

CORC Technet Hamfests

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)



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Xenia Inside Display



Xenia FLEA Market



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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...

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.**

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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.

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HAMFESTS

During 2020 and part of 2021, the convention activity ceased to exist due to COVID19.

Today, it is a hit or miss on what conventions are taking place. All dependent on government regulations.

So far, the schedules are as follows:

Upcoming ARRL Section, State, and Division Conventions

Many conventions and hamfests have been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Check the [calendar of canceled events](#) on the ARRL website.

- May 15 - 16 -- [The International DX Convention](#) (online)
- May 20 - 22 -- [Dayton Hamvention](#) (online)
- June 5 -- [ARRL Northwestern Division Convention](#) (SEA-PAC; online)
- August 13 - 15 -- [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) (online)
- August 21 - 22 -- ARRL [Southeastern Division Convention](#) (Huntsville Hamfest), Huntsville, Alabama

OHIO

05/21/2021 - 05/23/2021

[Online - Dayton Hamvention, An ARRL Sanctioned Specialty Convention](#)

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://hamvention.org>

[Learn More](#)

06/05/2021 - [FCARC SummerFest](#)

Location: Wauseon, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

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

[Learn More](#)

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07/10/2021 - [Mansfield Mid-Summer Trunkfest](#)

Location: Mansfield, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://WWW.IARC.CLUB>
[Learn More](#)

07/17/2021 - [NOARSFEST](#)

Location: Elyria, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://noars.net>
[Learn More](#)

07/18/2021 - [Van Wert Hamfest](#)

Location: Van Wert, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://W8FY.ORG>
[Learn More](#)

08/07/2021 - [2021 Columbus Hamfest](#)

Location: Grove City, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit
Website: <http://columbushamfest.com>
[Learn More](#)

08/28/2021 - [Cincinnati HamfestSM](#)

Location: Owensville, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Milford ARC
Website: <http://CincinnatiHamfest.org>
[Learn More](#)

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09/26/2021 - [Cleveland Hamfest](#)

Location: Berea, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

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

[Learn More](#)

12/04/2021 - [FCARC WinterFest](#)

Location: Delta, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

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

[Learn More](#)

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Dayton Hamvention 2021 ONLINE

The Dayton (Xenia) Hamvention is virtual in 2021.

Other associated activities are either virtual or ON THE AIR (Hamvention QSO Party)

A video talking about the Hamvention activities is at:

<https://youtu.be/OZf4NX0uV6A>

CTU (Contest University) schedule:

<https://forums.grz.com/index.php?threads/just-released-contest-university-2021-schedule.759358/>

A word about CTU. Don't let the name fool you. There are some excellent talks on a vast number of topics. Previous videos from years past are a gold mine of information.

See: <https://www.contestuniversity.com/course-outline/>

And <https://www.contestuniversity.com/videos/>

Some of the talks include: Grounding, Shack design, High Performance receivers (Rob Sherwood, NC0B), Station Audio, Antennas, Coax, Towers, etc...

Hamvention QSO Party 2021

Rules: <https://hamvention.org/qso-party-2021/>

Modes and Bands

Modes: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

Scoring

Count one point for each unique call worked on each band and each mode.

W8BI is 10 bonus points per band and mode.