

THE



# SPARK

June 2019

Home of the Cincinnati Repeater System

Cincinnati, Ohio



President Bob Shokler adjusts the controls that used to control one of the six 200,000 watt transmitters at the Voice of America Museum. The six transmitters were on the air almost 24/7 from 1943 until 1994 using any of the 24 antennas in the mile square antenna farm that were behind the building. Most of the antennas were reentrant rhombic design, a wire array that is very directional, but occupies a lot of space. Later a large curtain antenna was put up on large steel towers. Travelers remember the very complex antenna arrays as they passed by on Interstate 75.

Because of the great power, everything was super sized. Because it had to have reliable power supply, redundant transmission lines delivered power from both Cincinnati and Dayton. When it was built, a furnace was installed to heat the building. As it turned out it was never used—the mammoth transmitters supplied more heat than needed. The big vacuum tubes were water cooled.

It was sited in Ohio to make it unlikely to be bombed by an enemy. There was a full time security force on duty. It's operation—providing the real news of the world to the war torn nations, countered the propaganda fed to the people by the axis governments. Hitler was so obsessed about it he referred to the station as the "Cincinnati liars". Interestingly, there were no microphones for the transmitters—and no place to plug one in. This was for security reasons in the event the facility was occupied by enemy agents. All program material originated in New York City and Washington, DC and arrived over dedicated telephone lines. It was called the Bethany Relay Station. This is not the only transmitter site of the VOA.

Heavy 2" copper tubing transmission lines emerged from the back of the building connecting to a large antenna switching array. Any of the six transmitters could be connected to any of the 24 antennas from there. It had to be done manually. The structure of the antenna switch array is wood timber, to reduce RF coupling with the supports. This allows programming, which was broadcast in many languages, to be heard in many parts of the world. The antennas came down in 1997, but the switching array still exists behind the museum.

The West Chester Amateur Radio Association occupies space at the VOA Museum and operates a radio shack on site. The shack has 7 HF operating positions and a patch panel to allow selection of any of the several antennas, verticals, wire and yagis on towers. They have a symbiotic relationship with the museum. They get a home for their club and shack and they perform immeasurable work aiding the museum. They operate as WC8VOA and operate VHF and UHF repeaters as well. They rent tower space on Mack Rd. near Mercy Fairfield Hospital for their repeaters.

**Treasurer's Report**

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Checking Balance     | \$10,429.27  |
| Expended Mobilcomm             | 32.10        |
| Robert Shockler Business cards | 21.39        |
| VOA Museum tour                | 125.00       |
| Received Membership Dues       | <u>60.00</u> |
| Ending Checking Balance        | \$10,310.78  |

Respectfully, Richard K8HXR  
CFMC Treasurer

**On the air net.**

The Cincinnati FM Club bi-monthly net was held Wed 1 May 2019 at 2100 hrs. local time. There were 9 check-ins:

KD8JWN, WA8FOZ, KA8HXR, NG8P, W8LTT, KD8HXP, W3TFI, KC8LNO, W9OBQ.

Don Thie W8OBQ—net control

Our next net will be on 3 July 2019. Please join us.

Cincinnati FM Club

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2019

This meeting was held at the Voice of America Museum in West Chester Township. Many guests were present, and attendance sign-ins were apparent lost during the meeting! No official policy motions were proposed.

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Bob Shokler KD8JWN at 7:04 PM.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report as published in the SPARK were accepted.

No other committee reports or old business were presented.

Under new business, The Nomination Committee was announced: Bill Klykylo, WA8FOZ; Richard Turner, KA8HXR; and Ken Irwin, W8LTT.

Motion to Adjourn: Klykylo WA8FOZ/ Second – Fred Ruzick K8FR, passed at 7:10 PM.

Members and guests enjoyed a guided tour of the museum, WC8VOA, and the collections of historical artifacts, with full opportunities for individual exploration. CFMC thanks Ken Irwin W8LTT and the VOA Museum staff for this wonderful event!

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Klyklo WA8FOZ, Secretary

President Bob Shockler has acquired a supply of business cards for the club. The intention is that the distribution of cards may improve awareness for the club and hopefully increase membership.



A publication of . . .  
 The Cincinnati FM Club  
 1211 W. Sharon Rd.  
 Cincinnati, OH 45240

The SPARK is the official newsletter of the Cincinnati FM Club and is published bi-monthly in anticipation of the bi-monthly Club Meeting at its normal meeting place: Mobilcomm, 1211 Sharon Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45240-2998. The Editor is Ken Irwin, W8LTT. Articles, suggestions and digital photos may be submitted to Ken via email at W8LTT@arrl.net, or by USPS at 358 Oliver Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45215-2615.

The deadline for the next edition is Saturday, July 20 for material submitted for publication or copied from other sources. Articles may be edited for clarity and length.

Meeting schedule: Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 PM at MobileComm at 1211 Sharon Rd.. The on-the-air meeting on 146.28/146.88 is at 2100 hours July 3, 2019.

**BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Go to <http://cfms.us> for the latest news and the most recent edition of SPARK!

# The Cincinnati FM Club

Club Station Call: WB8CRS

Monthly Meeting: First Wednesday, Even Months, 7:30 PM

Cincinnati FM Club  
 1211 Sharon Rd  
 Cincinnati, OH 45240-2916

## CFMC Repeater System

|                | "88" System |             |             |             |                     |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Location       | GREENHILLS  | MT. REPOSE  | TAYLOR MILL | TAYLOR MILL | GREEN HILLS         |
| Frequency      | 146.88      | 146.28      | 146.28      | 147.03      | 443.40              |
| Offset         | -0.6        | R/O         | R/O         | +0.6        | +5.0                |
| Antenna Height | 735 ft.     | 255 ft.     | 405 ft.     | 405 ft.     | 735 ft.             |
| A.M.S.L.       | 1541 ft.    | 1130 ft.    | 1225 ft.    | 1225 ft.    | 1541 ft.            |
| H.A.A.T.       | 825 ft.     | 334 ft.     | 496 ft.     | 496 ft.     | 825 ft.             |
| Access Tone    | PL 123.0 Hz | PL 123.0 Hz | PL 123.0 Hz | PL 123.0 Hz | DMR<br>Color Code 1 |

EchoLink Node 809821



Please submit your dues NOW  
For your 2019 CFMC membership renewal!

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## CINCINNATI FM CLUB

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### 2019 Membership Renewal/Application

Please support the CFMC. Call Fred Ruzick, Membership Chair, with questions. Contact info below

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

CALL \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Renewal

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Repeater Code Request

(number and street) (city, state and zip)

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$0 if code request)

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*OTHER HAMS IN HOUSEHOLD (at same address)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

I will follow the "CFMC Repeater Operation Practices" document dated 3/24/2009. It is available on the internet at [http://cfmc.us/CFMC\\_Operating\\_Guide.pdf](http://cfmc.us/CFMC_Operating_Guide.pdf) or by mail. By signing this form, I agree to abide by these practices and understand that adherence to these practices is a condition of continued membership in the CFMC and use of its repeaters.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Fred Ruzick, K8FR**  
**c/o Cincinnati FM Club**  
**3257 Wheatcroft Dr**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45239-6130**  
**(513-741-8873 email k8fr@arrl.net)**



**RENEWALS: \$20** **Memberships lapse after January 1st. SPARK mailings continue through June**

NEW MEMBERS: \$10 Initiation + \$10 Dues = \$20 Total

(Please make check payable to **Cincinnati FM Club**)

## WB8CRS

146.28/.88 147.63/03 448.40/443.40 (DMR)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — CINCINNATI FM CLUB 2018-19

|                               |                |        |          |  |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------|----------|--|
| <b>President:</b>             | Bob Shokler    | KD8JWN | 931-2292 | <a href="mailto:rshokler@cinci.rr.com">rshokler@cinci.rr.com</a> |
| <b>Vice-President:</b>        | Vacant         |        |          |  |
| <b>Secretary:</b>             | Bill Klykylo   | WA8FOZ | 522-0593 | <a href="mailto:klykylo1@cs.com">klykylo1@cs.com</a>             |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>             | Richard Turner | KA8HXR | 221-5707 | <a href="mailto:rt_turner@hotmail.com">rt_turner@hotmail.com</a> |
| <b>Director: 2017-19:</b>     | Jim Bunning    | KD8HXP | 769-0140 | <a href="mailto:jabunning@fuse.net">jabunning@fuse.net</a>       |
| <b>Director: 2018-20:</b>     | Kitty Hevener  | W8TDA  | 471-8866 | <a href="mailto:W8TDA@arrl.net">W8TDA@arrl.net</a>               |
| <b>Director thru 6-30-19:</b> | Bill Klykylo   | WA8FOZ | 522-0593 | <a href="mailto:klykylo1@cs.com">klykylo1@cs.com</a>             |
| <b>Station Trustee:</b>       | Bob Conrad     | W8SCK  | 756-9425 | <a href="mailto:bob@heavenwire.net">bob@heavenwire.net</a>       |
| <b>Operations</b>             | Jim Benson     | W8OUU  | 825-1254 | <a href="mailto:W8OUU@hotmail.com">W8OUU@hotmail.com</a>         |
| <b>Webmaster</b>              | Richard Kuns   | KC8TW  | 907-5848 | <a href="mailto:rkuns@one.net">rkuns@one.net</a>                 |
| <b>Membership</b>             | Fred Ruzick    | K8FR   | 543-4536 | <a href="mailto:K8FR@arrl.net">K8FR@arrl.net</a>                 |
| <b>Editor SPARK:</b>          | Ken Irwin      | W8LTT  | 608-1898 | <a href="mailto:W8LTT@arrl.net">W8LTT@arrl.net</a>               |

### Nominations Committee Report

The 2019 Nominations Committee consisted of Bill Klykylo, WA8FOZ, Richard Turner, KA8HXR, and Ken Irwin, W8LTT. Here are nominations for CFMC positions for 2019-2020. These will be presented at the June 5, 2019 meeting. Other nominations are welcome.

President: Bob Shokler KD8JWN 931-2292 [rshokler@cinci.rr.com](mailto:rshokler@cinci.rr.com) RENOMINATE

Vice-President: T.R. Stoner, WR4T

Secretary: Bill Klykylo WA8FOZ 522-0593 [klykylo1@cs.com](mailto:klykylo1@cs.com) RENOMINATE

Treasurer: Richard Turner KA8HXR 221-5707 [rt\\_turner@hotmail.com](mailto:rt_turner@hotmail.com) RENOMINATE

Directors have usually had three-year terms. We got off the track. So here's what we suggest:

(Director: 2017-19) Jim Bunning KD8HXP 769-0140 [jabunning@fuse.net](mailto:jabunning@fuse.net) RENOMINATE

for term 2019-2022

Director: 2018-20: Kitty Hevener W8TDA 471-8866 [W8TDA@arrl.net](mailto:W8TDA@arrl.net) (Continues)

(Director thru 6-30-19) Bill Klykylo WA8FOZ 522-0593 [klykylo1@cs.com](mailto:klykylo1@cs.com) RENOMINATE

for term 2019-2021.

This way, we have one director's term expiring each year.

These folks stay as they are:

Station Trustee: Bob Conrad W8SCK 756-9425 [bob@heavenwire.net](mailto:bob@heavenwire.net)

Operations Jim Benson W8OUU 825-1254 [W8OUU@hotmail.com](mailto:W8OUU@hotmail.com)

Webmaster Richard Kuns KC8TW 907-5848 [rkuns@one.net](mailto:rkuns@one.net)

Membership Fred Ruzick K8FR 543-4536 [K8FR@arrl.net](mailto:K8FR@arrl.net)

Editor SPARK: Ken Irwin W8LTT 608-1898 [W8LTT@arrl.net](mailto:W8LTT@arrl.net)

## Dayton Hamvention Reminiscences

I attended Hamvention on Friday and Saturday this year. I had a great time, as I always expect to. My first Hamvention was in 1974, when I was a student in Michigan and drove down. It was a stunning experience! I had been a ham for 12 years by then, but had never realized how much it meant to me until I was among 12,000 people like myself! I realized then that ham radio was not only something that I do, but something that I am. I had never seen that much stuff in one place either, everything from the latest Drake gear to early 20th century artifacts and a huge amount of war surplus. I was also able to see and hear people whom I had only read about in the past, including Barry Goldwater K7UGA, who spoke at the banquet. I felt genuinely sad when it was over and time to go home, but I felt confident that it would happen again. And it certainly has.

Hamvention has evolved from a small event at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton in the 1950s to the years at Hara Arena to the nice venue at the Greene County Fairgrounds. The first Hamvention attracted a few hundred people; last year it drew 30,000. At this writing the 2019 attendance has not yet been announced, but the place looked as busy as ever.

I have attended every Hamvention since that time with the exception of 2005, when my son graduated in another state. The temerity of them to schedule graduation the week of Hamvention! There have been times when I was on a mission in the huge flea market, and other times when the rain kept me inside but the forums were more than rewarding. Always old friends to meet, and new equipment to marvel at.

I was there for the great sewage rupture (ask me about it) at the (by then doomed) Hara Arena. After that it was more than time for Hamvention to move. The community wondered how in the world an event of this nature, that had become so intertwined with its venue, could be taken elsewhere. But DARA, The Dayton Amateur Radio Association who sponsor Hamvention, came through in a big way.

The move to Xenia in 2017 has proven to be yet another step forward. During that first year in Xenia there were admittedly big mud problems, as well as traffic difficulties. Since that time things have been much better. The mud problem has been pretty much resolved by the semi permanent paving with asphalt tailings in the race grounds, and traffic management is now superb. As always DARA does a great job, and once again I had a great time.

Bill Klykylo, WA8FOZ

