



XWARN trailer at the Xenia Township Fire Department Open House. The trailer has several radios and workstations that support Xenia Police and Fire. XWARN recently replaced the steps as well as purchased a club-owned receiver that will stay with the trailer so that anyone with an appropriate tow vehicle can tow it. Just make sure to bring a big truck. The trailer is supposedly around 10,000lbs and nose heavy.

# Wavelengths

## Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net

April 2021

### XWARN (W8XRN)

147.1650+ (123.0) (Analog Only)

443.1000+ (123.0) (Analog + System Fusion)

## President's Message

Happy Spring XWARN!

With Spring comes that dangerous Spring weather. I hope you all were able to attend a SKYWARN weather spotting session. Take some time to review your plan for your household. Do you have a meeting spot? Do you have emergency supplies ready? Keep your batteries charged up in your HTs. Take care and until next time...

73,

Elizabeth KE8FMJ

## 4-H Club Update

Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer informed XWARN members at the latest meeting that the 4-H club is soon to be up and running. He picked up the key equipment on April 13 (the day after the April meeting) and as soon as he gets clearance to use it, the 4-H club should be able to hold meetings. In addition, the XWARN meeting for May will be in the Buckeye Room in the 4-H Extension Office. The radios include an Icom IC-7300 and a Yaesu FT-991A, and a Yagi antenna has been installed and donated. Don't forget to tell any young people you know! You can register online on the Ohio 4-H website, and anyone who is interested is encouraged to!

## Club Contacts

- Liz Klinc, KE8FMJ  
[President@xwarn.net](mailto:President@xwarn.net)
- Vice President, Bob Baker, N8ADO  
[Vicepresident@xwarn.net](mailto:Vicepresident@xwarn.net)
- Secretary, Danielle Edgington  
[secretary@xwarn.net](mailto:secretary@xwarn.net)
- Treasurer, Steve Mackey, N8ILR  
[Treasurer@xwarn.net](mailto:Treasurer@xwarn.net)
- Repeater Guru, Jim Simpson, KF8J  
[Technical@xwarn.net](mailto:Technical@xwarn.net)
- Web Master Travis Lansing, KE8LTL  
[webpresence@xwarn.net](mailto:webpresence@xwarn.net)
- Membership, Jim Beller, KC8OKU  
[membership@xwarn.net](mailto:membership@xwarn.net)
- XWARN Trailer / Public Service, Mike Crawford, KC8GLE  
[trailer@xwarn.net](mailto:trailer@xwarn.net) or  
[publicservice@xwarn.net](mailto:publicservice@xwarn.net)
- Newsletter, Open Position, please contact Secretary if interested (newsletter email currently directs to Secretary  
[newsletter@xwarn.net](mailto:newsletter@xwarn.net)



## Public Service Events

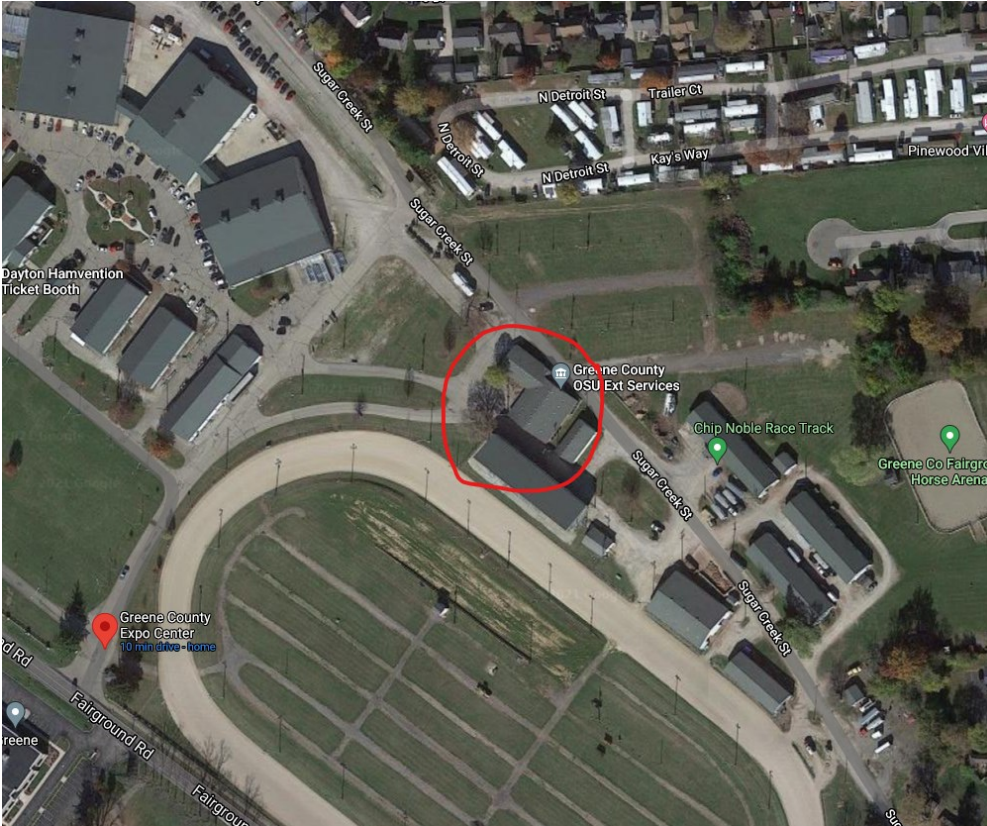
Montgomery County Vaccine Distribution: Ham radio operators are needed to help with controlling the amount of traffic at vaccine distribution in Montgomery County. If you are able to help with this, please contact [n8ado@arrl.net](mailto:n8ado@arrl.net).

Bob Baker, N8ADO

## May XWARN Meeting Location

The XWARN Meeting for May will be held in the Buckeye Room in the 4-H Extension Office at the Fairgrounds. If you are not familiar with the building, just look for the antenna! It is behind the grandstand. If you pull into the Fairgrounds at the entrance right past the horse racing track, keep going forward past where the previous meetings were and take a right. Hope to see you there!

## Fairgrounds Image



The circled building is the Extension Office, where the meeting will take place. The red location marker near Fairground Rd is where you need to turn in. If you are familiar with 4-H judging, you will know this building.

## XWARN Mission

The mission of the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net (XWARN) amateur radio club is to conduct weather spotting nets during severe weather and other communication services for the City Of Xenia and all other Greene County communities.

In this capacity, we are set up to provide communication services as required to the Greene County Ohio Public Service Agencies and other local government entities. The communications services provided to the supported agencies may be for emergency purposes or to simply enhance their communications abilities. On an as needed basis XWARN provides similar services to various government entities of our surrounding counties.

Additionally, XWARN provides communications support to various community organizations in support of marathons, 5K runs, 10K runs, bicycle events, etc. to provide health and safety assistance to the participants and sponsors of said events.

In support of these goals, XWARN operates and maintains amateur radio repeaters and other equipment in Greene County.



## Minutes: October 14, 2019



Meeting was opened by Liz at 7:34 p.m. ET.

### Cracker Barrel

Nothing to report.

*September Minutes:* Motion to approve by Jim Beller, seconded by Bret Boggs. Motion passes unanimously.

*Treasurer's Report.* We have money. If you would like to exam the Treasurer's Report, please contact the Treasurer or Secretary. The Treasurer, Steve Mackey, could not attend the meeting as he was

attending a celebration for his birthday. Happy Birthday, Steve! Don Stark, Jim Simpson motion. Motion passes unanimously.

*Public Service.* August 21 and 22: horse endurance ride is looking for someone to coordinate, please contact Bob Baker N8ADO if you are interested.

Public service is still limited, as with COVID many groups have canceled events.

### Committee Reports

*Membership.* Paid as of meeting: 46 total. Down from last year, which was in upper 70s.

*Secretary's Report.* As usual, Newsletter is being done by Secretary. The position is still open if anyone is interested, but doing the newsletter is no big deal to me. If you have content you are interested in adding to the newsletter, please reach out to me. Don't be shy, I am always looking for new content for the newsletter!

*Trailer.* Mike Crawford, Trailer committee chair, was absent.

*Repeater.* Bret Boggs gave a detailed report on the repeater and took questions afterward. The option of adding new features to the repeater is available.

*Website.* Nothing to report.

*Facebook.* Liz is trying to put updates on Facebook. As always, please shoot her an email if you want any content added.

*Newsletter.* See Facebook.

### Old Business

See front page for 4-H club update.

Statewide tornado drill was on March 24. XWARN had the most check-ins of any county in the state, with a total of 33.

April 18 was National Ham Radio Day.

April 24 was NVIS Day. Bob N8ADO had a setup at his house which was open to anyone who wanted to participate.

### New Business

#### Presentation

Bob Baker N8ADO gave a presentation and gave out flyers about NVIS in honor of NVIS Day. He explained the purpose of NVIS and how it works, and invited anyone interested to the setup at his house.

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Jim and Don motion.

Danielle Edgington, KE8JNU

Secretary

The Yaesu FT-991A, right, is one of the radios to be included in the 4-H Club setup.



The Icom IC-7300, right, is another radio that is part of the 4-H club's radio lineup.

## This and That

During the statewide tornado drill, XWARN performed the best out of any county in the state. We had a total of 33 check-ins. Go XWARN!

On Saturday, April 20th, a special skydiving event was held at Skydive Greene County in honor of Jim "Pee Wee" Martin, a Greene County native's 100th birthday. Pee Wee was a paratrooper during World War II, and jumped on notable events including D-Day, Operation Market Garden, and the Battle of the Bulge. He served in the 101st Airborne Division and is a member of the "Screaming Eagles." The celebration at Skydive Greene County included paratroopers jumping out of the same (restored) World War II planes that flew over Normandy on D-Day, fireworks Saturday night, and a reunion of the living members of the Screaming Eagles. WWII-era tents and jeeps were also set up, and food trucks and informational booths lined the driveway. The planes also flew over Friday, and we had a great view from my house on Jasper Road. If you didn't know, you would have thought we were being attacked!

On a related note, for fellow aviation enthusiasts, I discovered a website called [flightradar24.com](http://flightradar24.com) last year. If you are like me and always curious about what is flying over you, this website is for you!



*Image: Paratroopers in honor of Pee Wee Martin. Image courtesy of WHIO.com*

## Daryl's Digital Voice Nets

I started doing nets when I was first licensed 30 years ago, so I ought to know what I'm doing (hi hi). But, over the years, various issues have meant that I've had to change from running nets via RF to via "Internet Radio". Yet, while the "purists" cringe at that, one's health and circumstances can change in the blink of an eye, and they've got the choice to go from RF to VoIP, or give up a lifelong hobby they love. This is especially true in assisted living centers, medical facilities, homeowners associations, etc. An FCC official noted that "we're communicators first, and hams second". So, this way, my license isn't just "a sheet of paper". Plus, you know how hard it is getting net controls.

Notably, operating via internet radio is far cheaper. Instead of buying rigs, power supplies, SWR meters, coaxial cable, antennas, masts, towers, etc. -- all you need is a computer, a high speed internet connection, a headset mic (perfect for taking out ambient noise), the software, and a copy of your license to the administrators. Not every ham...especially the young ones...can afford the price of some of the gear nowadays. There was a DC To Daylight rig at Hamvention a few years ago for over \$20,000. Now, I'm sure your Mom and Dad could create a nice shack with that...but for one rig, to me, that's overkill.

For my nets, I use a ThumbDV from Northwest Digital Radio...it can be out of stock and back ordered quite often, but at \$120 plus shipping, it's cheaper than a D-Star radio. You just plug it into an available USB port on the computer, load the BlueDV software from PA7LIM, and if you've provided a copy of your license to the administrators, you're good to go. One time, I did a demo of D-Star, and D-Rats, and an area high school ham radio club...with the laptop computer, a ThumbDV, and external monitor, keyboard, mouse, mic, and speakers...so the kids could see and hear what I was doing. At that demo, on D-Rats, I was typing at a ham from Australia (VK land). The kids were amazed...and they were studying for their Technician license.

As for the nets themselves, I do several during the week. They are either on the QuadNet Array (the same place where you do the Young Operators Digital Voice Net), or on another reflector. These include the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Net on Sunday (2 hours prior to your net)...the Hotspot, Raspberry Pi, Single Board Computer (SBC) and ZumSpot Net on Monday...the Arklatex D-Star Net on Tuesday...the New Mexico D-Star Net (I'm net control on the 2nd Thursday, but it meets weekly)...the QCWA CQ100 Net on Friday morning, with the Trains Net on Friday evening, and the Food Net on the 3rd Saturday. One doesn't have to be a member of the QCWA to checkin...but to join the organization, you have to have been a licensed amateur radio operator for at least 25 years. For the Trains Net, once a station has checked in for the first time, if they email me, they can get a commemorative certificate in PDF format.

Lastly, I use Netlogger for my nets, as it's a lot easier to log stations that way. I also have Excel Spreadsheets on 200 monthly D-Star, D-Rats, and Echolink Nets, plus 2 dozen PDF files on information related to ham radio. Folks can get these by going to my bio on QRZ, and clicking on the hyperlink.

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Daryl, WX4QZ

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«FNAME» «LNAME» - «CALL»  
«ADDRESS»  
«CITY» , «STATE» «ZIP»

## Wavelengths

Wavelengths is published monthly by the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net. Our meetings are currently held on the 2nd Monday of each month at **7:30 pm** at the Greene Memorial Hospital Auditorium. You can find additional information about our organization at [www.xwarn.net](http://www.xwarn.net). We welcome new and experienced Amateur operators and those interest in becoming an Amateur operator to attend our meetings.

