

CQ Chatter

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Wood County Amateur Radio Club

NOVEMBER 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

Special Notice!!!

The November meeting of the WCARC will discuss the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Hamarama Committee. The Committee was set up by the President, AA8XS, in response to a motion passed at the September meeting to investigate options that the Club has to holding the Hamarama each year.

The Committee made its report at the October meeting. However, since the issue is an extremely important one to everybody in the Club, it was voted to advertise that the discussion will take place at the November meeting and then to poll the entire membership by the December meeting.

The recommendations of the Committee are:

- Hamarama will no longer be held in its present form.

PRO The profitability of the event has been steadily declining over the past 5 years and so has the number of volunteers for set up and operation of the event. Costs continue to rise and no improvement is forecast.

CON The Wood County Hamarama (with no admission price) is a tradition in NW Ohio. After all, this past July was the 35th annual continuation of this tradition. Some way should be investigated to salvage it. Perhaps a move to a less expensive venue can be made.

- Fund raising for the Club can be best accomplished through a year-long 50-50 raffle, similar to what other clubs in the area do.

PRO This option incurs minimal expense and guarantees income for the Club once printing expenses are covered. No building rental is needed

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

**Club Meeting:
Monday, November 13th
Location: Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 pm
Social Hour: 7:00 pm**

A Simulated Emergency Test - and a Taste of the Real Thing!

On Saturday, October 7, the Wood County ARES/RACES group participated in the nationwide Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Our SET consisted of testing the transmit and receive range of the repeater. The repeater had been returned to service only a few days earlier (see related story on page 3), so it was thought to be a good idea to see how well it was performing before attempting any simulated emergency operations in the far reaches of the county.

We had 7 check-ins, and got a fairly good idea of how well the transmit/receive functions are performing. This is valuable data for the Technical Committee to have and has already given those concerned several ideas for improvement.

As fate would have it, the very next Tuesday, on October 10th, a simple automobile accident apparently produced an emergency situation over much of the Bowling Green area and points south. Residential and commercial power was knocked out, including cellular telephone service, traffic signals and BGSU. An informal emergency net was started up on the repeater and reports

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November Contests

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

Oct 28-29	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
CQ WW DX 'test		SSB
Nov 4-6	<i>2100 to 0300 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
ARRL Sweepstakes		CW
Nov 11-12	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
OK/OM (Czech Rep.) DX 'test		all modes
Nov 11-12	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 to 10 m
Ukrainian DX 'test		all modes
Nov 10-12	<i>2300 to 2300 Z</i>	80 to 10 m
Japan Int'l DX 'test		all modes
Nov 18-20	<i>2100 to 0300 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
ARRL Sweepstakes		SSB
Nov 18-19	<i>1200 to 2100 Z</i>	80 to 10 m
LZ (Bulgaria) DX 'test		CW
Nov 25-26	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 to 10 m
CQ WWDX 'test		CW
Dec 9-10	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	10 m
ARRL 10 m 'test		all modes

November Hamfests

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

Oct 29 Massilon ARC 8am-?
Stark County Fairgrounds, Canton, OH. Contact Terry, N8ATZ, (330) 837-3091.

Nov 18-19 Allen Co (IN) ARTS 9am -4 pm
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, IN. Contact (219) 484-1314.

Dec 3 L'Anse Creuse ARC 8am - 2 pm
L'Anse Creuse High School, Mt. Clemens, MI. Contact Donna, KA8QBD, (248) 651-7387.

Have you upgraded yet??

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Oct 24	N1RB
Oct 31	N8QMV
Nov 7	AA8XS
Nov 14	KG8FH
Nov 21	WD8JWJ
Nov 28	WD8ICP
Dec 5	N1RB
Dec 12	N8QMV

Pagers Available -- and They Work!!

The emergency pagers that the Club purchased some time ago are ready to go. These units can be obtained for a \$35.00 deposit that is refundable on return.

Thanks to the efforts of KB8QEW, they can be activated through the 440 MHz machine whenever an emergency occurs. If you want to be alerted whenever ARES/RACES requires your services, you need a pager. To obtain one, contact Bob , N1RB, at 354-1811 or at:

boughton@bgnet.bgsu.edu. ■

For Sale—Coax

100 ft – foam-filled 7/8 in coax cable with type-N connector on one end
Line loss is less that 0.5 dB per 100 feet
asking \$75.00
Contact Duane, K8NEA
(419) 874-8889

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exchanged concerning the extent of the outage. Fortunately, there was no emergency traffic to pass. After a couple of hours the power was restored and everything went back to normal. It is heartening that local amateurs were able to use the repeater to pass informal traffic during an event that very well could have become a serious communications emergency. ■

Amateur's On Air Business Halted

A Nebraska ham, who was allegedly running a business with offers of equipment consignments, bank financing and lay-away plans, went well beyond the limit of the rules. FCC's Riley Hollingsworth notified James Baudo, N0UQZ, that the "business-like" practices that he is conducting on a local repeater must stop. The FCC rule 97.113 allows amateurs to notify others of the availability of equipment, as long as it is not done on a regular basis. Apparently Baudo was conducting a number of sales over the air on 2 meters. ■

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and all members can sell raffle tickets almost anywhere, provided the price is reasonable.

CON Profits are relatively small compared to other options, such as a dinner or some other advertised event. Neither option is as directly connected to amateur radio as the hamfest is.

Make your opinion heard! Come to the November meeting, or contact one of the officers. ■

Repeater is Back

After over two months out of service the K8TIH repeater came back to life during the week of October 2nd. As the SET that weekend confirmed, the unit is still running with reduced coverage because of an SWR problem in the feed line/antenna system. The Technical Committee is working on the problem. At present, there is also no receive function on the 440 MHz side. The new digital audio module sounds good and should really enhance the machine's utility. ■

JOTA a Success

The local Jamboree-On-The-Air was sponsored by Girl Scout Troop 818 over the weekend of October 20-22nd. It was held at the Wood County Fairgrounds Administration building. The purpose of this event is to help Scouts become acquainted with amateur radio by making contact with fellow Scouts throughout the world.

The scouts spent from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon actively operating amateur radio rigs of all kinds. The event was co-sponsored by WCARC and the Friendly Radio Amateur Team. At least 12 hams were on hand at one time or another to help out and mentor the scouts with the operation of the radios. After a short learning curve however, the girls were up to speed and operating like old pros (excuse me, amateurs).



Chatting at the APRS Console

The scouts got a great demonstration of all modes of operation, including SSB, PSK31, and APRS-packet. Over 50 contacts were made, including some nice chats with England, Puerto Rico, Netherlands, Croatia, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Kuwait, South Africa, Germany, Austria, Siberia, and over 19 of the United States. The scout participants were Tara Banks, Hilary Berg and Stacey Fuller. The troop Leader, Ruth, KC8EKT, was the person who organized the event and made everything happen.

All in all, the participants had a very successful weekend. Thanks to Ruth for getting our Club involved in this very worthwhile activity. Let's do it again! ■

Tara at the PSK-31 console

personal rig courtesy of Shawn, KB8QEW



Hilary -Waiting in line on HF

Ruth, KC8EKT, and her scouts



A Bird's Eye View of the Clubhouse

photos - courtesy of Kevin, N8VNR

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