

CQ Chatter

MARCH 2013

VOLUME B13 • ISSUE 2

WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT

WB8ABY

AL MURRAY

VICE PRESIDENT

WB8NQW

BOB WILLMAN

SECRETARY

N1RB

BOB BOUGHTON

TREASURER

WD8JWJ

BILL WILKINS

Minutes

WCARC Meeting

February 11, 2013

Present: *WD8JWJ-Bill, K8BBK-Steve, K8LL-Stan, W8GGS-George, WB8ABY-Al, WB8VUL-Hoot, WB8NQW-Bob, N1RB-Bob*

Meeting opened at 7:30 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of last meeting and Treasurer's report accepted.

Old Business:

Bob (NQW) followed up on inquiries as to the possibility of other repeater locations by talking with the County Administrator regarding the proposed Courthouse location. Bob related that his impression from the talk was that it is a viable option. Bill (JWJ) commented that poor radio transmission through the tower stonework might be an issue.

New Business:

Steve (BBK) reported on his acquaintance with a blind young man in Portage who was featured in a Sentinel-Tribune article. He is active in the Sheriff's Auxiliary group and is interested in communications. Steve met with him and was favorably impressed. Steve will keep the Club members posted on needs such as equipment, funds, etc.

Bob (RB) reported that he has received several inquiries regarding license testing and exams. The desire seems to be for advanced classes such as General and Amateur Extra. He will look into offering such a program during the summer and will report back.

Bob (NQW) inquired about Field Day (June 22-23) plans. It was suggested that we try to return to the County Museum location. Bob will look into it and try to reserve the dates for the activity.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm. ■

Net Check Ins

Jan 29

WB8NQW (NC)
K8BBK
K8OVO
WB8ABY (4)

Feb 5

N1RB (NC)
K8BBK
WB8NQW
WD8JWJ
KG8FH
WB8ABY
KC8EKT (7)

Feb 12

NM8W (NC)
K8BBK
KC8EKT
K8OVO
WB8NQW
WB8ABY
N1RB (7)

Feb 19

WB8NQW (NC)
N1RB
KC8EKT
K8BBK
WB8ABY
K8OVO
KD8BIN
WB8VUL (8)

Brain Teasers

1. What is a geomagnetic disturbance?
 - a.) a sudden drop in solar flux index
 - b.) a shift in Earth's magnetic poles
 - c.) ripples in the ionosphere
 - d.) a dramatic change in Earth's magnetic field over a short period of time
2. Where would you tune to hear beacons that would help determine propagation conditions on the 20 meter band?
 - a.) 28.2 MHz
 - b.) 21.1 MHz
 - c.) 14.1 MHz
 - d.) 18.1 MHz
3. What standing wave ratio will result from the connection of a 50 ohm feed line to a resonant antenna having a 10 ohm impedance?
 - a.) 2:1
 - b.) 50:1
 - c.) 1:5
 - d.) 5:1

**It's Time to Renew!
Club Dues for 2013---
Payable to WCARC
P. O. Box 534, Bowling
Green, OH 43402**

March Contests

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

Mar 2-3	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
ARRL Int'l Phone DX `test		SSB
Mar 9-10	<i>1600 to 1600 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
EA (Spain) PSK63 `test		PSK63
Mar 9-10	<i>1900 to 1900 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Idaho QSO Party		all modes
Mar 10-11	<i>1800 to 0100 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Wisconsin QSO Party		all modes
Mar 16-17	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Russian DX `test		CW/SSB
Mar 16-17	<i>1300 to 0100; 1300 to 1900 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Oklahoma QSO Party		all modes
Mar 16-17	<i>1400 to 0200; 1200 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Virginia QSO Party		all modes
Mar 30-31	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m

March Hamfests

Mar 17 Toledo Mobile Radio Assn. Annual Radio/Computer/Electronics Hamfest, Owens Community College, Perrysburg, OH. Contact Brian, WD8MXR, (419) 385-5624.

e-mail: wd8mxr@gmail.com

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

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2030 EST
(0130 Z year-round)

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Feb 26	N8YAE
Mar 5	WB8NQW
Mar 12	N1RB
Mar 19	K80VO
Mar 26	N8YAE
Apr 2	WB8NQW

NEXT MEETING

BREAKFAST MEETING

Saturday, March 2nd

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Frisch's Big Boy

N. Main and E. Poe Rd.

Bowling Green, OH

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

Net Control Operators Needed

The WCARC 2 meter net meets each Tuesday evening at 8:30 pm EST (switches to 9:30 pm EDST). It is strictly informal and is open to all amateurs. If you have an interest in net operations, a skill that could come in handy during emergency deployment, please consider joining the net control roster that you see on page 1. We usually have from 5 to 10 check-ins who chat about everything from the weather to even some technical issues. If you think you would like to join the crew, please contact N1RB via e-mail: boughton@bgsu.edu. A sample script and other operational information will be provided. ■

STRAND-1 AMATEUR RADIO SMARTPHONE CUBESAT TO LAUNCH FEBRUARY 25

from AR Newsline

The BBC says that the world's first 'smartphone-sat' project called STRAND-1 will be ready to launch at the end of February. The STRAND-1 CubeSat will carry a Google Nexus One Android smartphone into space to demonstrate the feasibility of using cheap smartphone's electronics to control a spacecraft.

Also included will be a software-based speech synthesizer to commemorate the U-O-SAT family of amateur radio satellites that were

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smartphone from p. 4

launched in the 1980's. There will also be an amateur radio AX.25 packet radio downlink on 437.575 MHz.

The STRAND-1 satellite was built in Guildford in the United Kingdom by volunteers from the Surrey Space Centre and Surrey Satellite Technology Limited in their spare time. It is planned to be launched on February 25th into a 785 km orbit by the Indian Space Research Organization rocket. More is on-line at www.amsat-uk.org. ■

FIELD DAY VENUE CONFIRMED

Field Day this year will be held on Saturday/Sunday June 22/23. Last year, the WCARC was not able to secure our customary venue due to a scheduling conflict, and so the event was held at Carter Park in Bowling Green. This year, thanks to the efforts of Bob, WB8NQQW, we are fortunate in being able to secure the usual Wood County Historical Museum site for the activity. Planning for equipment and food is moving forward. If you have never participated in a Field Day, it is a good opportunity to meet many of the Club members, to operate under contest conditions, and to partake of some good eats. Reserve the June dates so that you can join in the fun. The erection of antennas typically takes place around noon on Saturday. Stay tuned for further details. ■

OVER THE HORIZON RADAR HEARD ON 10 METERS

from AR Newline

The IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service reports on a mysterious Over The Horizon radar causing interference in the 28 MHz amateur radio band. The mysterious signal disturbs the 28 to 29 MHz segment of 10 meters often with signals are 60 kHz wide, and jumping in bursts.

The location of the transmitter appears to be someplace in the Middle East but so far getting precise bearings have proven to be difficult.

The entire report covering this situation and other intruders to our ham bands can be downloaded free of charge at

<http://tinyurl.com/iarums-jan2013>. ■

ISS Loses Communications with Ground Control

from ARRL letter

At approximately 9:45 AM EST (1445 UTC) on Tuesday, February 19, the International Space Station ([ISS](#)) experienced a loss of communication with the ground. At that time, flight controllers in Houston were updating the software onboard the ISS's flight computers when one of the ISS's data relay systems malfunctioned. The primary computer

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that controls critical station functions defaulted to a backup computer, but it did not allow the ISS to communicate with NASA's tracking and data relay satellites. Mission Control at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas was able to communicate with the crew as the ISS flew over Russian ground stations before 11 AM EST (1500 UTC) and instructed the crew to connect a backup computer to begin the process of restoring communications. Once communication was re-established, [Expedition 34](#) Commander Kevin Ford, KF5GPP, reported that the ISS's status was fine and that the crew was doing well. Communication systems were restored as of 12:34 PM EST. ■

**FAR ACCEPTING
SCHOLARSHIP APPS FOR
2013 TO 2014**

from AR Newsline

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, a non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to

administer forty-seven scholarships for the 2013 to 2014 academic year. This, to assist licensed Radio Amateurs in the pursuit of higher education. The Foundation fully funds two of these scholarships. The remainder are administered by the Foundation for various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs who compete for these awards must be planning to pursue a full time course of studies beyond high school and be enrolled, or have been accepted for enrollment, at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 with preference given, in some cases, to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships.

To be considered, completed applications must be received at the Foundation by April 15th. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or post card sent to FAR Scholarships, Post Office Box 911, Columbia, Maryland, 21044-0911 or by e-mail to dave.prestel@gmail.com. ■

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**

