



CQ Chatter

WCARC MEETING
Monday
Nov. 10, 2003
Wood Co. Fairground
Administration
Building

Volume H1, Issue #8

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

October & November 2003

NET CONTROL ROSTER

Nov. 11 WD8ICP
Nov. 18 KC8RVB
Nov. 25 KB8QEW
Dec. 2 N8QMV
Dec. 9 N1RB

FOR SALE

Realistic DX-160 short-wave receiver w/ communications speaker.

Works very good, is clean, non-smoker and has booklet included. \$50.

Contact Chuck, WD8ICP 352-0856

NWS/ARRL SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY SET FOR DECEMBER 6

ARRL Newsletter Vol. 22 No. 44

The fifth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day will take place Saturday, December 6, 2003, 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. During the special event, Amateur Radio operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is twofold: to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local NWS office. The event is cosponsored by the

American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. "You simply can't put a price tag on it," said Scott Mentzer, N0QE, organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. "The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable."

This year, radio amateurs once again proved their worth. On May 4, after tornadoes knocked out all communications in Stockton, Missouri, portable ham radio stations were set up and staffed by volun-

teers, with licensed NWS employees forwarding specific forecasts to hams at the Stockton Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In August, an Amateur Radio storm spotter in Iowa tracked a tornado until it lifted, providing the local NWS office in the Quad Cities with "ground truth." This resulted in more specific information and earlier warnings being disseminated to the public.

The story doesn't stop there. Deployed during a winter storm last March, hams in Fairbanks, Alaska reported pinpoint locations of freezing rain and snow. The information was relayed on 2 meters, which allowed the local NWS office to sharply define the warning area and provide

WCARC OFFICERS

President	Bob Boughton	N1RB
Vice-President	Shawn Hudson	KB8QEW
Treasurer	Bill Wilkins	WD8JWJ
Secretary	Chuck Dicken	WD8ICP

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detailed statements of ice accumulation. In Wisconsin, a volunteer operator reported to the NWS office at early one spring morning and solicited snowfall reports from amateurs across the region, allowing the NWS to produce a detailed snow graphic and make a public statement summarizing the

storm. Amateur Radio success stories such as these occur every year, all across the country.

In 2002, participants logged nearly 23,000 QSOs during the 24 hour event. Last year nearly 70 countries were contacted. To learn more, check out the NOAA Web site. -- Thanks to David Floyd, N5DBZ, Warning

Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Goodland, Kansas

WCARC Meeting Minutes October Meeting 2003

There were no formal minutes from the previous month (Sept 03) due to the fox hunt. Wintergarden lodge was the lair of the fox and was found initially by Linda N1LB. Good hunting.

The treasurer reported that the bad check from the hamfest still hadn't been made good. Due to the amount of the check and the cost of processing a bad check, it was agreed upon by those members present to accept the loss and move on. Our final hamfest net now reported is \$96.18. Bill then told us we have a balance of \$3,038.83.

A report was given from the tech committee that included the news the repeater controller had new chips installed to replace faulty ones and the APRS machine is once again active. With RS232 interface once again working our interconnect with the computer is available. Shawn is now working on installing the weather station at the repeater site. A letter of inquiry will be addressed to the

architects office, BGSU to ask if a containment center could be fashioned around our radios to help keep the dirt from our facility.

Old Business:
Ham-A-Rama 2004 is scheduled for the Jr. Fair Building July 11. Tickets have been authorized for print with double stubs and the prizes have been set. 1st - \$300. 2nd-\$100 3rd - \$50 4th-\$50. Free admission will continue as our tradition and this year, Bill has suggested a pancake breakfast to help entice patrons. Esther will discuss options with the Legion Aux. (Togany). John G. was going to ask a commercial concern for their input as well. As usual advertising is a must and its not too early to get the word out about the fest.
Pres. Boughton wants a nominations committee in place by the November meeting. Slate of officers to include Pres, V-Pres. Treas, Secty and 2 trustees.

The weather station will be placed at the repeater

site.

An inquiry about the silent key plaque was made and the inclusion of K8YLM Millie was suggested.

Pres. Boughton said he would check into the request.

The Pres. Entertained a motion to adjourn 2nd by Shawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Dicken WD8ICP

Secty, WCARC