

CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B11 • Issue #11 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

DECEMBER 2010

P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President	WB8NQW	Bob Willman
Vice President	K8NEA	Duane Ashbaucher
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	WD8JWJ	Bill Wilkins

Letter from the President *December 2010*

All of the present officers have volunteered to serve another term for 2011 so unless there are more volunteers or nominations at the meeting the election will be merely a formality except for a possible open board seat. I plan to form a nominating committee early next year to give all members a chance to run for a leadership role in 2012.

Bill, WD8JWJ, and Steve, K8BBK, are seeking a location for the January kickoff banquet. We should have their report at the December meeting.

I have not received any additional lists of club assets from members who were not at the October meeting. Items not on any list are the antennas and feed lines at the fairgrounds. Do we have everything else?

What would you like to see your club accomplish next year? Are there

**WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2030 EST
(0130 Z year-round)
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL**

Next Meeting
BUSINESS

Monday, December 13th
TIME: 7:30 pm/7:00 eyeball
PLACE: Sheriff's Training Room
Gypsy Lane and Dunbridge Rds
Bowling Green

any activities or special projects we should explore? Please bring your ideas to the club meeting.

The January meeting is the 2011 kickoff dinner at a place and date to be announced at the December meeting. The next breakfast is February 05 at Edgewood.

73

Bob WB8NQW



Net Check Ins

November 9

N8QMV (NC)
W8PSK
WD8JWJ
WB8NQW
K8BBK
KC8EKT
N1RB
N8YAE
K8RZM
KD8NJZ (10)

November 16

WB8NQW (NC)
K8BBK
W8PSK
WD8JWJ
K8NEA
N8QMV
N8YAE
KD8NJZ
K8OVO
WB8VUL (10)

November 23

N1RB (NC)
KD8GZX-Bob
N8YAE
W8PSK
K8BBK
WB8NQW
WD8PIC
WD8JWJ (8)

WCARC

2 m Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at
2030 EST/0130 Z

Nov	30	K8OVO
Dec	7	N8QMV
Dec	14	WB8NQW
Dec	21	N1RB
Dec	28	K8OVO
Jan	4	N8QMV
Jan	11	WB8NQW

Brain Teasers

- How many flip-flops are required to divide a signal frequency by 4?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
- Which of the following best describes electromagnetic waves traveling in space?
 - electric and magnetic fields become aligned
 - energy propagates through a medium with a high refractive index
 - waves are reflected by the ionosphere and return to their source
 - changing electric and magnetic fields propagate energy across a vacuum
- What is the phase relationship between input and output signals of an inverting op-amp?
 - 180°
 - in phase
 - 90°
 - 60°

December Contests

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

Dec 3-5	<i>2200 to 1600 Z</i>	160 m
ARRL 160 m 'test		CW
Dec 11-12	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	10 m
ARRL 10 m 'test		all modes
Dec 11-12	<i>1700 to 1000 Z</i>	160 m to 40 m
UBA (Belgium) Winter 'test		all modes
Dec 18-19	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
OK (Czech) DX RTTY 'test		RTTY
Dec 18	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
RAC (Canada) Winter 'test		all modes
Dec 18-19	<i>1400 to 1400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Croatian CW 'test		CW
Dec 19	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARRL Rookie Roundup		CW
Dec 31	<i>1700 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
South Dakota QSO Party		all modes
Jan 1	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARRL Straight Key Night		CW

December Hamfests

Dec 5 L'Anse Creuse ARC. Annual Swapmeet. L'Anse Creuse High School, Harrison Twp., MI. Contact Gregg, N8GEO, (586) 344-7013

e-mail: n8geo@arrl.net

web: <http://www.n8lc.org>

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

SKYWARN
Recognition Day

from ARRL Letter

The 12th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 4, 2010. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd told the ARRL, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio."

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. "At the end of the event, almost 16,000 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries," Floyd recounted. "The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year."

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was "overwhelmingly positive" from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: "Many local club members who came to that first event had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology." And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices -- almost 70 percent -- participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs.

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Vanity and Club Station Call Signs Happenings

from ARRL Letter

In November 2009, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system. The *NPRM* also sought to revise certain rules applicable to club stations. The ARRL submitted its comments to the FCC on March 26. On Monday, November 8, 2010, the FCC issued a *Report and Order (R&O)* with its decisions. These new rules will take effect 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

In the *Report and Order*, the FCC amended and clarified its rules with respect to Amateur Service vanity call signs "in order to promote processes that are more equitable and administratively efficient." The FCC has amended its vanity call sign rules to clarify the date on which the call sign associated with a license that is canceled due to the licensee's death becomes available for reassignment and clarifies the exceptions to the general rule that a call sign is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years after the license terminates. As for club stations, the FCC has placed limits on who can file applications on behalf of a club, how many vanity call signs a club can hold and how

many clubs can have the same license trustee.

According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

Here are the highlights of the *Report and Order*:

Availability of Call Signs Assigned to Stations of Deceased Licensees

- The FCC has codified that a signed request for license cancellation accompanied by a copy of a death certificate, an obituary or data from the Social Security Death Index [SSDI] that shows the date of death is necessary to cancel the license of a deceased amateur.
- The FCC clarified the rules to provide that the two year waiting period starts on the licensee's date of death.
- A call sign that is canceled due to the death of a licensee more than two

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Skywarn--from p.4

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: "Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices participating with local ham clubs has increased; more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when -- thanks to and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area -- 1640 QSOs were logged!"

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Floyd said that some NWS offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign, "such as W3B in Brownsville or N0Y in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KC0SKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri."

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, Winlink and the use of e-mail reflectors." In keeping with the NWS setting, stations are asked to include a weather report of their location in their exchange.

In 2009, the Melbourne, Florida office (WX4MLB) reported the most QSOs --

1373 QSOs -- than any other NWS office; the Des Moines, Iowa office (K0DMX), with 912 QSOs, placed second. Melbourne also contacted 77 NWS offices, the most reported. Lincoln, Illinois (WX9ILX) was close behind, with 72 QSOs to other NWS offices.

2010 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 4 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and more than 40 countries during the 24 hour event. Even if you make just one QSO to an NWS office, you are eligible to receive a certificate. Just submit a list of the station(s) you worked (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735. Many NWS offices also send out special QSL cards for this event. If you haven't yet joined in the fun of SKYWARN Recognition Day, make 2010 your year to do so! ■

Looking for QSLs?

Try Logbook of the World

Logbook of The World - LoTW - is an exciting way for Radio Amateurs to confirm two-way contacts they have made and use the confirmations as credit toward various awards, including Worked All States and DX Century Club.

Because Logbook of The World uses double blind comparison, users cannot see what other users have uploaded un-

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Logbook--from p.5

less there is a matched QSO. All files uploaded to LoTW are electronically signed by verified users. Logbook of The World maintains the integrity of the QSO verification process that has long been the hallmark of ARRL awards.

How does it work?

Logbook of The World is a very powerful system capable of collecting and matching QSO data from users all over the world. When properly configured, LoTW can accommodate a variety of operating situations, such as DXpeditions, previously held call signs and QSL managers.

By using digitally signed certificates with QSO date ranges and station locations for geographic information, Logbook of The World is able to accommodate clubs, QSL managers, Dxpeditons, mobile and rover operators just as easily as it handles the individual user with one call sign and one location.

Triple Play WAS

The Triple Play WAS (Worked All States) Award is available to all amateurs worldwide who must use Logbook of The World (LoTW) to confirm QSOs with each of the 50 states on voice, CW, and digital modes. The Triple Play WAS Award is a serial-numbered award starting with # 1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application submitted via

LoTW. Awards issued will be tracked and presented on the ARRL Web site.

Two-way communications must be established on amateur bands with each state on each mode. There is no minimum signal report required. Any or all bands (except 60 m) may be used for the Triple Play WAS. ■

Vanity--from p.5

years earlier, or within 30 days before the second anniversary of the licensee's death, will remain unavailable to the vanity call sign system for 30 days following the date the staff takes action to cancel the license.

Exceptions to the Two Year Period

- *Former Holders of the Call Sign:* A former holder of the call sign is exempt from the general rule that a call sign shown on an expired, surrendered, revoked, set aside, canceled or voided license is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years.
- *"Close Relatives" of the Licensee:* The term "in-law" includes "only a parent, step-parent, sibling, or step-sibling of a licensee's spouse; and the spouse of a licensee's sibling, step-sibling, child, or stepchild; or the spouse of a licensee's spouse's sibling or step-sibling." The other "close relatives" are the deceased former holder's spouse, children, grandchildren, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, stepparents, brothers,

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Vanity--from p.7

sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

- *"In Memoriam" Call Signs:* One exception to the two year waiting period applies to licenses for club stations who request the call sign of a deceased licensee when the club station trustee has the written consent of a close relative of the deceased. The FCC codified that the decedent's club membership need not be current at the time of his or her death, as long as the decedent was a *bona fide* member of the club at some time during his or her life.

Ineligible Applicants

- When a vanity call sign for which the most recent recipient was ineligible is surrendered, cancelled, revoked or voided, the two year requirement does not apply; however, the call sign will not be made available to the vanity call sign system for 30 days after information regarding the acknowledgement or determination of ineligibility is posted to the license in the Commission's licensing system.

Other Club Station Licensing Issues

- *Club Trustee Issues:* Applications requesting a change in trustee are required to include documentation signed by an officer of the club when the application is submitted to the Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA), in order to "prevent a departing trustee from making off with

the club license and call sign or refusing to agree to a change in trustee" and "address instances in which a trustee becomes incapacitated."

- *Class of Trustee:* Novice class licensees may now serve as club station trustees, "for frequency and operating privileges are determined solely by the class of operator license held by the control operator, rather than the license held by the club station trustee." (However, cumbersome identification procedures are required when a control operator is using privileges that exceed those of the station licensee.)
- *Limits on Club Station Licenses:* Club stations may hold only one vanity call sign, but may hold an unlimited number of sequential call signs. Club stations currently holding more than one vanity call sign may renew or modify their existing station license grants, but not obtain any additional vanity call signs. The prohibition on obtaining additional vanity call signs includes *in memoriam* call signs formerly assigned to deceased members of the club.
- *Who May Serve as Trustee:* An individual may be the trustee for only one club station license grant. Individuals who currently serve as trustee for more than one club may continue to serve as trustee of those clubs, but may not be designated the trustee of any additional clubs. ■

**WOOD COUNTY ARC
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