

# CQ CHATTER

VOLUME 13 • Issue #6

WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JULY 2012

P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President	NM8W
Vice President	WB8NQW
Secretary	N1RB
Treasurer	WD8JWJ

Craig Magrum
Bob Willman
Bob Boughton
Bill Wilkins

## ***FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES AT NEW VENUE***

Due to conflicting events, WCARC will not be able to hold Field Day activities at the Wood County Historical Museum this year. The new venue is Carter Park in Bowling Green, at the Bartlett shelter. Set up will begin on June 23rd at noon. Bring as many hands as you can. Current plans are for three transceivers with three separate antennas, but if you want to use your own rig, bring it along. Pizza and refreshments will be provided in the evening around dinner time. Permission has been obtained for the Club to operate at the Park throughout the night-time hours, so bring a sleeping bag if you are so inclined. Field Day is one of the most popular contests/activities that is held on an annual basis---if you haven't experienced it, come on out and join the members of WCARC as they participate. ■

**WCARC Weekly Net:  
Tuesdays at 2130 EDST**

***(0130 Z year-round)***

**147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL**

***Breakfast Meeting***

**Saturday, July 7th**

**TIME: 9:00 am**

**PLACE: Frisch's Big Boy**

**N. Main St. and E. Poe Rd.**

**Bowling Green, OH**

## **Minutes WCARC Meeting June 11, 2012**

**Present:** Craig-NM8W, Alvin-WB8ABY, Bill-WD8JWJ, Hoot-WB8VUL, Steve-K8BBK, Loren-W8PSK, Bob-N1RB, Don-K8OVO, Lee-KB8RT.

**Meeting called to order** with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm.

*continued on p. 5*

## Net Check Ins

May 29

**WB8NQW (NC)**  
**K8OVO**  
**K8BBK**  
**W8PSK**  
**NM8W**  
**KD8RNO**  
**WB8ABY**  
**WD8ICP**  
**N8YAE**  
**KD8PCQ (10)**

Jun 5

**N1RB (NC)**  
**KD8RNO**  
**K8BBK**  
**W8PSK**  
**WB8NQW**  
**WB8VUL**  
**N8YAE**  
**KD8PCQ**  
**K8OVO**  
**KD8ROF**  
**KC8EKT (11)**

Jun 12

**N1RB (NC)**  
**K8BBK**  
**KC8EKT**  
**K8OVO**  
**W8PSK**  
**NM8W**  
**KD8GBZ/M-Mike**  
**N8YAE (8)**

## WCARC

### 2 m Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at  
2130 EDST/0130 Z

Jun 26	N8YAE
Jul 3	WB8NQW
Jul 10	N1RB
Jul 17	NM8W
Jul 24	K8OVO
Jul 31	N8YAE
Aug 7	WB8NQW

## Brain Teasers

1. Why are UHF signals more effective inside buildings than VHF signals?
  - a.) VHF signal lose power faster over distance
  - b.) the shorter wavelength allows them to more easily penetrate the building structure.
  - c.) incorrect; VHF works better than UHF inside.
  - d.) UHF antennas are more efficient than VHF.
2. What is the "Q" signal to indicate that you are checking to see if the frequency is busy?
  - a.) QRU
  - b.) QRL
  - c.) QSL
  - d.) QRZ
3. What is the approximate bandwidth of a VHF repeater FM phone signal?
  - a.) < 500 Hz
  - b.) about 150 kHz
  - c.) between 5 and 15 kHz
  - d.) between 50 and 125 kHz

## July Contests

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

<b>July 1</b>	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Canada Day 'test</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>July 7-8</b>	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Venezuelan Ind. Day 'test</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>July 7-8</b>	<i>1100 to 1059 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
<b>DL DX RTTY 'test</b>		<b>RTTY</b>
<b>July 21-22</b>	<i>1800 to 0600 Z</i>	80m to 10 m
<b>North American QSO Party</b>		<b>RTTY</b>
<b>July 28-29</b>	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
<b>IOTA 'test</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>July 28-29</b>	<i>1600 to 1600 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
<b>New Jersey QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>

## July Hamfests

**July 14 Indianapolis Hamfest Assn.** Indianapolis hamfest, Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, IN. Contact Bill, K9YDO, (317) 261-6658.

e-mail: [k9ydo@comcast.net](mailto:k9ydo@comcast.net)

web: <http://www.indyhamfest.com>

**July 21 Northern Ohio ARS.** NOARS hamfest, Lorain County Community College, Elyria, OH. Contact Darlene, KA8VTS, (216) 398-8858.

e-mail: [dohman@roadrunner.com](mailto:dohman@roadrunner.com)

web: <http://www.noars.net>

**July 22 Van Wert ARS.** Van Wert hamfest, Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Van Wert, OH. Contact Louie, WD8LLO, (419) 238-2812.

e-mail: [techserv@embarqmail.com](mailto:techserv@embarqmail.com)

web: <http://w8fy.org>

## Net Check Ins-cont.

Jun 19

**WB8NQW (NC)**  
**NM8W**  
**W8PSK**  
**K8BBK**  
**KG8FH**  
**KB8QEW**  
**KD8RNO**  
**WB8ABY**  
**KC8EKT (9)**

## Construction Activities Poll

There has been a request from a majority of Club members that they would like to see some sort of planned construction activity to be held after a regular meeting or preferably on a special day, such as a Saturday so that there is enough time to work on the project. Please help us out by responding to the following poll.

Possible ideas to choose from:

- A) Simple Transceiver or other kit
- B) Antenna Project (Please specify)
- C) More complex kit (transceiver, tuner, other.)
- D) Other (please specify)

Please email your response to Bob, N1RB, at:  
[boughton@bgsu.edu](mailto:boughton@bgsu.edu). ■

## Solar Update

*from ARRL Letter*

Solar activity was lower this week, although for the past few days, sunspot numbers and solar flux were rising. The average daily sunspot numbers declined more than 14.3 points to 116.1, while the average daily solar flux was off by 14.5 points to 115.9. There were five new sunspot groups this week: two each on June 9-10, and one more on June 13. The latest prediction has solar

flux at 145 on June 14-16, 140 on June 17-18, 135 on June 19-20, 120 on June 21, 110 on June 22-26, 105 on June 27-28, followed by a climb back to 120 on July 1-12. The predicted planetary A index is 5 on June 14-15, 8 on June 16-17, 10 on June 18-19, 8 on June 20-21, and 5 on June 22-25. The next peak in geomagnetic activity is predicted for July 1-3, with planetary A index at 15, 12 and 10. ■

**DON'T FORGET!**

**10 meter informal net meets**

**Sunday**

**at 2030 EST on 28.335 MHz**

## Fox Hunt to be Held

Following a long standing tradition, the Club will hold a fox hunt immediately following the breakfast meeting at Frisch's on Saturday, July 7th. The initial transmissions will occur on the Club repeater, 147.18 MHz. The fox will then instruct the hounds how he will make simplex transmissions. The plan is to use 146.46 simplex, so be prepared to chase the fox.

This year, the fox is Bill, WD8JWJ. The only rule is that the fox be located somewhere in Wood County. If anyone knows the many hiding places available, it is certain that Bill does. It is time for all the experienced hunters to get their direction-finding gear dusted off and get ready for some fun. If you haven't participated in a fox hunt before, ask one of the "old hands" if you can ride along for the event. This activity is one where everyone can join in and have a lot of fun. ■

## Ohio Antenna Legislation Signed by Governor Kasich

*from Ohio Section News*

H. B. 158 was signed by Governor John Kasich on May 15 and will become law on August 15, 2012. Our nearly 5 year legislative effort has now attained its goal and Ohio has joined the (26) other states that

*minutes from p. 1*

**Minutes** of April meeting accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's report** Not available

### Old Business:

- The Club beam has been removed from the Fairgrounds thanks to Phil-W8PSK, Steve-K8BBK, and Bob-WB8NQW.
- The Anniversary potluck was a success, with good weather, good food and a good time.
- Thanks to Bob-WB8NQW, for organizing the field trip to the gas turbine plant last weekend.
- Reminder that Field Day activities will begin on Saturday, June 25th at noon at the Bartlett shelter of Carter Park. So far, two rigs have been pledged.

### New Business:

- Chuck-WD8ICP, and Craig met with the BGSU IT people and we are cleared to keep our repeaters where they are until demolition begins.
- Craig is soliciting ideas for holding a project day---see the next issue of CQ Chatter for a survey.
- Reminder that there will be a fox-hunt on Saturday, July 7th, immediately following the Club breakfast at Frisch's. The fox in WD8JWJ, and he intends to use the simplex frequency of 146.46 MHz.

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*minutes from p. 5*

- Don-K8OVO, informed all that TMRA will operate Field Day from the Wolcott House on 147.375 MHz.
- Steve-K8BBK, suggested that a good program idea would be for someone to go over how to operate a station remotely.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:50 pm

The meeting was followed by a very interesting presentation on the radiation patterns and SWR behavior of his large loop antenna. These data were obtained by a friend in California who used NEC-type antenna modeling software to get the results. ■

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*antenna from p. 5*

have enacted amateur radio antenna preference legislation, similar to FCC regulation PRB-1 into state law.

We wish to publicly thank each of the Ohio legislators who supported this legislation. A number of legislators are due special thanks from the amateur community for their personal efforts in helping to reach this goal. Representatives Gerald Stebelton and Mark Okey were the primary sponsors of H. B. 158. Without their help and support this could not have been possible. Likewise, Senators Tim Schaffer and Tom Sawyer who co-sponsored companion legislation, S.B. 93, in the Sen-

ate which helped our effort move forward to two fronts. One could not listen to the eloquent presentations of the sponsors of these Bills without taking pride in being an Ohio radio amateur.

The final passage would not have been possible without the help and support of Senator Kris Jordan who chaired the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans' Affairs committee as well as Senate Sponsor and Committee Member Senator Bill Seitz. Finally, we could not have achieved this success without the skillful, dedicated and relentless efforts of Alyson Miles, Rep. Stebelton's legislative assistant, whose unwavering support skillful persuasion made this success possible.

The Section's legislative team is also due a vote of thanks from the amateur community. First and foremost, Section Manager Frank Piper, KI8GW, who was always there when needed and whose eloquent testimony helped convince legislators of the merits of our cause. Likewise, Terri Kovalchik, N8TLK, worked tirelessly to develop information, review testimony, monitor legislative schedules and attend hearings. She made it easy for legislators to vote "yes".

The amateurs who testified at various times as the legislation went through the House and Senate in two consecutive sessions also contributed mightily to our final success.

Those included, in addition to Frank Piper, Bill Carpenter, AA8EY, Steve

Katz, N8WL, Don Kovalchik, W8DPK, Dr. Bob Lewis, N8GU, Rick Swain, KK8O, and John Tipka, W8UL. A special thanks to Capital University law professor Jeff Ferriell, K8ZDA, for his help in addressing the Home Rule issues that seemed to trouble some of the legislators. Numerous others, too many in numbers to list here, also helped with guidance, suggestions, calls and emails.

Thanks to all of you. Your efforts have made Ohio a better place to be a radio amateur and a safer place for all Ohioans in times of emergency. As we move toward the effective date of the Bill we will post additional information concerning the specific details, as well as suggestions for those who may want to use it in support of an antenna application.

H.B. 99, the "texting" legislation has also been passed and signed by the Governor. The law prohibits the "writing, sending or reading of text based communication "while operating a motor vehicle. The law also includes a number of exceptions, some of which have potential application to amateurs:

(1) A person using an electronic wireless communications device for emergency purposes, including an emergency contact with a law enforcement agency, hospital or health care provider, fire department, or other similar emergency agency or entity;

(2) A person using an electronic wireless communications device whose motor vehicle is in a stationary position and the motor vehicle is outside a lane of travel;

(3) A person using a navigation device in a voice-operated or hands-free manner who does not manipulate the device while driving.

The Bill also specifies the specific devices considered "electronic wireless communications devices" for purposes of texting. Those include:

- (1) A wireless telephone;
- (2) A personal digital assistant;
- (3) A computer, including a laptop computer and a compute tablet;
- (4) A text-messaging device;
- (5) Any other substantially similar electronic wireless device that is designed or used to communicate via voice, image, or written word.

While it is possible that the texting legislation could impose some limitations on amateur communication, (for example, PSK while driving) the limitations do not extend to voice communications or even texting as part of emergency communications. All in all, the public safety benefits of the legislation outweigh the inconveniences.

73,  
Nick Pittner, K8NAP  
Ohio State Government Liaison ■

## **WCARC Member N8YAE in CQ Magazine**

*from June, 2012 CQ*

It's all well and good for radio amateurs to share the limelight with Mother Nature and a host of public service agencies when severe weather, wildfires and earthquakes strike. However, once in a while wouldn't it be nice for the public to see us as a "one-man or one-woman show"?

Amateur radio has an annual opportunity to do just that in June when thousands of us take part in the ARRL's Field Day, this year on the weekend of June 22-24.

As individuals, groups and organizations, it is so important for us to keep amateur radio's profile high, and each year the League awards 100 bonus points "for attempting to obtain publicity from the local media."

Now put yourself in the place of the local newspaper editor, TV station news director or manager of the local online news site. It's June. It's hot. Most of the kids are out of school. People are on vacation. There's just not a lot of excitement in town. *Until they hear from you.*

In June, 2011 on the Toledo, Ohio, Fox News affiliate, Jennifer Steck spent almost two and a half minutes giving a report in advance of ARRL Field Day coming up that weekend.

Mike Kleinfelt, N8YAE, of Walbridge, is featured in the segment, which includes background on why EmComm is so important and a short demonstration of VHF repeater operation. The footage even shows the reporter behind the N8YAE microphone.

When you have willing and able news organizations ready to tell your EmComm readiness story, why not take advantage? It's a win-win-win for you and your group, the reporter and amateur radio. ■

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



***Jennifer Steck, with the Fox News affiliate in Toledo, OH, reports on ARRL Field Day in a June 2011 story featuring Mike Kleinfelt, N8YAE. It was great publicity showing radio amateurs' dedication to emergency communications. The footage even shows the reporter behind the N8YAE microphone. Watch the video at <http://bit.ly/HYkUCL>.***



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