

CQ CHATTER

JUNE 2018

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WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Field Day Plans

Field Day this year is scheduled for the weekend of Sat/Sun, June 23-24. As we have done for the past several years, the WCARC has plans to use the facilities of the Wood County Historical Museum on County Home Rd. The operation will begin at noon on Saturday with the traditional raising of the loop antenna.

The evening meal will be a cook out with potluck for side dishes that includes: salad, vegetable or dessert. If you can help with food, contact: Bob-WB8NQW (blcksmth@wcnet.org) or any of the officers listed on the masthead. If you have equipment or an antenna that you would like to contribute to the effort please contact: Bob-N1RB (boughton@bgsu.edu).

Field Day is a great opportunity for hams who have recently received their licenses to get some tips and experience in erecting antennas, setting up a station, and operating under

very busy conditions. There is nothing like the controlled confusion of the opening minutes on Saturday afternoon, when it seems like the whole world is calling CQ Field Day.

It is a worthwhile experience if only for these activities, but it also gives us all a chance to meet our fellow hams in person. ■

6 Meters “The Magic Band” Heating up for Summer

by Michael Martens, KB9VBR

June is here, and now that the days are getting longer and warmer, my attention turns to VHF propagation, most notably the 6 meter band. Six Meters really starts to heat up in June, just in time for the [ARRL's VHF QSO Party](#).

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Net Check Ins

May 1 **Traffic: 0**
KD8VWU **(NCS)**

K8JU
K8BBK
KE8CVA
KG8FH
K8OVO
WD8JWJ
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
W8PSK
KD8RNO
KA8VNG
N1RB
KE8CUZ
KE8GJY **(15)**

May 8 **Traffic: 0**
WB8NQW **(NCS)**

KE8CUZ
KG8FH
KC8EKT
WD8LEI
W8PSK
N1RB
KD8RNO
N8VNT
KD8VWU **(10)**

May 15 **Traffic: 0**
N1RB **(NCS)**

K8JU
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WD8JWJ
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
W8PSK

Brain Teasers

1. Why is long-distance communication on the 40 m, 60 m, 80 m and 160 m bands more difficult during the day?
 - a.) the F-layer absorbs signals at these frequencies during daylight hours
 - b.) the F-layer is unstable during daylight hours
 - c.) the D-layer absorbs signals at these frequencies during daylight hours
 - d.) the E-layer is unstable during daylight hours
2. What value of an AC signal produces the same power dissipation in a resistor as a DC voltage of the same value?
 - a.) the peak-to-peak value
 - b.) the peak value
 - c.) the RMS value
 - d.) the reciprocal of the RMS value
3. How many data bits are sent in a single PSk31 character?
 - a.) the number varies
 - b.) 5
 - c.) 7
 - d.) 8

June Contests

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

Jun 2-3	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Kentucky QSO Party		all modes
Jun 2-3	<i>1500 to 1500 Z</i>	40 m to 10 m
Dutch Kingdom 'test		CW SSB
Jun 9-10	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Portugal Day 'test		CW SSB
Jun 9-10	<i>0600 to 0600 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
VK (Australia) Shires 'test		CW SSB
Jun 9-11	<i>11800 to 0259 Z</i>	6 m and up
ARRL VHF 'test		all modes
Jun 16-17	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
All Asian DX 'test		CW
Jun 16-17	<i>1200 to 1159 Z</i>	80m to 10 m
Ukrainian DX RTTY 'test		RTTY
Jun 16-17	<i>1600 to 0200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
West Virginia QSO Party		all modes
Jun 16	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 2 m
Kids Day 'test		phone
Jun 23-24	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Ukrainian DX Digi 'test		digital
Jun 23-24	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
King of Spain 'test		SSB
Jun 23-24	<i>1800 to 2100 Z</i>	160 m on up
ARRL Field Day		all modes

magic band—from p. 1

June marks the opening the summer's Sporadic-E propagation season, so you'll start to see quite a few openings on both six and two meters. Often with Sporadic-E, the band openings can be hard to predict; they often seem to come from out of nowhere, remain strong for minutes to hours, and then disappear as quickly as they came. It's not uncommon to lose the band mid-QSO, like someone turned off the power.

I have two Sporadic-E stories, both of which are from past Field Day adventures that I love sharing. The first was at one of my first Field Days, at least 15 years ago. We set up a six meter FM rig on a vertical antenna. Spent all day monitoring and calling 52.525, but no luck on a return. Finally later in the evening, the band started to open, and we spent most of the night chatting with other hams on a few six meter repeaters located 100 – 150 miles away. This was during the height of the solar cycle, so our attention to VHF wasn't so high, we were more interested in having a good time on the bands with other field day participants. The second memorable occurrence happened maybe eight or nine years ago. The bands were dead, with the exception of six meters. The Sporadic-E opened up and we logged hundreds of contacts over a four hour period. If it wasn't for the band opening, we would have had a pretty pitiful score.

■

I'm a Nerd— I Know What I'm Doing!

from e-ham news

A Rochester, NY, man could face fines if he doesn't submit plans for a building permit and ask for a zoning variance for his amateur radio tower. City officials say Dan Knutson hasn't submitted plans for a building permit nor provided specifications for the about 58-foot tower holding multiple radio antennas on the roof of his home. Knutson contends the tower is structurally sound. It's secured with aircraft cables and guy wires to control its fall should it collapse — which Knutson said would only happen if wind speeds were more than 100 miles per hour. "Everything's better than it needs to be," Knutson said. "I'm a nerd, I know what I'm doing."

However, Knutson hasn't submitted anything to the city to verify the claim, said Randy Johnson, director of building safety. "We haven't started our process in this department (regarding the tower) because he hasn't submitted anything," Johnson said.

City ordinance requires a review of any antenna structure taller than 35 feet. Under city ordinance, Knutson would need to apply for a building permit for the structure that holds the antennas and, at its current height, a zoning variance for the tower. That variance would require a public hearing and the application process would cost at least \$1,400. Knutson, who is

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WCARC Weekly Net
Tuesdays at 2100 all year
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL
Net Control Roster

<i>Jun</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>K8OVO</i>
<i>Jun</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>Jun</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Jun</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>
<i>Jul</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>Jul</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>K8OVO</i>

NEXT MEETING

Business Meeting

Monday, June 11th

**TIME: 7:30 pm-
7:00 pm EB**

PLACE:

**Sheriff's Training Rm.
S. Dunbridge Rd and
E. Gypsy Lane Rd.**

10 meter Net
informal group
meets

Sunday
@ 20:30

on 28.335 MHz

Fusion Net

Thursday

@ 19:30

on 442.125 MHz

67 Hz PL on FM
discussion of all
things digital

Net Check Ins

May 15 Continued

KD8NJW

K8OVO

KD8RNO

KD8VWU (12)

May 22 Traffic: 0

KD8VWU (NCS)

KD8RNO

K8BBK

KC8EKT

KG8FH

WD8ICP

KE8CVA

KE8CUZ

WD8JWJ

KD8NJW

WB8NQW

N8VNT

N1RB

W8PSK (14)

May 29 Traffic: 0

K8OVO (NCS)

KE8CUZ

N8VNT

KD8RNO

N1RB

KB8QEW

KG8FH

KE8CVA

KC8EKT

WB8NQW

W8MSW

NM8W

WD8ICP

KC8IFW (14)

A Visit to the VOA Museum

One of the "extras" connected with the Dayton Hamvention this year was an open house of the Voice of America (VOA) Museum, sponsored by members of the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA. As someone with family that lives only about 2 miles away from the site of the old VOA station, it is surprising that I had never had the chance to visit the facility before. The scheduled open house periods were fairly rare on account of limited personnel. However, this year is different; the West Chester, OH, Radio Club had a fully manned operation going on for the Hamvention attendees.

Most people who have been in the area can recognize the large "double-diamond" Blaw-Knox antenna tower with extremely long guy wires that is visible from I-75 in West Chester Township, Butler County, just north of Cincinnati. This tower was the half-wave radiator for WLW-AM (700 kHz) in Cincinnati, and at one time handled an input power of 500kW! The VOA station however, occupied a slightly different site about a mile west of the Blaw-Knox. The VOA Museum <http://voamuseum.org> is located in a small yellow-brick building that used to house the control studios and transmitting equipment for the VOA. What is missing is the large multi rhombic antenna array that was mounted on 100 ft. towers out back. At its peak,



VOA—from p. 6

during WWII, there were six different rhombics aimed at various points all over the world.

All of this interesting historical information is documented in the museum displays, along with a personal history of Powell Crosley, the man who brought radio broadcasting to Cincinnati. He founded the Crosley Broadcasting Co., the Crosley Radio Co., and the Crosley Automobile Co., among others. Included are samples of the huge amplifier tubes that were used in the 500kW transmitter, as well as a specimen of a 1950 Crosley sports car (I use the term loosely).

Especially impressive is the control room as it existed before the operation was shut down. The XYL, Linda, N1LB, and I got a chance to visit it and learn about some of the history of the short-wave VOA operations. Another great part of the visit was a tour of the WCARA Club Station, WC8VOA. There were at least five different positions in operation being

used by young hams who were attendees of the Hamvention, and who made the trip down to West Chester to get a taste of history. The Club has done a great job of setting up their station and operates on most all amateur bands. I am told that Wednesday night is the operating night for members, so if you want to get a very fancy QSL card, listen around on 75m or 40m.



XYL: Linda-N1LB and Yours truly-N1RB in VOA control room

June Hamfests

Jun 2 Fulton County ARC. Annual Swap and Shop. Roth Family Woodlot, Wauseon, OH. web: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

Jun 3 Chelsea ARC. Annual Swap Meet. 20501 W. Old US Highway 12, Chelsea, MI. web: <http://wd8iel.com>

Jun 17 Monroe County RCA. Annual Hamfest. Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI. web: <http://www.mcrca.org>

nerd—from p. 4

disabled, is on a fixed income and says he can't afford that process.

Knutson could have a structure as high as 43 feet, 9 inches — 20 percent above the 35-foot guideline — without a zoning variance. However, regardless of height, he still would have to request a building permit, city officials said.

"We just want documentation that it's safe," said Jerry Norman, plan review and permit services manager.

Knutson contends the equipment is protected under federal regulations. He points to FCC guidelines that say local ordinances must allow for amateur radio communications. That policy also allows local restrictions on the placement or height of antennas as long as restrictions accommodate amateur radio operations.

"It's not our intent to stop him from being a ham radio operator," said Johnson. Knutson sees the equipment as more than a hobby, but a lifestyle and, under certain circumstances, essential. It's also his main outlet to the outside world. "It's not a hobby," Knutson said. "It's a lifestyle — it's all I've got."

Knutson was a teenager in the 1970s when he first saw an amateur radio system. He recalled listening as the father of another teen he met via CB radio spoke with someone in Sweden.

"My world opened up," he said. "I was hooked."

Knutson replaced his CB antenna. He got an FCC license and his own

radio equipment. He began to speak to people across oceans and continents. He routinely speaks to other amateur radio operators as far away as Australia. He keeps a spiral note-



Dan Knutson, N0ISY, in front of his rooftop antenna tower

book log of other operators he has contacted. He started the year by erecting, with his brother's help, the antenna on the roof of his mother's home where he now lives.

Knutson says lowering the antenna will severely hamper his ability to send and receive signals and limit the frequencies he would be able to use. Knutson said it might be a hobby most of the time, but added ham operators are helpful in times of crises. Ham operators can help establish communications in disaster areas if electrical, land-line and cellular communication systems are compromised. "We used to be considered essential," Knutson said. "Now, people think they have everything they need because they have a cellphone. "But what happens when the tower goes down?" ■

Some of the Fun at the Hamvention

photos courtesy of:

Bob-WB8NQW , Phil-W8PSK, Linda-N1LB, and Terry-KE8CVA



This antenna really gets out!



The Rover vehicle with VHF-UHF arrays



Inside the Yaesu Fusion forum



Another creative antenna helmet

Free for Pick Up-Relay Rack

contact Jim-K8JDG at: jgilmoreoh@email.com



WOOD COUNTY ARC
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