

CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B13 • Issue #2 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH 2012

P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President	NM8W	Craig Magrum
Vice President	WB8NQW	Bob Willman
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	WD8JWJ	Bill Wilkins

Minutes

WCARC Meeting

February 13, 2012

thanks to WB8VUL for recording the minutes in the absence of the Secretary-N1RB

Present: NM8W-Craig, K8JTK-Jeff, N8ETP-Tom, KD8QYM-Lee, WD8JWJ-Bill, WB8NQW-Bob, KD8EVN-Dave, K8EEE-Ernie, KD8QYL-Alvin, KB8RT-Lee, WB8VUL-Hoot, K8BBK-Steve, KC8NKC-Orrville, K8OVO-Don

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Old Business:

- Bob, WB8NQW, as head of the Ad Hoc Committee to relocate the repeater transmitter reported no suitable alternate site has been located to date. Consideration is being given to co-locating the receiver and transmitter using duplexers.

**WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2030 EST**

(0130 Z year-round)

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, March 3rd

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Frisch's Big Boy

N. Main St. & Poe Rd.

Bowling Green, OH

- Membership dues are due, There are 26 paid members at present.
- Tentative plans to commemorate the Club's 60-year ARRL affiliation anniversary focused on having a potluck at one of City Park's shelter houses. Tentative date is June 2, 2012, from 1200 to 1500 hours. Pavilion reservation, rental fees and permissibility of operating a station will be looked into by Craig, NM8W. A flyer announcing the event and

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Net Check Ins

January 24

NM8W (NC)
WD8JWJ
K8BBK
WB8NQW
N1RB
W8WJW-John (6)

January 31

K8OVO (NC)
N1RB
K8BBK
WB8NQW
WB8VUL
WD8JWJ
KC8EKT (7)

February 14

WB8NQW (NC)
WD8JWJ
K8BBK
N8YAE
KD8PCQ
KC8EKT
WB8VUL (7)

February 21

N1RB (NC)
K8BBK
WB8NQW
WB8VUL
NM8W
WD8JWJ
N8PYA
KD8PCQ (8)

WCARC

2 m Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at
2030 EST/2130 EDST*/0130 Z

Feb	28	NM8W
Mar	6	K8OVO
Mar	13*	N8QMV
Mar	20*	WB8NQW
Mar	27*	N1RB
Apr	3*	NM8W
Apr	10*	K8OVO

Brain Teasers

- Which of the following modes of voice communication is most commonly used on HF?
 - FM
 - AM
 - SSB
 - PM
- What is a characteristic of HF scatter signals?
 - high intelligibility
 - a wavering sound
 - reversed modulation
 - reversed sidebands
- If a carbon resistor's temperature is increased, what will happen to the resistance?
 - increases by 20% for each 10 degrees Centigrade
 - stays the same
 - changes depending on the resistor's temperature coefficient rating
 - becomes time dependent

March Contests

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

Mar 3-4	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
ARRL Int'l Phone DX 'test		SSB
Mar 10-11	<i>1600 to 1600 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
EA (Spain) PSK63 'test		PSK
Mar 10-11	<i>1900 to 1900 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Idaho QSO Party		all modes
Mar 11-12	<i>1800 to 0100 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Wisconsin QSO Party		all modes
Mar 17-18	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Russian DX 'test		all modes
Mar 17-18	<i>1300 to 0100; 1300 to 1900 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Oklahoma QSO Party		all modes
Mar 17-18	<i>1400 to 0200; 1200 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Virginia QSO Party		all modes
Mar 17-18	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
North Dakota QSO Party		all modes
Mar 24-25	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CQ WPX 'test		SSB

March Hamfests

Mar 18 Toledo Mobile RA. Hamfest and Computer Fair. Owens Community College, Perrysburg, OH. Contact Brian, WD8MXR, (419) 385-5624.

e-mail: wd8mxr@gmail.com

web: <http://tmrahamradio.org>

SPRAY-ON ANTENNA

from AR Newline

Ever found yourself without a signal and wished you could just spray one on like magic? Soon, you may be able to do just that. Chamtech Enterprises, of Sandy, Utah, has developed a spray on antenna material that it says is more lightweight and energy efficient than current technology.

Revealed at Google's inaugural "Solve for X" symposium, the company says than an antenna can be painted onto almost any surface including trees, walls and even on fabrics. Chamtech says that it is already talking with government-based customers, and as such can't give too much detail on how it works. However it has released information that its material uses organic elements that have the ability to interact with magnetic and radio-frequency fields.

The company's Chief Technology Officer is Rhett Spencer. Spencer is quoted as saying the antenna could increase mobile energy efficiency by 10 percent. Also that it was found to work particularly well under water. Observers at the event say that being organic could make it ideal for subaquatic telecommunications infrastructure.

Preliminary tests on current a generation cell phone showed that the product was able to boost signals by an impressive 20 dbm when painted over the standard internal antenna.

For ham radio operators living in antenna restricted areas such as apartments or condominiums, the possibilities of a product such as this could be endless. All a ham might need is a bit of imagination and some of the spray-on antenna paint to get on the air with a signal much stronger than from the rubber duckie on his or her HT.

For more information about the Chamtech spray-on antenna material you can take your web browser to www.chamtechops.com. A video with a talk about the technology involved is on-line at:

tinyurl.com/spray-onantenna. ■

Special Thanks

The officers of WCARC wish to extend special thanks to Jeff, K8JTK, and Hoot, WB8VUL, for their contributions over and above the normal dues rate. The Radio Club at its heart depends on extra contributions, whether they be in the monetary or volunteer realms. Thanks again to Jeff and Hoot. ■

DON'T FORGET! 10 meter informal net meets

Sunday at 2030 EST on 28.335 MHz

Tim Allen Plays Ham in TV Series

from WrightwoodCalif.com

Tim Allen -- star of Home Improvement, Toy Story, The Santa Clause and Galaxy Quest, just to name a few -- stars in Last Man Standing, an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of Last Man Standing -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly fea-

tured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio."

To make Mike a ham, Amodeo needed Mike to have a call sign. So he contacted ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, to help him out. "In film and TV, we create fictitious telephone numbers, addresses and brands," Amodeo explained. "We do this mostly to avoid being sued by real brands and to avoid complications with advertisers. As a producer and a ham, I was torn between wanting the show to be accurate and needing to keep my studios out of trouble. An accurate and positive portrayal of ham radio on TV would be a good thing." Many TV shows and movies use telephone numbers with a 555 exchange (such as 555-1212), as that exchange is not valid.

Together with Pitts, and with input from Tim Allen, Amodeo created a call sign for Mike Baxter: KA0XTT. Since the show is set in Colorado,

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Brain Teaser answers: 1-c, 2-b, 3-c

It's Time to Renew!

Club Dues for 2012---Payable to WCARC

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

Allen from p. 5

they wanted Mike to have a call sign with a 0 in it. "We wanted a call sign that sounded real, but was not valid," Amodeo said. "The call sign is a 2x3 format with an X suffix. A call sign in this format is an experimental call sign and is not assignable to a radio amateur except in special circumstances. We especially liked the suffix, as it is a play on Tim's character from his former show, Home Improvement: 'ex-Tim Taylor.'"

Amodeo told the ARRL that both his studio (Fox) and ABC were "delighted to have a useable call sign. In the past, TV shows just made up some crazy call or used someone else's without permission. And because we've had so much talk about Amateur Radio here on the show, a few of my production assistants took their Technician exam." Amodeo applied to be an ARRL Volunteer Examiner so he could help administer the exams. On October 6, Amodeo and two other ARRL VEs administered the Technician exam to seven prospective hams. All seven passed, with two making perfect scores.

Since Mike Baxter is a ham, he needed a shack. So Amodeo and the set designers installed an Amateur Radio station in the corner of Mike's set office. Allen, as Baxter, uses an ICOM IC-9100 HF/6 meter/2 meter transceiver and an IC-92AD handheld transceiver, both provided to the show courtesy of ICOM America. Amodeo told the ARRL that he has

plans to add vintage equipment to the shack in the future. "The radio equipment was originally intended to be used as props and set dressing items," Amodeo told the ARRL. "But since eight of the show's staff members are radio amateurs, it didn't take long before we made the radio equipment 'practical,' which is to say, actually capable of making radio calls live from the stage when we're not shooting." He said that radios will always be on and lit whenever they are shooting scenes in the office.

Pitts and ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, have been working with Amodeo to make sure that Amateur Radio is correctly portrayed in the show. Keane also provided ARRL and Amateur Radio-related materials that are used on the set, such as issues of QST, NCJ and QEX, as well as a call sign map, a 2012 ARRL Handbook, a 2012 ARRL calendar and various ARRL stickers (look for one on the HF rig). "We also sent fake versions of DXCC, Worked All States and Worked All Continents certificates, as well as a Morse Code Proficiency Certificate," Keane explained. "Each certificate bears the name Mike Baxter and has KA0XTT as the call sign. All the certificates have issue dates of December 25, playing upon Tim Allen's role in The Santa Clause movie series."

Amodeo told the ARRL that he also installed a Comet CHV-5X HF

Allen from p. 6

dipole and GP-1 antenna for 2 meters and 70 cm (courtesy of NCG/Comet) "up high, about 50 feet, inside the sound stage. The ultimate goal is to have the hams on our staff make contacts from our stage during down times."

Last Man Standing also stars Nancy Travis (Three Men and a Baby) as Mike's wife and Hector Elizondo (Pretty Woman, The Princess Diaries, Monk) as Mike's boss. Amodeo also produced the critically acclaimed Sports Night and Arrested Development. ■



**4024 Radford Ave.
Bungalow 17
Studio City, CA
91604**

Watch lastMANstanding Tuesdays at 8 pm / 7c on abc

Send your QSL card to "Last Man Standing" at the address indicated and you will receive Tim's (Mike's) QSL in return.

minutes from p. 1

inviting interested hams will be distributed at the TMRA hamfest.

New Business:

- Field Day will be held on June 23-24. The Club cannot use the east side location at the County

Museum on account of another event being held there. Bob, WB8NQQ, is checking if the smaller area on the west side might suffice---depending on proper trees for antennas, etc. Lee, KB8RT, volunteered to head the Food Committee.

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minutes from p. 7

- A discussion of operating a special event station, perhaps in conjunction with Heritage Days at the County Museum was held.
- Consideration was given to erecting antennas for this event and leaving them up for Field Day, which comes shortly thereafter. No decision on this issue was made.
- Craig solicited ideas for future meeting programs. Some ideas include K8BBK's antenna modeling program, old time radios, a project night, and a tour of a local gas turbine powered generator.
- Bill, WD8JWJ, stated that he had received a lifetime membership application from NM8W. Since it meets all the criteria as listed in the Bylaws, it was granted.
- Bill also nominated Jeff, K8JTK, for lifetime membership on account of excellent service to the Club. Jeff became a member while at BGSU and even though he lives in the Cleveland area, rarely misses the Club Breakfasts, maintains the Club website, and has consistently made donations to the Club Treasury. In fact, he made a special trip to be here this evening to present the program on D-STAR.

- Skywarn training will be held at Central Township Fire Station on March 13, at 1830.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 pm.
Program

Following the meeting, Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK, presented a very interesting and informative discussion and explanation of the D-STAR system. His power point presentation is available on the WCARC website. ■

**Letter from the
President**

February 2012

Well, I'd have to say that we had a very enjoyable first Business Meeting for 2012 in February. Thank you to Jeff, K8JTK, for his very informative program on D-STAR. We all learned a lot about this new mode, and enjoyed "expanding our horizons" in the hobby. Jeff traveled all the way from Cleveland to present the information to us. In recognition of his numerous contributions to the club, he was awarded "Lifetime Membership" in the Wood County Amateur Radio Club as well. Thank you Jeff for all you've done for the club!

Don't forget, we have our Breakfast at Big Boy's on the corner of Poe & Main in BG on Saturday, March 3, 9 am. We hope you can make it! This is a great opportunity to put some faces with the voices you hear on the repeater, and get to know the Hams in Wood County.

If you have any ideas for programs for the rest of 2012, please let me know by emailing me at: NM8W@arrl.net.
Craig, NM8W

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