

CORC TECHNET

Hamfests

What Are Hamfests?

A Hamfest is a convention of amateur radio enthusiasts, often combining a trade show, flea market, and various other activities of interest to amateur radio operators. In the United Kingdom the term rally is more commonly used for amateur radio conventions.

"Hamfests" were noted as early as 1924 in the U.S. [Wikipedia](#)

The biggest Hamfest (Hamvention) in the world is Dayton (Xenia). Hamvention is copyright of DARA, Dayton Amateur Radio Association.

Hara Arena (old Dayton)



Xenia (new Dayton)



CORC TECHNET

Xenia Inside Display



CORC TECHNET

Xenia FLEA Market



Hamfests and Ham Radio Conventions.

- ARRL National and Sectional Conventions
- Flea Market
- Retail Vendors
- Seminars
- Net Meetings
- Fox Hunts

Why Attend a Hamfest ?

All industries have sectional, national, and International conventions. There are companies that specialize in putting on these conventions.

Many companies send representatives to these meetings at great cost. Such commercial meetings are the CTIA (Cellular Telephone Internet Association), NAB (National Association of Broadcasters), Cosmetology, Doctors, Electric Industry, etc...

CORC TECHNET

A Hamfest is Amateur Radio's version of these commercial conventions. In Ohio and surrounding states, there are normally a number of hamfests every weekend. These hamfests are put on by local clubs to support their activities. Hamfests fund their local repeaters, club activities, club public service event expenditures.

Many hamfests have meeting rooms for FCC testing, talks and specialized ham groups.

- Traffic net meetings
- DMR, DSTAR, Fusion
- SDR
- Antennas
- Raspberry Pi, Android, Hot Spots
- **VEC / FCC License Exams***.**

Note:

Free license exams will be given across the street from Hamvention at: Memorial United Presbyterian Church 343 West Ankeney Mill Road, (Fairgrounds Road).

*****Due to recent changes by the FCC it is very important that new license applicants obtain an FRN before arriving to test. Failure to do so will delay being able to test*****

The FCC is now charging for the initial license. License upgrades are free.

See <https://hamvention.org/event-details/exams/> and www.arrl.org for more information.

CORC TECHNET

FLEA MARKET

This is why most hams go to hamfests. **Parts R US**

- New and used equipment
- Connectors
- Coax
- Towers & tower supplies
- Soldering stations and tools
- Specialized parts
- Collectors' items
- Old Boat Anchors ...err... treasures

How to prepare for a Hamfest.

Items you may need

- **An admission ticket:** Usually sold at the gate or website or email.
- **Money:** Cash. Dealers will usually take credit cards.
- **Cart:** To haul all your treasures
- **HT:** To communicate with your friends in case you get lost.
- **Clothing:** Make sure you are properly dressed for the conditions including proper shoes
- **Food:** Bring your own if you like. Make sure you have plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.

Purchasing Items

- If you're new to ham radio, buddy up with a more experienced ham who can help you spend your money ... err.. advise you on your purchases
- Most prices are negotiable, especially in the afternoon of the day. Deals go quickly.
- Most vendors aren't interested in trades, but no harm in asking.
- Hamfests are good places to buy accessories for your radio. Batteries, mobile mounts, power supplies, etc at reduced prices..
- Many hamfests have electricity available. If at all possible, try out the item before leaving.

CORC TECHNET

HAMFESTS

Upcoming ARRL Section, State, and Division Conventions

Dayton Hamvention® and featuring ARRL EXPO
Xenia, Ohio | May 20-22, 2022

SEA-PAC hosting the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention
Seaside, Oregon | June 3-5, 2022

HAM RADIO International Amateur Radio Exhibition
Friedrichshafen, Germany | June 24-26, 2022

Huntsville Hamfest hosting the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention
Huntsville, Alabama | August 20-21, 2022

Northeast HamXposition
hosting the ARRL New England and Hudson Division Conventions
Marlborough, Massachusetts | August 26-28, 2022

Hamfests/Conventions OHIO

Latest Listings:

www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/page:1/Location.state:OH/model:Event

05/01/2022 - [Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Trunk Sale and Swap Meet](#)

Location: Toledo, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/lcaresswap>

CORC TECHNET

05/20/2022 - 05/22/2022

[Dayton Hamvention](#)

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://hamvention.org>

05/28/2022 – [Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#)

Location: Piketon, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club

06/04/2022 - [FCARC Summer Hamfest](#)

Location: Wauseon, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

07/09/2022 - [Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest](#)

Location: Mansfield, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w8we.club>

07/16/2022 - [NOARSFEST](#)

Location: Elyria, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

CORC TECHNET

07/17/2022 - [Van Wert Hamfest](#)

Location: Van Wert, OH

Type:

Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://W8FY.ORG>

08/06/2022 - [Columbus Hamfest](#)

Location: Grove City, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit

Website: <http://columbushamfest.com>

08/13/2022 - [Cincinnati HamfestSM](#)

Location: Owensville, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milford ARC

Website: <https://CincinnatiHamfest.org>

09/17/2022 - [Mound Amateur Radio Assoc. Swap Meet](#)

Location: Miamisburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: MARA

Website: <http://W8DYY.ORG>

09/25/2022 - [Cleveland Hamfest](#)

Location: Berea, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

Website: <http://www.hac.org>

CORC TECHNET

10/30/2022 - [Massillon Hamfest \(OH\)](#)

Location: Green, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w8np.org>