

DaytonReport2017

Dayton Hamvention Report 2017 from W4ZST
Greene County Fairgrounds, Xenia OH

The complete program in .pdf is available on the hamvention website:
hamvention.org

I found nice pictures by Googling 'Dayton Hamvention photos'. Very good ones posted by swling.com on their website, both inside during Thursday setup and the Friday and Saturday activity. Also see the posted photos by N8MDP and surely there are others.

Friday traffic and offsite parking buses getting to the hamfest were a real problem. Many folks got there well after opening time and some of our group were an hour and a half later getting in than me.

Rained Friday and Saturday mornings before opening but still made for some serious MUD. That was my only real complaint. Friday afternoon the mud finally dried up but since it rained again on Saturday about 11AM the mud was worse and never did dry up during the day. Otherwise the weather was excellent this year. I was pleasantly surprised by the venue as I went in thinking that it was not going to work out good.

Even our flea-market spaces turned out better than we thought on Thursday afternoon. Also the food available was much much better than that at the Hara Arena location. I only had one radio to sell and got to walk all day and cover the entire hamfest area, inside and out but sore feet and was very careful walking through the slick mud.

Hamfest Highlight: Got to see the new Flex radios that were a complete surprise announcement on Friday morning.

Trip Highlights: Three of us went to the WC8VOA club station open house in Mason OH on Wednesday night. Got the 50 cent tour of the old VOA building too. All the antennas are gone now, only one of the original eight 500kW transmitters left but worth the visit. On Thursday I spent the entire day at the USAF museum at Wright-Patterson AFB there in Dayton. Also a nice visit and highly recommended. Pretty much every AF plane from over the years. Heard that there is a nice Wright Brothers museum in Dayton. Maybe try to make that one next year.

Finally want to mention Contest University. Some of our group have attended in prior years and Kim WG8S went this year. He sent me some info and I was very impressed. All the presentation files and videos are on the website contestuniversity.com. I found this years presentations on 'Grounding and Bonding', 'Waterfall Displays' and 'Disruptive Technologies' by Rob Sherwood NC0B to be particularly interesting. Sherwood is well known for testing new radios and ranking them for DXers and Contesters. His 2016 presentation on contest radios is also very good. Check out the CU files and videos of your choice. Definitely something to learn there.