



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for September 2016



Dayton Hamvention moving to Fairgrounds in Xenia

From ARRL HQ August 1, 2016

Hara Arena announced the last week in July that it would be closing, and Hamvention indicated that it soon would be announcing its back-up plan for a new venue in the Dayton area.

“We have spent many hours over the last few years evaluating possible locations and have found one in the area we believe will be a great new home!” Hamvention said on July 29. “We all believe this new venue will be a spectacular place to hold our beloved event,” Cramer said. “Please rest assured we will have the event on the same weekend and, since it will be in the region, the current accommodations and outside events already planned for Hamvention 2017 should not be affected.”



Hamvention chief spokesman and board member Mike Kalter, W8CI, told ARRL that announcement

of the new venue came a bit sooner than he’d anticipated last week.

“The key thing is that we plan to have a 5-star event,” he said of Hamvention 2017. “We’ll put a lot of time and energy into it.”

The move to Xenia could prove to be a huge financial bonanza for the city and Greene County. Hamvention typically has meant millions of dollars to the Dayton/Montgomery County area, and some of that benefit could migrate eastward down US 35. Kalter conceded that the new venue in Greene County is a slightly longer drive from Dayton City Center than it was to Hara Arena, but he believes it will be worth the trip.

“Montgomery County didn’t have anything for us,” he said. “We looked exhaustively. We’ve known this is what we’d do for about a month — if Hara Arena would no longer be available.”

And the flea market at the new site? “Our plan is to have a much better flea market,” Kalter said. “We have two or three different options, but we think people are really going to like it.”

He said the entire fairgrounds facility was rebuilt several years ago after it was destroyed by a tornado, so the buildings are newer than Hara, which was built in the 1950s. He said there will be opportunities to bring in campers — with 30 A service, water, and sewer available.

Kalter believes the change in venue in and of itself will be a big incentive for a lot of people who may be just thinking about attending Hamvention 2017 right now. “We expect next year to be a *big* year,” he said. “We expect a lot of people to come to see what it’s like.”





Good news DIGI-HEADS, the long awaited Tri-Band multi-digital mode + FM mobile transceiver is almost here.

By J. Bruce Randall,W1ZE

That's right, the folks at Wireless Holdings LLC, a US company is making the DV4mobile transceiver and it is due to be released this fall to the US market. No more need to buy a D-Star transceiver, a C4FM Fuseon capable transceiver and/or a DMR transceiver. With the DV4mobile all modes are supported: C4FM, D-Star, DMRplus, dPMR, P25 (NXDN later via software update) Voice over LTE a 4G mobile communications standard and of course, FM!

Here is what the manufacturer says about the DV4mobile transceiver:

DV4mobile - first all mode digital tri band transceiver plus LTE with GPS

- The DV4mobile supports all digital modes: no need for multiple radios, saving space and money.
- It is programmed from the cloud: no need for programming and updating code plugs.
- It is a software defined radio: future modes are just an update away.

The DV4mobile is another member of the successful family of DV4 products.

It operates in the 2 meter band, at 222 MHz and the 70cm band.

All modes are supported: C4FM, D-Star, DMRplus, dPMR, P25 (NXDN later via software update) Voice over LTE and of course, FM!

C4FM both narrow and wide band modes

D-Star (DCS,CCS,REF,XRF,XLX)

DMRplus (TS1 all / TS2 Reflectors or talkgroups)

dPMR(All Systems and codecs transparent mode)

P25(Phase 1 Only and all NAC transparent mode)

FM with PL and DCS tones and RDS for call sign transmission in the background

DV4LTE is a new voice over LTE mode that connects the radio to the reflector using an LTE connection.

The LTE modem connects to the CCS7 reflector system supplying code-plugs in the cloud, there is no need to program code-plugs any more. Any changes in the network, be it on the reflector, repeater or user side are instantly updated. Private settings such as local channels can be maintained on the web.

After a reset or with a new radio all settings are downloaded after entry of the CCS7 number.

When no repeaters are in range, the radio can revert to LTE (DV4LTE) for reflector connection (i.e. between metropolitan areas)

The GPS module provides location data for APRS and automatic display of repeaters in range. When a repeater is selected, frequency and mode is already in the radio, no programming!

Simplex repeater mode

The DV4mobile can also be used as a dual band, dual mode simplex repeater.

For example you can use it as a D-Star repeater on 2m and simultaneously as a DMR repeater on 70cm while conducting FM QSO on 222 MHz (USA version only)

The extreme temperature range from -40C to +85C ensures functionality even under the most extreme conditions.

Specifications:

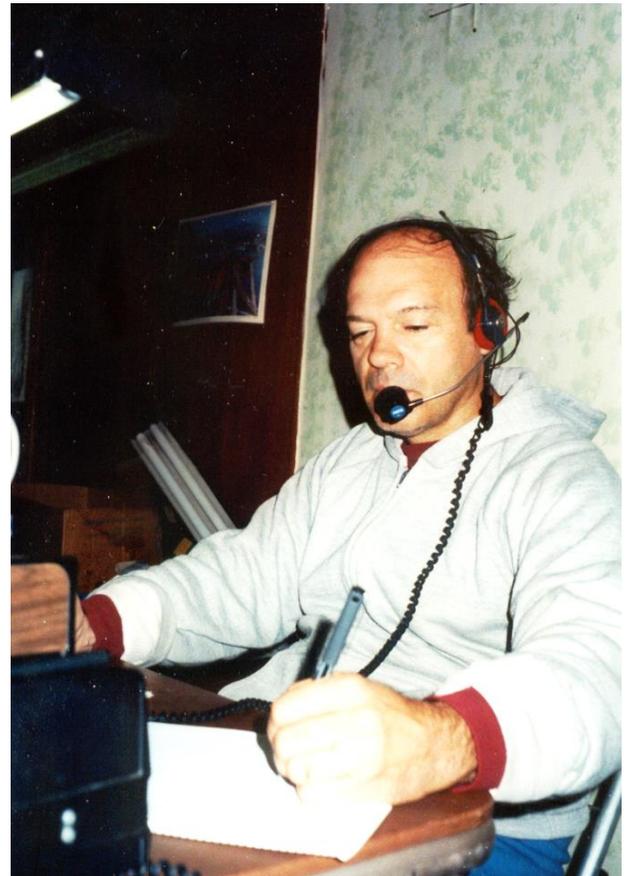
Frequency range (USA)	144-148 MHz, 222-225 MHz, 420-450 MHz
Output power	2 x 20W simultaneously
Modes	FM, D-Star, C4FM, DMR+, dPMR, P25*, NXDN*, DV4LTE
Microphone	DTMF, Electret with modular connector
Antenna	N
Speaker	3.5 mm, stereo 2 x 4W at 8 Ohms
Connectors via adapter cable and 2 x 12 pin connectors:	
Ethernet	RJ-45 via adapter 10/100 MBit/s
serial	USB
External Monitor	HDMI
Internal display	240 x 320 pixel, 262k color
Power	10.5-15V, 5A
GPS	Antenna combined into main antenna

I am awaiting the first reviews and finding out how many greenbacks this little puppy is going to cost me. If I went out and purchased three individual transceivers to cover all the now popular digital VHF/UHF modes I would have to plunk down over a grand. So if this transceiver is the cat's meow, I will want one.

73. W1ZE



K1TOL to do his Magic Band presentation at the September meeting



Lefty, K1TOL working a six meter during a VHF contest

Paul 'Lefty' Clement, K1TOL in Turner, is the six meter big gun in Maine and he has consented to do his very informative Magic Band presentation at the September 29th MARA meeting held in the American Red Cross building in Topsham.

When it comes to 'all things six meters' Lefty is the Wikipedia source. He has spent most of his Ham Radio adult life listening and operating between 50.0 and 50.4 MHz. So come early, get a good seat and be prepared to be informed on the fun that can be had on SIX METERS.





Broadcast Stations below 550 KHz

By J. Bruce Randall, W1ZE

Back one evening in early August I was bored with TV after several hours of watching the Olympics, so I came into ham shack and started looking around the bands.

The HF bands were not great and the summer noise level on 20 meters was approaching S-9, however I still managed to work an Olympic Special Event Station PX2016RIO and got the standard 599report. Not much else in the way of DX could be heard.

Not wanting to go back to watching TV I switched my old IC-746PRO to the 160 meter band and as expected the band noise was well over S9. Since I was on my 160M extended inverted "L" antenna I started tuning down below 1700 KHz to see what I could hear. Lots of broadcast stations east of the Mississippi river could be heard in the old AM band. The 170-foot long Inverted-L seems to hear pretty well down there. As I approached 550 KHz I remembered that there is such a thing as 'longwave broadcast stations' between 150 and 280 KHz but not in North America. What the heck, I decided to go lower in frequency.

Below 500 KHz there were a lot of location beacons and other burps and squeaks all the way down to and below 300KHz. I stayed in the AM mode and continued down in frequency, then low and behold I heard music coming out of the speaker at 252 KHz.

The station was not strong, about S1 to S2 with the accompanying snap crackle and pop. When the music stopped I heard a woman's voice speaking in French. I did an Internet search to see if I could figure out where it was coming from. There was a listing for a station on 252 KHz in Ireland but normally my kinfolks there don't speak French, they reluctantly speak English. About this time the longwave station started playing music again but with a distinctive Arabic flavor. I did come across another website that listed longwave broadcast stations and again there was that station in Ireland on 252 KHz plus a station in Tunisia. That would explain the Arabic style music but not the French language. Then a few more gray cells in my old brain kicked in and I remember that a lot of folks in north Africa speak French.

Well that may explain what I was hearing, a broadcast station at 252 KHz across the Atlantic and into North Africa was a bit exciting. The next evening at 02:00z I could copy a station on 183 KHz from Fersberg-Berus, Germany. Even though I have been playing and listening to radios since the 1950s it still gave be a bit of a thrill to hear DX in the longwave bands. I was also impressed with the receiver performance of my Icom IC-746PRO and old IC-736 at those frequencies without a LF pre-amp to aid reception.

If you have a newer transceiver or communications receiver that tunes down to and below 150 KHz, on some cold winter evening, take a listen to see if you too can copy some of those longwave broadcast stations in Europe and north Africa.

For additional information on Longwave broadcast stations check out:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longwave>

73, Bruce/W1ZE



Do you really know who W1AW was?



Hiram Percy Maxim

September 2, 1869 – February 17, 1936

As most Ham Radio operators know, Hiram was an American radio pioneer and co-founder of the [American Radio Relay League](http://www.arrl.org) (ARRL). However that was not all he was famous for. He was also an inventor, and very successful businessman.

For more information about W1AW and his accomplishments check out the following links:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hiram-Percy-Maxim>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiram_Percy_Maxim

In the February 23 issue of the New York Times the following article header appeared:



A CHAMPION PASSES; Hiram Percy Maxim, Wireless Amateur No. 1, Defended Rights of Youth

RADIO. amateurs, numbering! more than 45,000 in the United States, are mourning the loss of a friend and faithful ally in the passing of Hiram Percy Maxim of Hartford, Conn. As an ardent wireless amateur Mr. Maxim is remembered by veteran experimenters of pre-war days by the musical tone of his quench spark gap which spelled out the call letters of his pioneer station.

One hundred years later we Hams owe a lot to brother Hiram for insuring that our great technical hobby has and will be long lasting.

