

CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B12 • Issue #5 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE 2011

P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President	WB8NQW	Bob Willman
Vice President	K8NEA	Duane Ashbaucher
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	WD8JWJ	Bill Wilkins

Field Day Plans

This year Field Day will be held on June 25-26. The WCARC will set up at the Wood County Historical Museum. If you would like to pitch in on the antenna raising, activities will begin around noon on Saturday. As is traditional, the chow will be served at 6:00 pm. This year, the main course is chicken and biscuits provided by K8OVO and XYL. All those who join in should bring a salad dish or a dessert potluck. We are planning to have three stations running this year, so you can take a crack at phone or CW operation. Come on out and join the fun! ■

Letter from the President *June 2011*

Dayton is over for another year. The WX on Saturday was excellent. I talked to a few hams from NW Ohio.

Severe weather season is here and

**WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2130 EDST
(0130 Z year-round)**

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Business Meeting

Monday, June 13

TIME: 7:30 pm-7:00 eyeball

**PLACE: Sheriff's Training Room
Dunbridge and Gypsy Lane Rds.**

Bowling Green, OH

Mother Nature seems to be more than a little upset in some areas. So far we have been spared her wrath but there is a lot of season left so be prepared.

I will be seeking volunteers for the nominating committee at the next meeting to give them plenty of time to select a slate of candidates for the election. I think this committee is one of the most important in any organization. The candidates they select will determine what WCARC does in the future. Please consider serving on this

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June Contests

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

Jun 4-5	<i>1200 to 0300 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
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Maritimes QSO Party		all modes
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Jun 4-5	<i>1600 to 0400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
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Alabama QSO Party		all modes
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Jun 11	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
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Portugal Day		all modes
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Jun 11-12	<i>0600 to 0600 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
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Australian Shires 'test		all modes
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Jun 11-13	<i>1800 to 0300 Z</i>	6 m on up
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ARRL June VHF QSO Party		all modes
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Jun 18-19	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
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All Asian DX 'test		CW
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Jun 18-19	<i>1600 to 0200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
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West Virginia QSO Party		all modes
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Jun 18	<i>1800 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
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Kid's Day		SSB
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Jun 25-26	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
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King of Spain 'test		SSB
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Jun 25-26	<i>1800 to 2100 Z</i>	160 m to 2m
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ARRL Field Day		all modes
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June Hamfests

Jun 5 **Chelsea ARC.** Annual Hamfest. Chelsea Fairgrounds, Chelsea, MI. Contact Frank, KD8ABW, (734) 945-1915.

e-mail: frank.ohs@gmail.com

web: <http://www.qwd8iel.net>

Jun 19 **Monroe CRCA.** Annual Hamfest. Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI. Contact Fred, KA8EBI, (734) 652-3843.

e-mail: ka8ebi@yahoo.com

web: <http://www.mcrca.org>

Jul 9 **Indianapolis Hamfest Assn.** Annual Hamfest. Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, IN. Contact Bill, K9YDO, (317) 261-6658.

e-mail: k9ydo@comcast.net

web: <http://www.indyhamfest.com>

**It's Time to Renew!
Club Dues for 2011
Payable to WCARC
P. O. Box 534
Bowling Green, OH 43402**

**DON'T FORGET!
10 meter informal SSB net
meets
Sunday at 2030 EDST
on 28.335 MHz
Brass Pounders at 1930 EDST**

RIT Students Successfully Launch High Altitude Balloon

from ARRL Letter

The Rochester Institute of Technology Amateur Radio Club, K2GXT, had a **successful launch** of RITCHIE-1 -- a custom **high altitude balloon** designed by members of K2GXT -- at the **Imagine RIT** Festival on May 7. According to RITARC Vice President Bryce Salmi, KB1LQC, the goal of the launch was not to reach high altitudes to take images, but to engineer a reliable, modular and reusable payload with good engineering practice. "Saturday's launch went perfect," Salmi told the ARRL. "The launch was **streamed live to the Internet** and a local television station even produced a **segment** for their newscast on it." The club won the Academic Award for the balloon at the festival.

Salmi said that the balloon had a custom-made structural frame and foam design that protected it from the -50 degree temperatures. After reaching upwards of 96,000 feet and following the path of the New York Thruway, the balloon burst over Palmyra, New York, about 25 miles east of Rochester. Upon burst, it descended at more than 150 miles per hour until it reached thicker atmosphere. The balloon finally landed in a tall tree in Clifton Springs, about 10 miles southwest

of Palmyra. The balloon's camera took several thousand images, which Salmi said were "absolutely stunning. I needed to pry the waterproof case open with a flathead screwdriver since there was still a vacuum inside obtained during the flight."

Salmi told the ARRL that the balloon ended up descending through a thunderhead or storm cell and saw strong updrafts: "Based on data from the balloon's GPS, as well as images from the balloon's camera, I'm pretty sure that hail forced the balloon upwards another 1723 feet when it was between 6,000-7000 feet for a short duration. I have never heard of this happening before to a high altitude balloon."

Salmi said that the electronics worked "flawlessly. One club member largely designed the electronics system and PC boards, while K2GXT club members etched the double-sided PC boards. The TI MSP430 firmware that controlled the remote command capabilities -- including the nichrome wire cut-down system and light/sirens that several members programmed -- also performed amazingly. We had a group of other members who designed the microcontroller code, another group that designed the online web presence and another member that designed the radar reflector and others were there to help out with various aspects of the design." The K2GXT

balloon from p. 5

ground crew could even command it remotely to transmit its GPS coordinates on command while in flight, turn the beeper/LEDs on and off and change between flight modes in-flight via DTMF code sequences.

“In the end, our club pulled off an incredible high altitude balloon flight, especially for its first try,” Salmi explained. “I honestly think we had one of the largest, most technical (yet our presentation was easily understandable) and interesting exhibits at ImagineRIT. Visitors could view the balloon’s location on a display using *Google Earth*. Many of the visitors were amazed that we were using ham ra-

FEMA Administrator Calls Amateur Radio “The Last Line of Defense”

from ARRL Letter

In an **FCC forum** on earthquake communications preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) Administrator Craig Fugate described the Amateur Radio operator as “the ultimate backup, the originators of what we call social media.” The forum-- held May 3 at FCC Headquarters in Washington, DC -- brought together officials from the White House, the Department of Homeland Security (**DHS**), the United States Geological Survey (**USGS**), FEMA, the FCC and the private sector. Fugate and FCC Bureau

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committee.

The Field Day committee has planned another great Field Day. Find out the details at the meeting.

Next business meeting is June 13 at the Sheriff’s office. Field Day is June 25-26, and the next breakfast is July 02 at Edgewood.

73, Bob, WB8NQW



of Public Safety and Homeland Security Chief Jamie Barnett gave the opening remarks.

Later in the forum, Fugate spoke more on Amateur Radio. “During the initial communications out of Haiti, volunteers using assigned frequencies that they are allocated, their own equipment, their own money, nobody pays them, were the first ones oftentimes getting word out in the critical first hours and first days as the rest of the systems came back up,” he told the forum. “I think that there is a tendency because we have done so much to build infrastructure and resiliency in all our other systems, we have tended to dismiss that role ‘When Everything Else Fails.’ Amateur Radio oftentimes is our last line of defense.”

Fugate said that he thinks “we get so sophisticated and we have gotten so used to the reliability and resilience in our wireless and wired and our broadcast in-

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dustry and all of our public safety communications, that we can never fathom that they'll fail. They do. They have. They will. I think a strong Amateur Radio community [needs to be] plugged into these plans. Yes, most of the time they're going to be bored, because a lot of the time, there's not a lot they're going to be doing that other people aren't doing with Twitter and Facebook and everything else. But when you need Amateur Radio, you really need them."

You can watch a [video of the forum](#) on YouTube. Fugate's remarks begin at 18:55. ■

Ham Radio Responds to Joplin Tornado

from AR Newsline

Ham radio operators are a part of severe weather spotting as well as being involved in relief efforts as tornadoes continue to ravage the South. We have the latest in this report:

Actually, four days after the severe weather struck, very little is known about the role being played by radio amateurs in the South, especially in and around Joplin, Missouri. That's because they are far too busy saving lives and reporting damage to stop to make reports to the press.

We do know come from published news reports that quote Ron Kittleman, K0ADI. He says that hams have been stationed at the Springfield Missouri office of the National Weather Service. Also, that amateurs from ARES have been providing communication between hospitals and assessment teams following the tornado that hit Joplin at approximately 6 pm local time on Sunday, May 22nd.

According to Kittleman, the storm knocked out cell phone and landline communications across the area. Radio operators from ARES started relaying medical information between the Freeman Hospital and the St John's and Cox Health medical facilities in Springfield shortly after the storm hit.

Another report says that a Kansas and Western Missouri SATERN Teams from the Salvation Army has been activated for the Joplin tornado response. As we go to air, SATERN team members are reportedly assisting with communications in the affected area. Also, a Salvation Army emergency disaster services team based out Pittsburg, Kansas has been deployed to Joplin. Its job is to help carry out mass feeding for residents and first responders through a mobile feeding kitchen capable of serving thousands of meals a day.

As we go to air, the situation across the storm ravaged region remains a fluid one with events changing by the minute. We should know more in the coming days. ■

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43402**

