

CQ CHATTER

VOLUME 13 • Issue #10 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NOVEMBER 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 October 8, 2012

Present: N1RB-Bob, W8NYY-Bob, N1LB-Linda, K8BBK-Steve, Wd8JWJ-Bill, WB8NQW-Bob, KB8RT-Lee, WB8VUL-Hoot, K8LL-Stan, WD8ICP-Chuck, NM8W-Craig, K8JU-Jim, WD8LEI-Eric, KC8IFW-Wil

Meeting called to order with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm, NM8W presiding.

Minutes of August meeting-motion to approve by Jim, second by Bob (NQW); approved.

Treasurer's Report: BGSU telephone bill confusion settled and up to date-motion to approve by Bob (NQW), second by Bob (NYY); approved.

Old Business:

- Craig, NM8W, reported that the project night at WB8NQW's QTH

**WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2030 EST
(0130 Z year-round)**

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, November 3rd

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Frisch's Big Boy

N. Main St. & E. Poe Rd.

Bowling Green, OH

was a success---everybody had fun.

- Craig also reported on the foxhunt that had just been held.
- Bob, W8NYY, reported on the Hazmat drill that was held on Sept. 22 in North Baltimore. The ARES group took over communications after a simulated communications failure and operated without a hitch. The exercise re-

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Net Check Ins

Oct 2
N1RB (NC)
W8PSK
K8BBK
WB8ABY
N8PYA
N8YAE (6)

Oct 9
N8YAE (NC)
N1RB
W8PSK
N8PYA
WD8JWJ
K8BBK
WB8ABY
KG8FH
WB8NQW
KD8RNO
K3RC
KD8RSS (12)

Oct 16
WB8NQW (NC)
N1RB
K8BBK
WB8ABY
KC8EKT
N8PYA
KD8RSS (7)

Oct 23
N1RB (NC)
WB8NQW
KD8RSS
WB8ABY
KG8FH
W8PSK (6)

WCARC

2 m Net Control Roster

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

Oct	23*	N1RB
Oct	30*	NM8W
Nov	6	K8OVO
Nov	13	N8YAE
Nov	20	WB8NQW
Nov	27	N1RB
Dec	4	NM8W

Brain Teasers

- For the lowest rf radiation exposure to passengers, where would you mount your mobile antenna?
a.) trunk lid b.) roof
c.) front fender d.) on side of rear bumper
- What does an SWR reading of 1:1 mean?
a.) an antenna for another frequency band is probably connected
b.) the best impedance match has been obtained
c.) no power is going to the antenna
d.) the SWR meter is broken
- What is the maximum mean power permitted for any spurious emission from a transmitter or external RF power amplifier transmitting below 30 MHz?
a.) 50 mW b.) 100 mW
c.) 10 mW d.) 10 W

November Contests

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

Nov 3-4	1200 to 1200 Z	160 m to 10 m
Ukrainian DX 'test		all modes
Nov 3-5	2100 to 0300 Z	160 m to 10 m
ARRL Sweepstakes		CW
Nov 10-11	0000 to 2400 Z	80 m to 10 m
WAE DX 'test		digital
Nov 10-11	0700 to 1300 Z	80 m to 10 m
Japan Int'l DX 'test		SSB
Nov 10-11	1400 to 0200 Z	160 m to 10 m
Kentucky QSO Party		all modes
Nov 17-18	1200 to 1200 Z	80 m to 10 m
LZ (Bulgaria) DX 'test		all modes
Nov 17-19	2100 to 0300 Z	160 m to 10 m
ARRL Sweepstakes		SSB
Nov 24-26	0000 to 2400 Z	160 m to 10 m
CQ WW DX CW 'test		CW

DON'T FORGET!

**10 meter informal net meets
Sunday**

at 2030 EST on 28.335 MHz

minutes from p. 1

viewers all gave Wood County ARES high marks. Bob also mentioned that there would be no ARES meeting in October

- Bob, WB8NQW, reported that the Club's tribander and rotor have been stored at W8PSK's N. Main St. location.

New Business:

- Chuck, WD8ICP, reported that Craig, N8DJB, had taken possession of the cellular telephone tower located on his property, and had offered to allow WCARC to relocate the repeater there and use the site free of charge if so desired. Chuck described the set up as having a small shack and several hard line coaxial cables to the top that are available. He said Craig was concerned about the APRS station interfering with his weak signal work at the low end of two meters, but it was pointed out by several members that the APRS machine is self-contained and need not be moved from the Offenhauer site.
- Several issues generated an extended discussion, including: whether or not to move both transmitter and receiver, which would dictate the need for duplexers, the need for a link if only

the receiver were moved, and liability issues.

- Steve, K8BBK, indicated his preference to have everything at one location.
- Jim, K8JU, pointed out that moving both receiver and transmitter would require two sets of duplexers and would be fairly costly. He recommended a "one-step-at-a-time" approach, where the transmitter would be moved first (before the Administration Building is demolished) while the receiver could remain at Offenhauer. This approach would require linking between Craig's QTH and Offenhauer.
- Steve, K8BBK, raised the issue of liability and what would happen in the future should the property change hands.
- Bob, W8NYY, on behalf of Wood County ARES, offered to sell the Club a set of 220 MHz yagis and the necessary link boards for \$350.
- Jim moved that the Club cut a check for \$350 to WCARES to purchase the 220 MHz link equipment-Bob, (RB), seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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November Hamfests

Nov 17-18 Allen County AR Technical Society. Annual Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Show, Allen County War Memorial, Ft. Wayne, IN. Contact James, KB9IH, (260) 579-2196.

e-mail: chairman@fortwaynehamfest.com

web: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

Dec 2 L'Anse Creuse ARC. Annual Hamfest, L'Anse Creuse High School, Harrison Twp., MI. Contact Gregg, N8GEO (248) 670-7021.

e-mail: n8geo@arrl.net

web: <http://www.n8lc.org>

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- Bob, W8NYY, stated that it would be a good idea to develop a cost schedule and budget for all needed equipment and other expenses, such as climbers.
- Phil moved that the Technical Committee, consisting of W8PSK, K8BBK, K8JU, WD8ICP and W8NYY, be tasked with the job of assessing the cost of the project and to discuss the other issues raised in this meeting-second by Bob,(NQW); motion passed.
- Bob, W8NYY, also suggested that the Club send a Memorandum of Understanding to Craig so that all the liability, expenses and other issues are understood by both parties. This document will be developed by the Secretary in conjunction with the officers.

- Jim reported that the Luna repeater is up now on 442.125 MHz, with PL of 67 Hz. He mentioned several needs for the machine such as a back-up battery.
- Craig mentioned that all should be thinking about serving on the Nominating Committee---it will need to be in place by next month.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Please Note:

The above minutes are the official record of the WCARC business meeting.

Any corrections or modifications should be raised at the next business meeting in December. ■

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Foxhunt is Fun

The second Club foxhunt of the year was held prior to the business meeting on Monday, October 8th. Craig, NM8W, was the fox with a promise that the fox lair would be outside the Bowling Green city limits. As it turned out, he chose a spot in front of the Rudolph village hall. First on the scene was Hoot, WB8VUL, using his newly constructed tape measure Yagi. Other participants included the dynamic duo of Steve, K8BBK and Phil, W8PSK; the N1RB/LB team (Bob and Linda); Bob, WB8NQW; and Stan, K8LL.

The entire group then adjourned to Myles' Dairy Queen for a quick bite before the Club business meeting was scheduled to start. The weather was great and everybody really enjoyed the exercise! ■

FCC Seeks Changes to Licensing Rules, Emission Types

from ARRL Letter

Earlier this month, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)-WT Docket 12-283* proposing to amend the Part 97 rules governing the Amateur Radio Service. On October 24, a summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register and the FCC is seeking comments on it.

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

Specifically, the Commission is proposing to modify the Amateur Radio Service rules to grant examination credit for expired and beyond-the-grace-period-for-renewal Amateur Radio operator licenses; to shorten the grace period during which an expired amateur license may be renewed; to revise the time a call sign is not available to the vanity call sign system correspondingly, and to reduce the number of volunteer examiners needed to administer an amateur license examination. The NPRM also asks for comment on amending the rules to permit remote test administration, and proposes to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules to allow amateur stations to transmit certain additional emission types.

Comments must be filed on or before December 24, 2012; reply comments must be filed on or before January 22, 2013. Instructions on how to file comments are listed beginning on p. 12 of the NPRM. ■

Ham Radio Returns to St. Charles, MO, High School

from St. Charles Co. Suburban Journal

Alpha, bravo and charlie are part of a new language students are learning at St. Charles High School.

It comes from the school's amateur radio club, the first at St. Char-

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St. Charles from p. 6

les High since the 1960s, said science teacher Ellen Zerr, the club's sponsor.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), a national association for amateur radio, recently awarded nearly \$2,000 to the school. Zerr used the grant to buy a few radios and antennas that are mounted on the school roof. The club has only three members, but Zerr hopes to generate more interest in the group. She wants students to learn that operating a ham radio involves much more than sitting by the receiver.

"It's not just the radio per se, it's what the kids can do with it," Zerr said. Students at St. Charles High participate in fox hunts in which they use their radio to search for hidden transmitters and will try to make the most contacts during field days organized by the St. Charles Amateur Radio Club.

Youth interest in the hobby has dwindled through the years with constantly evolving technologies. A club like the one at St. Charles High is a good way to revitalize interest and serve students, said Ben Barnett, president of the St. Charles Amateur Radio Club.

"A lot of young people are struggling trying to find their identity and finding a place where like-minded folk can get together and have some fun," he said. Senior Sean Basler, whose 16-year-old sister Jesse is also in the club, said he became in-

terested in amateur radio for a practical reason.

"In an emergency, ham radio is probably the best form of communication there is," he said. "Cell phone towers would become very congested with all the calls in an emergency. With ham radio that is less likely because fewer people have them and they have wider broadband. There will be less congestion and you can get your message across more quickly." Beside being a valuable survival skill, ham radio has other perks. "It's interesting to hear other people over the radio," Basler said.

During a recent meeting the group made its first contact, a man in the Czech Republic. Members also talked to a person in Dublin, Ohio.

Zerr said things are much different than when St. Charles High had its first ham radio club. Operators no longer need to learn how to use Morse code to communicate; now they can use computers. Though St. Charles High's club is learning the ropes of amateur radio, students can't yet operate it. Operators must pass a 35-question test from the Federal Communications Commission to become licensed. Basler and his sister Jesse took their exam Monday. "We're going to get [a radio] as soon as we get our licenses," he said. "We're saving it as a reward."

■

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