

CQ CHATTER

MARCH 2025

VOLUME B25 • ISSUE 1

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

Minutes *WCARC Meeting* February 10, 2025

Jeff-KG8FH presiding

Present: Bob-N1RB, Jeff-KG8FH, Jim-KD8NJW, Norm-KE8WTG, Roger-KE8QGV, Terry-KE8CVA, Tom-WE8TOM, Bob-WB8NQW, Zach Migura

Call to order: by KG8FH at 7:30 with Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of the the December meeting as published in the January issue of CQ Chatter (NJW/NQW) was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve (CVA/QGV) was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Jeff led off with a discussion of the K8TIH Fusion repeater and some of the difficulties we have been having with Wires-X transmissions from PDN (personal data node) stations. The problem manifests itself at minimum as a "flutter" in the transmitted audio up to a fairly periodic cycle of repeated reset beeps with loss of audio. The mystery has been why this occurs only with PDN stations and not those hitting the repeater through RF. Assuming that it was a problem in computer/HRI-200/DR1-X repeater chain, and after trying

continued on p. 7

Net Check Ins-I

Feb 4

**KG8FH
KC8EKT
KD8NJW
WD8PIC
WB8NQW
KE8QGV
KD8RNO
WE8TOM
KD8VWU
N8VNT
KE8WTG
KE8CVA**

**Traffic: 1
(NCS)**

(12)

Feb 11

**KD8NJW
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WB8NQW
KE8QGV
KD8RNO
N1RB
WE8TOM
KE8WTG
KD8VWU
WD8ICP**

**Traffic: 0
(NCS)**

(12)

Brain Teasers

1. How is the cathode lead of a semiconductor diode often marked on the package?
 - a.) with the word "cathode"
 - b.) with a stripe
 - c.) with the letter C
 - d.) with the letter K ?
2. How might fog and light rain affect radio range on the 10 meter and 6 meter bands?
 - a.) fog and rain absorb these wavelength bands
 - b.) fog and light rain will have little effect on these bands
 - c.) fog and rain will deflect these signals
 - d.) fog and rain will increase radio range
3. Which of the following controls could be used if the voice pitch of a single-sideband signal seems too high or low?
 - a.) the AGC or limiter
 - b.) the bandwidth selection
 - c.) the tone squelch
 - d.) the receiver RIT or clarifier

March Contests

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

Mar 1-2	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
ARRL Int'l DX 'test-SSB		SSB
Mar 8-9	<i>1500 to 2100 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Oklahoma QSO Party		all modes
Mar 8-9	<i>1900 to 1900 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Idaho QSO Party		all modes
Mar 9	<i>1000 to 2159</i>	80 m to 10 m
YOTA 'test		CW/SSB
Mar 9-10	<i>1800 to 0100 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Wisconsin QSO Party		all modes
Mar 15-16	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Russian DX 'test		CW/SSB
Mar 15-16	<i>1400 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Virginia QSO Party		all modes
Mar 29-30	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CQ WW WPX 'test-SSB		SSB

March Hamfests

March 9 Hamfest. Northern Ohio ARS. Lorain Community College, Elyria, OH
 web: www.noars.net/hamfests/winter-hamfest

March 16 Hamfest. Toledo Mobile RA. Owens Community College, Perrysburg, OH.
 web: w8hhf.org

Net Check Ins-II

Feb 18 **Traffic: 0**
WB8NQW **(NCS)**
KE8CVA
KG8FH
N1RB
KD8NJW
KE8WTG
KD8VWU
WE8TOM **(8)**

Feb 25 **Traffic: 0**
N1RB **(NCS)**
KD8VWU
KE8WTG
KD8RNO
WB8NQW
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WD8ICP
KF8DJQ
WE8TOM **(11)**

Film Capacitors Can Go In The Wrong Way Round? Who Knew?

Jenny List, Hackaday

You can work with a part for many decades, and still learn something new about it. At least we can, and we don't mind admitting it. Take film capacitors — we all know they aren't a polarized part like an electrolytic



capacitor is, but as the author points out, [that doesn't mean both their leads are the same.](#)

This might sound counterintuitive, but if you consider for a moment their construction it makes sense. A film capacitor is made from two strips of foil with a strip of plastic film between them, rolled up tightly into a cylinder. One of the pieces of foil that forms one side of the capacitor ends up on the outside of the cylinder, and thus forms the shield for the other. Thus if that side isn't connected to the lower impedance side of whichever circuitry it resides in, it can pick up noise, while the inside strip of foil cannot. It's so obvious when demonstrated, but we have to admit to never having considered it before. Some film capacitors have a line marked on them to denote the

continued on p. 7

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

<i>Mar</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>KG8FH</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>

NEXT MEETING

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, March 8

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE:

Frisch's Big Boy
E. Poe Rd. &
N. Main St.
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

minutes p. 4

the obvious simple cures to no avail, a new HRI-200 interface box was installed with no changes observed. Upon consultation with Yaesu America in Cypress, CA, we learned that an update was required to the Wires-X program that is used on the repeater's computer as well as on PDN operators' individual stations. To date, all stations that have experienced the problem have now updated their software, and no problems have been observed. The jury is still out, and it is expected that several months of further observation is necessary before solution can be claimed.

New Business:

- Jeff noted that TMRA has sent an application for a free Club Table at their hamfest on Sunday, March 16th, at Owens Community College. After a brief discussion, the consensus is that he submit the application.
- Roger (QGV) discussed his efforts to restart the Bowling Green VEC group. The plan is to hold testing sessions in the Sheriff's Training Room at 5 PM on Business Meeting Mondays so that participants can attend the meeting if desired. Roger reports that he already has secured the site for the remainder of the year, starting with April 14th. If you would like to become a certified VE,

contact Roger and he will introduce you to the process.

- Jeff noted that Field Day this year will be held on the weekend of June 28/29.
- Bob (NQW) mentioned that Hamvention (in Xenia) will be held on May 16-17, and it is a good idea to check their website for purchasing tickets ahead of time (cheaper). He also commented that the Sunday night 10 meter net is experiencing a decline in participation, and he would urge those who might be interested to tune in at 8:30 PM on 28.335 MHz.

Adjournment: at 8:05 PM (QGV/CVA)

The meeting was followed by two "show and tell" presentations:

©Jeff-KG8FH discussed his experience with W0AEZ lithium battery packs up to 5 A-h for Yaesu FT-1, FT-2, FT-3 and FT-5 handhelds. He had several samples on hand. The battery packs are also available in kit form. Website: W0AEZ.com

©Tom-WE8TOM discussed his experience with Meshtastic small scale mesh devices that can be used to set up a mesh network in the 900 MHz band. This is an effort by an all-volunteer group to offer simple low power and inexpensive mesh network hardware. Tom had several examples available to demonstrate. Website: meshtastic.org



capacitors from p. 4

connection forming the shield, for those that don't, the author in the link provides a couple of methods for detecting it.

Maybe you too can now pay attention to your capacitors for lower noise audio circuitry. ■

New Effort to Save AM Radio in US Vehicles

from ARNewsline

The US Senate is getting ready to vote on a proposed law that would retain consumers' access to AM radio in all new vehicles sold around the country. The AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act, which is being challenged by a number of automakers, has support from a number of major lawmakers in both parties. The bill has a version that is also being considered in the House of Representatives.

The act was introduced last year but lawmakers failed to move forward on it in time before the end of the last congressional session in December.

The bill's advocates have said that they acknowledge the important role that AM radio plays in the nation's emergency alert system and in transmitting lifesaving information during disasters. Proponents include the National Association of Broadcasters and the new FCC Chairman Brendan Carr. An article on the Radio World website noted that this measure is one of the few to have both political

parties behind it, both among lawmakers and at the FCC.

The road has not been a smooth one, however. The Radiolnk website reported that carmakers have made a formidable investment worth \$26.73 million in lobbying against the bill's passage. Disclosures in lobbying documents showed that Detroit-based General Motors was among the top 10 corporate spenders in the fourth quarter of 2024, allocating \$4-million to their efforts to win lawmakers over. Other big spenders included Toyota, Honda and Ford. Manufacturers of electric vehicles, such as Tesla and Rivian, have been in the vanguard of opposition, claiming that the high-voltage electrical systems in their vehicles are not compatible with AM radio and cause distortion and interference. Those carmakers spent \$190,000 and \$40,000, respectively. ■

Note from W8CJJ on Breakfasts

It looks like the idea of meeting on the second Saturday of each month is a winner. Very few diners were in the restaurant when the 11 of us met to celebrate Mike-KC8MM's birthday. Those in attendance were: a "mystery" guest from BGSU who was recently licensed, Wil Roudebush-KC8IFW, Judy Johnson-WA8EWA and daughter from Wayne, Mike-KC8MM, Terry Halliwill-KE8CVA, Mike-W8CJJ, Bob Willman-WB8NQW, Will Leathhead of Bradner, Steve Shaffer-W8SMW of Luckey. Hope all enjoyed my mini muffins! de Mike, W8CJJ. C U all at the next breakfast at the Big Boy on March 8th! ■

TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION HAMFEST 2025

TMRA 67th Hamfest - Radios/Computers/Electronics

SUNDAY March 16th 2025 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Owens Community College, Student Health and Activity Center (SHAC)
7315 Championship Drive, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
(Same location – just an update of the street address on campus)
(EAST side of Oregon Road. GPS N41° 35.575' W83° 32.051')
Talk-in: 147.27+ (PL 103.5)

On Campus Parking is Free and Close to the Hamfest

This ARRL-approved Huge Hamfest is Indoors and Security is Provided.

Tables are \$20.00 (floor) \$25.00 (wall) - free electric hook-up

All admission tickets are \$10.00 (Children 12 years old and under – **FREE**)

TABLE APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEB SITE
www.w8hhf.org

VE TESTING at 9:00am (**Registration at 8:30am**)
*(If attending **only** for VE testing – purchase of an admission ticket is **not** required)*
Pass your Technician Exam at the Hamfest – WELCOME TO AMATEUR RADIO !
Use your CSCE for complimentary Hamfest admission

SEND REQUEST FOR TABLE APPLICATION FORM and/or TICKETS TO
TMRA, P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH 43697-9673
Please include a SASE if just for tickets

CASH & DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS): \$50.00 cash at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, and Noon.
ALSO at Noon, special drawing for \$100.00 Gift Certificate from DX Engineering.
ALL PRIZES - must be present to win.

FOOD SERVICE *Breakfast & Lunch: Sweet Nate's Coffee*

MAJOR VENDORS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND –
EAE Soldering: Tower Electronics: Gold Medal Ideas (clothing, embroidery, etc):
Transel: others - to be announced

Revised 2/25/2025

**Second Saturday of Each
Month**

**Join Mike-W8CJJ and Mike-
KC8MM *for breakfast***

Frisch's Big Boy—9 AM

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

