

CQ Chatter

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Wood County Amateur Radio Club

DECEMBER 1999

P. O. Box 534, Bowling Green, OH 43402

<http://bravais.bgsu.edu/~boughton/wcarc.html>

President-WA8CWD, Larry Reitz

Vice President-WB8NQW, Bob Willman

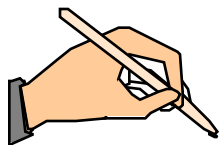
Secretary-AA8XS, John Lager

Treasurer-N1RB, Bob Boughton

A Note from the Editor

The last CQ Chatter of the year prompts me to review the past year as it has affected the WCARC. The Fairgrounds club station is in good shape, with an operational capability on both hf and 2 meters. Many thanks to Chuck, WD8ICP, for his continued efforts to spruce the place up and get some of the equipment working.

The Hamarama was a modest success, posting a net profit this year. The Club will be devoting a lot of extra effort to increase attendance and profits next year. The fox hunt and picnic in October had a surprisingly sparse turnout-nevertheless, the fox was found and a good meal was had by all participants.



On a sad note, the Club has recorded the entry of two of its members into the association of Silent Keys. Don, WA8EXF, and Gillie, WD8KLG, were both long standing members of WCARC who will be missed.

As for New Years' resolutions, we should promise to work hard to get the 440 MHz paging system up and operating in 2000. Each member of the Club should promise to recruit a new member to the fold. The attention paid to the Y2K problem will disappear and so we can all devote our spare time to other things, like selling Hamarama tickets. It is important that our hamfest does not go the way of others that I know of.

The banquet/election meeting will be held on the second Monday of the New Year in Pemberville-hope you can make it!

**WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2130
147.18 & 444.475 MHz**

**Club Meeting:
Thursday, December 9th
Location: Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 pm
Social Hour: 7:00 pm**

RadioHead: Builders, Operators and Communicators, by John Hansen W2FS
reprinted from ARRL Web Extra

I noted with some interest the recent demise of CQ-VHF magazine. Henceforth the contents of this magazine will be blended into CQ magazine. Over the last four years editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, has done an excellent job of putting together a publication geared primarily toward Technician class hams who often also are new hams. Most importantly, this publication encouraged those who were new to the hobby to try something more adventuresome than 2 meter FM.

The passing of CQ-VHF raises the interesting question of what happened to all the new hams that came into the hobby a few years ago. I'm not just talking about those hams who came in as a result of the code-free Tech ticket. In our club's radio classes we had an upswing of people even before no-code. These were people who were impressed by the communications possibilities that ham

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**Annual Banquet
Monday, Jan. 10th
at The Forks**

**Have You Renewed
Your Membership
Yet???**

December Contests

The full contest line-up for the month of December includes the following:

Dec 11-12	0000 to 2359 UTC ARRL 10m Contest	10m CW & SB
Dec 18-19	1400 to 1400 UTC Croatian CW Contest	160 to 10m
Dec 19	0000 to 2359 UTC RAC Canada Winter 'test all modes	160 to 2m
Jan 1	0000-2359 UTC ARRL Straight Key Night	160 to 10m CW
Jan 15-16	2200 to 2200 UTC Japan Int'l DX 'test	160 to 40m CW
Jan 15-16	1800 to 0600 UTC North Amer. QSO party	160 to 10m all modes

Hamfest Calendar

No area hamfests are scheduled for the month of December- If you're in the neighborhood, there is one in Ft. Myers, FL on January 8-9.

Pagers Available

A quantity of voice pagers is available to members of RACES/ARES at a small fraction of the original cost. The estimated total cost of the pager with crystals is \$35.00. This is a one-time charge and there is no monthly service fee. The pagers have been purchased and were re-crystalled, so they should be available soon. If you would like to be alerted to local emergency situations quickly, a pager fills the need ideally, and is a really good deal cost-wise. One of the objectives stated by the WCARC President, Larry Reitz, is to have all Wood County RACES/ARES participants equipped with pagers so that quick call ups can be made in time of emergency. For further information, please contact Larry, WA8CWD, at (419) 837-2202. ■

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Nov 30	N1RB
Dec 7	N8QMV
Dec 14	AA8XS
Dec 21	WD8ICP
Dec 28	N1RB
Jan 4	N8QMV
Jan 11	AA8XS

Kid's Day to be Held on Jan 1

excerpted from QST

Have you always wanted to get your child, or another child excited about our hobby? If so, Kid's Day will be great fun for both of you. Kid's Day doesn't require much time, is casual, and you don't have to learn anything new. Invite a girl or boy to visit your ham shack for 15 minutes or more to talk to other kids who've been asked to do the same. If the kid isn't your own, ask the parents to visit too, and you may double the number of future new hams! The past two Kid's Days have seen around 400 children, the majority age 7 to 11, making QSOs.

During the six hour event youths can make one QSO or many; some kids make hundreds! A kid's attention span is around 20 minutes. If no one answers their CQs, they won't call for long. Don't act disappointed. Tell them you'll listen a while, and call them when things pick up. If they make even one QSO they'll remember what's important-the fun of the experience and the interest you showed in them. Kid's Day isn't a contest, although there is a more-or-less standardized exchange. Let the kids make friendly rag chews. You'll need patience-kids may be shy, make mistakes and take many breaks. Don't correct them. Just be the control op, make sure you or they ID at the right time, and follow third party traffic rules for DX QSOs.

Schedule time for Kid's Day on January 1st. If nothing else, make plans to get on the air and talk to the Kid's Day junior ops. Be friendly and

ask them about things they relate to-pets, hobbies or the weather.

RULES

Purpose: Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. Kid's Day is intended to give hams a chance to share their stations with children.

Date/Time: January 1, 2000 from 1800 to 2400 UTC.

Suggested Exchange: name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day".

Suggested Frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz; 21380 to 21400; 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor. observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.

Reporting: e-mail logs and comments to: kids@contesting.com.

Awards: All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. SASE to: Boring ARC, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

HF Rig For Sale

Yaesu FT-101B w/ digital read-out accessory installed
10 through 160 meters
Astatic Silver Eagle D-104 mic
Asking \$200 or best offer
Contact Chuck WD8ICP
352-0856

radio was offering, largely in the form of packet radio and 2 meter repeaters. A Large number of those folks have dropped by the wayside, and I wanted to spend some time considering why that occurred.

Some years ago the Vice President for Operations of AMSAT (the amateur satellite group) was a fellow named Courtney Duncan, N5BF. I heard him make a presentation at an AMSAT meeting once where he said that he thought there were basically two kinds of hams: builders and operators. Builders were people inter-

ested in constructing communications equipment or systems but who generally weren't very much interested in operating them once they were built. These were the guys who built their own stations, or built satellites, or built digital networks, or whatever. The thrill for them was in the construction. But once it was built, they often didn't have much interest in using these systems to actually communicate with other hams.

Operators, on the other hand, are fascinated by radio as a communications medium. These are the people who when asked, "what do you hams talk about anyway?" are dumbfounded that anyone could ask such a question. People who ask questions like that just don't get it... Many hams I know (including me) hate talking on the telephone but love talking on the radio. How is this possible? Because it isn't the talking that is important, it's the radio. It's not the message, it's the medium.

Last night I exchanged signal reports on CW with 3B8FG on Mauritius. It was just a signal report, but I was thrilled.. *every bit as thrilled* as I was 30 years ago when I worked my first European station. Today, I suspect, it is possible to place a telephone call to Mauritius. It doesn't matter. My signal leaped off my antenna into the ether and came down in Mauritius. It still seems like a minor miracle to me.

Anyway, as of about a decade ago it was no longer useful to divide Radio Amateurs into categories of builders or operators. Amateur Radio experienced a period of rapid growth. The new hams were initially neither builders nor operators. Instead they were *communicators*. We attracted these folks to ham radio by telling them they could use repeaters in their cars to talk to other people an even to make phone calls through autopatches. They were attracted by the prospect of using packet radio to exchange computer files with others instead of tying up their home phone lines. These folks generally did not want to build any part of their own stations; they wanted equipment that could be put to work immediately. Note it's not just that these new folks weren't technically-oriented constructors of equipment. Often they weren't operators either.

-to be continued-

WOOD COUNTY ARC
P.O.BOX 534
BOWLING GREEN, OH
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WOOD COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 534
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Regular-\$10===Family-\$15===Senior/Student-\$5
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

DATE _____ ARRL MEMBER? Y _____ N _____ DATE OF EXP. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CALL _____ CLASS _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please Circle All That Apply:

Active Bands: 160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 220 440 higher

Modes: CW SSB PACKET RTTY FM DX MOBILE QRP SSTV ATV EME SAT

Interests: Traffic DX Contests Foxhunts Satellites Nets Antennas

Computers Emergency ARES/RACES Skywarn Classic Radios

Do You Own a Computer? Y _____ N _____ If yes, what operating system (check)?

DOS/Windows _____ MAC/OS _____ IBM/OS2 _____ Other _____

Do you plan to upgrade your license? Y _____ N _____ If yes, what class? _____

What kinds of meeting programs would you like to see? _____

What type of equipment would you like to see the Club purchase? _____

Other activities you would like to see the Club offer _____

General Comments _____

Signature _____ Date _____