

CQ Chatter

Volume B8 • Issue #2

Wood County Amateur Radio Club

MARCH 2007

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

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President/Vice President

K8NEA/K8OVO

Duane Ashbaucher / Don Buehrer

Secretary

KG8FH

Jeff Halsey

Treasurer

WD8JWJ

Bill Wilkins

Minutes Wood County Amateur Radio Club February 12, 2007, 7:30PM Sheriff's Conference Room, Justice Center, Bowling Green, Ohio

Attending: Duane-K8NEA, Pat-KD8EJC, Bob-KC8RWI, Bill-WD8JWJ, Bob-WB8NQW, Hoot-WB8VUL, John-K8RZP, Fred-N8CWJ, J. W.-KD8BOH, Fred-KC8ZJW, Eric-WD8LEI, Chuck-WD8ICP, Linda-N1LB, Bob-N1RB, Don-K8OVO, Steve-K8BBK, John-N8MSU, Mark-KD8BOI

Co-President Duane, K8NEA called the meeting to order at 7:30 and asked everyone to speak out with their name and call. The secretary's report for December was approved without changes. Bill Wilkins gave the treasurer's report. After a \$2 donation, there was a \$12.18 shortfall from the arrangements for the annual dinner. The Club voted to accept this shortfall rather than to try to allocate it to those attending. Dues in the amount of \$175 were also collected. Continuing, Bill reported that K8JTK, Jeff Kopcak, make an extra \$35 donation to the club, in addition to his

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

**Next Meeting
SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: Couzin's
Restaurant, Grand Rapids**

K9UA-Silent Key

As many of you know, a close friend of mine, Rich Mencil, K9UA, became a silent key a little over a year ago. We were lab partners in DeVry Technical Institute from 1959 to 1961. Rich sparked my interest in ham radio even though it took some time for the fire to catch. His XYL, Karen, WD9HVQ, visited us last spring. She brought with her some of Rich's radio stuff and asked me to do what I wanted with it. One of the items was a Vibroplex "Brass Racer" paddle. Rich loved CW and was an avid DXer and county hunter.

Bill WD8JWJ expressed an interest in the paddle and asked if it was for sale. Bill, Rich and I had attended the Dayton Hamvention several times together with our wives, and fond memories were the result. After some discussion with Bill, he and I agreed to exchange the paddles for a cash donation to WCARC in memory of K9UA. We both have lost a friend.

Bob Willman, WB8NQW



March Contests

The full contest lineup* for the month of March includes the following:

Mar 3-4	0000 to 2359 Z	160 m to 10 m	
ARRL Int'l. DX 'test		SSB	
Mar 10-11	1400 to 2000 Z	80 m to 10 m	
Oklahoma QSO Party		all modes	
Mar 10-11	1300 to 0200 Z	40 m to 70 cm	
Idaho QSO Party		all modes	
Mar 11-12	1800 to 0100 Z	80 m to 70 cm	
Wisconsin QSO Party		all modes	
Mar 17	000 to 2359 Z	10 m	
10-10 Int'l. Mobile 'test		all modes	
Mar 17-19	1800 to 0200 Z	160 m to 70 cm	
Virginia QSO Party		all modes	
Mar 18-19	1200 to 1200 Z	160 m to 10 m	
Russian DX 'test		all modes	
Mar 24-25	0000 to 2359 Z	160 m to 10 m	
CQ WW WPX		SSB	

* Please note: for the range of bands given in each entry, no contesting is permitted on the so-called WARC bands: 60 m, 30 m, 17 m or 12 m

minutes-continued

dues, even though he is moving to Cleveland to start his career. Bill expressed our appreciation for Jeff's generosity. Bill has decided to match this donation. Steve noted that he is donating the \$50 from the sale of his antenna.

The Club breakfast is coming up at Couzins in Grand Rapids at 9AM on

WCARC

2 m/440 Net Control Roster
Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Feb 27	N1RB
Mar 6	WB8NQW
Mar 13	K8OVO
Mar 20	WD8ICP
Mar 27	N8QMV
Apr 3	WB8NQW
Apr 10	N1RB

DON'T FORGET!!
10 METER INFORMAL NET
SUNDAYS, at 8:30 pm
on 28.335 MHz

3/3/07. The 2 meter net is Tuesday nights at 9:30PM on the K8TIH repeater 147.18+ MHz/444.475+ MHz, and the 10 meter net is held on Sunday nights at 8:30 on 28.335 MHz.

Jeff Halsey has notified us of a new member, Richard Traver, N8NCF. We will have a table at TMRA, numbered 103, in building 2, section C3. Building 2 is the south most building. Members are encouraged to hang out and rest their feet.

Bill Wilkins bought a paddle key from Bob Willman for \$65. That money is also being donated to the club. The paddle key is from Bob's mentor, Rich Mencil, K9UA, who recently became a silent key.

We have been in recent contact with the Findlay/Hancock County club. The Findlay club is interested in getting together with us and has suggested Van Buren as the place.

Bob, WB8NQW, spoke about a possible

Brain Teasers

1. Which sideband is commonly used for 10 meter phone operation?
 - a) upper sideband
 - b) lower sideband
 - c) amplitude compandored sideband
 - d) double sideband
2. How long should you make a quarter wave vertical for 28.450 MHz?
 - a) 8 ft
 - b) 12 ft
 - c) 16 ft
 - d) 24 ft
3. What type of filter should be connected to a TV receiver as a first step in trying to prevent RF overload from a nearby amateur HF station?
 - a) low pass
 - b) high pass
 - c) band pass
 - d) notch

Hamfest Table

At the TMRA hamfest, the WCARC will have a table complements of the hamfest. Any member is welcome to use it to sell, sit and relax at, store all new boughtn' goodies at, etc. The location of the table is Building 2, location C3, table 103. Take a folding lawn chair along as there are only two chairs furnished. ■

WCARC Net Check-ins

6-Feb K8OVO (NC), KC8EKT, K8NEA, KG8FH, WD8JWJ, WB8NQW, WB8VUL, K8BBK, N1RB, KC8ZJW, WD8ICP.

20-Feb N1QMV (NC), KC8ZJW, WD8JWJ, K8NEA, K8OVO, K8BBK, WB8NQW, WB8VUL, KG8FH (9)

License Classes to Start

Ham license classes will start on March 6th at 6 PM at the Sheriff's Office. General and Extra class will be on the agenda. Classes will be held every Tuesday except for the 17th and 24th of April up to the end of May. If anyone needs a study guide book, they can call me at 419 874 8889 or e-mail at: K8NEA@JUNO.COM. It takes about 5 working days to get them from ARRL. Duane, K8NEA ■

Message from K8OVO

The Ohio Single Sideband Net (OSSBN) meets 7 days a week on 3972.5 Khz at 10:30 am, 4:15 pm and 6:45 pm for the purpose of handling message traffic into and out of the State of Ohio.

All messages which are to be delivered into Wood County must have a telephone number for the addressee, which is in accordance with the National Traffic System rules. There are times when there are messages for people who live in Wood County, but there is no one to take them because it would be a long distance call. However, they could be taken and possi-

March Hamfests

Mar 17 S. Michigan ARS 8 am
Marshall High School, Marshall, MI. Contact Billy, KD8CDS (269) 965-1415.

e-mail: sqjumper@aol.com

URL: www.w8df.com

Mar 18 TMRA 8 am
Toledo Hamfest/Computer Fair. Lucas County Recreation Center. Contact Brian, WD8MXR (419) 385-5624.

e-mail: bharrington@meduohio.edu

URL: www.tmrahamradio.org

K8OVO-continued

bly put on our 2 meter net for delivery. It is the desire of the OSSBN to have more stations check in to handle the traffic, giving them knowledge how to write and transmit traffic in the event of an emergency situation, which I hope never happens. If you have a question concerning message writing or handling ask on the OSSBN or bring it to the WCARC meeting.

The National Weather service has announced the Ohio Weather Awareness Week is March 25-31 and has asked for check ins. Wednesday March 28th, 2007 the WX Net out of Toledo on 2 meters at 147.375 Mhz will go into operation at 9:50 am. Check in if you can,

Don't forget the 10 meter net on 28.335 MHz on Sunday nights at 8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Don, K8OVO ■

minutes-continued

constitutional change to form a lifetime membership. Usually these are set at 20 times the annual membership dues. Duane mentioned that we need the access codes for the repeater controller. Bob Boughton had CDs with the controller information and gave one to Chuck and one to Duane. John has one too. The controller needs to have the time reset. As of the time of the meeting the repeater was not working. Chuck and Steve were planning to see what was wrong as soon as they left the meeting.

A class is being planned for license upgrade preparation. Please consult Duane if you are interested. The Sheriff's meeting room is the expected location for the class or classes. We will see what the interest is

and then set the class type to match.

A Boy Scout troop is interested in having a session for a radio merit badge in Tontogony. Don is also trying to get a list of scoutmasters in the area. A regional ARRL group is interested in sponsoring local proficiency tests for the code. You can get a certificate suitable for framing if you pass one of the tests.

Eric Willman expressed an interest in reviving digital radio in the area -- specifically connecting packet radio to Findlay and to the Internet. The technology would pass e-mail and perhaps images. The goal would be to be able to transfer this information from mobile stations in the field to locations out of the area in case of an emergency or for scheduled events. Steve would be interested in learning more. Speed would be limited to 9600 bytes per second. Another possible application would be to use GPS and APRS to allow the EMA to know where mobiles were deployed in an emergency. BGSU's Offenhauer Hall would be a possible interconnect site, with the connection going through the Club's PC there into the Internet. John thought we should have get this approved by the University since only certain kinds of traffic are being transferred now. Eric didn't think much Club money would be needed, just incidentals, but Club facilities would be used. The focus of the project would be emergency preparedness. Steve moved the project be approved, with Bob, N1RB, seconding. Motion approved.

Bill mentioned that ATV can be another valuable technology in an emergency. Don mentioned two nets people could check into for weather preparedness. He will send the specifics to N1RB for inclusion in CQ Chatter. Don said that there were

minutes-continued

currently voids in Northwest Ohio where no one is able to deliver traffic from the major traffic nets. In an emergency this could be a particular problem.

Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn, KD8BOI, popped in at this point and thanked those members of the club who had helped him plan changes to the county public service radio network. He expects the county to save \$9,000 yearly in phone line charges due to the new installation, which will pay off the system in about 10 years. He asked the members their opinions about antenna location for officers' mobile radios. Eric mentioned that some antenna connectors used in this equipment can be problematic. This might vary model by model. Other considerations were mentioned by the members present, including the fact that antennas located near the waist might vary in efficiency in hitting the repeater depending on how the officer turns his body. Sometimes they are constrained from turning. Contact KD8BOI at wasyl@wcnet.org if you have further suggestions on this.

Eric asked about the data technology idea mentioned above. KD8BOI would be interested in e-mail in an extended disaster (several days, such as a flood) and would also be interested in checking a web site for mail in such situations.

WB8NQW mentioned that PC's needed to be updated soon in order to make the transition to daylight savings time in mid-March. The transition time has been changed.

Don resumed his remarks saying that recruiting is underway for traffic handlers to fill the above voids. Our Tuesday night net doesn't convey traffic very often. Skywarn training is scheduled for 3/21 at

St. Lukes hospital.

At 8:45, Bob, WB8NQW moved that we adjourn. Motion carried.

Following the meeting, there was a brief film presentation regarding an Antarctic DXpedition. ■

Repeater News

As was reported in the minutes, the WCARC repeaters were out of commission at meeting time. Due to the diligence of Chuck, WD8ICP and Steve, K8BBK, the cause of the shut down was identified as the 40 A fuse in the power supply. Having had a replacement handy, Chuck and Steve quickly got the repeater back up. It has been operating smoothly ever since---hopefully the cause of the fuse failure was due to a fault in the fuse itself and not some other more serious problem.

Also, on Monday, February 19, 2007, the K8TIH APRS repeater was put back on the air after being out of commission for several months. Thanks to William "Hoot" Gibson, WB8VUL, who has donated a working Heathkit HW-2036 2 meter transceiver. The radio has been modified to connect to the Kantronics KPC-3 TNC and has been set up to work on 144.390 Mhz. The radio is located in Offenbauer West and is available to anyone using APRS packet software. ■

Donors Thanked

The following members have added an additional contribution to the Club above and beyond their normal dues. On behalf of the entire Club, thanks!!

Bob Willman, WB8NQW

Steve McEwen, K8BBK

Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK

Bill Wilkins, WD8JWJ ■

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