

CQ Chatter

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Wood County Amateur Radio Club

JUNE 2002

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

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

WB8NQW
K8NEA/KB8QEW
AA8XS
N1RB

Bob Willman
Duane Ashbaucher/Shawn Hudson
John Lager
Bob Boughton

Minutes WCARC May Meeting

5/13/02

Meeting Called to Order at 19:30 hours by President Bob, WB8NQW

No corrections to the April meeting minutes were noted.

The Treasurer's Report was read. N8QMV motioned to accept the report and WD8JWJ seconded. The report was approved as read.

Technical - No committee members were present.

Hamarama - WB8NQW has fliers and N1RB has tickets. We are official with ARRL and will be listed in QST. Several publicity options were discussed, including being listed on the WTOL "Community Events". N8QMV will reverify the Tontogany Legion's food service.

Old Business - A clarification was noted regarding the insurance issue. N1RB reported that *liability* insurance is \$350 through ARRL, but has been paid for this year for \$250 through another company. *Equipment* insurance is available through ARRL and covers such items as antennas and feed line. This is the reason the equipment inventory had been requested.

The chairman of the Field Day committee (KB8QEW) was not present. City Park may be OK for us.

New Business - It was decided to have the annual fox hunt in August, rather than later when daylight is in shorter supply.

N1RB motioned to adjourn, and AA8XS seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1953 ■

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

**Next Meeting
Monday, June 10th
Location: Fairgrounds
Social Hour: 7:00 pm
Banquet: 7:30 pm**

June Hamfests

June 2 Chelsea ARC 8am to ?
Chelsea, MI, Hamfest. At Chelsea Community Fairgrounds. Contact Jeff, N8KPA, (734) 475-2424.

June 9 Fulton Co. ARC 8 am to 1 pm
Fulton County (OH) Fairgrounds, SR 108. Contact Angela, KB2AVN, (419) 822-4382. e-mail to: lindsay@powersupply.net. URL: www.fcarc.8m.com

June 9 Goodyear ARC 8am to 3pm
Wingfoot Lake Park, Akron, OH. Contact Don, N8QCA, (330) 733-7989.

June 15 Midland ARC 8am to 1 pm
Gertstacker Fair Center at Midland County Fairgrounds, 6905 Eastman Ave., Midland, MI. Contact Eldon, N8STF, (517) 643-5101.

June 16 Monroe Co. CA 7:30 to 1 pm
Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI. Contact Fred, KA8EBI, (734) 242-9487.

July 7 WCARC Hamarama 8am to 1 pm
This is the big one!!! Wood County Fairgrounds

June Contests

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

Jun 1-2	1200 to 1800 Z	80 m to 10 m
WW South America 'test		CW
Jun 6	0000 to 2400 Z	80 to 10m
Portugal Day 'test		SB
Jun 8-10	1800 to 0300 Z	6m on up
ARRL VHF QSO Party		FM, SB
Jun 15	1800 to 2400 Z	20,15,10, 2m
Kid's Day (see June QST)		FM, SB
Jun 15-16	1800 to 2400 Z	160 to 10m
W. Virginia QSO Party		all modes
Jun 15-16	0000 to 2400 Z	160 to 10m
All Asian DX 'test		CW
Jun 15-16	0000 to 2400 Z	6 m
SMIRK QSO Party		phone
Jun 22-23	1800 to 2100 Z	all bands
Field Day		all modes
Jun 29-30	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10 m
Venezuela SSB 'test		SB
Jul 1	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 2 m
RAC Canada Day 'test		all modes

Brain Teasers

1. A 50 ohm transmitter is connected to a 75 ohm impedance transmission line. What is the minimum SWR you can expect?

(a) 1:1 (b) 1.2:1 (c) 1.5:1 (d) 2:1

2. The length of a resonant ground plane vertical antenna is close to what fraction of a wavelength.

(a) 0.5 (b) 0.25 (c) 1.0 (d) 0.625

3. A 1 μF , 2 μF and 3 μF capacitor are connected in series. What is the equivalent capacitance?

(a) 6 μF (b) 1 μF (c) 3 μF (d) 0.55 μF

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

May 28	N8QMV
Jun 4	AA8XS
Jun 11	KG8FH
Jun 18	WD8ICP
Jun 25	N1RB
Jul 2	N8QMV

OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY INTERFERENCE CASE RESOLVED

from ARRL Newsletter---

In what FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth called "a textbook example" of FCC-ARRL cooperation, a case of strange interference involving a power company and an AM broadcast station has been substantially resolved. As a result of their follow-up investigation, six Cincinnati-area amateurs were awarded the ARRL Certificate of Merit.

In January, the FCC wrote Cincinnati AM radio station WLW and Cinergy Corp--the electric utility serving the region--to help resolve the unusual and longstanding interference situation that was affecting local amateurs. Apparently spurious signals associated with WLW transmissions had been monitored over a wide area and frequency range and were severely affecting some amateur bands.

The investigation focused on utility towers carrying 345-kV lines in the vicinity of the WLW broadcast tower. Jay Adrick, K8CJY--a member of the amateur team involved in tracking down the problem and one of those honored--explained at the Dayton ARRL Forum earlier this month that the primary problem seemed to stem from so-called static lines on the towers, which do not carry electrical power. The static lines, he pointed out, were not sufficiently RF-bonded to the tower structure. "They're actually loose-fitted," he said. "At 60 Hz, it's a reasonable ground." But at RF, it acted as a non-linear junc-

Answers to last Month's Brain Teasers:

1 (b); 2 (a); 3 (a)

At a Recent Club Meeting

John, N8MSU, and Shawn, KB8QEW, discussing PSK31



tion, and the static wires acted as a huge antenna. The result was something that sounded a bit like a spark gap modulated by WLW's audio on several amateur bands.

Success did not come easily, and mop-up operations continue. Hollingsworth called the situation "a history-making RF interference case" that generated more investigative analysis than any other case in his years with the FCC. Ohio ARRL Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, said the local amateurs brought the matter to the FCC's attention after working with WLW and Cinergy for almost two years to pin down the cause of the spurious signals. Honored with certificates at the ARRL Forum in Dayton in addition to Adrick were team leader Bob Reiff, WA8ULW; Ted Homan WB8WFG; Herb Nichols, W3EOA; Geoff Mendenhall, W8GNM; and Paul Jellison, WD8KMX. Jellison is regional engineering manager of Clear Channel Communications which owns WLW. Also honored were non-amateurs Jeff Antoni and Kelly

McMahan, both of Cinergy Corporation. The certificates were signed by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director George Race, WB8BGY, and ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, who assisted in the efforts to resolve the interference situation. The amateurs were cited for "creating an example of longtime and continuing corporate-amateur radio cooperation in an interference abatement of high power RF signals."

Though some interference remains, Phillips said, the local amateurs and both corporations discovered many possible sources of trouble and have established a working procedure for clearing them up. "Saying the interference is all cleared up would be foolhardy given the complex nature of the engineering involved," said Phillips, who recommended the awards, "but the two words that describe this historic work would be 'patience works.'"

Under FCC Part 15 and Part 73 rules, incidental noise radiated by power company equipment or spurious emissions from a broadcast transmitter must be corrected if they cause harmful interference to radio communications. ■

Tower Sections Available

I have 8 (I think) sections of 12" triangular tower (abandoned TV antenna towers)--- six straight sections and two tapered top sections.

Anyone may have any or all of them---free if you transport them. I can help load them into a pick up truck.

Steve, K8BBK (419) 352-3253

Help make this year's Hamarama a success!

Contact any Club officer for information.

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