

CQ CHATTER

MAY 2015

VOLUME B15 • ISSUE 3

WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT

WB8NQW

BOB WILLMAN

VICE PRESIDENT

WD8JWJ

BILL WILKINS

SECRETARY

N1RB

BOB BOUGHTON

TREASURER

KD8NJW

JIM BARNHOUSE

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

Minutes WCARC Meeting April 13, 2015

Bob-WB8NQW, presiding

Present: N1RB-Bob, KC8EKT-Ruth, KD8RNO-Lynn, WD8JWJ-Bill, W8GGS-George, W8PSK-Loren, K8BBK-Steve, KB8RT-Lee, K8JU-Jim, W8MSW-Steve, KD8NJW-Jim, WB8NQW-Bob, WB8VUL-Hoot, K8LL-Stan, K8OVO-Don, W8MSU-John, WB8NQW-Bob

Meeting Called to Order with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm.

Minutes of February meeting approved. (JU/BBK)

Treasurer's Report approved (RB/VUL).

Old Business:

- Bob asked if there was any interest in holding a foxhunt soon. No response was elicited.

- Bob asked about the status of the WCARC equipment list. Bob (RB) replied that it was compiled and completed. Bob (NQW) mentioned that Mike Stacklin (W8CJJ) had sold the Club's Heathkit xmtr for \$125 and remitted that amount to the Treasurer.
- Bob reported on the meeting that the Technical Committee had with the BGSU group at WBGU-TV as a result of the Bender (a commercial communications provider) e-mail requesting information on the Club equipment in Offenauer West. Present were NQW, PSK, and RB, as well as BGSU reps including the Safety Director, the EMA Director and the WBGU communications director. Bender was not represented. All present thought the meeting went well and that the role that Amateur Radio can play in emergency communications is appreciated by the University people. One item of concern was whether or not we

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NET CHECK INS

Apr 7 Traffic: 0

K8OVO (NCS)
K8BBK
W8PSK
N8VNT
KD8RNO
W8GGS
WB8NQW
KD8VWU
KD8WZK
KC8EKT
WD8LEI (11)

Apr 14 Traffic: 0

KD8NJW (NCS)
KD8WZK/P
K8OVO
KD8RNO
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
W8PSK
N1RB
KD8VWU (9)

Apr 21 Traffic: 0

KD8VWU (NCS)
KD8WZK
N8VNT
W8PSK
K8OVO
WB8NQW
W8GGS
K8BBK
N1RB
WD8LEI (10)

BRAIN TEASERS

1. What are the two families of circles that make up a Smith Chart ?
 - a.) resistance and voltage
 - b.) reactance and voltage
 - c.) resistance and reactance
 - d.) voltage and impedance
2. What is the necessary bandwidth of a 13 WPM Morse Code emission A1A transmission?
 - a.) approximately 13 Hz
 - b.) approximately 26 Hz
 - c.) approximately 52 Hz
 - d.) approximately 104 Hz
3. What is a major cause of atmospheric static?
 - a.) sunspots
 - b.) thunderstorms
 - c.) airplanes
 - d.) meteor showers

May Contests

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

May 2-3	<i>1200 to 1159 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
ARI (Italy) Int'l DX `test	all modes	May
May 2-3	<i>1300 to 0700 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Seventh Call Areas QSO Party		all modes
May 2-3	<i>1600 to 0400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Indiana QSO Party		SSB-CW
May 2-3	<i>1700 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Delaware QSO Party		all modes
May 2-3	<i>2000 to 0500; 1300 to 2400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
New England QSO Party		all modes
May 9-10	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CQ-M Int'l DX `test		SSB-CW
May 9-10	<i>1500 to 1500 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Portuguese Navy `test		SSB-CW
May 9-10	<i>1700 to 1700 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Nevada Mustang Roundup		all modes
May 16-17	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
King of Spain `test		CW
May 23-24	<i>0000 to 2400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
EPC WW PSK `test		PSK
May 23-24	<i>2100 to 0200 Z</i>	80 m
Baltic `test		SSB-CW
May 30-31	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CQ WW WPX `test		CW

minutes---from p. 1

could provide written evidence of permission for WCARC to occupy the space in Offenhauer and Administration Bldgs. A search will be undertaken for such a document, and if none appears, a new agreement will be executed.

- Bob reported on the activity at the meeting of the Technical Committee that was held at Loren's (PSK) home. Remote control of the repeater was discussed and attempted with some success. Future plans for improving the site(s) were also discussed, such as the installation and calibration of the duplexer sets that the Club owns.

New Business:

- Bob mentioned that the BiG FabLab ribbon cutting occurred last week. He has invited the Director, Mark Bowlus, to attend the June business meeting for discussions.
- Bob (RB) reported on the last WCARES meeting. The EC, W8NYY, is actively searching for a replacement to fill his shoes.
- The GOBA (Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure) will be visiting Wood County on June 24, 25 and 26 (Wed/Thu/Fri), just before Field Day. The riders enter at Grand Rapids on Wednesday pm, then head for Bowling Green High School for the night. Thursday is devoted to the 50 mi and 100 mi

circle tours to Pemberville and Port Clinton, respectively. On Friday morning, the group departs from BGHS, travels to North Baltimore, and then west to Deshler. Volunteers are needed. If you wish to do so, please contact W8NYY (w8nyy@bex.net) or N1RB (boughton@bgsu.edu).

- Bob (NQW) reported at looking over minutes from yesteryear and came up with some interesting anecdotes. One was that the official protocol for appointing life membership had not been followed at the previous meeting in that the membership had not received prior written notice of such a proposition.
- Jim (JU) moved that N1RB, W8PSK, and WB8NQW be appointed as life members of WCARC for service rendered to the Club. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Phil (PSK) asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of the Club's MFJ analyzer. It is currently being used by Bob (NQW).
- Bob got a request from a Dayton ham who wishes to use the Club call sign on a postage cover for this year's Hamvention. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 pm.

John Gruber (MSU) presented a fascinating program on software defined radio (SDR). ■

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at

2100 EDST/EST

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

May 5	K80VO
May 12	WB8NQW
May 19	W8PSK
May 26	KD8NJW
Jun 2	KD8VWU
Jun 9	N1RB

NEXT MEETING

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, May 2

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Frisch's North
E. Poe Rd.

and N. Main St.

Bowling Green, OH

DON'T FORGET!

10 meter informal net meets
Sunday @ 2030 EST/EDST
on 28.335 MHz

May Hamfests

May 15-17 Dayton ARA. Dayton Hamvention. Hara Arena, Trotwood, OH.

e-mail: info@hamvention.org

web: <http://hamvention.org>

Amateur Radio Parity Act in Committee

from ARRL News

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R.1301 -- has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle -- seven Republicans and five Democrats.

HR 1301 would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners' association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include such private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology

Subcommittee, which will consider the measure.

ARRL members are urged to contact their US House members and ask them to sign on to the bill as a co-sponsor. We recommend sending the letter to your member of Congress to:

ARRL
Attn HR 1301 grassroots
campaign
225 Main St
Newington CT 06111 ■

The Problem with Wall Warts

from ARNewsline (interview)

Every ham suffers from interference now and then, but most have no idea where it may be coming from. Well, there is an expert on this subject and as Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, learned, his name is Ed Hare, his call is W1RFI and he can be found in Newington, Connecticut at the American Radio Relay League:

[KN4AQ] What's the most common source of interference plaguing radio amateurs today? Before you say power line noise, listen to Ed Hare, W1RFI's answer from my recent interview with Ed on HamRadioNow.

[W1RFI] Probably the most common source of noise more than

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warts---from p. 6

power line noise is switching mode power supplies. They are absolutely in everything we buy. The old days of those iron transformers are gone. Every single one of these is a switcher. We are also seeing noise from Pulse-Width Control motors.

[KN4AQ] Switching supplies. We are talking about those little wall-warts. We are not talking about MFJ or Astron?

[W1RFI] No, those are usually pretty well filtered.

[KN4AQ] You mean the little wall-warts that are powering everything in your house.

[W1RFI] That's right, Every TV you own has a built in switcher. Almost every device has a wall-wart. And a lot of these are imported and not necessarily meeting the FCC rules, so we are seeing more reports involving those.

[KN4AQ] Ed is the ARRL's Lab Manager, but his callsign W1RFI gives away one of his passions. He told me that a few of the LED bulbs that are becoming more common in household lighting are also noise generators as are grow lights used for indoor plants and agriculture. He said that the ARRL Lab can work with manufacturers to correct those problems, but---

[W1RFI] We need model numbers. We need specific information on the problems that amateurs are

having so that we can put some of our resources toward helping.

[KN4AQ] Hams with RF interference problems can contact the ARRL Lab by calling headquarters or by sending an e-mail to rfi@arrl.org. A lot more on this subject with Ed Hare, W1RFI is at hamradionow.tv. Just click on Episode number 196. ■

New Aluminum Bendable Battery

from ARNewsline

Scientists have built a flexible aluminum battery which they say could be a cheap, fast-charging and safe alternative to current designs.

The prototype consists of a soft pouch, containing aluminum for one electrode and graphite foam for the other and all surrounded by a special liquid salt. It can recharge in less than a minute and is very safe and durable compared to lithium-ion batteries.

The only drawback is that the new design currently only delivers about half the voltage, but work is ongoing to improve this. On the plus side, and unlike other designs, this battery will not catch fire even if accidentally punctured or drilled through.

The work appears in the journal *Nature*. You can find it at:

tinyurl.com/aluminum-salt-battery ■

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