

CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B11 • Issue #12 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY 2011

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

Minutes

WCARC Meeting

December 13, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary report approved. Treasurer report approved.

Old Business:

- Kick-off Dinner report: Committee (WD8JWJ and K8BBK) checked out 4 venues: Edgewood Inn, Sam-B's, BG Country Club and Stone Ridge Country Club. After discussion of costs and locations, it was passed unanimously to hold the banquet at Stone Ridge. Steve, K8BBK, will make the menu available.
- Bob, WB8NQW, transmitted the following reports from W8PSK:
 - * QST for the Library---no special discount is granted by ARRL. Cost is \$39.00 per year.
 - * Craig, KD8NJZ, has submitted his request for a variance to con-

WCARC Weekly Net:

Tuesdays at 2030 EST

(0130 Z year-round)

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Kick-off Banquet

Monday, January 10th

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: Stone Ridge Country Club--entrance off of Bowling Green Road West and Muirfield, Bowling Green

struct his tower--City has not yet responded. If no more is heard from the City, Phil suggests filing a lawsuit.

* Interference with ARES repeater---needed crystals not obtained yet.

- Steve moved and Don, K8OVO, seconded to approve purchasing QST for

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Net Check Ins

November 30

K8OVO (NC)
N8QMV
N8YAE
K8BBK
WB8NQW
N1RB
KD8PCO
KD8PCM
WD8JWJ (9)

December 7

N8QMV (NC)
W8PSK
K8OVO
WD8JWJ
WB8NQW
K8BBK
KD8NJZ
N8YAE (8)

December 14

WB8NQW (NC)
N8QMV
K8BBK
WD8JWJ
KC8EKT
K8OVO (6)

December 21

K8OVO (NC)
KB8NJZ
WB8VUL
K8BBK
WB8NQW
WD8ABH/M (6)

WCARC

2 m Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at
2030 EST/0130 Z

Dec	28	K8OVO
Jan	4	N8QMV
Jan	11	WB8NQW
Jan	18	N1RB
Jan	25	KD8NJZ
Feb	1	K8OVO
Feb	8	N8QMV

Brain Teasers

1. Which is a common use of coaxial cable?
 - a.) carry dc to a mobile radio
 - b.) carry rf signals between radio and antenna
 - c.) secure masts and tubing to towers
 - d.) carry data signals from a TNC to a computer
2. What type of circuit controls the voltage from a power supply?
 - a.) regulator
 - b.) oscillator
 - c.) filter
 - d.) phase inverter
3. What is the function of a product detector?
 - a.) detect phase modulated signals
 - b.) demodulate FM signals
 - c.) detect CW and SSB signals
 - d.) combine speech and rf signals

January Contests

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

Jan 1	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARRL Straight Key Night		CW
Jan 2	<i>1800 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARRL Kids' Day		SSB
Jan 8-9	<i>1800 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARRL RTTY Roundup		RTTY
Jan 8-9	<i>1800 to 0600 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
North American QSO Party		CW
Jan 15-16	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
UK DX RTTY 'test		RTTY
Jan 15-16	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
HA (Hungary) DX 'test		all modes
Jan 15-16	<i>1800 to 0600 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
North American QSO Party		SSB
Jan 22-24	<i>1900 to 0400 Z</i>	6 m on up
ARRL VHF Sweepstakes		all modes
Jan 29-30	<i>0600 to 1800 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
REF (France)		CW
Jan 29-30	<i>1300 to 1300 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
UBA (Belgium) DX 'test		SSB

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

minutes--from p.1

the Wood County Library. Motion carried.

- Bob, N1RB, reported that the Technician class is completed and he expects to hear of some new tickets soon.

New Business:

- Bob, WB8NQQ, stated his belief that the Club needs a functioning Nominating Committee. He will pursue the issue early next year.
- Bob also asked if the Club needs a Membership Committee to put more focus on recruiting. Steve volunteered to head it up.
- Jim, K8JU, sent word that the SWR for the KC8UMN repeater is still high--he is taking steps to reduce it.
- Bob raised the need for having a stated cancellation policy for times when inclement weather hits the area. Bob, N1RB, moved that the Club meetings should be automatically cancelled

whenever Wood County is placed at Level 2 snow emergency--seconded by Hoot, WB8VUL. Motion carried unanimously.

- Don, K8OVO, mentioned that there are quite a few messages to the area via the Ohio SSB net. If anybody wants to contribute, it is easy to check in.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, N1RB, Secretary

Letter from the
President
January 2011

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

All of the present officers have volunteered to serve another term for 2011. We have an opening for 1 board member. If you would like to volunteer for this position let one of the officers know soon.

Brain Teaser answers: 1-b, 2-a, 3-c

January Hamfests

Jan 16 Hazel Park ARC. Annual Hamfest. Hazel Park High School, Hazel Park, MI. Contact Walt, KD8LWC, (248) 548-4645

e-mail: kd8lwc@yahoo.com

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

letter--from p.4

Bill, WD8JWJ, and Steve, K8BBK, have chosen the Stone Ridge Country Club as the location for our 2011 kickoff dinner. We will individually order from the menu so a number of choices should be available to suit your tastes. Look for more detailed information later.

See you at the dinner January 10, 2011 at Stone Ridge Country Club. The next business meeting is February 14, at the Sheriff's office, and the next breakfast is March 05, at Edgewood. I think I got it right this time.

73

Bob WB8NQW ■

GM Turns to Ham Radio to Solve Antenna Problem

from ARRL Letter

When General Motors -- the world's second largest auto maker -- encountered a problem with the AM/FM antenna on its 2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, it was at a loss as to what to do. Spy photographs showed a pre-production version of the car with a long whip-style antenna on its rear

fender. After what GM called "*an outcry among Camaro enthusiasts,*" the company decided to rethink the antenna. But how?

On hardtop Camaros, the antenna is integrated into the rear windshield, but given the disappearing nature of this car's roof, that wasn't possible on the convertible. So GM turned to two antenna engineers -- Don Hibbard, W8DBH, and Gregg Kittinger -- who were tasked with doing what some thought was impossible: concealing the AM/FM antenna without sacrificing radio reception, while not putting it inside the Camaro's windows.

Hibbard and Kittinger managed to find a way to bury the AM/FM antenna inside the svelte spoiler perched on the car's rear deck lid. All that is visible is a shark fin antenna (used for satellite radio, OnStar and cellular signals), while the separate whip antenna -- built into the spoiler -- is used to receive AM and FM radio signals. He and Kittinger knew they had to find a way to preserve the vertical polarization of an AM/FM antenna, so they tried a few possibilities

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RESCUE RADIO: OHIO HAMS PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TO IMPROVE COUNTY RADIO SYSTEM

from Ham Radio Newsline

Ham radio operators have volunteered their time and technical expertise to improve communications for the Wood County Sheriff's Office just south of Toledo, Ohio. After years of incomplete police radio coverage, the Wood County Sheriff's Office has made some significant communications upgrades.

In many remote areas of the county, deputies' police radios wouldn't work once they got out of their car. That caused them to lose contact with dispatchers and other officers. But with a little ingenuity, and some help from ham radio operators, the problem is solved. "It was scary for me to know that there were times when my deputies went there on a call we had no communication with them, said Wood County Sheriff Mark "That caused a lot of sleepless nights."

Estimates for communications upgrades ran in to the millions. Wood County did not have that kind of money. So the Sheriff turned to amateur radio operators from around the county. "They looked at our system and came up with a relatively inexpensive fix, which was to move antenna situation around the county to much higher locations," said Wasylyshyn. Wood County was able to update the system for just \$160,000. Tower space at eight locations around

continued on p.8

GM--from p.5

before coming up with the idea of placing the half-wavelength horizontal antenna in the spoiler. According to GM, this is a first.

A ham since 1977, Hibbard -- the holder of an Advanced class license -- is a self-described antenna nut, crediting his Amateur Radio background as a precursor for his love for antennas. He was first licensed when he attended Lansing Community College where he was studying electrical engineering. "One of my professors asked us in class if we would be interested in getting licensed," he told the ARRL. "We already knew the technical stuff from our college courses, but we settled in to learn Morse code, the FCC regulations and everything else you needed to know to become a ham."

After graduating, Hibbard went to work for General Motors in the electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) lab. A few years ago when a position in the antenna validation department opened, he jumped at the chance. "Through ham radio, I've always loved playing with antennas," he said. "As hams, we are always building and experimenting. Sometimes at work, when I'm confronted with a problem, I say, 'I did such-and-such on an antenna for a ham band. I wonder if it will work here.' So my amateur experience with antennas has definitely come into play here at work."

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GM--from p.6

The spoiler AM/FM antenna is an active antenna module that does all its impedance matching and amplification before sending back to the receiver. But when asked about the possibility of an amateur antenna in the spoiler, Hibbard just chuckled. "This antenna just receives, it doesn't transmit," he told the ARRL. "We can get away with a receive-only antenna in the spoiler. I'm not so sure about a ham antenna."

Hibbard said that the unorthodox placement of the antenna within the body of the vehicle created a number of technical challenges, such as balancing form by

preserving the car's styling and maintaining unimpeded audio reception. "Where other automakers have tried and failed, Chevy succeeded," said Hibbard. "We hope to take what we've learned with the Camaro convertible, build on it and apply it to future vehicles."

Hibbard said that with work and kids in college, he has not found as much time as he would like to be active once again on the air; he counts 15 meters as his favorite band and SSB his mode of choice. "I really enjoy contesting, ARRL Field Day and the ARRL Sweepstakes," he said. "I also love experimenting and seeing what I can do. After all, I'm a ham." ■



AM/FM radio antenna inside the spoiler, thanks to some ham ingenuity. The "shark fin" antenna is for satellite radio, OnStar and cellular signals.

[Photo courtesy of General Motors]

Rescue--from p.6

Wood County was donated, from radio towers to water towers. And to make sure deputies could stay in contact anywhere outside, as well as inside buildings, they are putting mobile repeaters in the trunks of cruisers.

To even further strengthen Wood County's communication system, it has now installed two new propane powered generators for the radio system. That means the county can maintain radio contact with its officers in the field in case of a power outage that could last several days. Up until the generators the battery back-up system would only keep the county's communication's network going four hours. (W8HDU) ■

Kick-off Banquet At Stone Ridge

The annual kick-off banquet will be held on Monday, January 10 (6 pm), at Stone Ridge Country Club, off of Bowling Green Rd. West and Muirfield. The meal will be served from an open menu, and no reservations are necessary. As is customary, the new slate of officers will be voted upon at that time. Stay tuned for menu options which will be distributed soon. ■

Vintage Radio Equipment Offered

Equipment belonging to Bill Bowers, Jr. WA8KBX lives at Otterbein 814 Rose Ct.

Hammarlund HQ-110 with matching speaker---appearance 8 out of 10 (kinda dirty but cleanable)

There is one " IF coil " that's questionable (the metal can is off and the coil form is broken) but wires are intact

Hallicrafters SR42-A 2 meter AM transceiver---appearance 8 out of 10 (kinda dirty but cleanable)

2 meter "Halo" antenna---no markings but Bill remembers using it with the radio

If interested, contact Chuck Dicken at 419-308-0146 or dicken@bgsu.edu

TECHNICIAN CLASS COMPLETED

Last September, three students began studying the materials necessary to pass the Technician Class license exam. The training was directed by Bob, N1RB, and was completed in early December. We expect to hear some new calls soon. ■



**WOOD COUNTY ARC
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