

CQ Chatter

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Wood County Amateur Radio Club

APRIL 2006

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

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Dayton Hamvention Coming Soon!

The Dayton Hamvention is known as the world's biggest and best hamfest. This year it will be held on May 19, 20 and 21st. In past years the total attendance has been well over 30,000. The gigantic flea market is perhaps the most extensive of its kind. If you can't find that special replacement part there, you probably won't find it anywhere. The main exhibition halls house booths sponsored by all of the major manufacturers of amateur equipment. Especially impressive are the antenna companies' setups. There are towers, beams, verticals, etc., covering everything from hf to microwaves.

Three days is a fairly long period to devote to a hobby, but many amateurs find their way to Dayton for most of the duration. There are forums on various technical, policy, and operating facets of the hobby. One of them might be of interest to you. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate. It is hoped that the weather will cooperate this year. For further information check out: www.hamvention.org. ■

April Hamfests

No nearby hamfests reported for April.

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

**Next Meeting-
MONDAY, April 10th
At: Sheriff's Training Room
Dunbridge and Gypsy Lane
Time: 7:30 pm -social prior
Program: Antennas 301**

Repeater Back Up--- and Then Down Again

After a great deal of effort in tracking down the faults and then repairing them, the K8TIH machines were placed back in service on March 9th. It was determined that the coax transmission lines had gotten corroded, thus leading to the intermittancy. At the same time it was discovered

WCARC Net Check-ins

14-Mar WB8NQQW (NC), W8PSK, WD8JWJ, K8OVO, KC8ZJW, WB8VUL, N8QMV, N1RB, K8NEA, KD8BIN, N8MSU, K8JTK, K8BBK, KD8CHQ, WD8ICP (15)

21-Mar N1RB (NC), K8BBK, W8PSK, WD8JWJ, N8MSU, K8NEA, WB8NQQW, KD8BIN, WB8VUL, K8OVO, N8QMV, K8JTK (12)

April Contests

The full contest lineup for the month of April includes the following:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Apr 1-2 | 1800 to 2400 Z | 160 m to 10 m | |
| Missouri QSO Party | | all modes | |
| Apr 1-2 | 2300 to 2300 Z | 160 m to 70 cm | |
| Montana QSO Party | | all modes | |
| Apr 1-2 | 1500 to 1500 Z | 160 m to 10 m | |
| SP (Poland) DX 'test | | CW | |
| Apr 1-2 | 1400 to 1400 Z | 80 m to 70 cm | |
| ARRL Kids Roundup | | SSB | |
| Apr 8-9 | 0700 to 1300 Z | 80 m to 10 m | |
| Japan Int'l DX 'test | | CW | |
| Apr 8-9 | 1800 to 2359 | 80 m to 10 m | |
| Georgia QSO Party | | all modes | |
| Apr 15 | 0000 to 2359 Z | 160 m to 10 m | |
| Holy land (Israel) DX 'test | | all modes | |
| Apr 15-16 | 1600 to 0400 Z | 80 m to 10 m | |
| Michigan QSO Party | | all modes | |
| Apr 15-16 | 1800 to 1800 Z | 160 m to 10 m | |
| Ontario QSO Party | | all modes | |
| Apr 22-23 | 1600 to 2159 Z | 40 m to 10 m | |
| Florida QSO Party | | all modes | |
| Apr 22-23 | 1700 to 1700 Z | 160 m to 2 m | |
| Nebraska QSO Party | | all modes | |
| Apr 22-23 | 0000 to 0000 Z | 160 m to 10 m | |
| Colombia (HK) DX 'test | | all modes | |
| Apr 29-30 | 1700 to 0500 Z | 160 m to 10 m | |
| Alabama QSO Party | | all modes | |

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Mar. 28 | K8OVO |
| Apr. 4 | WD8ICP |
| Apr. 11 | N8QMV |
| Apr. 18 | WB8NQW |
| Apr. 25 | N1RB |
| May 2 | K8OVO |
| May 9 | WD8ICP |

Apr 29-30 1300 to 1300 Z 160 m to 10 m
Helvetia (Switzerland) DX 'test all modes

Apr 29-30 0600 to 2359 LT 2 GHz on up
@ GHZ & Up WW 'test all modes

repeater---continued

that the emergency power batteries were dead due to loss of fluid since who knows when. After examination, it was determined that the 440 transmitter needed to be replaced. Thanks to Jim, K8JU, Chuck, WD8ICP, Phil, W8PSK, and Steve, K8BBK for their efforts at replacing coax, fans, batteries, installing a beefed up power supply, and especially for effecting the repairs on the 2 meter machine. The machines will function with new PL tones at 67 Hz. The signal as observed on the last two WCARC Tuesday night nets is clean as a whistle.

At this writing, the machines are down again in an attempt to solve an intermittent shut down problem. Also, a new 440 transmitter has been purchased so that the 70 cm profile will be improved once things are up and running again as tornado season is upon us. ■

Brain Teasers

1. The best feed line impedance match to a half-wave dipole that is at least $1/4$ wavelength above ground is:

- (a) RG-58 (50 Ω)
- (b) RG-59 (75 Ω)
- (c) twin lead (300 Ω)
- (d) ladder line (400 Ω)

2. For DX work an antenna should have a _____ angle of radiation.

- (a) high (b) 45° (c) low (d) isotropic

3. An isotropic radiation pattern is best fulfilled by:

- (a) a half-wave dipole (b) long wire
- (c) beam (d) a quarter wave vertical

Revolutionary New Antenna Design

There is a report in one of the current editions of an antenna magazine of a revolutionary new antenna discovery. Elmo Redhead, K1LID, who hails from Coot's Notch, Maine, contends that he made the discovery by following the lead of one of his audiophile friends. It seems there has been a movement in that field to improve the performance of the speaker wires that these enthusiasts use to connect their amplifiers to the speaker arrays. It dawned on one group that although a member of the noble metal family, copper tarnishes way too easily and so a more pristine metal conductor must be used for the speaker wires. Experimentation with silver, gold, platinum and other precious metals has revealed marked improvement, according to many experts in the field.

The improvement unfortunately cannot be detected with any known measurement instrument. However, a finely tuned ear with the proper amount of training can detect the clear superiority of the precious metals over copper. One theory is that the electrons simply move faster in gold because there is no dirt to skirt.

Redhead reasoned that the very same principle should apply to antenna construction. After all, are we not interested in improving the performance of the very same _____ electrons?



"I decided to go with gold 'cause it looks so pretty", remarked Redhead. "Onct I got the beam plated I was already out \$12,000, so I decided what the heck, and did the tower and guy wires too." Redhead reports that it seems as though his beam is working better than when it was plain aluminum. "The signal strength readings are about the same, but I can tell just from the sound that the signal is of higher quality", he said. Unfortunately, K1LID's antenna farm met with disaster during a freak April 1st ice storm, which is pretty common in Maine. ■

Faces seen at the March breakfast meeting

photos courtesy of WB8NQQ



*KC8ZJW, Frank
W8GGS, George
K8NEA, Duane*



*N1LB, Linda
N1RB, Bob
K8OVO, Don*



*Co-presidents W8PSK, Phil
K8BBK, Steve
Treasurer WD8JWJ, Bill*

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