

CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B9 • Issue #10 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

November 2008

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President/Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

K8OVO/K8NEA
N1RB
WD8JWJ

Don Buehrer/Duane Ashbaucher
Bob Boughton
Bill Wilkins

Minutes

Wood County Amateur Radio Club

October 13, 2008

Present: WD8ICP-Chuck, WB8NQQW-Bob, WD8JWJ-Bill, WB8VUL-Hoot, N8QMV-Esther and OM Rolland, KC8NKC-Orville, K8JU-Jim, K8LD-Mark, W8PSK-Loren, W8NYY-Bob, K8BBK-Steve, K8NEA-Duane, N1RB-Bob

Meeting called to Order at 7:30 pm by Co-chair Duane, K8NEA.

Treasurer, WD8JWJ, reported a balance of \$2,081.01 in the treasury. His report was approved. Bill also reported that he has tickets for the Ft. Wayne hamfest if anyone is interested.

- ARES---Bob, W8NYY, reported that he had made a proposal to set up a digital infrastructure for the County EMA to the County Commissioners. The issue is pending; it does not include packet.

- Wood County Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers---Phil, W8PSK, reported on upcoming mass vaccination exercise at the Health Center using Sheriff's radios

WCARC Weekly Net:

starting Nov. 4th

**Tuesdays at 2030 EST
(0130 Z Wed year-round)**

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

***Next Meeting
Breakfast***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Couzin's Restaurant

for communications. Phil announced upcoming training for the Medical Reserve if anyone wishes to enroll.

- Technician Classes---Duane, K8NEA, announced the availability of day-long Technician Class license classes sponsored by the Henry County Club. Those interested are invited to e-mail the Henry County people.

Old Business

- Chuck asked whether any progress had been made on the question of the Club re-

Net Check Ins

Oct 7

N8QMV (NC)
W8PSK
K8BBK
K8NEA
WD8ICP
WB8NQW (6)

Oct 14

WB8NQW (NC)
K8BBK
W8PSK
K3RC
WD8ICP
KG8FH
WD8JWJ
N8QMV
N1RB
WB8VUL
K8OVO
KB9UPS
WD8LEI (13)

Oct 21

N1RB (NC)
K8NEA
K8BBK
WD8JWJ
K3RC
WD8ICP
K8OVO
WB8NQW
KG8FH
WB8VUL
N8QMV
K8DHH/M-John
KD8JGQ/M-Dave (13)

WCARC

2 m Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2030 EST

Oct	28	K8OVO
Nov	4	WD8ICP
Nov	11	N8QMV
Nov	18	WB8NQW
Nov	25	N1RB
Dec	2	K8OVO
Dec	9	WD8ICP

Brain Teasers

- Which of the following one-way communications may not be transmitted in the amateur service?
 - telecommands to model aircraft
 - broadcasts intended for the general public
 - brief transmissions to make adjustments to the station
 - Morse code practice
- When may you send a distress signal on any frequency?
 - never
 - in a life or property threatening emergency
 - only at 15 and 30 minutes after the hour
 - when the national weather service has announced a severe weather watch
- What does an SWR reading of 1:1 mean?
 - an antenna for another band is probably connected
 - the best impedance match has been obtained
 - no power is going to the antenna
 - the SWR meter is broken

November Contests

The contest lineup for the month of November is given below. Please note that the WARC bands (60, 30, 17 and 12 m) are never open to contesting.

Nov 1-2	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
Ukrainian DX 'test		all modes
Nov 1-3	<i>2100 to 0300 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
ARRL Sweepstakes		CW
Nov 8-9	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 to 10 m
Worked All Europe DX 'test		Digital
Nov 8-9	<i>0700 to 1300 Z</i>	80 to 10 m
Japan Int'l DX 'test		SB
Nov 8-9	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
Czech DX 'test		CW
Nov 8-9	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 to 6 m
Kentucky QSO Party		all modes
Nov 15-16	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 to 10 m
Bulgaria DX 'test		all modes
Nov 15-17	<i>2100 to 0300 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
ARRL Sweepstakes		SB
Nov 22-23	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
CQ WW DX 'test		CW

Brain Teaser answers: 1-b, 2-b, 3-b

minutes--continued

gaining its lost space at the Fairgrounds. Bob, WB8NQQ, reported that he had talked to members of the Fair Board and there is no decision yet. Bob, W8NYY, checked the records on ownership and the property is listed as belonging to the OSU Extension Service.

New Business

- Phil raised the issue of moving the net time to an earlier hour during the time when daylight savings time is not in effect. This would allow a closer coordination with the ARES net, which is held at 7:45 pm. He moved and Bob, WB8NQQ, seconded to move the time to 8:30 pm EST but to keep it at 9:30 EDST when daylight savings time is in effect (this is the equivalent of a fixed time of 0130 Z on Wednesday throughout the year). The motion passed unanimously.

- Chuck, WD8ICP, raised the concern about noise creeping into the 2m input of the repeater during the net because a signal on the 440 MHz side opens the squelch momentarily, and if the band is up, quite a lot of unwanted interference can occur. Chuck moved to restrict the net operations to 2m and to also maintain the 67 Hz PL tone to raise the machine,

DON'T FORGET!
10 meter informal net meets
each Sunday at 2030 EST
on 28.335 MHz

and Jim, K8JU, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- As a second issue, Chuck raised the problem of the periodic hash that the APRS node makes with weak input signals to the repeater. Bob moved that a simple arrangement be put in place to prevent the APRS machine from transmitting whenever the repeater is in receive/transmit mode. Motion was seconded by Chuck and was passed unanimously.

- Phil commented that there was not much activity on the Sunday night 10 m net and encouraged others to participate.

- Phil raised the question of possibly holding the breakfast meetings in Bowling Green so that residents of that fine city could save on gas. After much discussion, the issue remained unresolved and breakfast meetings will be held at Couzin's restaurant in Grand Rapids until further notice.

November Hamfests

Dec 7 L'Anse Creuse ARC. L'Anse Creuse High School, Mt. Clemens, MI. Contact Marty, K8HVI, (586) 268-0544. k8hvi@arrl.net <http://www.n8lc.org>

minutes--continued

•Brett Luna, KC8UMN, became a silent key over the summer. His amateur equipment, including a repeater has been donated to the Club. Jim reported that it is in working order after some repairs. Discussion as to what use to make of the equipment was unresolved until the next item of new business was raised.

•Jim reported that the long-range network's repeater (W8PRH) is available along with space on the WBGU-TV tower in Deshler. It was suggested that Brett's repeater could be used as a link from this machine to K8TIH. It was also suggested that we could operate the machine using Brett's call as a memorial. Steve, K8BBK, moved to pursue this arrangement and Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Technical Committee will look into the matter.

•Steve moved that we hold the annual kick-off dinner on the Monday, January 12 and Bob seconded. The motion passed unanimously---Bob will investigate the availability of Ben's Table for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

A presentation on some of the technical aspects of DX chasing was made by Yours truly.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bob, N1RB, WCARC Secretary ■

GET READY FOR THE ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

This year marks the 75th running of the premier domestic contest, the ARRL CW Sweepstakes

<<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html>>.

According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the event started back in 1929 as a competition for handling formal traffic messages and is one of the oldest traditions in Amateur Radio. "The contest exchange contains more elements than usual, an homage to the traffic-handling days of yore," he said. "If you have never participated in Sweepstakes, you are really missing out on some serious fun! A complete primer by ARRL

Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, on how to participate in Sweepstakes can be found in the Radiosport supplement in the October 2008 issue of QST."

Kutzko said that since 2008 is the 75th running of Sweepstakes, ARRL is anticipating record levels of participation and many prizes will be available for those who participate: "We'll have a special magnet that will be sent free to all stations that submit a log with 75 of the 80 ARRL and RAC Sections worked. As in previous years, those who submit logs with at least 100 contacts will be able to purchase Participation Pins."

The major challenge in Sweepstakes is to work all 80 ARRL/RAC Sections; this is known as a "Clean Sweep." "This year, we will be awarding a Clean Sweep whisk broom to all stations that make a Clean Sweep," Kutzko said. "Brooms were last available in 1983, the 50th running of Sweepstakes. In addition to the free brooms, Clean Sweep coffee mugs will also be available for purchase. This year's mug will be fine etched glass and will truly be a collector's item."

Thanks to ICOM America <<http://www.icomamerica.com/>>, the

Principal Award Sponsor of the November Sweepstakes, certificates will be awarded for first place in each of the 80 ARRL/RAC Sections for all six entry categories; plaques will be available to the overall winners in each entry category, as well as the winners in each Division. "ICOM has provided plaques and certificates for Sweepstakes winners since 2005, and we are grateful for their support over the years," Kutzko said. "Certain Sections are always rare for Sweepstakes, especially on CW,"

Kutzko pointed out. "VY0/VY1/VE8 (Northern Territories), VE1-VE9-VY2 (Maritimes), VE2 (Quebec), VE4 (Manitoba), VE5 (Saskatchewan), VO1-VO2 (Newfoundland-Labrador), Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming always seem to be highly sought after.

Whether you want to go for a Top 10 finish, or simply get on the air to hand out a few QSOs or work on your Worked All States Award (WAS):

<<http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/>>, Kutzko said the November CW Sweepstakes is guaranteed fun and excitement. Be sure to check out the complete rules and entry forms. Come be a part of one of Amateur Radio's finest traditions. ■

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