

CQ CHATTER

FEBRUARY 2025

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WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	KG8FH	<u>Jeff Halsey</u>
Vice President	KD8VWU	Doug Perez
Secretary	N1RB	<u>Bob Boughton</u>
Treasurer	KD8NJW	<u>Jim Barnhouse</u>
Board Members	WB8NQW/WE8TOM	Bob Willman/Tom Leingang

Banquet Provided a Good Time for All

The annual Kick-off Banquet was held on Monday, January 13, at the Country Farmhouse restaurant in Wayne. There were sixteen attendees who arrived in time to sample many of the fine offerings provided on the menu. An especially hot point of contention was whether there would be enough peanut butter pie to go around for those who are addicted to it. There was a fairly complete array of pies to suit every taste.

As usual, the food was excellent, piping hot and delivered efficiently. All diners had a great time exchanging ideas, stories and just plain old conversation. Hope to see you all there next time! ■

Voice of America Museum Poised to Reopen

from ARNewsline

The National VOA Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester, Ohio is QRV and is about to reopen. Six months of renovations have come to an end at the Voice of America museum, which is reopening its doors to the public at noon on Saturday the 25th of January. The work has created new exhibit space with room for more displays that showcase radio history in the US. The building formerly housed the Voice of America's Bethany relay station.

The museum will be open every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. local time but can also accommodate

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Net Check Ins-I

Jan 7 **Traffic: 0**
(NCS)
KD8NJW
KE8CVA
KE8BGD
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WB8NQW
KE8WTG
KD8VWU
KE8QGV
KD8RNO
N1RB
WE8TOM **(12)**

Jan 14 **Traffic: 0**
(NCS)
WB8NQW
NM8W
KD8NJW
KD8RNO
N1RB
KD8VWU
N8VNT
KE8WTG
WE8TOM
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH **(12)**

Brain Teasers

1. What information replaces signal-to-noise ratio when using the FT8 or FT4 modes in a VHF contest?
 - a.) RST report
 - b.) state abbreviation
 - c.) serial number
 - d.) grid square
2. When a meteor strikes the Earth's atmosphere, a linear ionized region is formed at what region of the ionosphere?
 - a.) the E region
 - b.) the F1 region
 - c.) the F2 region
 - d.) the D region
3. Which of the following is an advantage of using an antenna analyzer compared to an SWR bridge?
 - a.) antenna analyzers automatically tune your antenna for resonance
 - b.) antenna analyzers compute SWR and impedance automatically
 - c.) antenna analyzers display a time-varying representation of the modulation envelope
 - d.) all these choices are correct

February Contests

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

Feb 1-2	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 20 m
Vermont QSO Party		all modes
Feb 1-2	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	10 m
10-10 Int'l Winter 'test		SSB/FM
Feb 1-2	<i>1400 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Minnesota QSO Party		all modes
Feb 1-2	<i>1600 to 2359</i>	160 m to 10 m
British Columbia QSO Party		all modes
Feb 8-9	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Dutch PACC 'test		CW/SSB
Feb 15-16	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
ARRL Int'l DX 'test-CW		CW
Feb 15-16	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	any band but WARC
YLRL YL-OM 'test		all modes
Feb 22-23	<i>0600 to 1800 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
REF (France) 'test-SSB		SSB
Feb 22-23	<i>1300 to 1300 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
UBA (Belgium) DX 'test-CW		CW
Feb 22-23	<i>1500 to 0159</i>	160 m to 10 m
South Carolina QSO Party		all modes
Feb 22-23	<i>1500 to 0100</i>	80 m to 10 m
North Carolina QSO Party		all modes

Net Check Ins-II

Jan 21 **Traffic: 0**
N1RB **(NCS)**
KF8BTH
KE8CVA
KF8BGD
WD8ICP
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
KE8WTG
KD8RNO
WE8TOM
KD8VWU **(11)**

Jan 28 **Traffic: 0**
KD8VWU **(NCS)**
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
KD8RNO
N1RB
WE8TOM
KE8WTG
WD8ICP **(11)**

No Ham License? Listen Anyway In Your Browser

from Al Williams , Hackaday

Full disclosure: ham radio isn't for everyone, and there are many different facets to it. What appeals to one person might bore another to death. One area of ham radio that has changed a lot in the last few years is more or less local and typically mobile operation on VHF or UHF. Not long ago, hams used HTs (walky-talkies or handy-talkies) or mobile radios via repeaters to talk to each other and — the golden prize back then — make phone calls from their cars. Cell phones have made that much less interesting, but there is still an active community of operators talking on repeaters. However, the traffic has gone digital, the Internet is involved, and people with inexpensive, low-powered radios can talk to each other across the globe. This is nothing new, of course. However, having digital services means that operators with special interests can congregate in what amounts to radio chat rooms organized by region or topic.

There's a long history of people listening to ham radio conversations with shortwave radios, SDRs, and scanners. But with so much activity now carried on the Internet, you can listen in using nothing more than your web browser or a phone app. I'll show you how. If you get interested enough, it is easy enough to get your license. You don't need any Morse code anymore, and a simple Technician class license in the United States is all you need to get going.

A quick DMR primer

There are several digital ham networks around and like real networks, you can have different physical transport layers and then build on top of that. For the

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Brain Teaser answers: (E) 1-d, 2-a, 3-b

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

<i>Feb</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>KG8FH</i>
<i>Feb</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>Feb</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>Feb</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>KG8FH</i>

NEXT MEETING

Business Meeting

Monday, February 10

TIME: 7:30 PM/7:00 EB

PLACE:

Sheriff's Training Room
E. Gypsy Lane &
S. Dunbridge
Bowling Green, OH

10 meter Nets

*Informal SSB group meets
Sunday @ 20:30 local on
28.335 MHz*

*Informal CW group meets
Tuesday @ 20:00 local on
28.050 MHz*

Fusion Net

Thursday

@ 19:30 local

on 442.125 MHz

*Wires-X Operators
welcome*

Informal net

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purposes of this article, I'm going to focus on DMR (digital mobile radio) on the Brandmeister network which is very large and popular ham network. You won't need a license nor will you need to sign up for anything as long as you are content to just listen.

Here's how it works: [Brandmeister operates a large number of servers worldwide](#) that communicate with each other and provide calling services, including group calls. So, if we set up a Hackaday talk group (fictitious, by the way) on group 1337, interested people could connect to that talk group and have a conversation.

Since we are just going to listen, I'm going to skip some of the details, but the trick is how people get to talk to these networks. In general, there are three ways. The classic way is to use a digital radio to talk to a repeater that is connected to the network. The repeater may have one or more talk groups on all the time, or you might request access to one.

However, another way to connect your radio to a "hotspot" connected to the Internet. That is, more or less, a special form of repeater that is very low power, and you have complete control over it compared to a repeater on some faraway hill. However, if you don't mind operating using just a computer, you don't need a radio at all. You simply talk directly to the

nearest server, and you are on the network. Some of your audio will go to other computers, and it may go over the airwaves via someone else's hotspot or repeater.

talk groups

The Brandmeister website has a lot of info and you don't need to be logged in to see it. Head over to their site and you'll see a lot of info including a network map and statistics about repeaters and hotspots. You can get an idea of who has been talking lately by clicking [Last Heard](#) link. While this is interesting, it isn't as interesting as you'd think, because you really want to focus on talk groups, not individual users.

To see a list of all the talk groups on the system, you can click Information and then [Talkgroups](#). You can filter the list and you can also download the dataset in different formats if you want to browse it in a different format.

There are three buttons on each row of the database. The LH button shows you the last heard stations for that group. The Wiki button takes you to a Wiki page that, for some groups, has more information about it. But the really interesting button is the one marked Hoseline. You can also open the [Hoseline directly](#) which is what I usually do.

What's the Hoseline? It shows activity across the network as a bunch of boxes indicating recently active talk groups. Boxes with red lines around them have

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people actively talking on them. The others have been recently active. It is visually interesting, yes, but that's not the big selling point.

If you click on a box, you will hear the activity on that talk group. That's all there is to it.

overwhelming

There are a lot of talk groups. You can filter at the top left part of the page where it says "Everything." You'll have to drop the list down and unselect Everything. Then, you can select any countries or areas you want to follow. If you are brave, you can click RegEx mode and enter regular expressions to match talk group numbers (e.g. ^310.*).

The "Player" button at the top right gives you more control. You can add multiple groups from a list, see information about who is talking, and stop or start the audio.

If you prefer to do your listening mobile, you can also get the hoseline on your Android device. Just install [the app](#), and you'll find it works the same way.

finding something interesting

Lord Nelson once said, "The greatest difficulty in war is not to win the battle, but to find the enemy." That's accurate here, too. Finding an interesting conversation out of all those talk groups is somewhat a needle in a haystack. A quick look around at the talk group lists might help. The 91 and 93 groups stay busy but

generally with short exchanges since they cover a wide area. The USA bridge at 3100 sometimes has traffic, too. If you look at the [group's listing on the Web](#), you can click the group number and see what stations are connected to it. Keep in mind, some of these may be repeaters or gateways that could have no one on the other side, or could have dozens of people on the other side. But it can give you an idea if the talkgroup has any users at all.

You can also search the Internet for DMR nets and repeaters. Sometimes, it is interesting to listen to local repeaters. Sometimes, it is fun to listen to repeaters in other places. Want to find out what's going on at your next vacation spot? Practice your French?

You can find many DMR repeaters using the [RepeaterBook search page](#). There are also man lists of [DMR nets](#).

ed note—the local DMR repeater is on 443.9125 MHz, and is maintained by WD8LEI

VOA from p. 1

group tours on any day of the week if arrangements are made in advance.

The West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA, has its headquarters in the historic building and has had uninterrupted on-the-air activity even as remodeling took place elsewhere in the interior. As visitors return, hams will be on the air and, as always, ready to welcome them. ■

Special B'day Celebration on
Feb. 8

Join Mike-W8CJJ and Mike-KC8MM
for breakfast and something more
@ Frisch's Big Boy—9 AM

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

