

CQ CHATTER

APRIL 2017

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WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

April Program on Traffic

A presentation on the ARRL Traffic System and the proper way to handle traffic will be presented after the April business meeting on Monday, April 10th, at the Sheriff's Office. Don, K8OVO, who is an old hand at traffic handling, and who is a member of the Ohio SSB Net, will present a talk on what traffic is, how to properly handle it, and how to deliver it, in case you get called upon to do so.

■

Technician Class to Wrap Up Soon

The WCARC-sponsored Technician License class will finish off with VE exams on Saturday, April 8th, at 10 am sharp. The exam session will be held in the BiG FabLab at the Woodland Mall. There are six people in the class, and one has already passed the Technician exam. He hopes to upgrade to General on the 8th.

For anyone who wants to sit for the exam, walk-ins are accepted. All three exam levels will be administered. Candidates should bring a photo ID, a copy of any valid license, and \$15.

■

Islands On The Air (IOTA)

Created in 1964 by Geoff Watts, a leading English shortwave listener, and taken on by the RSGB in 1985, IOTA is an amateur radio activity program designed to encourage contacts with island stations world-wide. The oceans' islands have been grouped into some 1200 'IOTA groups' with, for reasons of geography, varying numbers of 'counters', i.e. qualifying islands, in each. The objective, for the island chaser, is to make radio contact with at least one counter in as many of these groups as possible and, for the DXpeditioner, to provide such island contacts. For both it is a fun pastime adding much enjoyment to on the air activity. Twenty-two separate certificates are currently available for island chasers, graded in difficulty, as well as two prestigious awards for high achievement.

To count for IOTA islands need to meet a few simple rules relating to location. They must not lie in rivers, inland lakes or seas, narrow gulfs or largely en-

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Net Check Ins

Mar 7 **Traffic: 0**
WB8NQW (NCS)

KC9VAW/M
KC9UAL/M
WD8LEI
WD8JWJ
KE8CVA
KD8RNO
KG8FH
KA8VNG
KD8NJW
N8PYA
KD8VWU
KD8UHO
K3RC
K8BBK
N8YAE
N8HMK
K8JU (18)

Mar 14 **Traffic: 0**
WB8NQW (NCS)

WD8LEI
WD8ICP
KE8CUZ
K8BBK
KE8CVA
KG8FH
KD8RNO
KD8NJW
KD8VWU
N1RB
KE8FVN
N8VNT
KC8EKT
N8PYA
N8YAE
N8HMK
KC9UAL/M
KC9VAW/M (19)

Mar 21 **Traffic: 0**
N1RB (NCS)
KE8CUZ

Brain Teasers

1. When can the F2 region be expected to reach its maximum height at your location?
 - a.) at noon during the summer
 - b.) at midnight during the summer
 - c.) at dusk in the spring and fall
 - d.) at noon during the winter
2. Approximately how long is each side of a cubical quad antenna driven element for 21.4 MHz?
 - a.) 17.6 ft
 - b.) 23.4 ft
 - c.) 70.3 ft
 - d.) 175 ft
3. What is the threshold power used to determine if an RF safety evaluation is required when the operation takes place in the 20 m band?
 - a.) 50 W PEP
 - b.) 100 W PEP
 - c.) 225 W PEP
 - d.) 500 W PEP

April Contests

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

Apr 1-2	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Mississippi QSO Party		all modes
Apr 1-2	<i>1400 to 2000 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Missouri QSO Party		all modes
Apr 1-2	<i>1400 to 2000 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Texas State Parks Party		all modes
Apr 1-2	<i>1500 to 1500 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
SP (Poland) DX 'test		CW SSB
Apr 8-9	<i>0700 to 1300 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
JI (Japan) DX 'test		CW
Apr 8-9	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
OK/OM (Czecho.) DX 'test		SSB
Apr 8-9	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
New Mexico QSO Party		all modes
Apr 8-9	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Georgia QSO Party		all modes
Apr 15-16	<i>1600 to 0400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Michigan QSO Party		all modes
Apr 15-16	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Ontario QSO Party		all modes
Apr 15-16	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
North Dakota QSO Party		all modes
Apr 16	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARRL Rookie Roundup		SSB

RadioShack Again Files for Bankruptcy

from ARRL Letter

Once the go-to store for radio amateurs, electronics tinkerers, and short-wave listeners, [RadioShack](#) has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy for the second time in 2 years, placing the future of its remaining stores in jeopardy. The 1,743 retail outlets that survived RadioShack's 2015 bankruptcy were acquired by General Wireless Inc., an affiliate of Standard General LP, which, at the time, received US Bankruptcy Court approval to acquire the inventory and assume the leases of the RadioShack stores. Now down to 1,500 stores, RadioShack once boasted more than 5,000 stores nationwide. At least some of RadioShack's 5,900 employees could be affected. That figure is down from 7,500 workers 2 years ago.

"RadioShack.com, stores, and dealer locations across the country are still currently open for business and serving customers," the company said in a [news release](#). "The Company is closing approximately 200 stores and evaluating options on the remaining 1,300. The Company and its advisors are currently exploring all available strategic alternatives to maximize value for creditors, including the possibility of keeping stores open on an ongoing basis."

The acquisition by General Wireless followed a bankruptcy auction in 2015. Plans at the time called for "co-branding" about 1,440 of the surviving stores with cellular phone provider Sprint Corp. RadioShack also has closed more stores and slashed operating expenses by more than 20%, but it wasn't enough. The

company cited "surprisingly poor" mobile phone sales as a factor. Chapter 11 gives RadioShack another opportunity to restructure and stay in business. The retailer joins other brick-and-mortar stores forced to shutter outlets in the face of declining sales and fiscal losses, with electronics stores especially hard hit.

Dating its founding to 1921, RadioShack once offered a considerable array of name-brand Amateur Radio equipment -- even beams and towers -- along with home entertainment gear and discrete components -- including transistors, resistors, and capacitors. Its iconic 1960s-era catalog ran to more than 300 pages. In later years, it sold a fairly popular 2 meter handheld transceiver for a time, as well as Citizens Band equipment, 10-meter single-banders, and shortwave receivers. RadioShack's website is announcing a clearance sale, with some items steeply discounted.

"Radio Shack did more to spread the early technology culture in the US than any other commercial institution," ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, observed. "Its catalog was the *Boys' Life* of electronics. ■

Crystal Manufacturer Closing after 6 Decades

from ARNewsline

International Crystal Manufacturing, once one of the suppliers of crystals for Collins Radio, will be closing its doors by the end of May. The Oklahoma City company manufactures precision crystals, quartz crystals, oscillators, filters and other products and has been in business since 1950.

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WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Apr 4	KD8NJW
Apr 11	NM8W
Apr 18	W8PSK
Apr 25	K8OVO
May 2	WB8NQW
May 9	N1RB
May 16	KD8VWU

NEXT MEETING

Business Meeting

Monday, April 10th

TIME: 7:30/7:00 pm EB

**PLACE: Sheriff's Training
Room**

**Dunbridge Rd. &
E. Gypsy Lane Rd.
Bowling Green, OH**

crystal---from p.4

A letter on the company's website from Royden Freeland Jr. W5EMH, the son of the company's founder, said the company will honor all pending orders and would try to fill a limited number of new orders depending on the availability of raw materials.

International Crystal is considered one of the few remaining makers of crystal products based in the U.S. ICM expanded from crystals into other electronics in the 1980s, following the 1978 death of the founder and his wife in an airplane crash. It eventually went back to its core manufacture of crystals in the 1990s after selling much of its distribution and equipment business.

In addition to being a Collins supplier, ICM also provided materials to Ra-

dioShack which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy for a second time and announced that many of its 5,900 employees and 1500 remaining stores would be impacted. ■

DON'T FORGET!

**10 meter Net
meets**

Sunday@ 2030

on 28.335 MHz

Net Check Ins

Mar 21 *continued*

KC9VAW/M
K8BBK
KD8RNO
K8JU
KD8VWU
KG8FH
WB8NQW
K3RC
KA8VNG
KE8CVA
NM8W
WD8ICP
KD8DSE
N8YAE (16)

Mar 28 *Traffic: 0*

KD8NJW (NCS1)
KD8VWU (NCS2)
KE8CVA
KD8RNO
WD8JWJ
K8BBK
WB8NQW
N8VNT
KA8VNG
N1RB
WD8ICP
KC8NKC
K8JU (13)

Apr 4 *Traffic: 0*

KD8NJW (NCS)
K8BBK
KD8VWU
WB8NQW
WD8JWJ
KE8CVA
KG8FH
W8PSK
N1RB

ARRL Seeking Synergy with Maker Movement

from ARRL Letter

ARRL is reaching out to members of the Maker Movement to explore avenues of cooperation and collaboration, and perhaps to recruit some new radio amateurs. Considered an extension of the arts and crafts tradition, the Maker Movement gained its own magazine, *Make*, in 2005. The philosophy of the Maker Movement is reminiscent of an era when radio amateurs built their own equipment rather than buying it off the shelf. Those considering themselves makers have tended to focus on such areas as electronics and computers, robotics, 3D printing, metal and woodworking, and even Amateur Radio, among other avocations.

Recognizing the similar characteristics of radio amateurs and makers, the [Ham Radio](#) exhibition each summer in Friedrichshafen, Germany, has shared space with a Maker Faire, as maker gatherings are known, for the past few years. Maker Faires in the US have attracted thousands more attendees than even the largest hamfest; the Dayton of the Maker Movement takes place in San Mateo, California, and ARRL will have a presence at events in the Bay Area, both, set for April, and in Chicago later this year.

“Maker communities and makerspaces are springing up across the country, becoming the latest nexus of youthful aspirants and exotic technology, as well as the locus of highly innovative forms of experimentation — including Amateur Radio,” ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, wrote in his Second Century editorial, “Make It Happen,” appearing in April *QST*. Gallagher considers makers as “the next generation of hams.”

Gallagher suggests radio amateurs consider attending Maker Faires — not only to promote and give a presence to Amateur Radio but to learn what they have in common with makers, many of whom already are licensees. (An article in January 2017 *QST*, “Maker Faire Success for Ham Radio Clubs” by David Witkowski, W6DTW, is on Gallagher’s recommended reading list,

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Brain Teaser answers: (G) 1-a, 2-a, 3-c

April Contests—continued

Apr 22-23	1200 to 1200 Z	80 m to 10 m
UK/EI (British Isles) DX ‘test		CW
Apr 22-23	1400 to 2300 Z	160 m to 10 m
Nebraska QSO Party		all modes
Apr 29-30	1300 to 1259 Z	160 m to 10 m
Helvetia (HB) ‘test		all modes
Apr 29-30	1600 to 2159 Z	40 m to 10 m
Florida QSO Party		all modes

ARRL---from p. 6

as is an interview in the same issue with Jeri Ellsworth, AI6TK — well known in the Maker and gamer communities.)

Any radio amateur who enjoys tackling an Arduino or Raspberry Pi electronics project for the shack should find some common ground in the Maker Movement. Gallagher notes in his editorial that at last September’s Maker Faire in New York City, a club in Queens offered a simple build-a-code-practice-oscillator project, provided by QRPme.com, that only required five components. “The attendees were lined up six deep in two lines,” Gallagher recounted. “There is nothing to match the delight in the builder’s eyes when he or she first experiences the joy of oscillation.” He hinted that this could, in time, translate to new licensees.

Gallagher has more to say about the Maker Movement in his April “60-Second Century” video. ARRL began hosting these quick video clips in February, and each is posted on the [ARRL YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)

[channel](#) as well as made available via social media. Each video will become available on the 10th of each month, coincident with the release of the digital QST, and will offer a glimpse at the content of each month’s QST editorial.

As Gallagher said about the Maker Movement in his April “60-Second Century” video, “It’s in our DNA. Explore, discover, create!” ■

IOTA---from p. 1

closed bays. They must be a minimum distance from the mainland. And they must be shown and named either on Google Earth or on another officially recognized reference map. Most islands world-wide that meet these requirements are listed in the IOTA Directory. They are grouped wherever possible since they are far too numerous to be allowed to count separately. If you cannot immediately find the island you want in the list, look for the officially recognized island group name, e.g. the Canary Islands if you want to find Lanzarote. Where there

continued---on p. 8

Net Check Ins

Apr 4 *continued*

N8VNT

N8PYA

K8OVO

K3RC

WD8ICP

KD8RNO

KE8EHY

K8JU

(17)

IOTA---from p. 7

is no officially recognized group, an IOTA group name is often given to cover a range of islands in a particular geographical sector. Look through these, possibly with an atlas in hand. If the island qualifies for IOTA, it will be covered by a group in the list and will normally be named.

For a specific island, it is not always possible to know or find out if it has been activated. The Directory indicates the IOTA groups that have been activated, not individual islands unless they constitute an IOTA group on their own. These are shown with a reference

Noise Floor Increasing

from ARNewline

The noise floor is rising on the bands and so are the efforts at mitigation. In South Africa, a detailed study is about to get under way, and the South African Radio League is in search of input and expertise to assist.

In South Africa, it's time to start making some noise - some complaining noise - to help make the bands more hospitable for amateur radio. The South African Radio League is forming a study group to monitor the rising RF noise floor on the bands and to identify ways to mitigate noise from manmade sources that impacts the radio frequencies.

The radio league is collecting information from radio amateurs who may have expertise or interest in providing input to the study in preparation for a workshop being held on the 22nd of April. The open meeting will take place at the National Amateur Radio Centre in Cape Town. For more details about the workshop on the rising noise floor, or to express interest in being a part of the noise study, send an email to: sarlregwg@sarl.org.za ■

number, e.g. EU-001 for the Dodecanese. Such numbers are frequently quoted on the air or on QSL cards. IOTA groups with known qualifying islands that have yet to be activated are listed with a provisional number e.g. OC-288P. The number is confirmed as soon as a valid operation is judged to have taken place.

For the standard category of application you count one credit for a confirmed contact made on any HF amateur band with each IOTA group listed. Additional credit is not given for a second confirmed contact either with the same island or another in the group. The only exception to this is if you are running a second record in the VHF / UHF category of application.

The IOTA Contest, now one of the most popular contests in the contest calendar, is always held on the last full weekend in July each year. It is managed by the RSGB Contest Committee, not by IOTA Management. For contest information, see :

<http://www.islandradio.org> ■

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