

# CQ CHATTER

VOLUME 13 • Issue #12 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JANUARY 2013

P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

President	NM8W	Craig Magrum
Vice President	WB8NQW	Bob Willman
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	WD8JWJ	Bill Wilkins

## *Kick-off Banquet Planned*

The traditional WCARC annual Kick-off banquet will be held on Sunday, January 13th, at Dyers' Family Dining, 200 Campbell Hill Rd in Bowling Green. The meal is planned as a buffet-style brunch, starting at 11:30 am. Last year was the first time the banquet was held at Dyers' with excellent results. The short agenda will include election of the new officers for 2013. Please make plans to attend by placing reservations with Vice President Bob Willman, WB8NQW, by Wednesday, January 9th at: [blcksmth@wcnet.org](mailto:blcksmth@wcnet.org) ■

## **We Need Your Opinion**

As you may know, we have been notified that the Club will soon be required to vacate our repeater transmitter site in the BGSU Administration Building because it is planned for demolition in a year or two. As of now, there will be no change in our occupancy of the receiver site in the Offenhauer West

**WCARC Weekly Net:  
Tuesdays at 2030 EST  
(0130 Z year-round)  
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL  
*KICK OFF BANQUET*  
Sunday, January 13th  
TIME: 11:30 am  
PLACE: Dyer's Family Dining  
200 Campbell Hill Rd.  
Bowling Green, OH**

penthouse. This leaves the Club with the necessity of at least relocating the repeater transmitter to a new site.

At the same time, Craig, N8DJB, has come into possession of an abandoned cellular phone tower that he is graciously offering for the Club to use at nominal cost. There are many benefits associated with the N8DJB site, including a heated radio shack, electric service, and hard line strung up the tower.

## Net Check Ins

Dec 4

NM8W (NC)  
WD8JWJ/M  
KC8EKT  
WB8NQW  
K8BBK  
N1RB  
WB8ABY  
WD8ICP  
N8YAE (9)

Dec 11

WB8NQW (NC)  
K8BBK  
KC8EKT  
KG8FH  
N1RB  
N8YAE  
WB8ABY  
WD8PIC  
K8OVO (9)

Dec 18

WB8NQW (NC)  
K8BBK  
WD8JWJ  
WB8ABY  
KG8FH (5)

## WCARC

### 2 m Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at  
2030 EST/0130 Z

Jan	1	N1RB
Jan	8	NM8W
Jan	15	K8OVO
Jan	22	N8YAE
Jan	29	WB8NQW
Feb	5	N1RB

## Brain Teasers

- When should you use simplex instead of a repeater?
  - When the most reliable communications are needed
  - When contact is possible without using a repeater
  - When an emergency telephone call is needed
  - When you are traveling and need some local info
- What is a repeater called that is available for everyone to use?
  - open
  - closed
  - autopatch
  - private
- What amount of power must amateur stations use at all times?
  - 25 W PEP
  - 250 W PEP
  - 1500 W PEP
  - minimum legal power necessary

# *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.

<b>Jan 5-6</b>	<i>1800 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
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<b>ARRL RTTY Roundup</b>		<b>RTTY</b>
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<b>Jan 6</b>	<i>1800 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
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<b>ARRL Kids' Day</b>		<b>SSB</b>
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<b>Jan 12-13</b>	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
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<b>UK DX RTTY 'test</b>		<b>RTTY</b>
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<b>Jan 12-13</b>	<i>1800 to 0600 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
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<b>North American QSO Party</b>		<b>CW</b>
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<b>Jan 19-20</b>	<i>1800 to 0600 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
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<b>North American QSO Party</b>		<b>SSB</b>
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<b>Jan 19-20</b>	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
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<b>HA DX 'test</b>		<b>all modes</b>
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<b>Jan 19-21</b>	<i>1900 to 0400 Z</i>	6 m on up
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<b>ARRL January VHF 'test</b>		<b>all modes</b>
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<b>Jan 25-27</b>	<i>2200 to 2200 Z</i>	160 m
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<b>CQ WW 160 meter 'test</b>		<b>CW</b>
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<b>Jan 26-27</b>	<i>0600 to 1800 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
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<b>REF (France) DX 'test</b>		<b>CW</b>
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<b>Jan 26-27</b>	<i>1300 to 1300 Z</i>	160 m
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<b>UBA (Belgium) DX 'test</b>		<b>SSB</b>
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<b>Jan 27-28</b>	<i>1900 to 2300 Z</i>	160 m
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<b>UWAB (Britain) Top Band 'test</b>		<b>SSB</b>
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*input from p. 1*

The Technical Committee has inspected the proposed site in order to assess the projected costs that would be incurred if we chose to move the repeater there. Some of the major one-time expenses include: hiring a steeplejack to install the antennas, the purchase of 220 MHz control link equipment and, if the receiver is to be moved to the same site from Offenhauer, two sets of duplexers. The control link equipment has already been purchased, along with a new Station Master VHF antenna, at a cost of \$350. The estimated cost of two duplexer sets (one for 144 MHz and the other for 440 MHz) is nearly \$1200. The other expenses will of course be the continuing costs of utilities and rent. As yet, the Committee cannot make a reliable estimate of what these continuing costs will be.

A concern was raised at the December business meeting about the Club's limited annual income (about \$350 per year) and the feasibility of the proposed move since we don't know what the month-to-month demands on the Treasury will be. It is assumed that the one-time costs of \$750 to \$2,000 can be covered by mounting a pledged contribution drive.

The Club Officers and Trustees need to know your opinion on this issue. We are pledged to follow the expressed will of the membership as to which direction to take. Here are the options that we have come up with (some less frivolous than others):

1a. Proceed with the move of only the transmitter to N8DJB's tower assuming that the monthly continuing costs will be less than

*continued on p. 5*

*input from p. 5*

\$20.00 per month. The fixed initial costs in this case will be the cost of the antennas and the steeplejack (total est. \$750).

1b. Same as 1a above, except move the transmitter and receiver to the new site. Fixed initial costs estimated at \$2,000 (duplexers added).

2. Seek another site for the transmitter. Suggestions include: Court House tower, a BG water tower, or Offenauer West/East. In any of these cases, the same minimum initial fixed costs will be incurred (except for Offenauer West where the duplexers must be added). In any of the foregoing sites, permission will of course have to be obtained and this possibility has not yet been explored. One benefit of staying with BGSU is that there have been no utilities or rental charges to date---this is a benefit when compared with the other sites.

3. Discontinue the Club's repeater service.

Please carefully consider these options, or even suggest another option if you wish to. We need to know your opinion!

Send your take on this to the Secretary, N1RB, at:

[boughton@bgsu.edu](mailto:boughton@bgsu.edu) ■

# Minutes

## WCARC Meeting

### December 10, 2012

**Present:** N1RB-Bob, K8BBK-Steve, WD8JWJ-Bill, WB8NQW-Bob, WB8VUL-Hoot, WD8ICP-Chuck, K8OVO-Don, WB8ABY-AI, N8MSU-John

**Meeting called to order** with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:35 pm, WB8NQW presiding.

**Minutes** of October meeting-motion to approve by Steve, second by Hoot ; approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

no new income to report---motion to approve by Bob (RB) , second by Hoot; approved.

#### **Old Business:**

Bill, WD8JWJ, mentioned that we still need to nail down the continuing expenses for the repeater move. They include: payment to Craig, equipment insurance, and utilities. He reiterated the need for the Club to be careful about such continuing expenses to make sure they do not exceed the income from dues. Steve, K8BBK, suggested that the expense of hiring a steeplejack

*continued on p. 6*

*minutes from p. 5*

could be avoided if we rigged up a hoist and cart assembly on the tower. Chuck, WD8ICP, suggested the possibility of choosing another off-campus repeater site such as the Courthouse tower or a BG water tower; Offenhauer East penthouse is also a possibility. There was much discussion but no decision made. Bob, N1RB, will write a description of all these possibilities for the newsletter in order to garner the opinions of the other Club members.

### **New Business:**

Annual banquet: Motion to hold the banquet at Dyers' on Sunday, January 13th, at 11:30 am by Steve, seconded by Bob (RB). Motion passed with minimum discussion.

2013 Officer Slate: After some rep- artee, all of the current officers except for the President indicated that they will continue in office for next year. The current President, Craig, said that he is definitely unavailable. Bob asked for volunteers and/or suggested candidates. Hearing no immediate response, he said that he and the other officers would confer on this issue in order to have a complete slate by the time of the banquet.

**Meeting Adjourned:** at 8:40 pm. ■

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

## **Use LoTW to Confirm QSOs**

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.

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

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.

If you are a DX hound or are pursuing the Worked All States award, LoTW certainly beats using

**LoTW from p. 5**

the old paper QSL method. Your editor has participated in the LoTW program for several years now, and has uploaded well over 10,000 QSOs to the system with approximately 2,400 contacts confirmed electronically.

The system works very smoothly---after registering and receiving your encoded certificate, you can then log on and upload your QSOs in encoded ADIF (Amateur Data Interchange Format) to the LoTW server. All of the software necessary to encode the certificate and the log files is furnished on site. The LoTW system gives you confirmation that the file has been received, and after a few hours or

days, depending on how busy the system is, you will see confirmed QSOs in your account. The neat thing is that the necessary qualifications for various awards are automatically registered. The awards covered include: Worked All States (WAS), DX Century Club (DXCC), VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC), and Worked All Prefixes (WPX). All of the various endorsement categories are totted up automatically as your QSOs are confirmed. When you finally become qualified for an award, the application process can also be done on-line, usually with the payment of some green stamps. If you want to try it, log on to: <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world> for more information. ■

## January Hamfests

**Feb 3 Northern Ohio ARS.** Annual Hamfest and Computer Show, 500 S. Abbe Rd., Elyria, OH. Contact Darlene, KA8VTS, (216) 398-8858.

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

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

**DON'T FORGET!**

**10 meter informal net meets**

**Sunday**

**at 2030 EST on 28.335 MHz**

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

