

CQ Chatter

Volume B2•Issue #10

Wood County Amateur Radio Club

MARCH 2000

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

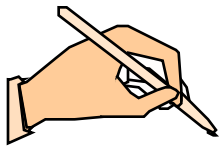
<http://bravais.bgsu.edu/~boughton/wcarc.html>

President-AA8XS, John Lagger
Secretary-N8QMV, Esther Creps

Vice President-WB8NQW, Bob Willman
Treasurer-N1RB, Bob Boughton

A Note from the Editor

The snows of late February gave us the last taste of winter (I hope). Spring weather is a bit more exciting, and of course can be more dangerous. The violent storm season begins in late March and lasts through September. We have been fairly fortunate in Wood County for several seasons, with very few tornado events doing appreciable damage. There are the occasional barn roofs that fly off, but fortunately none of these storms has hit a densely populated area.



Have you ever thought about what you should do if there is a tragic touchdown? The typical ham has the trusty HT on the shelf, perhaps with charged back-up batteries at the ready. Surely, the first step in being prepared is to maintain one or more battery packs at the ready. But what about operating? Where should you check in to help? Who should you contact?

There are two amateur organizations in place to provide the infrastructure for handling emergencies when they arise. The first is an official arm of the County government called RACES. The RACES organization works in conjunction with the County Emergency Management office. The second organization is a voluntary part of the American Radio Relay League, called ARES. This organization has several levels, ranging from the State Emergency Coordinator (SEC), to the District (NWOH) Emergency Coordinator (DEC), down to the County level Emergency Coordinator (EC).

In Wood County, both RACES and ARES work in close coordination to try to prepare for emergency situations, and to provide for communications back-up for the regular systems should they fail or become unusable for any reason. You can certainly read of situations in other parts of the country where amateur radio has been indispensable in an emergency. If you would like to participate, contact yours truly, or Larry Reitz, WA8CWD for more information.

73 de Bob

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

**Club Meeting:
Monday, March 13th
Location: Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 pm
Social Hour: 7:00 pm**

75 Meter Culprit Found Out

On New Year's Eve, an emergency net was set up on 3.878 MHz connecting most all of the county emergency operations centers in Ohio. The idea was to provide back-up communications just in case there was some kind of Y2K problem with the normal communications between the 88 county EOCs in the state and the state headquarters in Columbus. Whether or not any individual thought that the Y2K furor was unnecessary, this net was an officially sanctioned operation of the State EMA.

Apparently, some of the lids who normally inhabit 3.878 MHz thought the whole idea was ludicrous, which of course is their right. What transpired next was however, uncalled for and illegal. From about 10 pm on, the net was subjected to deliberate interference in the form of swept frequency audio noise and country music. The stupidity of the perpetrator was confirmed by the fact that FCC monitor were immediately called into the case, and they had plenty of time to zero in on the culprit.

The FCC enforcement log for January 20, contains an item involving a Michael D. Adams, AE4FB, of Doraville, GA, who has been given 20 days to respond to the deliberate interference complaint. 75 meters has a reputation for harboring various types of illegal operators who interfere with other stations. Maybe now there is one fewer. ■

March Contests

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

Mar. 4-5	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10m
ARRL DX Contest		SSB
Mar. 11-12	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10 m
World Wide Locator 'test		CW & SSB
Mar. 11-12	1200 to 1200 Z	80 to 10 m
Commonwealth Contest		CW
Mar. 12	1200 to 2200 Z (1600-1800 off)	80 m
Nova Scotia QSO Party		all modes
Mar. 12-13	1800 to 0100 Z	all bands
Wisconsin QSO Party		all modes
Mar. 17-19	1800 local time	6 m & up
CQ-VHF FM Activity Weekend		FM
Mar. 18-19	0000 to 2359 Z	80 to 10m
Bermuda Contest		all modes
Mar. 18-19I	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10 m
Alaska QSO Party		all modes
Mar. 18-19	1200 to 1200 Z	160 to 10 m
Russian DX Contest		all modes
Mar. 18-20	1800 to 0200 Z (0500-1100 off)	all bands
Virginia QSO Party		all modes
Mar. 25-26	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10 m
CQ WPX Contest		SSB
Apr. 1-2	1500 to 2359 Z	160 to 10 m
Polish DX Contest		all modes

HF Rig For Sale

Yaesu FT-101B w/ digital read-out accessory installed
10 through 160 meters
Astatic Silver Eagle D-104 mic
Asking \$200 or best offer
Contact Chuck WD8ICP
352-0856

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Feb	29	N1RB
Mar	7	N8QMV
Mar	14	AA8XS
Mar	21	KG8FH
Mar	28	WD8ICP
Apr	4	N1RB
Apr	11	N8QMV

ARRL to Seek Partial Reconsideration

The ARRL will seek partial reconsideration on two points in the Amateur Radio license restructuring plan announced by the FCC on Dec. 30th. Both points involve the way the plan deals with Technician-class licensees. The new FCC rules go into effect April 15th.

The League will ask the FCC to continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician-class licensee has passed a Morse code exam to earn HF privileges. Under the current system, the license class of Technicians is designated by a "T" in the FCC's database, and Tech Plus licensees by a "P". The ARRL asserts the change will eliminate any easy way to tell which licensees have passed the Morse code exam.

"We're going to try to persuade the FCC that it made a drastic error in deciding to change all those Ps back to Ts in the database", said ARRL Executive VP David Sumner, K1ZZ.

The FCC has said that it would be up to Technician licensees, if asked, to prove that they have successfully passed the 5 WPM code test. The ARRL plans to ask the FCC to stipulate that any amateur who provides proof of having passed an FCC-recognized Morse code exam prior to April 15th would be entitled to receive credit for the Morse code exam element when applying for future upgrades. The FCC has indicated to the ARRL that after April 15, code credit for Technician applicants passing the 5 WPM test would not survive beyond the 365-day term of a *Certificate of Successful Com-*

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pletion of Examination -- CSCE. Under the present and the new rules, anyone who held a Technician license before February 14, 1991, has permanent credit for the Morse code element, but all others do not.

Hamfest Calendar

Mar. 18 Michigan Crossroads 'fest 8am - 3pm
Marshall H. S., Marshall, MI. Contact Wes, N8BDM, (616) 979-3433.

Mar. 19 Toledo Mobile Radio Assn. 8am - 2pm
Lucas County Recreation Center, Key St., Maumee, OH. Contact Paul, N8XDB, (419) 243-3836.

Mar. 26 Lake County ARA 8am - 2pm
Madison H.S., North Ridge Rd., Madison, OH. Contact Roxanne, (440) 257-0024.

GOBA Back in NWOH!

The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure is returning to Northwest Ohio this summer. This is a fun-filled week of cycling adventure for over 3,000 cyclists. The idea is to spend an intensive period in a particular region of the State.

You may recall the last time the GOBA passed through Wood County. There was a two-night stop at BGSU on the intramural fields west of the Stadium. During the daylong stay, the participants took a 100 mile side trip to Maumee Bay State Park. All emergency communications and operations were provided through amateur radio. There are quite a number of the riders who are hams themselves.

This year, the tour will spend the night of Friday, June 23rd, in Bowling Green. The tour takes them from Bluffton to BG via North Baltimore on Friday. The next (Saturday) morning they are off to Fremont via Pemberville.

We will need many many volunteers to provide communications for sag wagons, at the hospital, and at fixed points along the route. If you are interested in becoming a part of this very exciting exercise, please contact Bob, N1RB, at 354-1811. The GOBA gang have a lot of fun on their ride and it is a lot of fun working with them. Any amateur who wants to gain experience in emergency or routine communication exercises should plan to participate. ■

The Big Ride Returns

The Big Ride is a bicycle ride that crosses the entire country, from Seattle, WA, to Washington, DC. It covers 3,250 miles in 6 1/2 weeks. Last year the "Ride" raised 7.5 million dollars for the benefit of the American Lung Association.

The picture below shows the group coming into the finish line last year. Last year, the riders, about 1,000-strong, rode through Wood County on the way to Sandusky from Napoleon. This year, the route through Ohio will be much the same, and we expect the riders to pass through Bowling Green on Thursday, July 27th.

The exact route has not been announced as yet, but if they follow the pattern of last year, they will be riding in from the west on Poe Rd., have a brief breakfast-lunch break in downtown Bowling Green, and then continue on to the east via Rte. 25 and Greensburg Pike, and then through Fremont to Sandusky. The riders include a number of hams, some of whom are organizers in sag wagons, and others who will be operating bicycle mobile. While in Wood County, the group uses the 147.18 machine for their communications, both emergency and social. If you happen to have an off-day on the 27th, its a lot of fun to monitor the group and introduce yourself. There are always questions about local "attractions".

This is probably the longest organized cycle ride in the country. In a previous published review of last year's Big Ride, one of the organizers stressed their preference for amateur radio versus cellular phones because of reliability issues with the latter. It's always a good experience for radio amateurs to demonstrate the unique ability of our hobby to serve in an auxiliary communications role. ■



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