

CQ Chatter

SEPTEMBER 2013

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WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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WB8ABY

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N1RB

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TREASURER

WD8JWJ

BILL WILKINS

[HTTP://WCARC.BGSU.EDU](http://wcarc.bgsu.edu)

Minutes WCARC Meeting August 12, 2013

Present: *WB8ABY-Al, W8CNJ-Roger, WD8NJW-Jim, N1RB-Bob, WD8ICP-Chuck, W8GGS-George, WB8VUL-Hoot, K8LL-Stan, WB8NQW-Bob, KB8RT-Lee, WD8JWJ-Bill, W8PSK-Loren, K8JU-Jim*

Meeting opened at 7:30 pm with Pledge of Allegiance, presided over by President, Al, WB8ABY,

Minutes of last meeting and Treasurer's report approved (NQW moved-RT seconded).

Old Business:

Al, WB8ABY, raised the possibility of having a program on antennas presented by Jack Hubbard, NI8N. After some discussion, it was suggested that he invite NI8N to present at the October meeting and offer to cover his travel expenses.

Reiterating the request in CQ Chatter, Al asked if there was anybody interested in joining the net

control rotation. Two persons volunteered, Jim-KD8NJW and Phil-W8PSK. N1RB will take steps to get them placed in the rotation.

Al reminded everybody that the next breakfast meeting is on Sept. 7th and that the next business meeting is on Oct. 14th.

New Business:

Bob, WB8NQW, asked if the Club wanted to hold a foxhunt this year. After some discussion, the consensus seemed to lean toward having a foxhunt that was held on a separate day from either business or breakfast meetings. Bob, N1RB, moved that the foxhunt be held at 10 am on Saturday, October 12th-seconded by JU). The motion passed unanimously. The fox will be appointed at a later time.

Phil, W8PSK, and Chuck, WD8ICP, made a report on the repeater repairs that they performed. Apparently the DVR was wiped by some event, so they reprogrammed it to provide necessary ID for the

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Net Check Ins

Aug 6

K8OVO (NC)
WB8NQW
W8PSK
WD8JWJ
KD8NJW
KC8EKT
WD8ICP
KB8RNO
N8YAE
KC8UMX
KC8IQ (11)

Aug 13

N1RB (NC)
W8PSK
KD8NJW
KG8FH
WB8NQW
WB8VUL
WD8ICP
KC8EKT
N8VNT
N8YAE (10)

Brain Teasers

1. What type of instrument can be used to accurately measure an RF field?
 - a.) receiver with an S-meter
 - b.) calibrated field strength meter with calibrated antenna
 - c.) betascope with a dummy antenna
 - d.) oscilloscope with high-stability crystal marker generator
2. RF radiation in which of the following frequency ranges has the most serious effect on the human eye?
 - a.) hf (3 to 30 MHz) range
 - b.) the 2 MHz range
 - c.) the 50 MHz range
 - d.) the 1.270 GHz range
3. What is one advantage of using a random wire antenna?
 - a.) it is more efficient than any other kind
 - b.) it will keep RF energy out of your shack
 - c.) it doesn't need an impedance matching network
 - d.) it is a multi-band antenna

September Contests

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

Aug 31-Sep 1	<i>1200 to 0400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Colorado QSO Party		all modes
Sep 1-2	<i>1800 to 0300 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Tennessee QSO Party		all modes
Sep 7-8	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 20 m
All Asian DX `test		SSB
Sep 7	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Russian RTTY `test		RTTY
Sep 7	<i>1600 to 2400Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Ohio State Parks OTA		all modes
Sep 14-15	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
WAE DX `test		SSB
Sep 14-15	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Arkansas QSO Party		all modes
Sep 21-22	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CIS DX PSK `test		PSK31
Sep 21-22	<i>1400 to 0300 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
South Carolina QSO Party		all modes
Sep 21-22	<i>1600 to 2400 Z</i>	<i>160 m to 10 m</i>
Washington Salmon Run		all modes
Sep 28-29	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
CQ WW RTTY `test		RTTY
Sep 28-29	<i>1400 to 0200; 1400 to 2000 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Texas QSO Party		all modes

The Sun is About to Flip

from ARRL Letter

Aug 20

WB8NQW (NC)
W8PSK
KG8FH
N8VNT
WD8JWJ
WD8ICP
N8YAE
WB8ABY
K8OVO
N1RB
KD8RNO
KC8EKT (12)

Aug 27

N1RB (NC)
N8YAE
W8PSK
KD8RNO
WB8NQW
WD8JWJ
KG8FH
WD8ICP
N8VNT
W8GGS
KE5RU
KC8EKT (12)

Scientists predict that the sun's magnetic field is about to flip, according to a NASA Science [article](#). The celestial event may mark the midpoint of the current solar cycle 24.

"It looks like we're no more than 3 to 4 months away from a complete field reversal," the article quotes solar physicist Todd Hoeksema, the director of Stanford University's [Wilcox Solar Observatory](#). "This change will have ripple effects throughout the solar system." As the article explains, the sun's magnetic field switches polarity approximately every 11 years at the peak of each solar cycle. The pending reversal means we're halfway through the current cycle.

Wilcox is one of the world's only observatories that monitor the sun's polar magnetic fields. NASA says that since 1976 magnetograms at Wilcox have recorded three "grand reversals" -- with a fourth in the offing.

Solar physicist Phil Scherrer, also of Stanford, explains it this way: The sun's polar magnetic fields "weaken, go to zero, and then emerge again with the opposite polarity. This is a regular part of the solar cycle." The effect of the change in the heliosphere are felt all the way out to the edges of interstellar space. The flip also affects cosmic rays, which pose a danger to astronauts and space probes, and, according to some researchers, may affect Earth's cloud cover and climate.

"The sun's north pole has already changed sign, while the south pole is racing to catch up," says Scherrer. "Soon, however, both poles will be reversed, and the second half of solar max will be underway."

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2130 EDST

(0130 Z)

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Sep 3	K80VO
Sep 10	WB8NQW
Sep 17	W8PSK
Sep 24	KD8NJW
Oct 1	N1RB
Oct 8	K80VO

NEXT MEETING

BREAKFAST MEETING

Saturday, Sept. 7th

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE:

Frisch's North

E. Poe Rd. and

N. Main St.

Bowling Green, OH

minutes---from p. 4

repeater. It was decided that all members of the Technical Committee should have the programming data available in case of exigency. Jim, K8JU, will distribute the data in digital form.

Phil mentioned that he was contacted by the BG Deputy Police Chief to help out some scouts who want to earn the Radio Merit Badge. He has a meeting scheduled on August 27th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm

The program consisted of George, W8GGS, demonstrating his Yaesu VX-8GR handy-talkie. ■

DON'T FORGET!

10 METER

INFORMAL NET

MEETS

SUNDAY

@ 2030 EST/EDST

ON 28.335 MHZ

September Hamfests

Sep 8 Findlay RC-Findlay Hamfest, Hancock County Fairgrounds, Findlay, OH. Contact Bill, N8ET, (419) 423-3402.

e-mail: hamfest@kangaus.com

web: <http://w8ft.org>

sun---from p. 4

A ScienceCasts [video](#), "Solar Max Double Peaked," linked from the article, quotes Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center as predicting a double peak to cycle 24. Pesnell believes that cycle 24, which saw peak sunspot numbers in 2011 followed by a dip in 2012, could rebound later this year and into 2014 -- possibly 2015. Read [more](#). ■

Contesting and Propagation

One of the regular features of CQ Chatter is the monthly contest listing. For those who are fairly new to the hobby, this part of amateur radio may be puzzling. The "QSO" exchange in any contest is usually very terse, with a signal report and some other information, such as the state or county or simply a serial number.

This sort of "canned" operation turns a number of hams off, especially if they enjoy "chewing the rag". Another sore point with non-contesters is that the testers
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DOCUMENTATION PROJECT MANUALS FOR CHINESE GEAR

from ARNewsline

If you own a China built handheld and have questions that the manual does not answer, there's now a new source of information. Calling itself the Radio Documentation Project, this website plans to provide high quality and in-depth open source documentation user manuals for mainland-China built handheld two-way radios.

Its first completed work is a PDF file containing a well documented manual for the popular Baofeng UV-5R dual bander. The instructions are clear and distinct. Best of all it is available as a free download at tinyurl.com/new-uv5r-booklet. ■

FOR SALE

HEATHKIT SB-102 w/matching

p.s. and spkr

asking \$200 OBO

contact: Mike

e-mail: hmmaier59@hotmail.com

VOYAGER ON OUTSKIRTS OF SOLAR SYSTEM

from ARNewsline

The Voyager 1 inter-stellar probe may soon be gone from our galaxy, but its certainly not been forgotten. Amateur Radio Newsline's Heather Embee, KB3TZD, has the latest celestial wanderer that's still in radio contact with Earth:

The latest data from the Voyager-1 spacecraft as reported in a recent edition of Science journal, suggests it is surfing right on the very edge of our Sun's domain. It's currently some 18.5 billion kilometers from Earth and at a point in space where particles streaming away from our star have reduced to a trickle. Particles flying towards it from interstellar space, by contrast, have jumped markedly in the past year. It all points to an imminent departure, which would make Voyager the first man-made object to cross into the space between the stars.

In 2004, Voyager reached a turbulent region referred to as the heliosheath, where particles bounced around in all directions. It was expected this would be the final stage before the leap to interstellar space, but as has been the case throughout this 35-year mission, Voyager had another surprise.

Last year, the probe detected what appears to be a discrete boundary layer that its control team

calls the heliosheath depletion region. This is described as a kind of magnetic highway where particles on the inside our solar system can exit easily and the galactic cosmic ray particles on the outside can enter.

The team is now watching the direction of these field lines very carefully. Currently, they are orientated east to west and wound into a spiral by our ever rotating Sun. But when Voyager finally breaks through into interstellar space, they are expected to shift dramatically, running north-south. At that time the challenge of exploring interstellar space will have begun.

Launched way back in 1977, the Voyager 1 probe has now traveled so far from home that its radio data transmissions take some 17 hours to arrive at the US space agency's receiving network here on earth. ■

contesting---from p. 6

seem to "fill up the band" by rudely calling CQ without asking if the frequency is busy.

In spite of all these shortcomings, there is a very important aspect to contesting that enables anybody to see what bands are open and to where. For example, most people assume that 10 meters is dead in the evenings. However, if you take a listen during a popular contest, such as Sweepstakes or ARRL DX Contest, you may be surprised! The contest will demonstrate the opening to one and all. ■

2013 WCARC Membership Roster (rev1)

1	Duane	Ashbaucher	SEN	K8NEA	E	12865 Five Point Rd.	Perrysburg	OH	43551
2	James	Barnhouse	REG	KD8NJW	A	1919 Hamilton Dr.	Perrysburg	OH	43551
3	Bob-Linda	Boughton	FAM	N1RB-N1LB	E/E	930 Champagne Ave.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
4	Lee	Boulis	REG	KD8QYM	G	12960 Bloomdale Rd.	Portage	OH	43451
5	Don	Buehrer	SEN	K8OVO	E	P. O. Box 65	Tontogany	OH	43565-0065
6	Jim	Davis	LIFE	K8JU	E	10990 Newton Rd.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
7	Chuck	Dicken	REG	WD8ICP	E	1066 Carol Rd.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
8	Hoot	Gibson	REG	WB8VJL	A	144 Stonegate Blvd.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
9	Lou	Graue	LIFE	K8TT	E	1501 Blue Lake Circle	Punta Gorda	FL	33983
10	John S.-John W.	Gruber	FAM	N8MSU-KC8RBT	E/T	920 Melrose	Bowling Green	OH	43402
11	Larry-Ruth	Hasselman	LIFE	N8VNT-KC8EKT	T/T	8656 Kramer Rd.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
12	Bob	Johnson	REG	K3RC	E	P.O. Box 248	Stony Ridge	OH	43463
13	Stan	Klakamp	REG	K8LL	E	415 1/2 N Prospect St	Bowling Green	OH	43402
14	Rex	Klopfenstein	REG	KC8PFP	E	605 S. Main St.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
15	Jeff	Kopcak	LIFE	K8JTK	E	1497 Canterbury Rd.	Westlake	OH	44145-2440
16	Tom-Gerri	Kopcak	FAM	N8ETP-N8GTK	E/T	1497 Canterbury Rd.	Westlake	OH	44145
17	Craig	Magrum	LIFE	NM8W	E	1100 Christopher St.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
18	Steve	McEwen	SEN	K8BBK	E	1053 Pinewood Ct.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
19	Alvin	Murray	REG	WB8ABY	G	P.O. Box 173	Haskins	OH	43525
20	Loren	Phillips	SEN	W8PSK	E	324 S. Grove St.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
21	Wil	Roudebush	REG	KC8IFW	E	1374 Clough St.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
22	Leanna	Shaberly	REG	KB8RT	A	18077 Tuller Rd.	Bowling Green	OH	
23	George	Stossel	REG	W8GGS	G	19758 Sand Ridge Rd.	Weston	OH	43569
24	Roger	Swinney	REG	W8CNU	G	27484 Oregon Rd. Lot	Perrysburg	OH	43551
25	Bill	Wilkins	REG	WD8JWJ	E	11065 Lynwood Rd.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
26	Bob	Willman	REG	WB8NQW	A	14118 Bishop Rd.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
27	Eric	Willman	REG	WD8LEI	T	545 W. Poe Rd.	Bowling Green	OH	43402
28	Lynn	Wineland	REG	KD8NRNO	T	202 Wendler Ln.	Gibsonburg	OH	43431

**WOOD COUNTY ARC
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43402**

