CQ Chatter

Volume B8•Issue #3 **Wood County Amateur Radio Club** **APRIL 2007**
P. O. Box 534,Bowling Green, OH 43402 **http://wcarc.bgsu.edu**

President/Vice President	**K8NEA/K8OVO**	**Duane Ashbaucher /Don Buehrer**
Secretary	**KG8FH**	**Jeff Halsey**
Treasurer	**WD8JWJ**	**Bill Wilkins**

Pictures from last month's breakfast meeting at Couzin's

Every other month, the WCARC meets for breakfast on the first Saturday of the month at Couzin's restaurant in Grand Rapids, Ohio. There is no official business agenda at the breakfast meetings unless some emergency item arises. Below are some shots of members enjoying breakfast at the meeting. Photos courtesy of K8BBK.

John, N8MSU, and Bob, KC8RWI, enjoying the meal.

WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2130
147.18 & 444.475 MHz

MONDAY, APRIL 9th
TIME: 7:30 pm
PLACE: Sheriff's Meeting Room at the Sheriff's Office---
Dunbridge and Gypsy Lane.

Social time preceding

This is what they were enjoying! Next breakfast meeting is on May 5.

April Contests

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

Apr 7-8	*1500 to 1500 Z*	160 m to 10 m	
SP (Poland) DX 'test		**all modes**	
Apr 7-8	*1800 to 2400 Z*	160 m to 10 m	
Missouri QSO Party		**all modes**	
Apr 14-15	*1800 to 2359 Z*	80 m to 10 m	
Georgia QSO Party		**all modes**	
Apr 14-15	*0700 to 1300 Z*	80 m to 10 m	
Japan Int'l DX 'test		**CW**	
Apr 21	*0000 to 2359 Z*	160 m to 10 m	
Holy Land DX 'test		**all modes**	
Apr 21-22	*2100 to 1700 Z*	160 m to 10 m	
Serbia (YU) DX 'test		**all modes**	
Apr 21-22	*1600 to 0400 Z*	80 m to 10 m	
Michigan QSO Party		**all modes**	
Apr 21-22	*1800 to 1800 Z*	160 m to 10 m	
Ontario QSO Party		**all modes**	
Apr 28-29	*1300 to 1300 Z*	160 m to 10 m	
Helvetia 'test		**all modes**	
Apr 28-29	*1600 to 2159 Z*	40 m to 10 m	
Florida QSO Party		**all modes**	
Apr 28-29	*1700 to 1700 Z*	160 m to 2 m	
Nebraska QSO Party		**all modes**	
Apr 28-29	*0000 to 0000 Z*	160 m to 10 m	
DX Colombia 'test		**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**

WCARC 2 m/440 Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Mar	**27**	**N8QMV**
Apr	**3**	**WB8NQW**
Apr	**10**	**N1RB**
Apr	**17**	**K8OVO**
Apr	**24**	**WD8ICP**
May	**1**	**N8QMV**
May	**8**	**WB8NQW**

DON'T FORGET!!
10 METER INFORMAL NET
SUNDAYS, at 8:30 pm
on 28.335 MHz

WCARC Net Check-ins

27-Feb N1RB (NC), W8QZK/M, K8NEA, WB8NQW, KG8FH, WD8JWJ, N8QMV, WB8VUL, WD8ICP, KD8ERS-MIKE, K8BBK, K8OVO, KG8Q-BRIAN, KB8PFF-JOHN, KD8TOM-TOM, KD8CHQ, KC8AKF-JEFF (17)

4-Mar 10m KC8ZJW, K8BBK, KA8VNG, KD8BIN, KF8KL, N8RIM, KG8FH, K8OVO, WD8JWJ (9)

6-Mar WB8NQW (NC), KC8UMN, W8QZK, K8BBK, K8NEA, WD8ICP, K8OVO, WD8JWJ, WB8VUL, WD8PIC (10)

13-Mar K8OVO (NC), W8QZK/M, K8BBK, KB8MXS, KC8ZJW, WB8NQW, WD8JWJ, WB8VUL, N1RB, K8NEA, WB8DYW,

Brain Teasers answers: 1-d, 2-b, 3-b

Brain Teasers

1. Over what frequencies are the FCC regulations most stringent for rf radiation?

a) frequencies below 300 kHz
b) between 300 kHz and 3 MHz
c) between 3 MHz and 30 MHz
d) between 30 MHz and 300 MHz

2. Why does coaxial cable make a good antenna feed line?

a) you can make it at home and its impedance matches most amateur antennas
b) it is weatherproof and it can be used near metal objects
c) it is weatherproof and its impedance is higher than that of most amateur antennas
d) it can be used near metal objects and it s impedance is higher than most amateur antennas

3. What can you do if you are told your FM hand held or mobile transceiver is over-deviating?

a) talk louder into the microphone
b) let the transceiver cool off
c) change to a higher power level
d) talk farther away from the microphone

check-ins---continued

WD8CIP, KC8JMU (13)

20-Mar WB8NQW (NC), W8QZK, K8BBK, KC8ZJW, N8QMV, WB8VUL, K8NEA, K8OVO, KB8MSA, WD8JWJ, WD8PIC, KG8FH, KC8UMN, KD8EZC ??, KD8CHQ, KD8APV (16)

Time to Upgrade???

The Morse Code requirement for passing the amateur license test is a thing of the past. Many hams have become enthusiastic about upgrading their license class since the "code barrier" no longer is there.

It is a good idea for those who upgrade to know exactly what the privileges are when they do. In addition, there have been some reports that those currently holding the Technician class license may be a bit confused about what they can and cannot do on the HF bands.

An amateur band chart (courtesy of ARRL) appears on the next page with all the up-to-date allocations and privileges indicated. Technicians, please note---you have gained additional HF privileges, but they are all CW only on the HF bands, with the exception of course, of 10 meters, where the phone privileges are as before. Please make sure you understand what mode and where you are licensed to operate before pushing the transmit button! It's no fun getting one of those "pink" slips from the FCC in the mail!

April Hamfests

Apr 21 Milford ARC **8 am**
Milford HS, Highland, MI. Contact Rose, KC8NQJ, (810) 632-5174.
URL: **www.wqsl.net/w8ydk**

Apr 15 Cuyahoga Falls ARC **8 am**
Emidio and Sons Party Center, Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Contact Ted, W8TTS, (330) 688-2013..
e-mail: **hamfest2007@cfarc.org**
URL: **www.cfarc.org/hamfest2007.htm**

US Amateur Radio Bands

Effective Date February 23, 2007

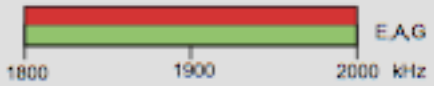
ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS

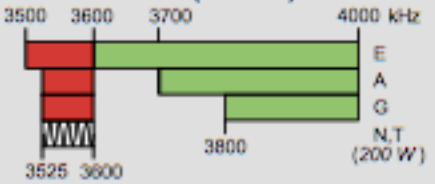
At all times, transmitter power should be kept down to that necessary to carry out the desired communications. Power is rated in watts PEP output. Except where noted, the maximum power output is *1500 Watts*.

160 Meters (1.8 MHz)

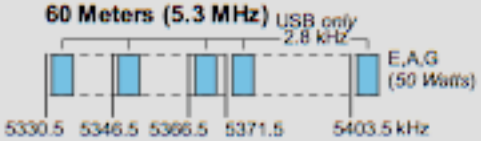
Avoid interference to radiolocation operations from 1900 to 2000 kHz.



80 Meters (3.5 MHz)



60 Meters (5.3 MHz)



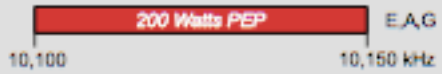
General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra licensees may use the following five channels on a secondary basis with a maximum effective radiated power of 50 W PEP relative to a half wave dipole. Only upper sideband suppressed carrier voice transmissions may be used. The frequencies are 5330.5, 5346.5, 5366.5, 5371.5 and 5403.5 kHz. The occupied bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz respectively.

40 Meters (7 MHz)

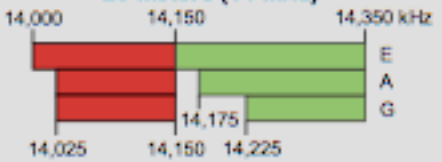
†Phone and Image modes are permitted between 7075 and 7100 kHz for FCC licensed stations in ITU Regions 1 and 3 and by FCC licensed stations in ITU Region 2 West of 130 degrees West longitude or South of 20 degrees North latitude. See Sections 97.305(c) and 97.307(f)(11). Novice and Technician licensees outside ITU Region 2 may use CW only between 7025 and 7075 kHz. See Section 97.301(e). These exemptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.

30 Meters (10.1 MHz)

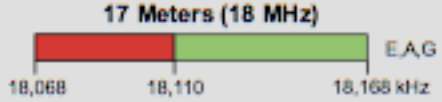
Avoid interference to fixed services outside the US.



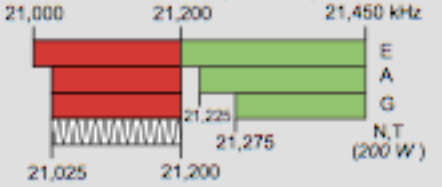
20 Meters (14 MHz)



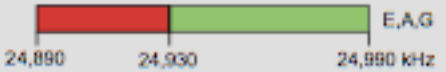
17 Meters (18 MHz)



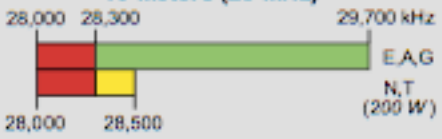
15 Meters (21 MHz)



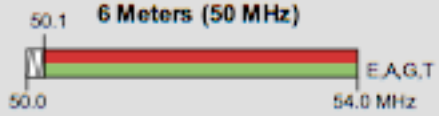
12 Meters (24 MHz)



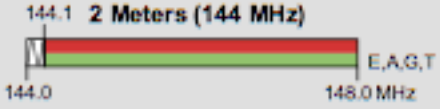
10 Meters (28 MHz)



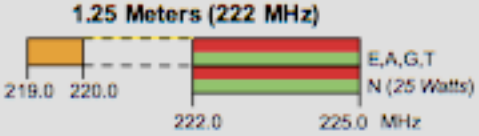
6 Meters (50 MHz)



2 Meters (144 MHz)

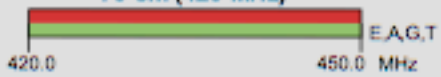


1.25 Meters (222 MHz)



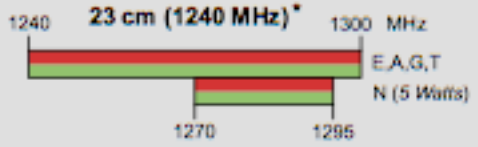
*Geographical and power restrictions may apply to all bands above 420 MHz. See *The ARRL Operating Manual* for information about your area.

70 cm (420 MHz)*



33 cm (902 MHz)*

23 cm (1240 MHz)*



All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

2300-2310 MHz	10.0-10.5 GHz	122.25-123.0 GHz
2390-2450 MHz	24.0-24.25 GHz	134-141 GHz
3300-3500 MHz	47.0-47.2 GHz	241-250 GHz
5650-5925 MHz	76.0-81.0 GHz	All above 275 GHz

KEY

Note:
CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands except 60 meters. MCW is authorized above 50.1 MHz, except for 219-220 MHz. Test transmissions are authorized above 51 MHz, except for 219-220 MHz

- = RTTY and data
- = phone and image
- = CW only
- = SSB phone
- = USB phone only
- = Fixed digital message forwarding systems only

E = Amateur Extra
A = Advanced
G = General
T = Technician
N = Novice

See *ARRLWeb* at www.arrl.org for more detailed band plans.

 rev. 1/22/2007

ARRL We're At Your Service

ARRL Headquarters	860-594-0200 (Fax 860-594-0259)	hq@arrl.org	Getting Started in Amateur Radio	Toll-Free 1-800-326-3942 (860-594-0355)	newham@arrl.org
Publication Orders	Toll-Free 1-888-277-5289 (860-594-0355)	orders@arrl.org	Exams	860-594-0300	vec@arrl.org
Membership/Circulation Desk	Toll-Free 1-888-277-5289 (860-594-0338)	membership@arrl.org	ARRL on the World Wide Web	www.arrl.org/	

Elmer's Corner

Did you ever worry about how close you can get to the band edge? On phone, assuming it is single sideband, you need to keep your sidebands inside the band edge. This means that if you're working upper sideband (above 10 MHz), you should set the main (carrier) frequency at least 3 KHz below the top edge of the band because that is the typical bandwidth of the SSB signal. On the lower edge of the band, you can get closer to the edge, but make sure the transmitter is in good working order and the lower sideband is suppressed.

If you are operating lower sideband (below 10 MHz), the roles are switched, and you should operate at least 3 KHz above the lower edge of the band.

Bandwidths for CW operation are a lot smaller, and they depend on the speed at which you are sending. Let's assume that you have practiced so that you can send code at 20 WPM. Assuming 20-five-character words, each character containing on average 4 dits or dahs, gives a fundamental bandwidth of 400 cycles per minute, or about 70 Hz. These waveforms are far from sinusoidal since they involve switching on and off, so to be safe, you should get no closer than the 5th harmonic, or about 350 Hz from either band edge. ■

Are the Sunspots all gone??

Sunspot seeker Tad "Who Let the Spots Out?" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: For the past 10 days we've observed no sunspots at all! Periods like this -- or longer -- are expected at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. As mentioned in a recent "Solar Update," the latest projection for smoothed sunspot numbers from the NOAA Space Environment Center puts the solar minimum at February through April 2007, with a smoothed sunspot number of 11. Another way to look at it is that the minimum is projected between December 2006 and July 2007, with a smoothed sunspot number of 12 or lower.

The lower part of the HF spectrum is a good place to operate at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Unlike 10 or 15 meters, 160 and 80 meters won't be bothered by a low MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) -- a consequence of the lack of sunspots. With less solar activity comes fewer problems with geomagnetic disturbances, which can be frequent toward the top of the cycle. The higher frequencies won't be fantastic, but geomagnetic conditions are expected to be stable and quiet. The US Air Force predicts planetary A index for March 23-29 at 5, 5, 10, 15, 20, 10 and 5. Sunspot numbers for March 15 through 21 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0, with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.2, 68.7, 69.3, 70.5, 70.1, 72.6, and 72.8, with a mean of 70.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 10, 8, 3, 2, 2 and 2, with a mean of 5. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 11, 8, 1, 1, 1 and 1, with a mean of 4. At least there is a bright side---by mid-summer the sunspots will be on the rise toward another maximum in five and a half years! ■

Skywarn Training

Lucas County Skywarn is sponsoring Skywarn training to be held March 31st at St Luke's Hospital at 10 AM. All are welcome. If details are needed please contact Beck Eby, KC8ZNX at KC8ZNX@bex.net.

WOOD COUNTY ARC
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