



# The QUARAE



Volume 20 Issue 9

Editor John Lindvay WB3IFD

September 2019

## It Seems to Me

I went to the DX Engineering hamfest with Fred N2LXD, Larry KC3JBR, and Joe KA3CVP. It is quite a long ride to Ravenna. Joe and I went to breakfast at Ihop (open 24 hours) on upper Peach where we were to meet Fred and Larry. For some reason we left way too early and ended up sitting in Joe's car for a hour or so.

The hanfest was well attended by hams from all over Ohio, and southwestern Pennsylvania. It was the about the same size as the Cleveland hamfest but spread out more over a large area. They used the parking lots for the flea market. One whole parking lot was used for commercial dealers. The rest of the parking lots were hams with just regular stuff, they didn't need or wanted to get rid of. I didn't see anyone else from Erie. There was one ham from New York. Since Fred was selling stuff, I spent most of my time at his table. I am not able to walk long distances. I didn't go into the building when DX Engineering was selling items and I never did find out where you signed up for the drawing. There was a food truck available at reasonable prices but there was no place to sit, except one small picnic table.

I would rate the hamfest better than Cleveland but smaller than Breezeshooters. I hope they continue the hamfest for next year. "It was certainly better than last year." Larry said.

## DXpedition to use FT8 robot?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It's inevitable. At some point, machines are going to render humans irrelevant. It's been a recurring

theme in science fiction since before I was born (1955), and there are numerous predictions of the Singularity, the point in time when machines will be smarter than human, occurring between 2030 and 2045. It may happen in amateur radio sooner than we think. A couple of days ago, one of my readers, sent me a link to a blog post by John, AE5X: [Automated FT8 "FoxBot" in upcoming DXpedition – confirmed](#). He wrote: "A DXpedition to Tokelau will take place from 1 to 11 October and it will be your chance to work an FT8 robot operating in Fox/Hound mode. "Stathis SV5DKL has been working on a "FoxBot" for some time now, is listed as a partner to this DXpedition and has confirmed that the DXpedition will be using his FoxBot." John has since updated this post, noting "The SV5DKL logo has now been removed and the DX team will be in 'full compliance' with the mode." Full compliance meaning following the rules set up by the ARRL DXCC rules. The ARRL is, of course, against the use of robots. A recent ARRL Letter noted: "ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts and requiring that an actual operator is initiating and carrying out a contact. These changes also apply to Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), Fred Fish W5FF Memorial, and VUCC awards. The changes are effective immediately and affect the rules for both HF contests, and VHF/UHF contests as well as DXCC. "A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to 'growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed' for contest and for DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may either be local or remote." As AE5X says, however,

the use of FT8 robots in the future is a certainty. Sooner or later, some DXpedition is going to use an FT8 robot without saying anything about it. How is the ARRL going to know that a DXpedition is using robots if the DXpedition operators don't tell them? I'm wondering when some DXpedition is going to give up on SSB and CW altogether. Why bother with those modes when you can make hundreds or thousands more contacts by just operating FT8? Another thought just occurred to me. If the ARRL gets its way and Techs are awarded HF digital privileges, how long will it take for some enterprising Tech to make the DXCC Honor Roll using FT8 exclusively. Oh, the horror of it all!

===== Dan  
Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not wondering when robots are going to take over the world, he likes to (manually) operate CW on the HF bands.

## General Meeting August Minutes

Began At: 7:00 P.M.

Board Members and Officers Present: Ad4ul-Doug, Kb3zvh-Richard, Kc3gbd-Bob, K1zik-Ed

Members Present: Ka3cpv-Joe, Wb3ifd-John, Kd3d-Frank, Kb3jzl-Gene, N3lpo-Sue, Wb3dom-Ron, K3plv-Craig

Program: None

New Hams: None

Silent Keys: None

Visitors: None

Treasurer's Report: None

Membership Report: None

Facilities Report: Flashing work on roof is done. Ramp needs to be coated with a Preservative before winter.

Repeater Report: To fix the W3gv-.82 it will cost \$508.00, Rick Cutter will then maintain the repeater.

Public Service: PI Triathlon will be 8-10-2019

Contesting Report: lighthouse weekend 08-17-2019 till 08-18-2019, Maxim 150 contest 08-01-2019 till 08-08-2019

Old Business: None

New Business: Mobile Com to Fix W3GV-.82 Repeater

Meeting End At: 7:38 P.M.

## Ham Radio Calendar

August 31 – thru September 8 – W1AW HPM Celebration. See September 2019 QST page 86.

September 1 - Tennessee QSO Party. See [tnqp.org/rules](http://tnqp.org/rules)

September 2 – Birthday of Hiram Percy Maxim. First president and cofounder of ARRL. Born in 1869

September 2 – Labor Day

September 3 – Corry Wireless Club meeting

September 5 – RAE Club meeting

September 7 - Nebraska QSO Party. See [qcwa.org/2019-ne-qso-party-rules.pdf](http://qcwa.org/2019-ne-qso-party-rules.pdf)

September 7 - Ohio State Parks on the Air. See [ospota.org](http://ospota.org)

September 8 - Findlay Hamfest. See <http://www.findlayradioclub.org>

September 8 – Butler Swapfest. See <http://w3udx.org>

September 8 - North American CW Sprint. See [ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)

September 12 – Union City Wireless Association Meeting

September 14 - **Lancaster Hamfest** Lancaster Amateur Radio Club in NY

September 14 - Texas QSO Party. See [www.txqp.net](http://www.txqp.net)

September 14 - Alabama QSO Party. See [www.alabamaqsoparty.org](http://www.alabamaqsoparty.org)

September 14 - ARRL September VHF Contest. See [www.arrl.org/september-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf)

September 15 - North American Sprint. See [ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)

September 21 - Iowa QSO Party. [www.w0yl.com/IAQP](http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP)

September 21 - New Jersey QSO Party. See [www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp](http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp)

September 21 - New Hampshire QSO Party. See [www.w1wqm.org/nhqso](http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso)

September 21 - Washington State Salmon Run. See [www.wwdx.org/salmonrun](http://www.wwdx.org/salmonrun)

September 21 – VE session at Greene Township Bldg on Tate Road

September 22 - **Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show**. See <http://www.hac.org>

September 22 - Birthday of Michael Faraday, English scientist who made the great discovery of generation of electricity by means of magnetism.

September 28 - Maine QSO Party [ws1sm.com/MEQP.html](http://ws1sm.com/MEQP.html)

September 28 - Worldwide DX Contest. See, [www.cqwwrtty.com](http://www.cqwwrtty.com)

September 28 - WWV Centennial WW0WWV, Fort Collins, CO. See also on Facebook (WWV100) and Twitter (@WWV\_100) WWV100.com

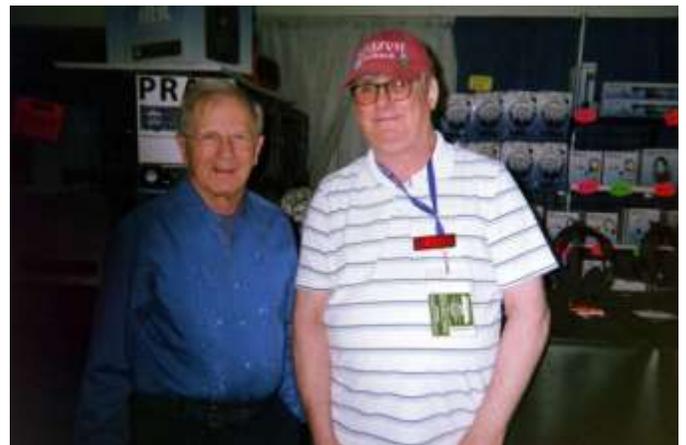
## Pictures from Dayton



Richard and Tamantha Cove, Space Weatherwoman



Richard and Commander Wheelock of the International space station



Richard and Bob Heil



Richard and Gordon West



Richard and Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, Ham Nation