

CQ CHATTER

MARCH 2017

VOLUME B17 • ISSUE 1

WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Vice President	KD8VWU	Doug Perez
Secretary	WB8NQW	Bob Willman
Treasurer	KD8NJW	Jim Barnhouse
Board Member	KE8CVA	Terry Halliwill

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

Minutes

WCARC Meeting

February 13, 2017

Bob-N1RB, presiding

Present: N1RB-Bob, K8JU-Jim, K8BBK-Steve, KC8EKT-Ruth, KE8CVA-Terry, KD8NJW-Jim, WB8NQW-Bob, W8AN-Steve, WB8VUL-Hoot, WD8JWJ-Bill, KE8FVN-Ed, K8OVO-Don, WD8ICP-Chuck, WD8LEI-Eric

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

Members and guests introduced themselves. New ham Ed Lause KE8FVN from Bloomdale was a guest.

Minutes from the December meeting were approved as printed in CQ Chatter.

Treasurer's report was given by Jim KD8NJW and approved.

Bob (RB) announced that TMRA has offered WCARC a free table at their ham-

fest to promote our club. It is not to be used for sales.

Old Business:

- Bob (RB) read the goals for 2017 that were discussed at the Board meeting on 02/11/2017. The goals for the FabLab are as follows: erect an HF antenna and make HF station operational, establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FabLab, construct a stable operating position or desk for the ham station equipment, design the electronics course of study and test equipment, and install club banner above the station.
- A new technician class will be starting 02/18/2017 at 10:00 AM.
- Field Day will take place on June 24-25, with more emphasis on overnight activity and a possible on-site breakfast Sunday morning.

New Business:

- Bob (NQW), presented measurements of the FabLab courtyard with the goal of installing a loop antenna there. With

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Net Check Ins

Feb 7 **Traffic: 0**

N1RB **(NCS)**
K8BBK
KG8FH
KD8NJW
N8PYA
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
KE8CVA
KE8CUZ
KA8VNG
KC8EKT
N8YAE
K8OVO
K8JU **(14)**

Feb 14 **Traffic: 0**

KD8VWU **(NCS)**
KA8VNG
KD8RNO
KE8DSE
K8BBK
N8VNT
WB8NQW
KC8EKT
WD8JWJ
KD8NJW
N1RB
K8JU
N8PYA
WD8LEI
KE8CVA
WD8ICP
KE8CUZ
KC8NKC
N8YAE **(19)**

Brain Teasers

1. What are the names of the two electrodes of a diode?
 - a.) plus and minus
 - b.) source and drain
 - c.) anode and cathode
 - d.) gate and base
2. What term describes the rate at which electrical energy is used?
 - a.) resistance
 - b.) current
 - c.) power
 - d.) voltage
3. What is the purpose of a gin pole?
 - a.) to temporarily replace guy wires
 - b.) to be used in place of a safety harness
 - c.) to lift tower sections or antennas
 - d.) to provide a temporary ground

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 4-5	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
ARRL Int'l DX 'test		SSB
Mar 11-12	<i>1400 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 6 m
Oklahoma QSO Party		all modes
Mar 11-12	<i>1900 to 1900 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Idaho QSO Party		all modes
Mar 12-13	<i>1800 to 0100 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Wisconsin QSO Party		all modes
Mar 18-19	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Russian DX 'test		CW SSB
Mar 18-19	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Louisiana QSO Party		all modes
Mar 18-19	<i>1400 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Virginia QSO Party		all modes
Mar 25-26	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CW WW WPX 'test		SSB

March Hamfests

March 5 Northern Ohio ARS. Annual Hamfest. Elyria VFW Post 1079, Elyria, OH.
web: <http://www.noars.net>

March 19 Toledo Mobile RA. Annual Hamfest. Owens Community College, Perrysburg, OH. web: <http://tmrahamradio.org>

minutes---from p.1

masts installed at the four corners of the building, a loop could have a trapezoid perimeter of approximately 390 feet. An antenna tuner would be required, and the most efficient transmission line would be open wire line right to the tuner. The mast height and installation details need to be worked out as well as feed line ingress into the building.

- Bob (RB) asked if the members were OK with the present breakfast venue. No change needed.
- Bob also asked if the existing three weekly nets were satisfactory. Tuesday night-VHF/UHF analog net at 9:00 PM on 147.18+ PL 67.0 Hz & 444.475+ PL 67.0 Hz, Thursday night-Fusion digital net at 7:30 PM on 442.125+ and Sunday night-ten meter net at 8:30 PM on 28.335 MHz. No change needed.
- Bob asked if there would be any interest in forming special interest groups within amateur radio such as antenna construction, Arduino – Raspberry PI projects, test instruments – troubleshooting, projects at the FabLab or hobbies, or interests not related to amateur radio.
- Eric (LEI) gave a report on some of the A.R.E.S. activities that have happened and are planned in the future along with some new amateur radio capabilities that have been installed in the sheriff's office communications center.

Adjournment: Jim (JU) moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Bob (NQW). Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Bob, WB8NQW

■

HAARP Starts New Experimental Campaign

from ARRL Letter

The just-concluded run of ionospheric investigations conducted from Alaska's High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program ([HAARP](#)) observatory -- quite likely the most powerful HF transmission facility in the world -- revived the latent shortwave listener (SWL) lurking within most radio amateurs. Operating under Part 5 Experimental license WI2XFX, HAARP this month even aired some classical music as it conducted its first scientific research campaign since being taken over 18 months ago from the military by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute.



A section of the extensive HAARP antenna array and one of the transmitter shelters. [Photo courtesy of KL4IU]

UAF Space Physics Group Assistant Research Professor Chris Fallen, KL3WX, focused on two experiments -- one called "airglow" that literally aimed to light up the ionosphere, and another to demonstrate the so-called "Luxembourg effect," first noticed on a 1930s Radio Luxembourg broadcast. Public engage-

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WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Feb 28	NM8W
Mar 7	K8OVO
Mar 14	WB8NQW
Mar 21	N1RB
Mar 28	KD8VWU
Apr 4	KD8NJW

NEXT MEETING

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, March 4th

TIME: 9:00 am

**PLACE: Frisch's Big Boy
N. Main St. & E. Poe Rd.
Bowling Green, OH**

HAARP---from p.4

ment was part of his plan, and Fallen this week said the [Twitter](#) and e-mail feedback from his transmissions had been "fantastic," and that his science campaign had become "quite an event."

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New Rookie Roundup Rules

Changes to the rules for [Rookie Roundup](#) will make it possible for more radio amateurs to qualify for the "Rookie" category. Rookie Roundup is a 6-hour operating event aimed at radio amateurs licensed for 3 years or less. Operators first licensed in 2015, 2016, or 2017 already qualify as Rookies for the next Rookie Roundup, which will be the SSB event on April 17, 1800-2359 UTC.

Starting with the SSB event in April, operators licensed *before* 2015 may en-

ter as Rookies if they made their first Amateur Radio contact during 2015, 2016 or 2017 -- or if they have never before made a contact using the mode of the upcoming Rookie Roundup (i.e., SSB for April, RTTY for August, and CW for December). These operators should send 2017 in their exchange, and those qualifying for either of these reasons will be Rookies only for 1 year.

Rookie Roundup is the third Sunday in April (SSB), August (RTTY), and December (CW). Stations send the year they were first licensed as part of the exchange. Rookies attempt to make as many contacts as possible and may work everyone. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event, multi-operator teams can compete, and veteran operators are encouraged to participate!■

Net Check Ins

Feb 21 **Traffic: 0**

KD8NJW **(NCS)**
KD8VWU
K8BBK
KD8RNO
WD8LEI
KE8CVA
WB8NQW
N1RB
KC8EKT
K8JU
WD8ICP
N8YAE
KC9UAL/M
KC9VAW/M **(14)**

Feb 28 **Traffic: 0**

WB8NQW **(NCS)**
K8JU
WD8JWJ
KE8CUZ
KD8VWU
N8VNT
WD8LEI
KD8NJW
KC8EKT
N1RB
WD8ICP
N8YAE
KE8CVA
N8PYA **(14)**

National Museum to Mark 75th Anniversary of VOA

QRZ News

The National Voice of America (VOA) Museum at the VOA-Bethany site in West Chester, Ohio, will join in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the [VOA](#). The Voice of America [marked its diamond jubilee](#) on February 1. In 1942, not 2 months after the US officially entered World War II, a live, 15-minute shortwave broadcast was



The VOA-Bethany station in West Chester, Ohio, now a museum.

transmitted into Germany from a small studio in New York City. Introduced by "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," the voice of announcer William Harlan Hale declared, "We bring you Voices from America. Today, and daily from now on, we shall speak to you about America and the war. The news may be good for us. The news may be bad. But we shall tell you the truth."

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VOA---from p.6

"We're planning a series of events and exhibits this year to celebrate the VOA's commitment across America and the world to embrace best practices in telling the truth in order to let the world decide," said Jack Dominic, the museum's executive director. The West Chester Amateur Radio Club is a museum partner and operates WC8VOA from the museum.



VOA-Bethany's six transmitters were connected to dozens of large antennas spread across a 1-square-mile area. Many people may recall seeing these towers as they drove past on Interstate 75.

At the dedication of VOA-Bethany, FCC Commissioner Clifford Durr referred to the forest of towers on the site as "siege guns of radio...that can hurl explosive facts against the enemy's weapons of lies and confusion... They are also potential guns of peace." Helped by an array of rhombic antennas, VOA-Bethany station transmitted news to Europe during World War II and to South America during the Cold War. The federal government decommissioned the Bethany station in 1994."The men and women who made up

the VOA broadcasting system were our journalistic beacons of light during the 20th century," said Ken Rieser, president of the VOA Museum board. "Elmer Davis, John Houseman, Edward R. Murrow, and Robert Bauer all had positions of leadership within the VOA."

Today the VOA is the world's largest international broadcaster, transmitting news and information in 47 languages to 236 million people each week, according to the VOA website. The National VOA Museum of Broadcasting, located in the art deco Bethany station building, houses three collections -- the Gray History of Wireless radios, VOA-Bethany station's Voice of America control room, and the Media Heritage Cincinnati Museum of Broadcast History. The National VOA Museum of Broadcasting is open on the third Saturday of each month -- including February 18 -- from 1 to 4 PM Eastern Time. [For more information](#), visit the VOA Museum website. ■

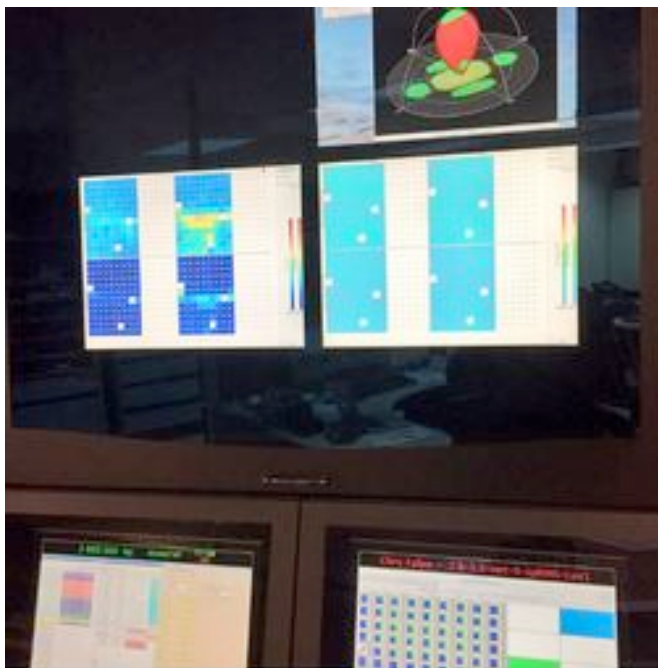
DON'T FORGET!
10 meter Net meets
Sunday@ 2030
on 28.335 MHz

Fusion (C4FM) Net
meets Thursday
@1930
on 442.125+

HAARP---from p.5

"Thank you for making a difference and advancing Amateur Radio as well," Doug Howard, VE6CID, tweeted. Another Twitter follower enthused, "You're running the coolest DX station in the world." Fallen said he also received "a lot of great waterfalls," as well as video and audio recordings from hams and SWLs.

Fallen started and stopped each experiment block with DTMF tones, transmitted in AM on or about 2.8 and 3.3 MHz, each channel fed with audio tones of different frequencies or, in the case of music, as a separate stereo channel. If the Luxembourg effect is present, skywave-signal listeners would hear both channels combined on a single frequency; Fallen said the effect is easier to detect with tones.



A view from the HAARP helm during the Luxembourg Effect experiment. [Photo courtesy of KL3WX]

In addition to tones, he transmitted "a 'dance track,' a Pachelbel Canon arrangement, and a variation of 'Row, Row,

Row Your Boat.'" Jeff Dumps, KL4IU, composed some of the music, and he arranged and performed all of it.

The CW "airglow" artificial aurora experiment followed the Luxembourg effect transmissions. All week, Fallen despaired that the "ratty" ionosphere and cloud cover were diminishing his hopes for success with the artificial aurora experiments. But on the last night, he tweeted, "Seeing artificial airglow with the spectrometer. Film at 11."

Fallen is now evaluating the results of his HAARP efforts. He said one listener posted "a most excellent" YouTube clip. He was not specific; several have been posted that document this week's experiments, including [this one](#) from Stephen Oleson, VE6SLP. Laurence Howell, KL7L, in Wasilla, Alaska, posted an [audio file](#).

"The miracle of crowd sourcing!" Fallen said. "If only the Luxembourg effect was more pronounced, but it is in the 3,300 kHz recording."

Fallen has been working under a \$60,000 National Science Foundation [grant](#). "During campaigns, significant expenditures for fuel and personnel are required," the grant abstract said.

"Large start-up costs make HAARP experiments largely inaccessible to individual researchers unless multiple experiments and funding sources can be bundled together during a campaign of up to 2-week duration." According to the abstract, public participation would maximize "the broader impacts of the investigations."

Fallen posted additional information on his "Gakona HAARPoon 2017" [blog](#). ■

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