

CQ Chatter

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Wood County Amateur Radio Club

JUNE 2000

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

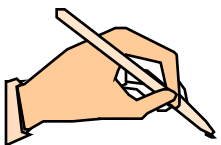
<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President-AA8XS, John Lager
Secretary-N8QMV, Esther Creps

Vice President-WB8NQW, Bob Willman
Treasurer-N1RB, Bob Boughton

A Note from the Editor

The XYL and I just got back from another Dayton extravaganza. This year, the weather was ideal, with overcast skies (not too hot) and temperatures in the upper 50's (a light jacket was comfortable). Experienced veterans will contrast this with some years where there were incessant downpours, making the flea market a quagmire, or where the skies were perfectly clear but the temperatures were well into the 90's, leading many to the verge of heat exhaustion. We saw (and talked to) WD8JWJ, WB8NQW, and K8BBK; saw (but weren't able to communicate with) N8VNR, so there was a fairly good WCARC contingent at the Hamvention.



The move to more compact, wide-coverage transceivers is in full swing. The very first entries in this area appeared several years ago, when the "big three" manufacturers started adding 6 meter capability to their regular hf rigs. Now, however, the super-compact models like the ICOM IC-706MKIIG, and the Yaesu FT-100 feature all bands from 160 meters through 2 meters and 440 MHz--and with 100 W output on most of those bands!

Even though I don't have the official figures at this writing, the attendance at the Hamvention seemed to be higher than in the past few years. Maybe there is an upswing in attendance at ham-fests that is fueled by the many recent upgrades and the desire to have multiple band capabilities. We certainly hope that is the case for the upcoming Hamarama on July 9th.

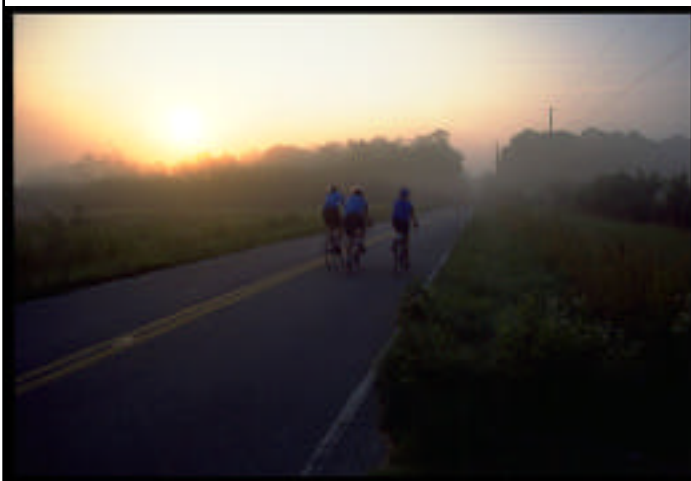
This month promises to be a busy one for the Club. The first event is the GOBA bicycle ride as it cruises through here on June 23-24 (see accompanying article). Almost immediately is Field Day on June 24-25, which is to be held at the base location for GOBA. Then of course, is Hamarama on July 9th, with set-up on the 8th. All of these activities have a common theme--we need volunteers!! If you have a few spare hours on either of these weekends, please plan to help out. 73 de Bob ■

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

**Club Meeting:
Monday, June 12th
Location: Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 pm
Social Hour: 7:00 pm**

Volunteers Needed !!

Want to help out in an interesting and enjoyable activity, while at the same time providing a public service? Well, here's your chance to do so. On Friday and Saturday, June 23/24, the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure will once again wend its way through Wood County. This ride is composed of at least 3,000 cyclists who will be spending one whole week riding around Northwest Ohio. Each year the ride picks a particular part of the State to tour.



The GOBA tour travels about 50 miles each day of the tour. This year, they will begin in

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June Contests

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

May 27-28	0000 to 2359 Z CQ WPX	160 to 10m CW
June 3-4	1400 to 1400 Z IARU Region 1 'test	6m all modes
June 3	1800 to 2359 Z Area Codes 'Test	80 to 10m CW QRP
June 10	0000 to 2400 Z Portugal Day	80 to 10m SSB
June 10	0700 to 1200 Z Australian QRP	160 to 10m CW
June 10-11	1200 to 1200 Z TOEC Field 'Test	160 to 10m SSB
June 10-11	1200 to 1800 Z WW South America	80 to 10m CW
June 10-12	1800 to 0300 Z ARRL VHF QSO Party	6m on up all modes
June 11	1800 to 2400 Z West Va. QSO Party	160 to 10m all modes
June 17-18	0000 to 2359 Z All Asia 'Test	160 to 10m CW
June 24-25	1800 to 2100 Z ARRL Field Day	all bands all modes
July 1	0000 to 2359 Z RAC Canada Day	160 to 2m all modes
July 1-2	0000 to 2359 Z Venezuela 'Test	160 to 10m SSB
July 4-5	2300 to 0300 Z QRP Sprint	160 to 6m all modes

Fremont on Sunday, June 17th. From there on, the daily stopovers are at Tiffin, Marion, Bellefontaine, Bluffton, Bowling Green and back to Fremont. They will enter Wood County from the south on Friday morning at about 9 am, where

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

May 30	KG8FH
June 6	WD8JWJ
June 13	WD8ICP
June 20	N1RB
June 27	N8QMV
July 4	AA8XS
July 11	KG8FH
July 18	WD8JWJ

they will take the Slippery Elm Trail from North Baltimore. By about 3 pm the bulk of the riders will have reached the campsite, which is the intramural sports area on the BGSU campus, just north of the Visitor's shack.

For this first leg we will need 3 persons to ride on sags and support vehicles, at least 2 persons at the net control site, and approximately 6 to 8 more to man positions along the Slippery Elm, plus one more at the Hospital to respond to emergencies.



The next day will begin bright and early at 6 am, when the riders set out for Fremont by way of Pemberville and Gibsonburg. We will need the same number of operators on Saturday morning. The entire operation from our end will be completed at about 10 am.

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If you would like to volunteer and gain some experience in this facet of amateur radio, give Bob, N1RB, a call at 354-1811, or via e-mail at boughton@bgnet.bgsu.edu. We will hold a short organizational meeting to go over route maps, etc. the Saturday before. Hope you can pitch in!!

Field Day is Coming

As luck would have it, the very same weekend that the GOBA ride comes to Bowling Green (June 24-25) is the date of perhaps the most favorite contest of all hams--Field Day. In concept, Field Day is supposed to be a demonstration of the emergency preparedness of amateur radio operators, whether they are part of a club or work as individuals.

The challenge is to set up a "field" station with portable equipment and temporary antennas, preferably operating on an emergency power source of some sort. Those who do use commercial power sources are limited in who they can contact for points. Field Day is really a misnomer; it's actually Field day and night and next morning. Typical set-ups can include several stations working hf frequencies, packet, VHF and UHF stations. The trick is of course to be able to prevent interference between all these operations as they transmit at the same time. Also important is the positioning and height of the antenna farm that is constructed.

This year the contest begins at the usual time of 1800 UTC (2 pm local time) on Saturday, and wraps up at 2100 UTC (5 pm local time) on Sunday. Only stations who do not begin setting up until 1800 UTC on Saturday can work the entire 27 hour period--all others are limited to 24 hours of operation.

WCARC is planning an operation that will be setting up at the same location where GOBA camps, namely the intramural fields at BGSU. If you would like to participate, contact John, AA8XS, at 666-5939, or via e-mail: aa8xs@arrl.net.

Hamfest Calendar has no area hamfests to advertise this month. Next month, the most exciting 'fest around, the WCARC Hamarama will be held on July 9th!!

Contests, Awards, and all that

Now that the restructuring of amateur radio is completed, many more hams will be operating on the hf bands than ever before. If you happen to be one of them, you will undoubtedly tune across various contests on the "old" bands of 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters, usually on weekends. The "new" WARC bands of 30, 17 and 12 meters are off limits for contesting. Depending on whether you enjoy this aspect of amateur radio or not, you may or may not take refuge on the WARC bands when the popular contests are in full swing. You probably have noticed the regular column listing the contests each month, so maybe you can guess what the editor thinks about them!

It is true that some contesters are boorish, impolite egomaniacs who don't care who they step on when they call "CQ contest". However, it has been my experience that most have the true amateur spirit and will check to see that the frequency is available before shouting CQ.

What is the purpose of contesting? It goes way back to the beginnings of amateur radio, when it was not so easy to contact Europe or California from these parts, for instance. The contests were inspired by the urge to push the hobby to the limit, and to see just how far contacts could reliably be maintained. Along with the contest sponsorship, awards were instituted for proof of high proficiency and skill at making contacts.

The grand-daddy of all the awards is Worked All States, which as you might have guessed awards a nice certificate for proof of contact (QSL cards) with all 50 states. You might think that it is a cinch with the west coast rolling in on 10 meters and the nearby states on 80 and 40 m. However, if you want a challenge, try working all states on only one of those bands! It's not easy working Illinois and Pennsylvania on 10 meters!

Another famous award is the DX Century Club, which is awarded for proof of contact with 100 different countries (as defined by the sponsor). This award is intended for the real DX aficionado. It can be endorsed by increments of 50 additional countries when you've worked them. The champs in this field are up into the 300's in the number of countries worked, with the leaders only lacking 2 or 3 countries from the total on the official list. If you've just upgraded to hf, get busy and pick your activity!

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