

Dayton (Xenia) Hamvention 2017 at the new venue

Getting to the hamvention took 1-2 hours from Dayton due to traffic. Leaving the hamvention at closing time also resulted in traffic jams because all roads out seem to lead to I-35. XENIA is not a popular spot with locals.

The venue (Greene County fairgrounds) is fantastic. Much more room for the flea market. However inside buildings were stifling and most exhibitors had fans.

There doesn't seem to be a main entrance. Several nearby areas are used as drop off points. You can wait for an hour to get a bus or 5 minutes. Luck of the draw.....Do Not Drive to the Hamvention. Go to a remote parking lot and take the free bus in.....

It is 5:30pm and raining heavily. The mud is going to be awful (it was). The ground is saturated and more rain expected. Logistics getting here Sunday morning might be a challenge.

All of the big guns with the ARRL are here, as are the manufacturers. Food is ok to excellent.... bathrooms are cleaner and plumbing is not an issue, so far.

The hamfest is surrounded by farms and is in the boonies. Today was better than we expected but hoping to find something actually on sale tomorrow.

The most unique thing we saw today in the flea market was computer related, an Apple Lisa, a predecessor to the Macintosh. \$2K ASKING PRICE!

Also there is an Italian Magnetic Loop company selling HUGE 40 meter units with 3 inch diameter aluminum tube loop with a tuner for \$2,300.

The volunteers have done a great job but the infrastructure getting here from Dayton needs work.

Day 2 report tomorrow! Off to the DX dinner tonight.....

DX dinner last night was jammed, one of the largest attended dinners ever. Of note, DXCC Manager Bill Moore went into the DX Hall of Fame and Wayne, N7NG, and Bill's brother, both gave excellent tributes.

There was a huge rain event this morning that flooded parts of the flea market but it dried out and the weather was much cooler and pleasant for most of the day.

We left early, around 3:30pm, to avoid the traffic jams back to Dayton.

Once again the quality of food on site was really outstanding. The vendors were mom and pop local businesses that serve excellent meals, and a huge variety at that.

So here is most likely what most people and vendors are going to complain about:

- The Internet. Without wifi, and so many people with phones my phone was unable to text 90% of the time. Same with phone calls out.

- It was better Friday, but not by much. So definitely bring an HT if you're coming next year if you want to speak with friends. CELL phones were pointless.
- There was a hamvention WiFi but you needed a password and my guess vendors had this bandwidth reserved. How well it worked I can't say.
- Cash is king more here than credit cards. We were either asked to pay cash or discouraged to use cards by those who took them....maybe related to Internet issues?

I got a better feel today for just who is and who is not here. But because of the number of buildings and tents, plus a huge area for the flea market, I still had a tough time finding certain vendors.

Tomorrow we are going early and covering as much ground as we can. However it is a 100% chance of rain?

If you want to come here as a vendor, it really is a matter of location.

Some of the smaller tents are just awful, 3-4 vendors and not a lot of traffic vs. the larger out buildings that attract most folks and have been very busy.

If you're at the flea market and past the first 2 rows, most people seem to turn around unless they know where they are going. There are just so many parked in the two flea market back 40's! Plus it's muddy from vendors driving in and out.....

The one thing we can't get out of our minds is what will happen to vendors in small tents and the huge flea market area if a significant severe thunderstorm comes thru.....

The city of Xenia officials were passing out commemorative pins today. Plus I rode the tractors today to get back to our bus pick up area. JUST LIKE A HAYRIDE! About 40 hams can fit into one of the trailers and it adds ambiance.

This experience, while new, is just so much better than Hara, its clean, has room to spread out, and you never know what you're going to run into from new products offerings. Logistics to and from the Hamvention were much easier today.

So that's day two from our perspective.....volunteers continue to be working overtime to keep everyone happy.

The 2018 Hamvention team will probably have many of the issues resolved (except the WX)

73, Paul NOAH