

# CQ Chatter

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Wood County Amateur Radio Club

DECEMBER 2006

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

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President/Vice President

W8PSK/K8BBK

Loren Phillips /Steve McEwen

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WD8ICP

Chuck Dicken

Treasurer

WD8JWJ

Bill Wilkins

## Wood County Amateur Radio Club

Breakfast Meeting  
November 4, 2006  
at Couzin's Restaurant

The November informal breakfast meeting was held on Saturday, November 4th at Couzin's restaurant in Grand Rapids. Seventeen people were in attendance (pictures on page 4). Co-president Phil, W8PSK, brought up two items of "old" business--- planning for the January banquet meeting and nominations for 2007 officers.

John, N8MSU, reported on the options for where to hold the banquet. Several other suggestions were made and he will follow up on them for a decision at the December meeting. Steve, K8BBK, reported that the nominating committee still was in process of filling out the slate and should have it completed by the December meeting.

After breakfast, the group adjourned to the campus of BGSU to tour the repeater facilities (pictures on page 5). The receiver site in the Offenbauer West penthouse has been completely overhauled and resembles a professional installation. Hard line feed lines have been installed for better efficiency. Same thing for the transmitter site in the penthouse of the

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

**Next Meeting-  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th  
TIME: 7:30 pm, social hour  
preceding.  
PLACE: Sheriff's Training  
Room-Gypsy Lane and Dun-  
bridge**

Administration Building. Kudos to our co-chairs Phil, W8PSK, and Steve, K8BBK, for organizing the many details that were involved in this project. Also, many thanks to Chuck, WD8ICP, and Jim, K8JU, for their technical assistance with the upgrades and repairs. These Club members and the many others who have participated in some way in making the upgrade a reality can be proud of the final product. The K8TIH repeaters look good, sound good, and have proven to be a reliable asset to Wood County. ■

## **December Hamfests**

**Dec 3 L'Anse Creuse ARC 8 am**  
L'Anse Creuse High School, Mt. Clemens, MI. Contact Marty, (313) 665- 4426.  
e-mail: [k8hvl@arri.net](mailto:k8hvl@arri.net)  
URL: [www.n8lc.org](http://www.n8lc.org)

## December Contests

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

Nov 25-26 0000 to 2359 Z 80 m to 10 m  
CW WW DX 'test CW

Dec 1-3 2200 to 1600 Z 160 m  
ARRL 160 m 'test CW

Dec 3 0000 to 2359 Z 160 m to 10 m  
New Mexico QSO Party all modes

Dec 9-10 0000 to 2359 Z 10 m  
ARRL 10 m 'test all modes

Dec 10-18 0000 to 0700 Z 6 m on up  
NA Meteor Scatter 'test all modes

Dec 16-17 1400 to 1400 Z 160 m to 10 m  
Croatian CW 'test CW

Dec 30 0000 to 2359 Z 160 m to 2 m  
RAC (Canada) Winter 'test all modes

Jan 1 0000 to 2359 Z 160 m to 2 m  
ARRL Straight Key Night CW

\* 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

### Skywarn Recognition Day

from ARRL Letter

The 8th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event will take place Saturday, December 2, 2006. SKYWARN Recognition Day is an event cosponsored by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League, and it is

## WCARC

### Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Nov 28	K8OVO
Dec 5	WD8ICP
Dec 12	N8QMV
Dec 19	WB8NQW
Dec 26	N1RB
Jan 2	K8OVO
Jan 9	WD8ICP

the National Weather Service's way of saying "thank you" to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to helping keep their communities safe. During the 24-hour special event, amateur radio operators will visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office, set up Amateur Radio stations, and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

In typical warning operations, it is the direct communication between mobile spotters and the local NWS office which provides vital ground truth information. Spotter reports of hail size, wind damage

### New 10 m Net in Operation

A new informal net has been in operation on the 10 meter band for several months now. The idea is to get participants up and running on hf. There is no specific protocol---the group just meets together and chews the rag. If you are interested and want to test out your hf capability, tune in on Sundays at 8:30 pm at 28.335 MHz or nearby. If you don't hear anyone there, just give a call. ■

## Brain Teasers

1. What type of messages may be transmitted to an amateur station in a foreign country?
  - a) messages of any type
  - b) messages that are not religious, political or patriotic in nature
  - c) messages of a technical nature or personal remarks of relative unimportance
  - d) messages of any type, but only if the foreign country has a third-party communications agreement with the US.
  
2. During a disaster in the US, what frequencies may be used to obtain assistance?
  - a) only frequencies in the 80 m band
  - b) only frequencies in the 40 m band
  - c) any frequency
  - d) any United Nations approved frequency
  
3. What usually happens to radio waves with frequencies below the maximum usable frequency (MUF) when they are sent into the ionosphere?
  - a) they are bent back to earth
  - b) they pass through the ionosphere
  - c) they are completely absorbed by the ionosphere
  - d) they are bent and trapped in the ionosphere to circle the earth

### **skywarn--continued**

and surface-based rotation in real time greatly assists the radar warning operator since that information can be correlated with Doppler radar displays. The result can range anywhere from a more strongly-worded statement to convey a greater sense of urgency, or the issuance of a tornado warning a few minutes earlier than would otherwise have been pos-

sible. SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 2, 2006, from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. The object is for all radio amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

The exchange should include call sign, signal report, location, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny", "partly cloudy", "windy", etc.). NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call sign (e.g., N\*\*\*A/NWS). ■

## WCARC Net Check-ins

**31-Oct** WD8ICP (NC), KD8CHQ, K8BBK, W8PSK, KC8ZJW, K8JTK, WD8JWJ, WB8VUL, N8QMV, WB8NQW, N1RB, K8OVO, KC8UMN, KG8FH, N8PCM (15)

**7-Nov** N8QMV (NC), W8QZK, W8PSK, K8JTK, K8BBK, WB8NQW, WD8JWJ, WB8VUL, K8NEA, N8YAE (10)

**14-Nov** WB8NQW (NC), W8QZK, K8BBK, WD8ICP, KC8ZJW, K8OVO, WD8CHQ, K8NEA, WD8JWJ, N8YAE, KD8AJY, N1RB, W8PSK, K8JTK, KC8VWA, N8QMV (16)

**21-Nov** N1RB (NC), N8QMV, WB8NQW, W8PSK, WD8ICP, WD8JWJ, KD8CHQ, WB8VUL, K8JTK/M, K8BBK (10)

*Scenes from the breakfast meeting  
on November 4th at Couzin's*



# *A tour of the repeater facilities afterward*



*inspecting the antennas on the Offenbauer roof*



*battery back up*



*repeater rack-- greatly improved*

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