

# CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B9 • Issue #5 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE 2008

P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

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## Field Day is Coming June 28-29, 2008

Always the fourth full weekend in June, ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in amateur radio. On the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of amateur radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN! Amateur radio is about knowledge and growth. It is a hobby and service that truly offers “something for everyone.”

Amateur Radio embraces both the old and new. While CW may no longer be a testing element, it is still a strong and favorite operating mode for many. Tens of thousands of operators are embracing digital technologies, from RTTY to newer digital modes like PSK31 and Olivia. Phone operation, probably the largest segment of the hobby, also has new frontiers to be explored with digitized voice, VOIP, and IRLP. And this is why Field Day – the largest annual on-the-air operating event – is so exciting. It gives all – the old timer and the newcomer, the brass-pounder and the computer

**WCARC Weekly Net:  
Tuesdays at 2130  
147.18 & 444.475 MHz**  
*Next Meeting  
Business*  
**MONDAY, JUNE 9th  
TIME: 7:30 pm  
PLACE: Sheriff's Training  
Room, Gypsy Lane and Dun-  
bridge Rds. in Bowling Green**

assisted operator – the chance to share and teach the broad range of modes and technologies we find in our hobby.

Field Day is truly the time in which we bring amateur radio to Main Street USA. By setting up in parking lots, malls, Emergency Operations Centers, parks and even at home, amateur operators learn skills that will allow them to better serve their communities. Setting up in these public venues gives added public relations value – their friends and neighbors can see and experience the fun and public service capability that their “ham radio” neighbors bring to the community. ■

## Net Check Ins

### April 29

N1RB (NC)  
W8TER/M  
W8PSK  
K8BBK  
K8OVO  
WB8NQW  
WB8VUL  
K8NEA  
WD8ICP  
WD8PIC  
KD8CVF (11)

### May 6

K8OVO (NC)  
W8PSK  
K8BBK  
WD8JWJ  
WB8NQW  
K8NEA (6)

### May 13

N8QMV (NC)  
K8NEA  
K8BBK  
K8OVO  
WB8NQW  
WB8VUL  
WD8JWJ  
W8QZK  
N1RB  
K3RC (10)

## WCARC

### 2 m/ 70 cm Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

May	27	WB8NQW
Jun	3	N1RB
Jun	10	K8OVO
Jun	17	WD8ICP
Jun	24	N8QMV
Jul	1	WB8NQW
Jul	8	N1RB

### Brain Teasers

1. Which sideband is commonly used for 20 meter phone operation/ for 40 meter phone operation?
  - a.) upper/upper
  - b.) upper/lower
  - c.) lower/upper
  - d.) lower/lower
2. When selecting a CW transmitting frequency, what minimum frequency separation from a contact in progress should you allow to minimize interference?
  - a.) 5 to 50 Hz
  - b.) 150 to 500 Hz
  - c.) 1 to 3 kHz
  - d.) 3 to 6 kHz
3. During an emergency, what power limitations must be observed by a station in distress?
  - a.) 200 W PEP
  - b.) 1500 W PEP
  - c.) 1000 W PEP in daylight hours;200 W PEP at night
  - d.) there are no limitations during an emergency

## June Hamfests

June 1 Chelsea Radio  
Swap by Chelsea ARC  
Chelsea Fair-grounds,  
Chelsea, MI

Contact: Frank, KD8ABW  
(734) 945-1915

[frankpohs@hotmail.com](mailto:frankpohs@hotmail.com)

<http://www.wd8iel.net>

June 7 Fulton County ARC  
Roth Family Park, Tedrow,  
OH

Contact: Angela, KB2AVN  
(419) 822-4382

[lindsayinf@fulton-net.com](mailto:lindsayinf@fulton-net.com)

<http://www.k8bxq.org>

June 15 Monroe Hamfest  
by Monroe County RCA  
Monroe County  
Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI.

Contact: Fred, KA8EBI  
(734) 242-9487

[ka8ebi@yahoo.com](mailto:ka8ebi@yahoo.com)

<http://www.mcrca.org/hamfest.htm>

## June Contests

The contest lineup for the month of June is given below. Please note that the WARC bands (60, 30, 17 and 12 m) are never open to contesting.

**Jun 7-8** 1600 to 0400 Z 160 m to 10 m

**Alabama QSO Party** **all modes**

**Jun 14-15** 0000 to 2400 Z 80 m to 10 m

**ANARTS (Australia) WW** **RTTY**

**Jun 14** 0000 to 2400 Z 80 m to 10 m

**Portugal Day** **all modes**

**Jun 14-15** 1600 to 0200 Z 80 m to 10 m

**West Virginia QSO Party** **all modes**

**Jun 14-16** 1800 to 0300 Z 6 m on up

**ARRL June VHF QSO Party** **all modes**

**Jun 17** 0600 to 1200 Z 80 m to 10m

**Spanish Islands 'test** **all modes**

**Jun 21** 1800 to 2400 Z 80 m to 10 m

**Kid's Day** **all modes**

**Jun 21-22** 0000 to 2400 Z 160 m to 10 m

**All-Asian DX 'test** **all modes**

**Jun 28-29** 1200 to 1200 Z 80 m

**King of Spain** **SB**

**Jun 28-29** 1800 to 2100 Z 160 m on up

**ARRL Field Day** **all modes**

Join in the Field Day fun! For more information on amateur radio and the ARRL – the national organization for Amateur Radio – visit [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for nearby sites.

## **NEW NASA TOOL ALLOWS EXPLORATION OF IONOSPHERE FROM INSIDE**

*reprinted from ARRL Letter*

Last week at the Space Weather Workshop in Boulder, Colorado, NASA released a 4D live model of the Earth's ionosphere [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/30apr\\_4dionosphere.htm?list212589](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/30apr_4dionosphere.htm?list212589).

Without leaving home, anyone can fly through the layer of ionized gas that encircles Earth at the edge of space itself. All that is required is an Internet connection and a free copy of Google Earth <http://earth.google.com/>. NASA calls the ionosphere the "last wisp of Earth's atmosphere that astronauts leave behind when they enter space. The realm of the ionosphere stretches from 50 to 500 miles above Earth's surface where the atmosphere thins to near-vacuum and exposes itself to the fury of the sun. Solar ultraviolet radiation breaks apart molecules and atoms creating a globe-straddling haze of electrons and ions."

Using a Google Earth interface, users can fly above, around and through these regions getting a true 4D view of the situation. "The fourth dimension is time. This is a real-time system updated every 10 minutes," said W. Kent Tobiska, president of Space Environment Technologies and chief scientist of its Space Weather Division. The proper name of the system is CAPS, short for Communication Alert and Prediction System. Earth-orbiting satellites feed the system up-to-the-minute information on solar activity; the measurements are then converted to electron densities by physics-based computer codes. It is important

to note, Tobiska said on the NASA Web site, that CAPS reveals the ionosphere not only as it is now, but also as it is going to be the near future.

According to propagation specialist Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, this model "can provide Amateur Radio operators a broad view of what the ionosphere is doing 'now.' This broad view is due to the fact that the resolution in the color coding schemes only gives coarse estimates of the six parameters available." Luetzelschwab, former editor of "National Contest Journal" (NCJ) <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>, writes a propagation column in NCJ and other publications.

"This is an exciting development," said NASA solar physicist Lika Guhathakurta on the NASA Web site. "The ionosphere is important to pilots, ham radio operators, earth scientists and even soldiers. Using this new 4D tool, they can monitor and study the ionosphere as if they're actually inside it." Guhathakurta made his comments on the NASA Web site.

NASA understands that "ham radio operators know the ionosphere well. They can communicate over the horizon by bouncing their signals off of the ionosphere -- or communicate not at all when a solar flare blasts the ionosphere with X-rays and triggers a radio blackout." As radio amateurs, we use -- and depend on -- the ionosphere to make contacts.

Tobiska agrees: "For ham radio operators, this is a great application because it enables them to figure out what frequencies that are going to be available for communicating with any part of the world they want to communi-

cate with at that moment in time. So ham radio operators who are in South Carolina want to talk to someone in Europe or Africa, they can know exactly what frequencies to turn to on their dial."

Luetzelschwab said he personally believes that "The importance of this new product is the fact that this is likely the first physical model of the ionosphere available to the widespread Amateur Radio community. This is in contrast to the model in our current propagation predictions -- such as VOACAP, W6EL-Prop and the like -- that is based on years of measured ionospheric data correlated to a proxy for the true solar ionizing radiation (the proxies being sunspots and 10.7 cm solar flux)."

NASA explained that it appears that this new physical model takes satellite measurements of solar radiation at extreme ultraviolet (EUV) wavelengths (the true ionizing radiation) and inputs this data, along with a geomagnetic field activity index, into a model of the atmosphere to determine electron densities. Luetzelschwab said "Yes, it only offers a broad view now -- but I think it is a sign of things to come."

More information on this tool for radio amateurs can be found on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/06/10081/>.

Brain Teaser answers: 1-b, 2-b, 3-d ■

***DON'T FORGET!***  
***10 meter informal net meets***  
***each Sunday at 2030***  
***on 28.335 MHz***

## Good News

### *from ARRL Great Lakes Division*

As announced in the ARES forum at the Dayton Hamvention, the National Red Cross (RC) sent a letter to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, saying it will limit its demand for background checks of ham volunteers to criminal background checks only. RC said it is directing Mybackgroundcheck.com to remove the demands that volunteers agree to having credit and mode of living checks done.

This letter seemingly meets the requests made by ARRL when it protested RC's demand that all volunteers agree to having widespread background checks (criminal, credit, manner of living) performed.

The not-so-good news is that aspects of the letter are confusing if not contradictory. This includes the discussion of the changes in wording RC says it will make. The fact that RC did not involve ARRL in a dialogue to resolve the issue doubtlessly contributed to the confusion that still exists.

The League continues to attempt to open communication with RC to clear up the issues. In the meantime, there still is no Memo/Statement of Understanding (SOU) between RC and ARRL. The previous SOU expired at the end of 2007 when RC failed to respond to our offer to begin discussions to develop a new SOU.

The RC letter offers promise for resolving the issues between RC and ARRL, but it does not resolve them. ARRL remains eager to join in discussions with RC to help relieve the concerns of both parties. ■

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)  
announces the *first*

# Ohio State Parks On The Air

Type to enter text  
*Thanks to Rex, KC8PFP, for  
his generous contribution*

2008

## Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 6, 2008, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are **73** Ohio State Parks

Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

*A special entry allows clubs compete to see which club activated the  
greatest number of Ohio State Parks*



Visit a beautiful Ohio State Park and have  
some Amateur Radio Fun at the same time!



**Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?**

Check out all the details at: <http://parks.portcars.org>

While you're at it, check out the PCARS web site at: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)

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

