

CQ Chatter

MAY 2020

VOLUME B20 • ISSUE 3

WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	WB8NQW	Bob Willman
Vice President	KD8VWU	Doug Perez
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	KD8NJW	Jim Barnhouse
Board Member	KE8CVA	Terry Halliwill

Minutes

WCARC Meeting

April 13, 2020

Due to corona virus restrictions the meeting was conducted on the 146.18/444.475 MHz repeater system

Bob-WB8NQW, presiding

Present: K3RC-Bob, NM8W-Craig, KC8EKT-Ruth, N1RB-Bob, WB8VUL-Hoot, WE8TOM-Tom, KD8NJW-Jim, W8PSK-Phil, WD8LEI-Eric, KD8RNO-Lynn, KG8FH-Jeff, KE8CVA-Terry, WD8ICP-Chuck, WB98NQW-Bob

Meeting called to order: at 7:30 with Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of February business meeting as published in March CQ Chatter were approved (CVA/VUL).

Treasurer's Report: no report requested due to public nature of meeting.

Old Business:

- Repeater Noise- Bob requested an update on the work of the Technical Committee. A new antenna was ordered to replace the old repeater antenna on the East Offenbauer tower. Bob (RB) recounted the work done upon receiving it on April 4th by Phil (PSK), Tom (TOM) and himself. During the course of the removal it was discovered that the hex-head set screw that holds the antenna body to the metal mounting shield had sheared off, and as a result of 'twisting in the wind' the coax was discovered to be only thumb-tight. On the assumption that this was the culprit, it was decided to

continued on p. 4

Net Check Ins

Apr 7 **Traffic: 0**

N1RB **(NCS)**
K8BBK
KE8CVA
KE8CUZ
KG8FH
WD8JWJ
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
W8PSK
KE8NEC
KD8RNO
WE8TOM
KG8FU
WD8ICP
WD8PIC (15)

Apr 14 **Traffic: 0**

WB8NQW (NCS)
KD8RNO
KG8FH
KE8CVA
KE8CUZ
WD8LEI
W8PSK
N1RB
WE8TOM
KA8VNG
WD8ICP
KD8NJW
K8JU
NM8W (14)

BRAIN TEASERS

1. What is a reason why many amateurs keep a station log?
 - a.) The ITU requires a log of all international contacts
 - b.) There ITY requires a log of all international third-party traffic
 - c.) The log provides evidence of operation needed to renew a license without retest
 - d.) To help with a reply if the FCC requests information
2. What does it mean when a CW operator sends "KN" at the end of a transmission?
 - a.) listening for novice stations
 - b.) operating full break-in
 - c.) listening only for a specific station or stations
 - d.) closing station now
3. What portion of the 10-meter band is available for repeater use?
 - a.) the entire band
 - b.) 28.1 MHz to 28.2 MHz
 - c.) 28.3 MHz to 28.5 MHz
 - d.) portion above 29.5 MHz

May Contests

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

May 2-3 ARI (Italy) Int'l DX 'test	<i>1200 to 1159 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m all modes
May 2-3 7th Call Area QSO Party	<i>1300 to 0700 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
May 2-3 Indiana QSO Party	<i>1500 to 0300 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
May 2-3 Delaware QSO Party	<i>1700 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
May 2-3 New England QSO Party	<i>2000 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m all modes
May 9-10 CQ-M (Russia) Int'l DX 'test	<i>1200 to 1159 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m CW/SSB
May 9-10 Arkansas QSO Party	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m all modes
May 16-18 Portugal Navy Day 'test	<i>0900 to 1700 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m all modes
May 16-17 King of Spain 'test	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m CW
May 16-17 Aegean RTTY 'test	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m RTTY
May 30-31 CQ WW WPX 'test	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m CW

minutes—from p. 1

attach a new set screw and remount the old antenna. Subsequent testing with stations in the field proved this not to be the case. The group also attempted to reduce the “hot” repeater audio by adjusting down the control pots on the mixer box. Installation of the new antenna was deferred to a later date. Phil added that a new coax jumper has been ordered just to cover all the bases.

Chuck (ICP) remarked that the repeater seems to be working much better as he can hear it up North again.

- Wood County Bicentennial- Bob mentioned that it is clear that any bicentennial observances will not be held in April and very likely not in May. Bob (RB) reported that we have been granted the special event call W8C up through Field Day (as originally scheduled). Bob (NQW) said we should operate under the assumption that Field Day will proceed as usual and asked for volunteers to head up antennas, equipment, meals, etc. Phil volunteered to help organize the event and Bob (RB) agreed to coordinate the equipment needed. Bob (NQW) will organize the food events.
- CW Net- The net has mainly evolved as a QSO between Jeff (FH) and Bob (RB), and at times, Don (VNG). Although others have made cameo appearances, WD8JWJ, N1LB, the group encourages any and all who want to learn CW to listen and participate at 8 PM every Tuesday on 28.335 MHz.

- ARES- ARES EC, Eric (LEI) reported that the EOC in the Courthouse is in limited operation at present. VHF/UHF operation has been inaugurated, but an HF antenna still needs to be strung up on the Courthouse roof.

New Business:

- Bob inquired if the Club wanted to hold a foxhunt some time this summer. Upon receiving a positive response, it was decided to hold the typical two-meter mobile event on the date of what would normally be the Club breakfast meeting on Saturday, May 2. However, since restaurants will not be open, the event will simply begin at 10 AM on the 147.18 repeater with Jim, KD8NJW, serving as the fox. The event will then move to a simplex frequency, such as 146.55 MHz.

Adjournment: at 8:10 moved and seconded by (FH/EKT). ■

It's Foxhunt Time!

At the April Business meeting, it was decided to hold a foxhunt direction finding exercise on Saturday, May 2, at 10:00 AM. This date would have marked the occasion for the May Breakfast meeting, but since no restaurants are open, it was determined that one activity that many could participate in that would still insure social distancing is a foxhunt.

Check-ins will begin at 10 AM on 147.18 MHz with Jim, KD8NJW, acting as the fox. These exercises are always a lot of fun and will let you hone your direction finding skills. Bring your DF antenna and test your skills ! ■

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

<i>May 5</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>May 12</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>
<i>May 19</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>May 26</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>Jun 2</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Jun 9</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>

NEXT MEETING *Breakfast Meeting* *Saturday-May 2*

Cancelled

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE

Frisch's Big Boy
N. Main St. &
E. Poe Rd.
Bowling Green, OH

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

Informal net

Net Check Ins

Apr 21 **Traffic: 0**

KD8NJW (NCS)
KE8CUZ
K8BBK
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WB8NQW
W8PSK
KD8RNO
N1RB
WE8TOM
KE8NEC
WD8ICP
KG8FU
WD8LEI (15)

Apr 28 **Traffic: 0**

WB8NQW (NCS)
KD8RNO
K8BBK
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WD8LEI
KD8NJW
W8PSK
N1RB
N8VNT
KA8VNG
WE8TOM
WD8ICP
WD8JWJ (15)

Brain Teaser answers: (G) 1-d, 2-c, 3-d

ARRL Announces New Benefits for Members

From ARRL Letter

ARRL members will now receive digital access to four ARRL magazines beginning with their May/June issues. Joining *QST* and *On the Air* magazines on a digital platform will be the bimonthly editions of *QEX* -- The Forum for Communications Experimenters and *NCJ* -- National Contest Journal. *QEX* includes articles, columns, and other features ranging from construction projects to more advanced technical information in radio theory and practice. *NCJ*, published since 1973, targets radio amateurs active in radiosport. *NCJ* includes scores, technical articles, contributions from top contesters, and advice for beginners and seasoned radiosport enthusiasts alike.

"Feedback from ARRL members and our readership surveys has shown that our magazines are one of the most valued member benefits," said ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY. They offer a high-quality reading experience whether at their desk or on the go. Offering this suite of digital magazines is an opportunity for us to give members more of what they want while adding value to ARRL membership." ARRL's digital magazine editions provide replicas of the printed editions with added functionality, allowing users to fully search issues, enlarge pages, share articles, and more. The free ARRL Magazines app also supports downloading complete issues onto your mobile device or tablet for offline reading. ■

Hamvention QSO Party Set

From ARRL Letter

The Hamvention QSO Party, a sort of virtual Dayton Hamvention®, will take place on the HF bands on May

continued on p. 7

May Hamfests

May 14-17 Dayton Hamvention.

CANCELED

party—from p. 6

16, which would be the Saturday of the now-canceled event. “Let’s celebrate the many years we have all had at the Great Gathering we call Hamvention,” said an announcement over the signatures of Tim Duffy, K3LR, and Michael Kalter, W8CI.

The Hamvention QSO Party will be a 12-hour event, from 1200 UTC to 2400 UTC on May 16. Operate CW or SSB on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, exchanging signal report and the first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention, send “2020.”

Designated members of Hamvention’s host, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), will activate DARA’s W8BI. Participants can add 10 points for each band/mode contact with W8BI (12 available). Post scores (number of contacts) to 3830scores.com within 5 days of the event. An online certificate will be available to print. No logs will be collected. [N1MM Logger+](http://N1MMLogger.com) has provided a User Defined Contest module for the event. More information is on the N1MM Logger+ website. ■

Repeater Update

Given the recent problems with the VHF/UHF repeater pair over the past few months, several attempts at solving the problem have been attempted. The “popcorn” noise that was intruding on weak signals received by the repeater was first assumed to be a problem in an audio mixer box that combines the VHF and UHF received signals. A potentiometer was replaced and all seemed well for about two weeks, then the noise returned.

The next culprit was thought to be a newly replaced coax link from the transmitter bay running through the receiver cabinet to the antenna system. Replacement of this piece made no difference, so in the spirit of experimentation, the antennas were swapped out (the set-up consists of two identical Diamond dual-band verticals, one which handles the APRS VHF/Fusion UHF signals, and the other which handles the repeater’s VHF/UHF signal. The former is mounted on the North tower on

continued on p. 8

repeater—from p. 7

the roof of Offenhauer West and the latter on the East tower). For some reason, this seemed to have solved the problem without any discernible harm done to the APRS/Fusion signals.

It was concluded that the East tower antenna was faulty and that it needed to be replaced, so a new identical Diamond X-700 antenna was ordered.

On April 4th, a work party consisting of Phil-W8PSK, Tom-WE8TOM, and Bob-N1RB, set out to remove the East tower antenna and replace it with the new one. Upon removal, it was discovered that an alignment screw had sheared off at the base of the antenna allowing it to rotate in the wind relative to the coax jumper. As a result, the coax connection was found to be only thumb tight.

In an apparent “ah-ha” moment, the crew assumed that the source of the noise had been located. It was concluded that the old antenna may be not be the culprit after all, and so the screw was replaced, coax re-attached, and the antenna remounted on the East tower.

The next step was to test the performance with real signals. The repeater was switched over to the East antenna, and thanks to several field operators, including Jim-KD8NJW, Jeff-KG8FH and Terry-KE8CVA, several weak signal tests showed that the popcorn noise was still with us. The conclusion was that the new antenna should have been installed anyway.

Since the crew also wanted to tweak the rather “hot” audio level on the repeaters, it was decided to forgo the installation to a later date. The antennas were swapped again, so that the repeater is currently using the North tower.

The receive audio input levels were reduced somewhat, and tested by the field operator group with a tentative normal setting resulting. We appreciate any reports on the audio level/quality from repeater users. The new antenna was installed on April 20. Stay tuned! ■

New antenna installed on April 20 —ed.



***Recent activity to repair repeater antenna.
above: W8PSK; below: N1RB
—photo courtesy of WE8TOM***

**WOOD COUNTY ARC
P.O.BOX 534
BOWLING GREEN, OH
43402**

