

Ham Chatter

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Our 16th Year



(Photo by AI4J)

A WIDE VIEW — Hamvention goers looks over the many wares at the Dayton, Ohio hamfest.

Dayton: The World's Fair Of Hamventions

By Gary Ambert/AI4J

The American Heritage Dictionary defines "serendipity" as "the faculty of making fortunate and unexpected discoveries by accident." It may have been serendipity (or the recent alignment of the planets) that got me to the 1982 Dayton Hamvention. An old friend, Father Bill Fell, CE2AZ, was visiting the U.S. and found himself stuck in a snowstorm in Boston. Looking through his address book, he saw my name and phone number and, on an impulse, called and suggested that we both go to Dayton.



This was my first time at the Hamvention, so I can't compare it to previous years, but I can give you these impressions. Big. So big that after two full days of walking around for 6-8 hours per day I was still discovering exhibits that I hadn't seen before. Most of the exhibits were designed by professionals, well thought-out and attractive. Kenwood and ICOM probably had the most floor space and most attractive displays. Each of those manufacturers had engineers on hand from Japan to answer questions. American manufacturers put up a good fight, however; all major brands of amateur gear and accessories were shown by factory representatives. This was, perhaps, one of the nice things about the Dayton Hamvention: if you had any question at all about your commercial amateur equipment you could get an authoritative answer and get it quickly. Dention made an especially good showing with their fine display. Drake came all the way from

(Please turn to Page 2)

Ambert

Miamisburg, Ohio (30 miles!) to show their complete line of equipment (including the new lower-cost TR-5 series).

The flea market was truly enormous (I never got to see it all). The weather was just right for outdoor shopping — warm and sunny — and about half of those in attendance were doing just that. I saw more good used gear, especially test and service gear, for sale than I ever had before. Power supplies, signal generators, deviation meters, audio generators, etc. were piled up in long rows over many acres of paved parking areas. It seemed to me that if you couldn't find what you were looking for at that flea market, then it simply hadn't been manufactured. I saw one collector with hundreds of manuals, neatly arranged in cardboard filing boxes. Towards one side of the flea market was a ham "super market" — a circus-style tent with shopping carts and rows of capacitors, connectors, fans, tubes, transistors, mounting hardware, coils, diodes, etc., etc. At the exit they had a girl at a cash register to ring up your total.

Another special feature of this hamfest was the sense of "internationality." Hams were there from all over the world, and wherever you looked you saw call sign badges with foreign calls. Buy a sandwich and you would likely be on line between two hams from different parts of the world. This international atmosphere could be felt throughout the entire convention center and back to the hotels and motels. That's something you don't experience at a small hamfest.

If you go to the Hamvention someday, don't miss the Grand Banquet. This large gathering has a special appeal in that it serves as a focal point for the spirit of amateur radio at the hamfest. It is at that banquet that the Special Achievement Award and the Amateur of the Year Award are presented (won this year by KØHR and K9EID). The banquet gives you a chance to hear about the future of amateur radio, and hear it from people who are in a position to know what is happening both technologically and politically. In a certain way it is a nice change from the commercialism of the large exhibit halls.

The Hamvention at Dayton was a unique experience for me. It was a well organized and massive gathering of hams (28,600) from all over the world, and chance to see the smallest new transistor receivers and antique radios at the same time, a chance to revitalize my interest in amateur radio and renew an old friendship. Hard to believe that if it hadn't snowed in Boston a ham in North Carolina wouldn't have gone to a beautiful hamfest in Ohio. Serendipity!

•Looks like summer is slowly coming upon us as there is more and more talk about antenna installations. There have already been few jobs. Murray/WA4DAN, has a new 10 & 15 meter dual bander atop his 205BA 20 meter monobander. That eliminated the interaction he was seeing with the tri-bander in place, and now he is free to blast away full bore on 20. In case you haven't been listening on 146.58 simplex, there have been a lot of "horse races" on 20 as a result of that installation. To bad money isn't involved.

•Jack Edwards/W4DXJ and Rachel just returned from a Caribbean/South America Love Boat cruise. Sounds like fun. One of these things we talk about from time to time but never seem to save enough money for.

•The Raleigh Hamfest is history for another year. This was the same as the "Circus": "Biggest and Best Ever". More good Pitt County money was spent, but not as much as at Charlotte. Just a couple of IC25A's and maybe a couple of other items like one more IC2A.

•We now have 54 paid members, about 30 short of last year.

•Welcome to new members Gerald Clayton/K4IDD, Greenville; William Coleman, Jr./KA4DAP, Rocky Mount; Allen Meritt, Grimesland, who is waiting to be licensed; and Steve Rawls/KA4KNU, of Williamston.

•UPGRADES: Many Hare/KA4UUW, from novice to general; Charles Cartwright/N4EMB, upgraded to extra; and Tommy Forrest/KA4DDH, from novice to technician.

•Bob Knapp/W4OMW, Manly Hare/KA4UUW, and Charles Cartwright/N4EMB are working on the club SB101 Xevr. preparing for feild day.

Club Stuff



HAMFEST ANTENNA — Jim Aderholt/WA4EXW sports his latest antenna design for hamfest. The "array" was designed by Gary Ambert.

Field Day

Spring is surely flying by. In less than two months, field day will be only a memory. June 26 is almost upon us.

So far, we have an HW-101 and a TS-520 ready to go. Danny/K4WKZ, has promised us some ultra-pure 60-cycle power, and Bernie/WA4MOK, as usual will get us the antennas needed for a respectable showing. Bob/W4OMW, and Tommy/KA4DDH are arranging TV and press

Silent Key

Williamston — John Lilley/WA4TKJ died in Williamston April 22. John was very instrumental in obtaining the Williamston repeater, and was owner and operator of New East Electronics.

publicity, and Murray/WA4DAN is already working on the rules.

There are still holes to fill though. We still need a volunteer to scare up some tents, and more importantly we still need a volunteer to coordinate a pot luck feed or some such grub-fest. Also, our novices have been particularly reticent about setting up their own novice rig — those novice rigs can bring in a lot of "free" points fellas. So if any of you guys can help in any of these areas, the whole club will be grateful.

Field day will be a topic at our May 11 meeting. Be there and help us out with our experiences. We need some good ideas to help make this our best field day yet. KA4TAU

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ANTENNA ART? . . . Burnie Nobles and Donnie Hudson make final adjustments to a double stacked "Boomer Jr." array on Donnie's tower recently. The results of the system were not

available at presstime. The job took the two "monkeys" about 1½ hours to complete with the help of Murray Adams and Tommy Forrest.

FOR SALE

•MFJ-901 Antenna tuner. Will carry 200 watt output included 1:4 balun. Like New, \$35. Call Joe/KA4TAU, 756-5862

•HEATH IG-5280 RF oscillator signal generator. Five bands, 310 KHz. to 220 MHz. plus 1 KHz. audio output. Call Joe/KA4TAU

•VARIOUS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS for sale, operating desk, Bearcat Pocket scanner, Radio Shack receivers, 40 channel CB's(2) Tube type Heath long range AM tuner, Radio Shack VOM, will sell complete package for \$325, call Gary Bacon, home, 752-6722 or work, 752-7046

•HEATH H8 Computer; 16K RAM; H9 CRT; tape drive; basic and other software books, tapes, \$400. Call Joe/KA4TAU



The Chatter Box To Smoke Or Not To Smoke

Several BARC members have spoken to the editors about the unpleasant conditions during club meetings caused by tobacco smoke. We are not in the business of judging the merits of smoking, but our club meeting rooms are usually full and poorly ventilated. If you smoke, you could make things better for the majority who do not by waiting until the meeting and program are finished. Thanks.

MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held May 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Planter's Bank building at the corner of Washington and Third Street. Gary Ambert will speak on the Dayton Hamvention.

Virginia Clubs Tour Greenville VOA Sites

Eighteen members and friends from three radio clubs in Virginia, the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society, Richmond Amateur Radio Club and Virginia Amateur Radio Club visited the Voice of America April 17. BARC sponsored the affair and Bob Knapp/W4OMW was tour guide.

Joe O'Connor/N4BLV, a Greenville member and now living in Richmond, lead the Richmond group. The receiving site "C" was visited that morning and during the afternoon the group went to the transmitting site "A". A visit was also made to the BARC club room where the 147.96/36 repeater is housed.

