

CQ Chatter

Volume B7•Issue #8

Wood County Amateur Radio Club

SEPTEMBER 2006

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

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President/Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

W8PSK/K8BBK
WD8ICP
WD8JWJ

Loren Phillips /Steve McEwen
Chuck Dicken
Bill Wilkins

Minutes of the Wood County Amateur Radio Club

August 14, 2006
at the

Wood County Sheriff's Office

Members in attendance: Duane, K8NEA; Bill, WD8JWJ; Mark, KF8KL; Fred, N8CWJ; Jim, K8JU; Hoot, WB8VUL; Loren, W8PSK; Esther, N8QMV; Rolland (her driver); Bob, N1RB; John, K8RZP ; Bob, WB8NQW; Don, K8OVO; Chuck, WD8ICP.

Loren, W8PSK, presided over the meeting alone, as co-pres. Steve, K8BBK, was away on vacation. The Treasurer's report given by Bill, WD8JW, indicated the club coffer now has \$1,830.31, and Bill also reported the latest phone bill was paid to the University for service rendered.

Loren reported that the WCARES repeater system now includes a new Kenwood 2 meter radio designed for repeater service on the frequency 145.150 MHz with 103.5 Hz PL.

He also remarked the WCARES machines were linked together for simultaneous transmission, just as with

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

**Next Meeting-
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
At: Couzin's Restaurant
Grand Rapids, OH**

**Time: 9:00 am
Project: fox hunt antenna**

the WCARC 2 & 440 machines. The need to link the two repeater systems is probably not necessary anymore as the foot prints are very similar. It would be more appropriate to link the WCARES machine to Findlay or Toledo. This item will be discussed at a later date by WCARES. Jim reported the strobe light atop of the WCARES tower was not working.

Loren reported the pieces and parts for the hardline installation at the receiver site have come together. Both he and Jim are planning to install the feed line after Labor Day.

Co-President Loren, W8PSK, announced the current positions of WCARC officers will expire in December this year and he stated that both he and Steve, K8BBK, will not be running for an office. Loren is asking for consideration

September Contests

The full contest lineup* for the month of September includes the following:

Sep 2-3 0000 to 2359 Z 160 m to 10 m
All Asian DX 'test SSB

Sep 9-10 0000 to 2359 Z 80 m to 10m
WAE(urope) DX 'test SSB

Sep 10-11 1800 to 0100 Z 160 m on up
Tennessee QSO Party all modes

Sep 16-17 1600 to 0700 Z 160 m to 6 m
Washington Salmon Run I all modes

Sep 16-17 1300 to 2400 Z 160 m on up
South Carolina QSO Party all modes

Sep 18 1600 to 2359 Z 160 m to 6 m
Washington Salmon Run II all modes

Sep 23-24 1400 to 2000 Z 160 m on up
Texas QSO Party all modes

Sep 30-Oct 1 1600 to 0200 80 m on up
Arkansas QSO Party all modes

* Please note: for the range of bands given in each entry, no contesting is permitted on the so-called WARC bands: 60 m, 30 m, 17 m or 12 m

of new participants and the idea of 2 people serving as co-president is a good idea. The Club's monthly scheduled breakfast at Couzin's in Grand Rapids, is still on for September 2, 2006, even though it is the Labor Day holiday weekend. Our next Monday night WCARC meeting is scheduled for October 9, at the Sheriff's Office. At the meeting it is planned to

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Aug 29	N8QMV
Sep 5	WB8NQW
Sep 12	N1RB
Sep 19	K8OVO
Sep 26	WD8ICP
Oct 3	N8QMV
Oct 10	WB8NQW

discuss and build fox-hunting antennas. Mark Paley, KF8KL, made application to join the Club and was accepted. Motion to adjourn was made and Bob, WB8NQW, seconded.

A presentation on standing waves was the topic for tonight's meeting. Bob, N1RB, talked with us about SW ratios, feed lines, antennas, impedance and the relationships between all of them. A very informative talk and very interesting at the same time. If you have to choose between an amplifier or feed line/antenna, choose the latter. Your monies will be better spent.

Submitted by Chuck, WD8ICP, WCARC Secretary

LONG-SILENT SUITSAT-1 KEEPS GOING AND GOING

from ARRL Letter

When SuitSat-1 -- the novel satellite built in a surplus Russian Orlan space suit -- was launched during a space walk from the International Space Station last February 3, those familiar with orbital mechanics predicted it would stay in orbit for 120 days at best. As of August 25,

Brain Teasers

1. What is the most useful type of map to use when orienting a directional HF antenna toward a distant station?

- a.) azimuthal
- b.) Mercator
- c.) polar projection
- d.) topographical

2. During a disaster in the US, when may an amateur station make transmissions necessary to meet essential communications needs and assist relief operations?

- a.) when normal communications systems are overloaded, damaged or disrupted.
- b.) only when the local RACES/ARES net is activated.
- c.) never; only official emergency stations may transmit in a disaster.
- d.) when normal communications systems are working but are not convenient.

3. What is the voltage across a 500-turn secondary winding in a transformer if the 2250-turn primary is connected to 120 Vrms?

- a.) 2370 volts
- b.) 540 volts
- c.) 26.7 volts
- d.) 5.9 volts

suitsat ---continued

some 203 days (nearly seven months) later -- largely forgotten and its ham radio voice long since silent -- SuitSat-1 has defied the odds and remains in orbit some 155 miles above Earth.

A project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, SuitSat-1, identifying as RS0RS, transmitted its voice greetings on 2 meters

September Hamfests

Sep 10 Findlay RC 8 am
Hancock County Fairgrounds, Findlay, OH. Contact Dean, N8RMF, (419) 423-3402.

e-mail: n8rmf@arll.net

URL: www.findlayradioclub.org

Sep 17 Adrian ARC 8 am to 2 pm
Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI. Contact Margie, KB*TMM, (517) 467-6303.

e-mail: maggie214@frontiernet.net

URL: www.w8tqe.com

Sep 24 Hamfest Assn. Cleve. 8 am
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Berea, OH. Contact Hamfest Assn. of Cleveland, (800) CLE-FEST.

e-mail: info@hac.org

URL: www.hac.org

WCARC Net Check-ins

25-Jul N8QMV (NC), K8UMN, W8PSK, KG8FH, WD8JWJ, KC8ZJW, K8OVO, KC8TRL/M (8)

01-Aug WB8NQW (NC), WD8JWJ, N8QMV, W8PSK, K8BBK (40m), K8NEA, KG8FH, KC8ZJW, WB8VUL, N1RB, K8OVO, KC8TRL (12)

08-Aug N1RB (NC), K8UMN/M, KD8CIJ, WD8JWJ, W8PSK, KG8FH, WB8NQW, K8NEA, N8QMV, K8OVO, WB8VUL, KC8ZJW, WD8ICP, KD8TOM (14)

suitsat ---continued

plus an SSTV picture thousands of times. Although its signal was far weaker than it was supposed to be for reasons never determined with any certainty, SuitSat-1 remained operational for more than two weeks.

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, had credited ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and his colleagues with coming up with the SuitSat concept, called Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik in Russian.

The SuitSat-1 mission proved to be an Amateur Radio public relations bonanza. In addition to prompting dozens of news items on Web sites and in journals around the world, Reader's Digest judged SuitSat-1 "Best Empty Suit" in its "America's 100 Best: The 2006 List" Popular Science ran an article about SuitSat-1 in its June issue called "Tossed in Space."

To keep the SuitSat-1 momentum going a bit longer ARISS and AMSAT in May announced a "Chicken Little Contest"

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php>, in which participants pick the date on which they believe SuitSat-1 will drop out of orbit and burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Entrants are only allowed one guess, and the winner will be the individual who picks the date closest to SuitSat-1's actual demise. Those who have not already entered may do so by filling out the online entry form on the AMSAT Web site. The odds could be in their favor.

Certificates will go to winners in each of three age groups. Winners not only earn bragging rights, but the fame and notoriety associated with successful satellite re-entry prognostication. Even before

SuitSat-1 went silent, ARISS and AMSAT already were discussing the possibility of a SuitSat-2 with contacts in Russia, although plans remain tentative at this stage. ARRL ARISS Liaison Rosalie White, K1STO, is among those named to the SuitSat-2 team, which will meet prior to the ARISS International Meeting/AMSAT Space Symposium October 5-10. Among other things, the team will look into the possibility of equipping SuitSat-2 with solar panels instead of just batteries, to extend its usable life. No formal announcements about SuitSat-2 are expected until around mid-October. Meanwhile, the time grows nigh when Suit-Sat-1 will pick up enough additional drag from Earth's atmosphere that friction-generated heat will cause it to burn up and vaporize. Just when that will happen is still anyone's guess. ■

Montenegro Now Number 336 on the Current DXCC List

A new ARRL [DXCC](#) entity has been listed! The United Nations has admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member, and that action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity, effective June 28 at 0001 UTC.

"According to the ARRL *DXCC List* criteria, entities on the UN list of member-states qualify as political entities," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "Therefore, effective June 28, 2006 (UTC), ARRL has added The Republic of Montenegro to the *DXCC List*. Claims for DXCC credit will be accepted immediately." Montenegrans may use their YU/YT/YZ/4O-prefix call signs until a new prefix is assigned. ■

WOOD COUNTY ARC
P.O. BOX 534
BOWLING GREEN, OH
43402

