

CQ Chatter

Volume B3•Issue #3

Wood County Amateur Radio Club

AUGUST 2000

P. O. Box 534, Bowling Green, OH 43402

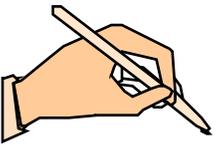
<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President-AA8XS, John Lagger
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A Note from the Editor

The new restructuring of the amateur radio license classes and privileges has enabled a large number of hams to upgrade to General Class or above. The new Generals now have full Class privileges on the HF bands, which of course opens up an entirely new world of DX, contests and rag chewing.



As was bound to happen, these changes were met with opposition and doomsayers who predicted that some of the new HFers would bring along some of the "bad" habits they had developed elsewhere. You might conclude that these folks just don't like change, or perhaps they don't like to lose their exalted status in the hobby.

At any rate, portents of disaster aside, there has been no meltdown on the HF bands because of the newcomers. On the contrary, from what I have been able to glean from the correspondence columns in the various amateur magazines, the transition has been uneventful. In fact, there is a faint hope that perhaps some of the "old" habits that some of the "old" bad actors on HF have sustained for many many years (viz. 14.313 MHz or the upper end of 75 m) will be diluted by the new influx.

In my opinion, the newly upgraded HFers provide a badly needed shot in the arm to amateur radio. Not only will the HF bands be more highly populated, but here is an opportunity for all of the 'old-timers' to meet new voices over the air. There will naturally be questions like "why do we do it that way?" that might cause the old-timers to reflect on some the procedures and habits they have been using all these years.

Naturally, any revisiting of the purpose behind long-held routines is healthy. In the majority of the cases, there is of course a very good reason for "doing it that way". In a small number of cases however, this rethinking process might lead to better HF procedures to benefit us all.

73 de Bob

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

**Club Meeting:
Monday, August 14th
Location: Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 pm
Social Hour: 7:00 pm**

It's Fair and Tractor Pull Time!

August brings with it two annual opportunities for public service -- the Wood County Fair (August 1st through 7th), and the Northwest Ohio Tractor Pull (August 18th, 19th and 20th).

By this time, all members of Wood County ARES/RACES will have received a sign-up sheet listing the available shifts. If you would like to gain some experience in handling communications as a public service, be sure to sign up for one or both of these events. If you did not receive a sign-up sheet but would like to participate, contact Rose Chambers at 354-9000

Operators Wanted

The local Scout Jamboree on the Air will be held on October 20th through the 22nd (Fri. - Sun.). Volunteer amateur operators are needed to operate the home station in the clubhouse, to demonstrate how amateur radio works to the Scouts, and to possibly help handle traffic for them. Prime operating hours will most likely be in the late afternoons through fairly late at night. If you can volunteer in these time slots on any of the days indicated above, please contact Ruth, KC8EKT at 352-7678, or via e-mail: howies_mommy@yahoo.com. Ruth will be happy to fill you in on what times/dates are open. Let's try to make the effort of Troop 818 to get a local entry in JOTA a success!

Antenna Pioneer Dies

--excerpted from ARRL Web Extra

Louis Varney, G5RV, who invented the famous G5RV antenna, died on Wednesday, June 28 at his home in West Sussex, England. He was 89 and had recently been reported to be in failing health.

The G5RV multi band wire antenna for HF--- typically 102 ft on the flat top section---is among the most popular of all antenna designs. Varney first described the G5RV antenna in the November 1966 issue of the *RSGB Bulletin*. While models fed with coaxial cable have proliferated, Varney's personal recommendation was to use a balanced feed line and a matching network for bands other than 20 meters.



Varney remained an active radio amateur until very recently and kept regular on-th-air schedules. In announcing Varney's passing, the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) said, "His proficiency with the key was legendary, and he spent a great deal of his time experimenting with antennas, and employed a full-size and a double-size G5RV (both fed with open-wire feeders) for his own radio operations."

Varney was an RSGB member for 74 years, and he served as life president of the Mid-Sussex

Hamarama Prize Winners

The following lucky ticket holders hit the jackpot at the WCARC Hamarama on July 9th:

First Prize (\$ 300) -

Bob Switzer, WA8BHP, Wauseon, OH

Second Prize (\$100) -

Larry Crates, Arcadia, OH

Third Prize (2 @ \$50) -

Esther Creps, N8QMV, Tontogany, OH

William Vestal, Weston, OH

Congratulations to all of these folks - see you again next year!

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

July 25	WD8ICP
Aug 1	N1RB
Aug 8	N8QMV
Aug 15	AA8XS
Aug 22	KG8FH
Aug 29	WD8JWJ
Sept 5	WD8ICP

Amateur Radio Society. In addition to Amateur Radio, Varney enjoyed painting and gardening. He also collected and had an interest in antique radio equipment and tubes. ■

August Hamfests

The hamfest line up for the month of August is listed below:

Aug 6 Land of Lakes ARC 8 am on
Steuben County, Indiana, 4-H Park at the corner of 200 W and 200 N, exit 150 off of I-69. Contact Bill, WD9DSN, (219) 475-5897.

Aug 13 Greentown, IN 8 am on
Greentown Lions Club Fairgrounds in Greentown, Indiana. Contact L.B., K9NQW, (765) 668-4814.

Aug 13 Cascades ARS 8 am -12 m
Jackson (MI) Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd. Contact Dennis, KC8IJZ, (517) 522-4058.

Aug 27 Lapeer County (MI) ARA 8 am-4 pm
Lapeer County Center Bldg. 425 County Center St., Lapeer, MI. Contact Charles, N8RVG, (810)

Have you upgraded yet??

August Contests

The full contest line-up for the month of August includes the following:

July 29-30	1200 to 1220 Z	80 to 10 m
RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA)		SSB/CW
Aug 6	0000 to 2000 Z	80 to 10 m
YO (Romania) DX 'test		SSB/CW
Aug 5-6	1800 to 0600 Z	160 to 10 m
NA QSO Party		CW
Aug 5-6	1800 to 1800 Z	220 MHz up
ARRL UHF 'test		all modes
Aug 12-13	0000 to 2359 Z	80 to 10 m
European DX 'test		CW
Aug 12-13	1600 to 2359 Z	80m up
Maryland-DC Party-off (0400-1600)		all modes
Aug 19-20	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10 m
SE Asian 'test		SSB
Aug 19-20	1200 to 1200 Z	160 to 10 m
Japanese Keymen's Club 'test		CW
Aug 19-21	1700 to 2300 Z	80 to 10 m
Canadian/American Islands 'test		SSB/CW
Aug 19-21	2000 to 0200 Z	160 to 2 m
NJ QSO Party- off (0700-1300)		SSB/CW

Hamarama Is Opportunity for New Tickets

The VE exam session at the WCARC Hamarama on July 9th provided a number of people with the opportunity to upgrade their license or to obtain a new license. The following folks upgraded to General Class from Technician: Charles, N8NIR; Tom, N8GXJ; Bob, W8JBS; Marilyn, WD8LXL; and Bill, KC8GTR. Special congratulations to the following new Technician Class hams: A. J. Fuller, Lois LaFountain and Kim Sebert.

You will notice that three people out of this group are from Wood County -- Tom and A.J. are current members of WCARC ■

Aug 19-20	1800 to 0600 Z	160 to 10 m
NA QSO Party		SSB
Aug 26-27	1600 to 2200 Z	160 m up
Hawaii QSO Party		SSB/CW
Sep 2-3	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10 m
All Asia 'test		SSB
Sep 2-3	1200 to 1200 Z	80 to 10 m
LZ (Bulgaria) DX 'test		CW

Badger State RACES and ARES Combine Efforts

Each of the 1100 ARES members in Wisconsin now is also registered in RACES. This means that hams activated under ARES also may operate under RACES rules during an emergency and use RACES-assigned frequencies.

Dual registration in Wisconsin was just fully codified in the new Volunteer Emergency Communications Support Plan of the State of Wisconsin, released in July. The VECS Plan permits Wisconsin State Government's Emergency Management to call on any communications volunteers to help maintain communications channels in times of emergency. This includes SKYWARN and REACT members as well as ARES and RACES. Written by Wisconsin SEC and RACES Chief Stanley Kaplan, WB9RQR, the plan is available on the web. For more information, contact Kaplan. ■

Correction

Last month, it was erroneously reported that there were no serious injuries in the Wood County portion of the GOBA tour. In fact, the reported separated shoulder was actually a broken collarbone, and one of the other falls resulted in a broken arm for one of the riders. ■

For Sale
Yaesu FT-100 (HF/VHF/UHF) -
Hamvention door prize-
factory fresh!
asking \$1,000 - Call
Darrell Gebers (419) 278-1258

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