

CQ Chatter

Volume B3•Issue #5

Wood County Amateur Radio Club

OCTOBER 2000

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

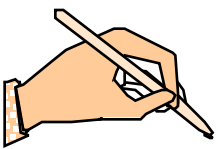
<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

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

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

A Note from the Editor

Just when we thought the storm season was tapering off, Mother Nature showed us we were all wet last week. The very serious tornado that hit Xenia last week demonstrates that the storm season doesn't end with the Autumnal Equinox! Please note that this wasn't the typical barn-blower tornado, but was estimated to have been at level F-4 on a scale of 1 to 5.



Some details of the role that Amateur Radio played in responding to the emergency in Xenia are detailed on page 3. The local ARES group was ready and able to respond to the communications emergency by linking the county EOC with the people in the field.

Naturally, these events beg the question, "what if that tornado had struck 150 miles to the north instead of in Xenia?" Would the Wood County ARES have been able to muster enough people to respond adequately? Surely there is an almost equal probability that such a terrific storm could hit this area. Do we have the willingness and the training to handle the traffic that the Greene County folks had to pass? There clearly was a lot of logistical, informational and welfare reporting going on in Xenia that night.

Strangely enough, we will get the opportunity to demonstrate our dedication in only a little over one week. The national simulated emergency test (SET) will take place, and your local ARES organization will be participating. The only thing "simulated" about the SET is the emergency. The emergency net will operate just as it would in a genuine emergency. Operators will be needed to respond to move to remote sites such as the hospital, the County EOC and the Red Cross HQ.

Even if you do not have mobile capability, you should check in to the net. The net control may need assistance in any of a variety of ways including contacting officials by telephone, or in making equipment deliveries. Plan to join us!

73 de Bob ■

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

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

Serious Need for JOTA Operators !

The local Scout Jamboree on the Air will be held on October 20th through the 22nd (Fri. - Sun.). Volunteer amateur operators are needed to operate the home station in the clubhouse, to demonstrate how amateur radio works to the Scouts, and to possibly help handle traffic for them. Prime operating hours will most likely be in the late afternoons through fairly late at night. If you can volunteer in these time slots on any of the days indicated above, please contact Ruth, KC8EKT at 352-7678, or via e-mail: howies_mommy@yahoo.com. Ruth will be happy to fill you in on what times/dates are open. Let's try to make the effort of Troop 818 to get a local entry in JOTA a success! ■

Simulated Emergency Test Planned

Every year, radio amateurs all across the U.S. and Canada get a chance to practice their emergency preparedness. The ARRL sponsors an exercise called the Simulated Emergency Test (SET). The procedure involves an unannounced call up of ARES members on a local repeater

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October Contests

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

Sep 30 Louisiana QSO Party	0000 to 2400 Z	80 to 2 m all modes
Sep 30-Oct 1 80 to 2 m	1400 to 2000 Z (0500-1400 off) Texas QSO Party	all modes
Oct 1 RSGB SSB 'test	0700 to 1900 Z	15 to 10 m SSB
Oct 7-8 California QSO Party	1600 to 2200 Z	160 to 2 m all modes
Oct 7-8 Ibero-America 'test	2000 to 2000 Z	160 to 10 m SSB
Oct 14-15 VK/ZL/Oceania 'test	1000 to 1000 Z	80 to 10 m CW
Oct 15-16 160 to 10 m	1600 to 2200 Z (0500-1300 off) Penna. QSO Party	all modes
Oct 15 RSGB CW 'test	0700 to 1900 Z	15 to 10 m CW
Oct 21-22 Worked All Germany	1500 to 1500 Z	80 to 10 m all modes
Oct 28-29 CQ WW DX 'test	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10 m SSB
Nov 4-6 ARRL Sweepstakes	2100 to 0300 Z	160 to 10 m CW

For Sale—Coax

**100 ft – foam-filled 7/8 in
coax cable with type-N
connector on one end
Line loss is less than 0.5 dB
per 100 feet
asking \$75.00
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WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Oct 3	KG8FH
Oct 10	WD8JWJ
Oct 17	WD8ICP
Oct 24	N1RB
Oct 31	N8QMV
Nov 7	AA8XS
Nov 14	KG8FH
Nov 21	WD8JWJ

October Hamfests

The hamfest line up for the month of October is listed below:

Oct 8	Medina 2m Group	8am-2pm
Ohio National Guard Armory, 920 Lafayette Rd., Medina, OH. Contact Michael, N8TZY, (330) 273- 1519.		
Oct 22	Utica-Shelby Emergency Communica- tions Assn. (USECA)	8am-1pm
Italian-American Cultural Center, Warren, MI. Contact Dave, KC8IAQ, (810) 791-2720.		
Oct 29	Massillon ARC	8am-?
Stark County Fairgrounds, Canton, OH. Contact Terry, N8ATZ, (330) 837-3091.		

Repeater Has Its Problems

It is probably no surprise to most readers that the WCARC repeater system on 147.18 and 444.75 has not been functional for over 2 months at this writing. The original problem arose when a severe downpour/thunderstorm caused a leak in the overhead roof hatch right above the repeater rack. The repeater controller was doused, and after a valiant attempt at repair by Jim, , which

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some time during the weekend of October 7-8. According to the ARES guidelines, the purpose of a SET is:

- To find out the strengths and weaknesses of ARES, NTS and RACES, and other groups in providing emergency communications.
- To provide a public demonstration—to served agencies such as Red Cross, Civil Preparedness, and through the news media—of the value to the public that Amateur Radio provides, particularly in time of need.
- To help radio amateurs gain experience in communications using standard procedures and a variety of modes under simulated emergency conditions.

Because of its affiliation with ARES and RACES, all members of WCARC are encouraged to participate in the SET.

The exercise begins with the starting up of the Wood County Emergency Net on the 147.18 repeater. This will happen some time on the morning of **Saturday, October 7**, between the hours of 9:00 am and noon. The EC will have prepared an emergency "scenario" which can involve as many hams as want to participate. If you want to join in, give a listen and check in to the net. If you have mobile capabilities, be prepared to move to the location as the net control directs. ■

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actually got the machine up and running for about 10 days, it finally gave up the ghost. The controller was shipped to the manufacturer in Florida, and after several weeks' wait, it was repaired and returned. Upon installing the controller, the 2-meter transmitter was found to have sustained serious damage, most likely due to a lightning strike. The Technical Committee is presently in the process of lining up a replacement so that the WCARC machine can be put back on the air as soon as possible. For the most recent update in the saga, readers are advised to consult the Club web page. ■

Have you upgraded yet??

ARES Mobilized after Tornado Rips Xenia

--excerpted from ARRL Web Extra

One person was killed and dozens injured when a severe storm ripped through Xenia, Ohio, Wednesday, Sept. 20th, around 7:30 PM. An Amateur Radio Emergency Service net was placed in operation, and hams have been assisting the Red Cross and local emergency management officials.

Ohio Gov Bob Taft has declared an emergency for the southwestern Ohio community. The National Weather Service said the severe storm brought heavy rain and straight-line winds of up to 70 MPH, and forecasters have verified that an F4 tornado touched down in the town.

Greene County Emergency Coordinator Fred Stone, W8LLY, activated an ARES net during the emergency. The Greene County EOC operated its primary net on the area's 147.165 MHz repeater. "Red Cross set up three shelters and used the 145.11 repeater," he said. The 145.11 repeater also was also used by the damage assessment teams.

AMSAT President Keith Baker, KB1SF, who lives just outside Xenia, said area residents had little or no warning that the storm was on its way. "This caught everyone by surprise," Baker said. "We were under a watch and that went into a warning, but this sort of came out of the blue." The weather service had issued a severe thunderstorm watch, but no tornado watches or warnings.

The storm knocked out power to much of Xenia, but repeaters remained operational. Baker said the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net--X-WARN--"did some fantastic yeoman's service." He said amateurs helped in setting up shelters and securing generators for emergency power to aid in searches for victims. Baker said amateurs also were stationed at shelters and at area hospitals, relaying information between Greene Memorial Hospital in downtown Xenia and outlying hospitals. "I was most impressed by what I heard," Baker said. "Amateur Radio really shone." ■

For Sale

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