

CQ Chatter

Volume B1•Issue #6

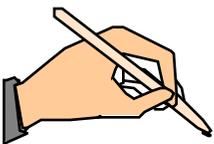
Wood County Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 534, Bowling Green, OH 43402

NOVEMBER 1998

President-KB8QEW, Shawn Hudson **Vice President-WB8NQW, Bob Willman**
Secretary-AA8XS, John Lager **Treasurer-N1RB, Bob Boughton**
<http://bravais.bgsu.edu/~boughton/wcarc.html>

A Note from the Editor

The new ARRL proposals for restructuring the amateur licensing regulations have indeed elicited a great deal of discussion and controversy. All you have to do is read the pages of QST to discover that fact. Over all it's the opinion of this writer that the new class structure is a good deal for all hams. In one clean move, they would expand the HF privileges of all present holders of Novice, Technician Plus, General, Advanced and Extra Class amateurs by eliminating the Novice class and its HF CW bands, and placing first three in Class C. The latter two would benefit from additional phone privileges as the Novice CW bands are carved up. The only small problem that I can foresee is the handling of a present holder of the General license (3B theory and 13 wpm code) who wishes to upgrade to Class B, which has a 12 wpm code test; do they automatically get credit for their previous proficiency or do they need to pass another code test? The best benefit of the new plan is to designate a single "entry-level" ticket, Class D, which carries all current VHF/UHF privileges. This provides a clean separation between the knowledge base for VHF/UHF and HF. It always seemed a bit silly to me for the Technician candidate to have to take on a split personality by passing the 3A test on VHF/UHF operation and element 2 on HF operation. This proposal makes sense!



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73 de Bob

**WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2130
147.18 & 444.475 MHz**

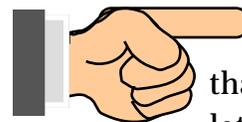
**Next Club Meeting:
Monday, November 9th
Social Hour @ 1900
Fairgrounds Clubhouse**

**Fun Night
Monday, November 23th
@ 1900 - Clubhouse**

Land Mobile Interests Backing away from 440MHz

According to QST, the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), the group that galvanized amateurs into action by requesting that the FCC reallocate a sizable chunk of the 440 MHz band to their use, is backing off. You may recall that yours truly had written a letter to the AAA, which is a member organization of the LMCC, expressing disagreement with their proposal some months ago. The response from AAA could at best have been termed noncommittal.

It now seems as though that venerable organization has seen the light, and will now work within LMCC to try to reverse its position. The crucial change of heart apparently comes as a result



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of the strong statements in support of amateur radio by two very influential organizations: the Association of Public Safety Officials-International, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The latter group is the coordinating organization for military and other governmental spectrum users.

Even though the situation looks much more promising than it did at the beginning of the summer, the matter is by no means closed, and the AAA believes that the LMCC will maintain its request just for "appearances". There should be no sense of amateur radio winning the battle yet!

What are the Sweepstakes ?

One of the oldest HF contests still going is the ARRL Sweepstakes. The traditional November contest occurs this year at 2100 UTC on November 7th through 0300 UTC on the 9th for CW, and at 2100 UTC on November 21st through 0300 UTC on the 23rd. Although the contest runs for 30 hours total, an individual participant can only operate for 24 hours during this period. As with all contests, the WARC bands are out of bounds; only 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m.

The Sweepstakes is strictly a US/Canadian affair. The object of the contest is to make as many contacts in as many different ARRL/RAC sections. Many states constitute an individual section, but some, such as California, are divided into many sections (9 for CA). Each contact counts 2 points; the total contact points are then multiplied by the number of sections worked to get the total score.

There are 3 entry categories for single operators: QRP, low power (<150 W output), and high power (>150 W output). The exchange between stations during a contact includes the following information: contact serial number, power class (A, B or C), station call, year of first license and

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WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Nov 3	N1RB
Nov 10	N8QMV
Nov 17	WD8ICP
Nov 24	KB8QEW
Dec 1	N1RB
Dec 8	N8QMV
Dec 15	WD8ICP
Dec 22	KB8QEW

November Contests

The contest line-up for the remainder of October and early November includes the following:

- Nov 7/9:** 1800Z to 0300Z ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- Nov 13/15:** 2300Z to 2300Z Japan International DX
- Nov 14/15** 1200Z to 1200Z Czech DX Contest
- Nov 14/15** 1200Z to 1200Z Ukrainian DX Contest
- Nov 21/23** 2100Z to 0300Z ARRL Sweepstakes SB
- Nov 28/29** 0000Z to 2359Z CQ WW DX Contest CW
- Dec 12/13** 0000Z to 2359Z ARRL 10 meter Contest

Renewal Time

It's membership renewal time! If you haven't remitted your 1999 club dues yet, now is the time. For only \$10 individual, \$15 family, or \$5 student/senior, you can continue to enjoy the benefits of membership in the Wood County ARC. Help support the Club's activities in repeaters, digital modes, and emergency service. Many other activities such as Field Day and the fox hunt are fun for all. A membership form is enclosed for your convenience.

section. For example, if KD8XYZ is sending his information to W1AW, the exchange would go something like: W1AW, please copy number 256 from KD8XYZ 97 Ohio. The above message says that this is contact number 256, and that KD8XYZ was first licensed in 1997 and that he is located in the Ohio section.

Many hams complain about the contesters hogging the bands during their operations, and there are certainly those who are culpable. However, it should be kept in mind that contests such as the Sweepstakes were one of the best means hams have to test propagation conditions on all bands at the same time. A Sweepstakes contestant could be working the West Coast on 15m just as it opens up in the morning, and 5 minutes later work the more proximate states of PA, MI, IN and KY on 80m. Give it a shot! You're sure to enjoy it.

Vanity Fee Reduced

The application fee for obtaining vanity call letters has been reduced, as of September 14th. The new charge is \$13, which is a welcome reduction from the previous rate. If you qualify for the current window, you need to file a form 610V and Fee Remittance form to FCC Wireless Bureau, Box 358130, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5130.

Equipment for Sale

The following equipment has become available from the estate of a silent key. If you are interested, please call Bob at 354-1811.

- Yaesu FT-990 HF rig with built in AT and pwr supply/SP-6 speaker and phone patch - \$1200
- Heath SB-220 linear amplifier - \$450
- Azden PCS-4000 2m mobile - \$150

- 60 ft self supporting fold over tower with winch
- Cushcraft multi element tribander plus WARC bands - \$250
- 4 - stacked 2m yagis - \$250

The above three items must be seen to be appreciated.

- many other accessory items to be sold at best reasonable offer.

Also, from another owner:

- 30 ft TV tower - free if removed

Nominations Due

According to the Club's bylaws, the November meeting will feature the opening of the floor for nominations of officers for 1999. Now is the time to help the Club out by contributing your energy and talents. Offer your services to the Club by making your willingness known to the Nominating Committee. If you don't know who the Nominating Committee is, contact Shawn, KB8QEW, or any of the other 1998 officers. We have a small club and it is important that the same people are not asked to contribute their time every year.

Ohio Hamfests

There is only two hamfests to report on in November in the vicinity:

Nov 1 Massilon ARC at the Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave. NW, Canton. Telephone Terry at (330) 837-3091 for info.

Nov 14/15 Allen County ARTS Fort Wayne Hamfest at the Allen County War Museum Coliseum. Call (219) 484-1314 for info.

WOOD COUNTY ARC
P.O.BOX 534
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402





WOOD COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 534
Bowling Green, OH
43402



Regular-\$10===Family-\$15===Senior/Student-\$5
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

DATE _____ ARRL MEMBER? Y _____ N _____ DATE OF EXP. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CALL _____ CLASS _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please Circle All That Apply:

Active Bands: 160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 220 440 higher

Modes: CW SSB PACKET RTTY FM DX MOBILE QRP SSTV ATV EME SAT

Interests: Traffic DX Contests Foxhunts Satellites Nets Antennas

Computers Emergency ARES/RACES Skywarn Classic Radios

Do You Own a Computer? Y _____ N _____ If yes, what operating system (check)?

DOS/Windows _____ MAC/OS _____ IBM/OS2 _____ Other _____

Do you plan to upgrade your license? Y _____ N _____ If yes, what class? _____

What kinds of meeting programs would you like to see? _____

What type of equipment would you like to see the Club purchase? _____

Other activities you would like to see the Club offer _____

General Comments _____

Signature _____ Date _____