HANGER



New STEM Is Finally  
Here !!





# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter

### **PROPER COMMUNICATING PROTOCOL AND "HAM ETIQUETTE"**

#### **PERIODIC IDENTIFICATION EVERY TEN MINUTES**

You must always identify yourself at regulated periods while operating on ham frequencies by giving your call sign. This must be done every ten minutes and at the end a communication; and if a conversation last less than ten minutes, then just at the end of the communication. You must identify yourself even if you are conducting a test. Don't get nervous about this, just keep in mind when you need to do it and throw out your callsign every once in a while, at the end of a transmission. This will also serve to prompt your buddy to do the same. Always identify yourself: anything else is considered an illegal **unidentified transmission**. When chatting with a foreign station, you must identify yourself in English, no matter what language you are using with your foreign contact. CW can always be used, regardless of current operating frequency, to identify your station.

#### **FREQUENCY RIGHTS**

There are some bands in which amateurs must share frequencies with other radio services. The FCC divides **shared band** users into **primary users** and **secondary users**. Primary users have priority of use over secondary users, so secondary users can only use those frequencies when not in use by the primary users. For example, packet networking can only take place secondarily on the 219-220 MHz band - marine users have the primary right-of-way.

With non-shared band frequencies, it's a game of "every man for himself" - regardless of license class or power output. Nobody really has rights over others when it comes these frequencies unless *you were there first*. So, when trying to find a frequency to transmit on and you come across one that is already occupied, find another one - unless you think they won't mind you joining in on their conversation. If not, you will find out fast enough. Also, take a moment to listen in on a frequency just to make sure it is clear before using to ensure that you are not interrupting.

The only exception to the rule is **emergency traffic**. You can break in on an occupied frequency if you have a bonafide emergency. By that same token, if someone breaks in on your conversation with an emergency, they have the "right-of-way". In fact, as a responsible ham, you should do everything you can to help the person out.

#### **CQ CALLING**

Amateur radio allows a ham to speak directly with another ham (remember: no broadcasting). But what can you do if you are monitoring a frequency and want to know if somebody is out there listening? You can use a "**CQ**" call, which will allow you to ask if anybody is monitoring the frequency that would like to talk. "CQ" means "calling any station".





# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter

### **PROPER COMMUNICATING PROTOCOL AND "HAM ETIQUETTE"**

#### ***Procedure:***

VOICE MODE: To call, say "CQ" three times, then "this is YOUR CALLSIGN". When answering, say calling station's name, then "this is", then your callsign.

ANSWERING IN CW: Send the other station's call sign twice, followed by "DE" (meaning "this is"), followed by your callsign twice.

CALLING IN RTTY: Send the letters "CQ" three to six times, followed by "DE", followed by your callsign sent three times.

On a local repeater, it's safe to say your callsign, followed by "monitoring". That will tell other hams that you are out there and willing to talk.

#### ***JOINING IN ON A CONVERSATION***

You may be monitoring a frequency and happen upon an interesting conversation between a couple of chums. If you want to get in on the conversation, it's kosher to simply say your callsign to let them know that you are there and would like to join in. It makes for a great party line.

#### ***THIRD PARTY COMMUNICATIONS***

**Third party messages** (messages sent between two hams for someone else) over the ham radio bands are allowed - but the control operator must be always present to monitor the call. If it is an international call, then it can only be with a country in which we have a third-party agreement with. Third party communications also allow you to utilize a repeater's autopatch and speak with an unlicensed person - that person essentially becomes a third-party user.

#### ***INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS***

It's OK to speak with people in any country that you can contact, as long as the governments of both countries approve of amateur communications with each other. If it is a third-party communication, make sure that there are no restrictions for third-party communications with that country, and there are a few. Amateur operators in the U.S. are required to sign off (end communications) by stating both your callsign and the station's that you are in contact with.

#### ***REMEMBER: NO BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS***

When should you expect to get compensated for working the ham bands? Hardly ever, with a few exceptions. You can put your radio equipment up for sale as long as you are not making a living at it. Some clubs can pay employees as part of their job duties - but there are very stringent requirements. Teachers can expect their normal pay if they are licensed and want to teach their class about ham radio and transmit for illustration.



# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter

### **PROPER COMMUNICATING PROTOCOL AND "HAM ETIQUETTE"**

#### **REPEATER USE**

When using a repeater, try not to use "ham jive" so that listeners can understand what is being said. Repeater communications should be kept to a minimum in case someone needs to use it for an emergency; always use simplex mode if you can. It is good practice to allow a pause after ending your transmission in case someone needs to break in.

Repeaters can't be used by just anybody unless they are deemed "**open**" by the sponsoring club. **Closed** repeaters are open for use to club members only. If you find it necessary to use a closed repeater, most of the time it just requires club membership with a \$5-10 membership fee.

#### **PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS**

Being a ham carries certain inherent responsibilities, such as making sure that no one has access to your station while you're not around. Handhelds are pretty easy to keep an eye on - you can lock them away, or at the very least disconnect the antenna and carry it with you if you are going to leave your HT behind. With base units, you can install a key-operated switch in the main power line - this simply prevents your station from being powered up when the switch is locked in the "OFF" position. With mobile units, you can disconnect the mike and lock it up or carry it with you.

#### **AMATEUR RADIO RECORD-KEEPING**

Record-keeping - the cruelest words known to man. At one time the FCC required amateur radio operators to maintain a logbook which was supposed to be updated with a record of each transmission that you placed. That's not so anymore, but some people will recommend that you do. Use your best judgement.

#### **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: JOIN YOUR LOCAL HAM CLUB**

One thing that you should do for sure after getting your license: join your local ham club(s). It is a great way to get acquainted with local hams and find out what is going on in your pocket of the ham world. You'll be able to find out where and when the upcoming exams, when contests will be taking place, and what the technical status of your local ham network is. Most importantly, it is the local ham club that makes ham functions possible on a local level, and also, they are usually the ones paying for the towers, repeaters and other equipment that you probably use to transmit on. So, any fees or dues that you pay go to a great and worthy cause that all users benefit from.



# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter

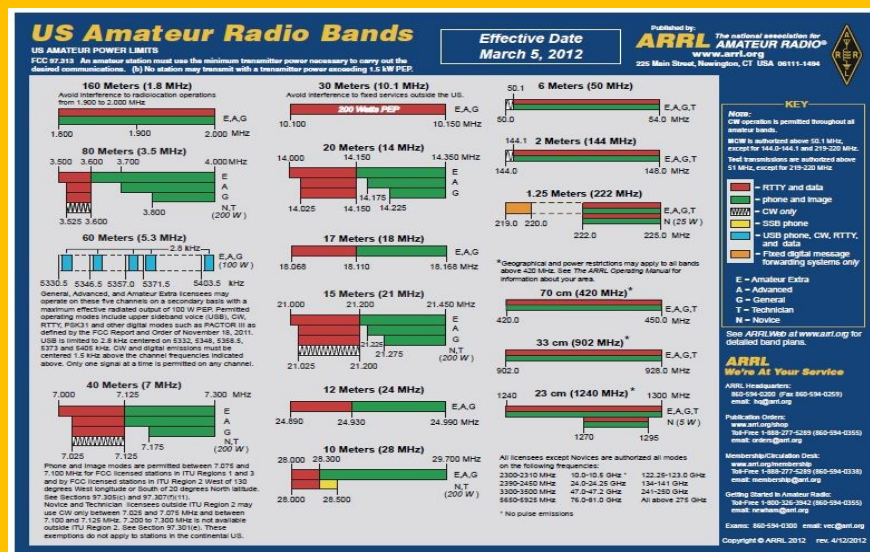
### PROPER COMMUNICATING PROTOCOL AND "HAM ETIQUETTE"

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Whenever another ham is using your radio, you should be right there with the equipment (at the **control point**). There's no problem with you using another hams station to transmit on or vice-versa but remember that both the owner and the visiting operator are responsible for proper operation of the station.
- Use VHF and UHF communications when available over short distances to keep from interfering in the HF bands.
- Ham radio transmissions are not permitted on commercial aircraft due to the potential for interference with instrumentation and aircraft communications equipment.
- Remember the "low power" rule discussed in the interference section? You can use the **RST (Readability, Strength, Tone)** signal reporting system to communicate the quality of a signal. Readability and signal strength are usually reported during voice transmissions. When someone tells you that your signal is "5 x 9", then you are coming in exceptionally clear.

Any licensed ham can operate an amateur space station. Amateur space stations are amateur stations located at least 50 kilometers above the earth's surface. NASA has the authority to give approval for communication with earth-bound hams and astronauts on a shuttle.

Article from  
QSL.net







# CLIFF-HANGER

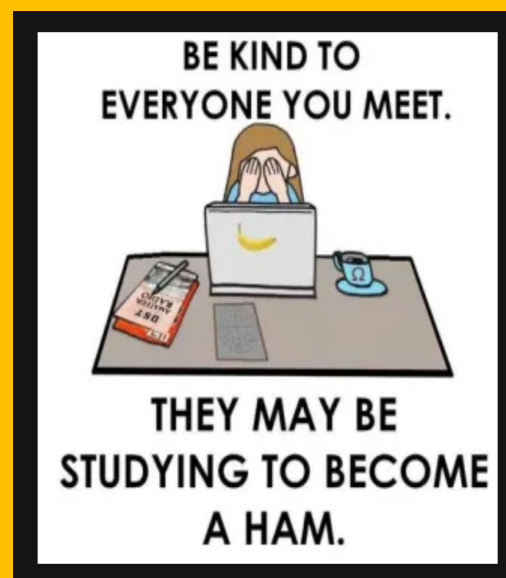
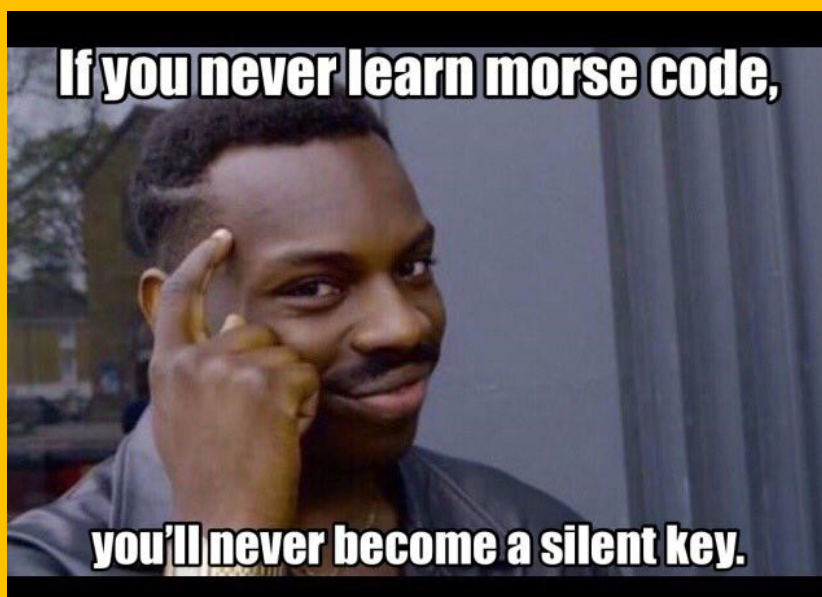


**February 2023 Newsletter**

**Want to know who is a Ham around  
you????**

**Click the Link. [Ham Radio Information with map](#)**

**All you need to do is insert your call  
sign in place of mine and have fun  
getting to know all those Ham Radio  
Operators right in your neighborhood.**





# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter

### ATARA 2022 Year End Report

### WSATR

**ATARA, an ARRL Affiliated Club became an official club on June 22, 2021.**

#### **Community Events:**

##### **(Providing communications)**

Afterschool Programs Fundraiser

Hank Kabel Sarcoma 5K

Pumpkin Hike @ Alley Park

Alley Park Marathon

Alley Park Winter Hike

#### **Community Events:**

##### **(Educational/PR)**

Arbor Day @ Rising Park

Afterschool Programs of Lancaster  
Survival Day

Mother's Day Event at Amanda

Rising Park Day

Alley Park's Survival Camp for Teens

Fourth of July Parade – Float with APL

Christmas Parade – Trailer & Cliff

Freedoms Never Free

Baltimore Holiday Market

#### **Field Days/POTA:**

Winter Field Day – 25 individuals participated

Summer Field Day/ATARA Picnic/Cliff's Birthday – 54 individuals participated during the weekend.

Ohio State Parks on the Air at AW Marion State Park.



# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter

### ATARA 2022 Year End Report

### W8ATR

#### **VE Test Sessions:**

The ATARA VE team consists of 7 VE's that hold monthly testing sessions. This past year, 22 candidates tested with 14 technicians, 4 generals, and 2 extra licenses earned.

#### **Training:**

ATARA held 3 technician licensing classes with testing session immediately following. A general class is scheduled for January. An introduction to amateur radio class was held in the fall for those interested in learning more about amateur radio as well as an emergency preparedness class.

#### **W8ATR Repeater:**

A tower was purchased with donations from club members and a site secured for the ATARA repeater.

#### **Public Relations & Newsletters:**

ATARA has a monthly newsletter, "Cliff-Hanger", is emailed each month to approximately 150 families and clubs.

Amateur radio operators. "This Week at ATARA" is emailed to club members on a weekly basis to keep everyone informed of upcoming activities and events. ATARA has been featured in the ARRL letter, Ohio Section Newsletter, Lancaster City Park's weekly talk show on WLRY, and the Towne Crier local newspaper.





# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter

### ATARA 2022 Year End Report

#### WSATR

#### Mobile STEM Trailer:

ATARA was awarded a grant from the ARRL Foundation to purchase and build a mobile STEM trailer. The trailer is in the process of installing electrical fittings. The goal is for the trailer to be ready for the first community event in April. The STEM trailer will be at local events as well as at each of the five Afterschool Programs of Lancaster's sites.

#### ATARA Christmas Party:

The Christmas Party was held at Angler's Paradise Club. A variety of items were donated by club members to be raffled off in order to raise money to purchase pop-up tents and sidewalls for the STEM trailer. Radio gear to holiday decorations were donated with a total of \$548 raised.

#### Off-Grid Radio Team:

The Off-Grid Team conducted 3 field trainings and participated in 14 events. Team members taught NASAR's Hug-a-Tree program, wilderness first aid, and primitive fire starting at 2 youth events. Goals for 2023 will focus on emergency communications; what gear & equipment is needed, procedures & protocol, and passing emergency messages.

#### ATARA Volunteer Hours:

14 Community Events: 483 hours

87 Nets: 947 hours

15 Training: 500 hours

Misc: 2904 hours

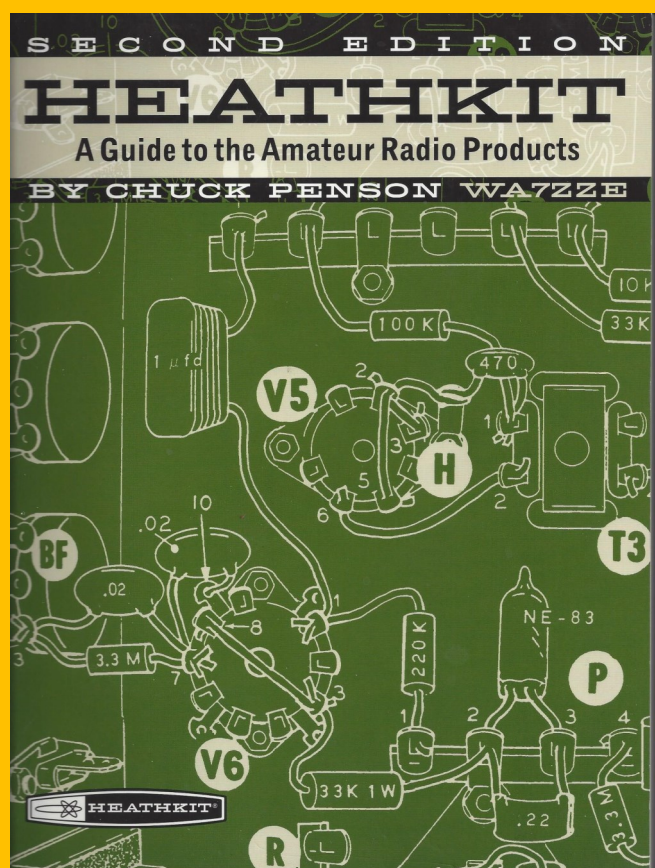
Total: 4834 hours




# CLIFF-HANGER



## March 2023 Newsletter



**GW-14 (A)**



**23 Channel Base and Mobile Transceiver**

Manufactured:	
GW-14	65-67
GW-14A	67-74
Price	\$89.95

**Comments:** The GW-14(A) was the last CB product designed by Heath, and the only one of its CB products capable of operating on all 23 channels. The unit uses 14 transistors (6 in the superhet receiver section), 6 diodes, and features PC board construction. It is also the only radio for which Heath specified the actual output power—3 watts minimum. Receiver sensitivity: .5 uv for 10 db s/n ratio. Selectivity: Adjacent channel rejection is 30 db. Unlike all other Heath CB radios, the GW-14 uses relay T/R switching. Front panel controls include on/off/volume, squelch, and channel selector. The unit also has a lighted meter to indicate received signal strength, relative transmit power and modulation, and a PTT mic made by Turner. It is important to understand that while the GW-14(A) was 23 channel capable, the channels (crystals) were sold separately for about \$2 each. The accessory GWA-14-2 Crystal Pack (literally just an envelope containing all 46 crystals) added another \$85 to the cost of the rig. In addition, the GW-14(A) was designed to run only from DC power so to use the rig as a base station an external power supply is required. The GWA-14-1 AC supply ran about \$15. So the true cost of buying a Heathkit 23 channel CB radio was close to \$200. There is no way to know how many channels are installed on any given GW-14(A) without actually removing the cover and looking. Heath also offered a mobile 6 to 12 volt power converter (GWA-14-4) for use in 6-volt (negative ground) cars. Chrome cabinet and front panel. These show up with some regularity, but often are a bit the worse for wear.

**Weight/Size:** approx. 7 lbs; 2.5" high x 7" wide x 11" deep.

**Transistors Used:** (4)A1384, 2N408, 2N2654, 2N408, 2N2712, 2N1274, (2)40050, PT3141A/KT1001A, PT3141B/KT1001B, PT3141C/KT1001C

**Sams Photofact:** GW-14, CB-11; GW-14A, CB-29

A Guide to the Amateur Radio Products

**287**

We here at ATARA are fortunate to have Greg W8NGA who worked with Heathkit from 1977 to 1981. In the beginning he worked in repairing Amateur Test Equipment and later was promoted to Assistant Manager. If you notice one the article able look at the yellow highlight you will see Greg was the one who took the photo for the catalog.

## W8NGA Greg Boye



# CLIFF-HANGER



**Looking for New Members!!!**



**Please encourage all that you  
connect with on Ham Radio to join our Club.**

**We are looking for Women & Men .... Young & Old to be a  
part of**

**All Things Amateur Radio Association**

**WSATR**

**ATARA-WSATR.FUN**

**Share with them how much fun we  
have !!**



**Have News??? Send all your news to**

**Jim Breibach KESSWY at**

**KESSWY-ATARA@outlook.com. Please send before the 1st of  
each month to have it added to the newsletter. Tell us what you  
are working on, new members, items that you are trying to sell or  
trade, and any news that is new and exciting. Or you may call me  
at 614-296-7987.**