

# The Radio Hotel – A Case for Dayton

## Amateur Radio Nirvana

by Rick Hiller – W5RH

### The Dayton Hamvention May 2024

So why talk about Dayton Hamvention in November and the 3 day Hamvention event doesn't start until May 17th. A few reasons, like, it is 1,120 miles away so you have to drive or fly (booking early might mean lower fares). Also, that you will have to get a hotel room for a few days (they go fast especially the close-in ones). There are parallel events to register for like Contest University or the QRP "4 Days in May", plus Contest and DX Dinners and AmSat get-togethers, etc. Or, if you wish to sell in the flea market it is best to get spaces early. Just note that it is NOT in Dayton, Ohio anymore. It is in Xenia, OH, a smidge east of Dayton.

But why would you wish to go? As Molly Shannon on SNL said, "Don't get me started!" It is the largest gathering of hams in the world. (Germany's *Hamradio-Friedrichshafen* is a very close 2<sup>nd</sup>). All the major and minor vendors that you know are there, along with the Mom and Pop dealers, and even ones that you don't know yet. Lots of technical presentations and anything ham radio that you might wish to see and try and talk about is there at Dayton along with the soon-to-be released new radios, accessories or antennas. ARRL has a huge turn out and those authors/contributors to QST, On the Air, QEX or NCJ are there to talk to face to face. It is the best 3 days of ham radio you have ever spent. (With the Greater Houston Ham Fest a close second)

I have been to Dayton Hamvention (Hara Arena) in Dayton 6 times, and hopefully, I will be in Xenia this next year at the new venue. Hope I will see you there. You will not be disappointed with almost 30K hams in one place. I have always referred to it as the mecca of Ham Radio.

The flea market is huge. If you went to the Greater Houston Ham Fest, you saw the flea market tables in building C. Take that area times about 20. First time I went to Dayton in 1996 it took me 8 hours to go thru the complete flea market, up and down every row (at the Hara Arena). It was fantastic. Everything you could wish to find will be there multiple times.

So find out more at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org) and keep visiting that web site for updates. Also, have a look at past QST's that describe the activities with pictures if you don't believe what I have said. Talk to Steve, KG5ICR (he's been three times -- once at Hara Arena, the old place, and twice at the new Xenia venue), other BVARC members have also traveled there. See the BVARC newsletter June 2010, page 9. It is well worth the minimal costs to get an ear to ear smile that lasts for days. I'll see you there enjoying your hobby. 73...W5RH