

CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B9 • Issue #9 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

October 2008

P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

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Message from Brent Stover, WD8PNZ

My name is Brent Stover and I am the ARRL Legislative Action Coordinator for the State of Ohio. One of my duties in this position is to recruit ARRL members to volunteer as Legislative Action Assistants in their home county. I am asking three ARRL members in each county, who are as passionate for this radio hobby as I am to help me shape the future of Amateur Radio for years to come. Without your help, our hobby is in jeopardy of being lost to highest bidder for the frequencies that we use every day for pleasure and public service. The job is not tough; in fact, I think you should have fun doing it. This position does not take up much time. A visit with your local Congressman at his or her home office once in a while and urging others to write letters to their Congressman and Senator, takes very little time and offers a large benefit. When

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

***Next Meeting
Business***

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 13th
TIME: 7:30 pm/7:00 social
PLACE: Sheriff's Training Room,
Gypsy Lane and Dunbridge Rd,
Bowling Green**

legislators receive letters from their constituents, they do take notice and it does make a difference.

I, like most of you, work a job that requires me to work about 70 hours per week. Besides my work as an LAC, I am an AEC for Lucas County, Assistant Skywarn® Coordinator for Northwest Ohio Skywarn® District 1, Lucas County CERT, American Red Cross volunteer. I was also a Legislative Action Assistant before taking my current position, taking Senator Mike DeW-

Net Check Ins

Sept 2

N8QMV (NC)

W8PSK

K8BBK/2

K8NEA

KC8ZJW

K8OVO

WD8ICP

WB8NQW

WB8VUL (9)

Sept 9

WB8NQW (NC)

KG8FH

K8BBK/2 via skipe

K8OVO

W8PSK

WB8VUL

K8NEA

N1RB

WD8JWJ

KC8NKC (10)

Sept 16

N1RB (NC)

N8QMV

KG8FH

K8BBK/2

K8OVO

WD8JWJ

W8PSK

WD8ICP

WB8VUL

WB8NQW

KC8NKC/Orville (11)

WCARC

2 m/ 70 cm Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Sep	30	WD8ICP
Oct	7	N8QMV
Oct	14	WB8NQW
Oct	21	N1RB
Oct	28	K8OVO
Nov	4	WD8ICP
Nov	11	N8QMV
Nov	18	WB8NQW

Brain Teasers

1. Why is an RF attenuator desirable in a receiver used for direction finding?
 - a.) it eliminates the effects of isotropic radiation
 - c.) it reduces loss of received signals caused by antenna pattern nulls
 - d.) it prevents receiver overload from extremely strong signals
2. How can the unwanted sideband be removed from a double-sideband signal generated by a balanced modulator to produce a single-sideband signal?
 - a.) by filtering
 - b.) by heterodyning
 - c.) by mixing
 - d.) by neutralization
3. Why should an HF mobile antenna loading coil have a high ratio of reactance to resistance?
 - a.) reduce harmonics
 - b.) maximize losses
 - c.) minimize losses
 - d.) minimize the Q

October Contests

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

Oct 4-5	<i>0800 to 0800 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
Oceania DX 'test		SSB
Oct 4-5	<i>1600 to 2159 Z</i>	160 to 2 m
California QSO Party		all modes
Oct 5	<i>0700 to 1900 Z</i>	15 to 10 m
RSGB 21/28 'test		all modes
Oct 11-12	<i>1600 to 2200 Z</i>	160 to 2 m
Pennsylvania QSO Party		all modes
Oct 11-12	<i>0800 to 0800 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
Oceania DX 'test		CW
Oct 18-19	<i>1600 to 2359 Z</i>	160 to 6 m
W/VE Islands QSO Party		all modes
Oct 18-19	<i>1500 to 1459 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
Worked All Germany 'test		all modes
Oct 19-20	<i>1700 to 0100 Z</i>	160 to 2 m
Illinois QSO Party		all modes
Oct 25-26	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
CQ WW DX 'test		SSB

Brain Teaser answers: 1-d, 2-a, 3-c

WD8PNZ---continued

ine's group and other legislators on tours of our Skywarn® facility located in the Emergency Services Building of the Lucas County EMA. One thing I did learn in talking to many legislators is that they know nothing of the role that amateur radio plays in the arena of public service. We need to educate them and tell them how we want them to support the bills that the ARRL is presenting through the legislative process.

One of the threats to amateur radio that the ARRL is addressing is Broadband Over Power lines. BPL, as it is called, is where companies are putting internet frequencies on unshielded electrical power lines, making one big antenna and in the process making some parts of the amateur radio bands and some public service bands unusable. We are currently asking all amateur radio licensees' to write their Congressman and Senators to ask them to co-sponsor legislation relating to this matter. In the House, it is the Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007 H.R. 462. In the Senate, it is the same name but is numbered S 1629. There are sample let-

DON'T FORGET!
10 meter informal net meets each
Sunday at 2030

ters on the ARRL website you can download and print out and these can be personalized in any way you wish. You can visit the website and read the entire bill.

If you want to protect the frequencies we enjoy today and keep them for generations to come, then you need to volunteer a little bit of time and help me build this grassroots Buckeye organization into a force that gets the attention of our representatives and makes amateur radio a hobby to be enjoyed for all licensed operators no matter what area of the hobby they operate.

For more information, or better yet, to contact me to tell me you are ready to volunteer; I have included my contact information.

Brent Stover, WD8PNZ, Ohio Legislative Action Coordinator, [ARRL, Great Lakes Division, 720 Farrer St., Maumee, OH. 43537-3520](#), E-mail: wd8pnz@arrl.net, Phone: 419-893-2620; Cell: 419-297-8490

ARRL - The Reason Amateur Radio Is!

Members - The Reason ARRL Is!

Website: www.greatlakes.arrl.org ■

October Hamfests

Oct 26 Massillon ARC. Massillon Boys and Girls Club Complex, Massillon, OH. Contact Terry, N8ATZ, (330) 837-3091. truss@sssnet.com <http://marcradio.org>

Oct 26 USECA Polish-American Century Club, Sterling Heights, MI. Contact: Larry, W8NIC, (586) 864-4563. w8nic@yahoo.com

DXing---The Essence of Amateur Radio, by N1RB

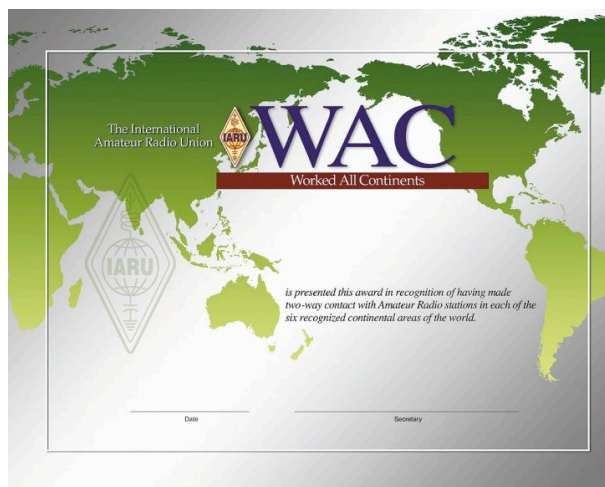
The art of chasing DX (distance) stations is one of the basic pillars of ham radio. It dates back to the misty origins of the hobby when hams tried to talk to other hams across the country and even across the ocean. The thrill of contacting another station many miles away, in another country or on another continent is something most hams don't forget the first time it happens!

The first DX experience I recall was to snag that rare Wyoming station on 40 meters. At the time I was a newly minted Novice and was restricted to operating under "crystal control". This meant that the transmitting frequency was fixed and when you call CQ, you tune up and down the band trying to hear somebody come back. Likewise, if

someone else was calling CQ, it most likely was not on your crystal's frequency, so you had to answer with a very long winded reply. The objective of all this was to qualify for the coveted Worked All States (WAS) award. It comprises a certificate suitable for framing that is provided by the ARRL upon receipt of the 50 requisite QSL cards. As a Novice, there was no operation on 20 meters, the premier DX band. There was however, a decent Novice allocation on the 15 meter band, and when propagation was good it was the band of choice for chasing the rare one.

The WAS certificate arrived one day, but chasing the states had already been overtaken by a newly found excitement --- contacting foreign DX. There are a number of DX awards available --- perhaps the easiest to get is the Worked All

Continents (WAC). This award is offered by the International Amateur Radio Union for evidence of confirmed contacts with all 6 continents (Antarctica doesn't count). The IARU recently announced an upgrade to the certificate (shown below) and it makes a fine wall decoration in the shack.



The granddaddy of all awards is undoubtedly the DX Century Club (DXCC). This award is offered by the ARRL for confirmed contact with 100 different "countries" (there is a list available---some of the "countries" you never heard of). There are of course various endorsements to these awards---the ordinary award is for working all bands and all modes. But if you focus on SSB, or on PSK31, for example, you can obtain an endorsement sticker for your DXCC certificate indicating your success.

A neat development over the past several years is in the way you can confirm your contacts. The old way was to try to get the other station to send a paper QSL card. This process can get very expensive and there is still no guarantee of success.

The new development is the Logbook of the World (LotW), a service provided by the ARRL to digitally record operators' logs and then try to match them up to confirm that a QSO occurred. This process saves both time, expense, and overcomes the complaint that many DX stations had about sending out so many QSL cards---they couldn't afford it! Recently the LotW service has also added confirmation for WAS, so cost is certainly no excuse for not getting active!

There is also an array of awards sponsored by CQ Magazine: Worked All Prefixes (WPX)---here each individual prefix counts as a multiplier (i.e., W8 is different than K8, or KA8, etc.); Worked All Zones (WAZ)---the globe is split into 40 different zones and the object is to work them all. Unfortunately, these latter awards must be applied for using paper confirmations, but they are all worth a try! ■

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