

# CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B10 • Issue #3 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

April 2009

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President/Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

K8OVO/K8NEA  
N1RB  
WD8JWJ

Don Buehrer/Duane Ashbaucher  
Bob Boughton  
Bill Wilkins

## New Officers To Be Elected

The April business meeting is an important one for all members to attend. The 2009 slate of officers will be voted on to choose the Club leadership for the upcoming year. There are a number of activities that we normally participate in that are currently being organized, such as Field Day. Please attend the April meeting on the 13th at the Wood County Justice Center. Suggestions for new activities that the Club could undertake are always welcome. ■

## Looking for Controllers

The Wood County ARC 2-meter net has been in regular operation for over 15 years at the present time. Those of us who like to check in to the net every Tuesday owe some thanks to the band of net control operators whose names you can see below on the Net Roster. If you would like to join the crew, or have questions about what is involved, your contribution is welcome. Please contact Bob, N1RB, to sign up. ■

**WCARC Weekly Net:  
Tuesdays at 2130 EST  
(0130 Z Wed year-round)  
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL**

**Next Meeting**

**Business**

**MONDAY, APRIL 13th**

**TIME: 7:30 PM-7:00 eyeball**

**PLACE: Sheriff's Training Room  
Gypsy Lane & Dunbridge Rd., BG**

## FCC Clarifies Repeater Definition

*from Amateur Radio Newsline*

The FCC has clarified its use of the word simultaneous in its rules governing repeater operation, and their decision is not going to make some who are planning digital voice repeaters very happy. That's because they will have to get in line with those planning analog FM systems and wait for a channel pair. Here are the details: The FCC decision came in response to a 2007 request for a Declaratory Ruling filed by

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# Net Check Ins

Mar 3

N1RB (NC)  
K3RC/M  
N8QMV  
KC8ZJW  
KC8EKT  
WD8ICP  
WD8JWJ  
WB8NQW  
WB8VUL  
KC8BHV - Scott  
K8BBK (11)

Mar 10

WB8NQW NC  
K8BBK  
KC8ZJW  
WD8ICP  
K8NEA  
K8OVO  
WD8PIC  
WB8VUL (8)

Mar 24

K8OVO (NC)  
K8BBK  
WB8NQW  
WD8JWJ  
KG8FH  
WD8ICP (6)

Mar 31

N8QMV (NC)  
WD8ICP  
K8NEA  
K8BBK  
N1RB  
WB8NQW  
WB8VUL (7)

# WCARC

## 2 m Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2030 EST

Mar	31	N8QMV
Apr	7	WB8NQW
Apr	14	N1RB
Apr	21	K8OVO
Apr	28	WD8ICP
May	5	N8QMV
May	12	WB8NQW

## Brain Teasers

1. What characterizes libration fading of an earth-moon-earth signal?
  - a.) a slow change in the pitch of the CW signal
  - b.) a fluttery, rapid irregular fading
  - c.) a gradual loss of signal as the sun rises
  - d.) the returning echo is several hertz lower than the transmitted signal
2. What frequency range would you normally tune to find EME stations in the 2-meter band?
  - a.) 144.000-144.001 MHz
  - b.) 144.000-144.100 MHz
  - c.) 144.100-144.300 MHz
  - d.) 145.000-145.100 MHz
3. Which emission modes are best for auroral propagation?
  - a.) CW and SSB
  - b.) SSB and FM
  - c.) FM and CW
  - d.) RTTY and AM

## April Contests

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

<b>Apr 4-6</b>	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Montana QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 4-5</b>	<i>1500 to 1500 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>SP (Poland) DX 'test</b>		<b>CW</b>
<b>Apr 4-5</b>	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Missouri QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 11-12</b>	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>URE (Spain) 60th Anniv. 'test</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 11-12</b>	<i>0700 to 1300 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Japan Int'l DX 'test</b>		<b>CW</b>
<b>Apr 11-12</b>	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Georgia QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 18-19</b>	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Holyland DX 'test</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 18-19</b>	<i>1600 to 0400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
<b>Michigan QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 18-19</b>	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Ontario QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 18-19</b>	<i>2100 to 1700 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>YU (Serbia) DX 'test</b>		<b>CW</b>

## DON'T FORGET!

10 meter informal net meets each Sunday at 2030 EST  
on 28.335 MHz

### April Hamfests

**Apr 19** Cuyahoga Falls ARC. Cuyahoga Falls 55th Annual hamfest. Emidio & Sons Party Center, Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Contact Ted, W8TTS, (330) 688-2013.

<http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2009.html>

<b>Apr 25-26</b>	1300 to 1259 Z	160 m to 10 m
<b>Helvetia (Switzerland) 'test</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 25-26</b>	1600 to 2159 Z	40 m to 10 m
<b>Florida QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 25-26</b>	1700 to 1700 Z	160 m to 10 m
<b>Nebraska QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>

### No Wallpaper Needed

*from Amateur Radio Newsline*

The FCC has denied a request from Thomas Baldwin, KA6ZPY, of Anaheim, California, who wanted a rule that would force all radio amateurs to post their original license document at the operating position for the licensee's station. In denying his petition, the FCC noted that this was a requirement until 1994. It was eliminated when the Part 97 rules were amended to authorize operation of an amateur station on the basis of the licensee data appearing in the amateur service licensee database.

*Definition---continued from p. 1*

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU. Gary is the president of Northern California Packet Association. Gary's filing was the result of some frequency coordinators and the license holders of some digital voice repeaters claiming that these digital voice repeaters need not be constrained to repeater sub bands. This, because they were technically not repeaters. Those coordinators and licensees asserted that the delay inherent in converting the spoken word to a digital data stream and then back again to audible sound meant

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The FCC says that the change was made in order to eliminate the delay between the time a license is granted and the time that the licensee may begin to operate. Another reason for the rule change was that it is no longer necessary to require the license document to be immediately available because a licensee's authorization now can be confirmed by the information in the licensing database. The FCC did note that there is no rule that prevents licensees from posting their license should they so desire. ■

### **US COAST GUARD TO DISCONTINUE LORAN STATIONS**

Last month, the US Coast Guard <<http://www.uscg.mil/>> announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 LORAN-C (LongRange Aid to Navigation) <<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm>> stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska.

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*Definition---continued from p. 4*

that these devices were not simultaneously receiving and retransmitting.

But the FCC says audio processing time is irrelevant. Rather, it concludes that the word "simultaneously," as used in the definition of a "repeater," refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time. In other words, the fact that it takes a second or two for audio to be digitized and undigitized is incidental to a digital audio repeater's operation.

Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, in Chicago, follows the digital voice repeater scene worldwide. He tells Newline that the small number of digital voice repeaters in Northern California that actually went the out-of-sub-band-route moved to legitimate repeater sub-band channel pairs some time ago. Mark says that he knows of no other digital voice machines currently operating under the guise of being other than repeaters. We cannot find any either, but if there are, they will need to be re-coordinated inside repeater sub-bands, or go off the air until such time as channels become available within repeater sub bands.

Because of the time it took the FCC to issue its Declaratory Ruling, it's right now a solution looking for a problem to solve. If nothing else, it does serve as a warning to coordinators and those who might be thinking of putting up a digital voice repeater. One that says to keep

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**Definition---continued from p. 5**

them confined within the recognized repeater sub bands and find ways to integrate their operation with the existing analog FM systems because repeater sub bands are the only place where repeaters belong. One last item. From what we have seen posted on the Internet forums, one thing needs clarification. Neither Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, nor the Northern California Packet Association coordinate repeaters. The request was filed so as to assure all spectrum users that they will have a place to operate and that digital repeaters will not take over the VHF and UHF bands. ■

**LORAN---continued from p. 5**

LORAN-A stations were developed beginning in World War II, and signals were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. LORAN-A was responsible for reduced amateur radio operations, including frequency and power limitations, on 160 meters in the United States. In 1979, the Coast Guard phased out the LORAN-A stations; they were replaced by LORAN-C stations. The newer stations operated on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on the 160 meter amateur band due to LORAN functions, to be dropped.

According to the Coast Guard, the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service will continue to operate the current LORAN-C system through the end of fiscal year 2009; it is in the process of preparing detailed plans for implement-

ing the fiscal year 2010 budget. According to USCG Vice Commandant and Chief Operating Officer Vice Admiral V. S. Crea, further details of the LORAN-C termination plan will be available upon the submission of the President's full budget. ■

## SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun was warm but the wind was chill" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Currently, USAF and NOAA predict a planetary A index of 8 for today, March 27, then leveling off at 5 (a very quiet, stable level) until April 9-10 when it jumps to 15, then 10. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions March 27, quiet March 28-29, quiet to unsettled March 30-31 and back to quiet for April 1-2. Sunspot numbers for March 19 through 25 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.1, 68.7, 70.1, 68.7, 68, 69.1, and 68.5 with a mean of 68.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 4, 8, 4, 3, 8 and 10 with a mean of 5.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 2, 5, 4, 2, 6 and 7 with a mean of 4.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page

<<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>> ■

**Have you paid your dues yet?**

**contact Bill, WD8JWJ**

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