

CQ Chatter

DECEMBER 2013

VOLUME B13 • ISSUE 10

WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT

WB8ABY

AL MURRAY

VICE PRESIDENT

WB8NQW

BOB WILLMAN

SECRETARY

N1RB

BOB BOUGHTON

TREASURER

WD8JWJ

BILL WILKINS

[HTTP://WCARC.BGSU.EDU](http://wcarc.bgsu.edu)

Kick-off Banquet on January 12th

The annual WCARC kick-off banquet will be held on Sunday, January 12th this year. The location is Dyers' Family Dining, at 200 Campbell Hill Rd. in Bowling Green. The festivities begin at 12 noon, so plan to arrive and meet the other Club members and perhaps have an eyeball QSO or two. The service is buffet style with a Sunday brunch menu. Please contact Bob, WB8NQW (blcksmth@wcnnet.org), with the number attending by Wednesday, January 7th. There is no official business to be conducted except for the installation of the new slate of officers for 2014. ■

Membership Badge Proposal

WCARC member, Eric Willman, WD8LEI, has the equipment to make

photo ID badges, as shown in the illustration. If there is enough interest among the members, he has offered to make them for us at cost. The cost is \$7.50 for the badge and \$.50 for the pocket clip. We will have further discussion at the December meeting. Bob, WB8NQW, has offered to take the necessary photos at a future meeting. He suggests that we could also round the price up and make a little profit for the club. ■

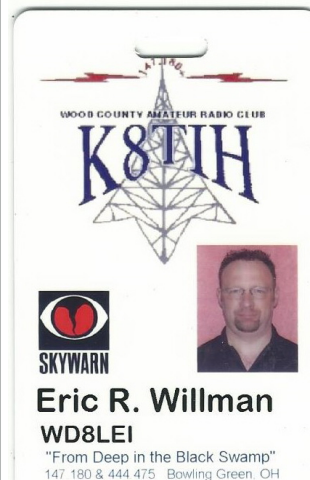


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Ten Meters Is (was?) Hot! from ARRL News-K7RA Solar Update

Sunspot numbers made a profound leap over the past week, with the sunspot number on November 15 reaching 272, then 282 on November 17. This is a record for the current solar cycle, and this level of

continued---on p. 7

Net Check Ins

Nov 5

N1RB (NC)
WB8ABY
K8BBK
W8PSK
WD8JWJ
KD8BIN--John
WB8NQW
KD8NJW
WD8PIC
K8OVO
N8YAE (11)

Nov 12

K8OVO (NC)
KD8NJW
WD8JWJ
K8BBK
W8PSK
WB8ABY
KF7SON--Adam
WB8NQW
N1RB
N8YAE (10)

Brain Teasers

1. Which of the following devices is most useful for VHF weak-signal communications?
 - a.) quarter wave vertical antenna
 - b.) multi-mode VHF transceiver
 - c.) omni directional antenna
 - d.) mobile VHF FM transceiver
2. What instrument other than an SWR meter could you use to determine if a feed line and antenna are properly matched?
 - a.) voltmeter
 - b.) ohmmeter
 - c.) iambic pentameter
 - d.) directional wattmeter
3. What is a grid locator?
 - a.) a letter-number designator assigned to a geographic location
 - b.) a letter-number designator assigned to an azimuth and elevation
 - c.) instrument for neutralizing a final amplifier
 - d.) instrument for radio direction finding

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 7-8	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
VU (India) DX `test		all modes
Dec 8	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	10 m
10 M RTTY `test		RTTY
Dec 14-15	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	10 m
ARRL 10 M `test		all modes
Dec 19	<i>2100 to 2300 Z</i>	160 m
Russian 160 M `test		all modes
Dec 21-22	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
OK (Czech) DX RTTY `test		RTTY
Dec 21-22	<i>1400 to 1400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Croatian CW `test		CW
Dec 22	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARRL Rookie Roundup		CW
Dec 28	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
RAC (Canada) Winter `test		all modes
Jan 1	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARRL Straight Key Night		CW

DON'T FORGET!

10 METER INFORMAL NET

MEETS SUNDAY

@ 2030 EST/EDST ON 28.335 MHZ

IN FLIGHT HAM GEAR BAN TO CONTINUE

from ARNewsline

Nov 19

WB8NQW (NC)
K8BBK/M
N1RB
WB8ABY
WD8JWJ
W8PSK
K8OVO
KD8NJW
N8YAE (9)

In the not too distant future, airline passengers may not have to turn off all electronic devices prior to takeoff and landing in a commercial jetliner, but anything that has the capability of radiating any RF power will still fall under the current ban. That includes any form of ham radio gear. Under a new set of new FAA guidelines, passengers on domestic U.S. flights will be permitted to read, work and listen to music from gate to gate. But they still will not be permitted to talk on their cellphones, directly browse the Internet or use any form of two-way radio through the flight. Internet connectivity will only be permitted on aircraft equipped to provide such a service, usually at a fee. For ham radio operators it means the ban on the use of a hand-held or other gear operating on any band will continue, just as the rules are now.

Nov 26

W8PSK (NC)
WB8NQW
K8BBK
KG8FH
N1RB
KD8VWU--Doug
WD8ICP
KC8EKT
KF7SON--Adam (9)

Currently airline passengers are required to turn off their smartphones, laptops, and other devices once a plane's door closes. They're not supposed to use them again until the plane
continued---on p. 5

*It's time to renew
dues for 2014 payable to:*

WCARC

P.O. Box 534

Bowling Green, OH 43402

see WCARC website for membership rates

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2130 EDST/
2030 EST (0130 Z)

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Dec 3	KD8NJW
Dec 10	N1RB
Dec 17	K80VO
Dec 24	WB8NQW
Dec 31	KD8NJW
Jan 7	N1RB
Jan 14	K80VO

NEXT MEETING

BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, Dec. 9th

TIME: 7:30pm/7:00 EB

PLACE:

Sheriff's Meeting Room

E. Gypsy Lane Rd. and

S. Dunbridge Rd.

Bowling Green, OH

ham gear--from p. 4

reaches 10,000 feet and the captain gives the go-ahead. Passengers are then supposed to turn their devices off again as the plane descends through 10,000 feet to land and not restart them until it is on the ground or at the arrival gate.

Under the new guidelines, airlines whose planes are properly shielded from electronic interference may allow passengers to use the devices during takeoffs, landings and taxiing. The FAA says that most new airliners and other planes that have been modified so that passengers can use airline-supplied WiFi at higher altitudes are expected to meet the criteria. However if you want to use electronics that normally radiates an RF signal, that feature must be disabled unless instructed otherwise on aircraft with airline supplied WiFi connectivity.

The bottom line is that while most passengers with certain devices will be able to enjoy some relaxation in the rules regarding their use, ham radio operators and users of any other two way radio gear will continue to face a complete ban from operating such devices from boarding a flight to disembarking from it. ■

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

Show with Fictional Ham Sparks Crop of Real Hams

from ARRL Letter



Tim Allen (L) as Mike Baxter, KAØXTT, sits in his ham shack with Flynn Morrison, who plays his grandson on the sitcom. [Photo courtesy of John Amodeo, NN6JA]

Fans of the ABC Television show "[Last Man Standing](#)" may be aware that its main character, "Mike Baxter" -- played by Tim Allen -- is supposed to be a radio amateur, KAØXTT. While it may come as no surprise that the sitcom's producer is a ham -- John Amodeo, NN6JA -- several radio amateurs also are on the production crew, and their number just increased, with help from the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group ([GLAARG](#)) VEC. The show's "Thanksgiving" episode, which airs Friday, November 22 (8 PM ET), will feature a scene with "Baxter" in his basement ham shack. Amodeo said that for the first time in the series, Baxter will briefly talk on the radio. In response, viewers will

hear a pileup created by using the voices of hundreds of real hams, sent in to the production company.

In the scene, the Mike Baxter character appears with his grandson "Boyd," played by Flynn Morrison. The episode was shot in mid-October. According to Amodeo, Mike heads to his basement ham shack to escape a houseful of guests waiting for Thanksgiving dinner to be served.

This episode of the show is only the second to include ham radio as a story element and the first in which Tim Allen's character is shown operating his ham station. At an exam session on November 9, the "Last Man Standing" crew added eight new Technician class hams to its crew as well as its first General upgrade. GLAARG volunteer examiners Norm Goodkin, K6YXH; Naomi Goodkin, WB6OHW, and Rob Antonacci, AA6RA, administered the test session. Including the additional new hams, the show's behind-the-scenes crew complement now boasts 14 Technician, one General, and two Amateur Extra class operators.

In "Last Man Standing," Allen's character Mike, a pickup-driving sporting goods marketing manager, must spend more time in his female-dominated household after his wife gets a promotion at work. The couple's three daughters are not prepared for the shift to his stricter parenting style. ■

Storm Has Its Way with WD8JWJ Antenna Farm

As we have read in news media, the extremely strong wind/rainstorm that passed through the area on Sunday, November 17th, caused severe damage in several parts of Wood County, with tornados reported in several areas of NW Ohio. Bill, WD8JWJ, who had erected a new hex beam



antenna this past year, shared this image of what the wind did to it. WD8JWJ reports that his weather station anemometer recorded a wind speed of 85 mph at his QTH. Hopefully, when he is able to bring the beam down to ground level, the damage can be quickly repaired. Bill reports that a long wire antenna was also brought down at the same time, so there is still a lot of aerial work to be done. ■

ten meters--from p. 1

activity has not been observed for over a decade. Unfortunately the sunspot number declined rapidly since then, falling below 100.

You can check in the ARRL Propagation Bulletin archives to see what activity at this level and higher was like over a decade ago.

Go to <http://arrrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation> and check out (in reverse order) bulletins 44 and 45 in 2003, 35 in 2002, 32 in 2002, 19 in 2002, 56 in 2001, 40 in 2001, 38 in 2001, 26 in 2001, 14 and 15 in 2001, 29 and 30 in 2000, 20 and 21 in 2000, 14 in 2000, 46 and 47 in 1999, 27 in 1999, and prior to that there was no sunspot number higher than we saw this week since cycle 22. The last several days with zero sunspots prior to this period are detailed in bulletins 2 and 3 in 1998. Note that for many of those periods, planetary A index was quite high. So the negative effects of all that high solar activity were geomagnetic storms. The heightened activity caused 10 meters to virtually explode, with the band full of signals from around the world.

Average daily sunspot numbers rose more than 67 points from 126.1 to 193.3, while average daily solar flux rose 10 points, from 156.9 to 166.9. The latest prediction has solar flux at 135 on November 22-23, 130 on November 24-28, 140 on November 29-30, 135 on December 1-3, 130 on December 4, 135 on December 5-6, 130 and 135 on December 7-8, 140 on December 9-10, 135 on December 11-14 and 140 on December 15-18. Predicted values then bottom out at 115 on December 23-24, again on December 28-29, then jumping from 115 again on January 3-4 to 140 on January 5. ■

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

