

CQ CHATTER

MAY 2018

VOLUME B18 • ISSUE 3

WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	WB8NQW	Bob Willman
Vice President	KD8VWU	Doug Perez
Secretary	N7RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	KD8NJW	Jim Barnhouse
Board Member	KE8CVA	Terry Halliwill

<http://wcarc.bgsu.edu>

Minutes WCARC Meeting April 9, 2018

Bob-W8NQW, presiding

Present: Bob-N1RB, Bob-WB8NQW, Jim-KD8NJW, Rex-KC8PFP, Terry-KE8CVA, Jim-K8JU, Bill-WD8JWJ, Andrew-KE8GJY, Glenn Morris, Loren-W8PSK, Steve-K8BBK, Wil-KC8IFW, Chuck-WD8ICP, Tom-W8QLF, Steve-W8AN, Hoot-WB8VUL, Eric-WD8LEI

Meeting called to order: at 19:30 with Pledge of Allegiance. Bob (NQW) had all in attendance introduce themselves.

Minutes of February, 2018, meeting, as printed in March, 2018, CQ Chatter were unanimously approved (KE8CVA motion, K8JU second).

Treasurer's Report was given by Jim-KD8NJW, and unanimously approved (WD8JWJ motion, KE8CVA second).

Old Business:

- *TMRA Hamfest:* Bob asked for comments/experiences at the TMRA Hamfest. Many comments and anecdotes were related—all had a positive experience.
- *Repeaters:* Bob asked if there were any comments on the operation of the repeaters. All comments were positive about the performance of both the 78/18 and the Fusion machines. He mentioned that he thought he had noticed a cut-off in the hourly time ID script on the 78/18 machine that could mean a problem with the controller. Further observation will be made.
- *Foxhunt:* The next Foxhunt is slated for April 28th and Bob related that there is much yet to be done in preparation. The beacons are in progress—Steve (AN) said that he had three nano-Arduino ID's ready and parts for one more. Ter-

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Net Check Ins

Apr 3 **Traffic: 0**

WB8NQW **(NCS)**
KE8CVA
KG8FH
WD8JWJ
KD8NJW
W8PSK
KD8RNO
WD8LEI
K8JU
N1RB
K8BBK **(11)**

Apr 10 **Traffic: 0**

N1RB **(NCS)**
KD8RNO
K8BBK
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
WD8LEI
W8PSK
WB8NQW
KD8NJW
N8VNT
WD8ICP
KC8IFW
KG8FH **(13)**

Brain Teasers

1. If an ammeter marked in amperes is used to measure a 3000-milliampere current, what reading would it show?
 - a.) 0.003 A
 - b.) 0.3 A
 - c.) 3 A
 - d.) 3,000,000 A
2. What does an SWR reading of less than 1.5:1 mean?
 - a.) an impedance match that is too low
 - b.) an impedance mismatch—something may be wrong with the antenna system
 - c.) a fairly good impedance match
 - d.) an antenna gain of 1.5 dB
3. What are some of the reasons you should never operate a power amplifier unless its covers are in place?
 - a.) to maintain the required high operating temperatures of the equipment and reduce rf radiation exposure
 - b.) to reduce the risk of shock from high voltages and reduce rf radiation exposure
 - c.) to ensure that the amplifier will go into self oscillation and to minimize the effects of stray capacitance
 - d.) to minimize the effects of stray inductance and to reduce the risk of shock from high voltage

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 5-6	<i>0001 to 2359 Z</i>	10 m
10-10 Int'l Spring 'test		CW
May 5-6	<i>1200 to 1159 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
ARI (Italy) Int'l DX 'test		all modes
May 5-6	<i>1300 to 0700 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
7th Call Area QSO Party		all modes
May 5-6	<i>1500 to 0300 Z</i>	160 m to 6 m
Indiana QSO Party		all modes
May 5-6	<i>1700 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Delaware QSO Party		all modes
May 5-6	<i>2000 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
New England QSO Party		all modes
May 12-13	<i>1200 to 1159 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CQ-M Int'l DX 'test (Russia)		CW SSB
May 12-13	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Arkansas QSO Party		all modes
May 18-20	<i>0900 to 1700 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Portuguese Navy Day 'test		all modes
May 19-20	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
EU PSK DX 'test		PSK
May 19-20	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
King of Spain 'test		CW
May 26-27	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CQ WW WPX 'test		CW

minutes— from p. 1

ry (CVA) has purchased five water-tight containers for the beacons, and Eric (LEI) was placed in charge of ordering the beacon HTs, antenna connectors and dummy loads. Bob (NQW) will help in the assembly.

- **Recruiting:** Bob suggested that some effort be made to touch base with college-aged students at BGSU and elsewhere. He proposes the development of a document for attracting new members of this age group. Rex (PFP) and Bob (RB) will work on developing it. Will (IFW) will see that it gets distributed through the BGSU media.
- **CW Class:** CW instruction is moving into its 5th week under the tutelage of WB8NQW. The class reports that progress is being made.

New Business:

- **Field Day:** scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, June 23/24. Bob announced that the Historical Museum space has been reserved. He called for volunteers to handle the various components needed to make it a success. Phil (PSK) will not be available that weekend, so he will give his long wire and sling shot launcher to Terry (CVA). Bob (RB) volunteered to manage the equipment (transceivers, tuners, etc.) If you have a piece that you wish to use, just let him know. Bill (JWJ) raised an issue that with more than 5 separate stations, we may need to construct a band opera-

tion schedule to handle sharing them without interference.

- **Other Items:** Bob asked if there was any interest in a Technician license class. No immediate response was had.
- Bob asked for all to monitor for any mess-ups in the 78/18 repeater ID.
- Phil (PSK) is looking for someone to climb his sixty foot tower to do antenna work.
- Eric (LEI) reported that there is a problem with the ARES VHF repeater, and he will try to take care of it in the next few weeks.
- Jim (JU) reported that the Ohio Preppers will be holding an Expo on June 9/10. He has tickets at 50% off.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 20:10 (WD8LEI motion, KE8CVA second) ■

Hamvention Diversion: VOA

from ARNewsline

If you're heading to the Hamvention in May, there's one stop you'll want to make. When the lights go out at the Greene County Fairgrounds after a busy day at the Hamvention, what happens next? The National Voice of America's Museum of Broadcasting has that answer: A visit to West Chester, Ohio, a half-hour or so away from the convention by car. The museum is open for extended hours during Hamven-

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WCARC Weekly Net
Tuesdays at 2100 all year
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL
Net Control Roster

<i>May 1</i>	<i>K8OVO</i>
<i>May 8</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>May 22</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>
<i>May 29</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>Jun 5</i>	<i>K8OVO</i>

NEXT MEETING

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, May 5th

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE:

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

10 meter Net
informal group
meets

Sunday

@ 20:30

on 28.335 MHz

Fusion Net

Thursday

@ 19:30

on 442.125 MHz

67 Hz PL on FM

discussion of all

things digital

Net Check Ins

Apr 17 **Traffic: 0**

KD8VWU **(NCS)**
KE8CUZ
K8BBK
KC8EKT
WD8ICP
KG8FH
WD8JWJ
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
W8PSK
N8VNT
N1RB
WD8LEI/M
KE8CVA
KD8GJY **(15)**

Apr 24 **Traffic: 0**

KD8NJW **(NCS)**
K8BBK
WD8JWJ
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
W8PSK
N1RB
KD8VWU
KE8CVA
KE8CUZ
WD8ICP
K8JU
KG8FH **(13)**

Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees

from ARRL Letter

The ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its [Petition](#). "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League's proposal.

ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in

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the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a “periodic rebalancing” between those two objectives, the League maintains.

“There has not been such a rebalancing in many years,” ARRL said in its petition. “It is time to do that now.” The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific, data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic that includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses. “The Committee’s analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or

even 20 years ago,” ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 378,000, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL said that after 17 years of experience with the current Technician license as the gateway to Amateur Radio, it’s urgent to make it more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education “that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service,” ARRL asserted.

ARRL said its proposal is critical to developing improved operating skills, increasing emergency communication participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

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May Hamfests

May 18-20 Dayton ARA. Hamvention®. Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, Xenia, OH. web: <http://www.hamvention.org>

Jun 2 Fulton County ARC. Annual Swap and Shop. Roth Family Woodlot, Wauseon, OH. web: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

Jun 3 Chelsea ARC. Annual Swap Meet. 20501 W. Old US Highway 12, Chelsea, MI. web: <http://wd8iel.com>

VOA—*from p. 4*

tion weekend, and visitors can get an early start on Thursday when the museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m. The museum will have especially late hours until 9 p.m. on Friday May 18th and Saturday May 19th.

This historic site, known as VOA's Bethany Station, had six of the world's most powerful shortwave transmitters sending messages to Europe, Africa and South America between 1944 and 1994, when the studio finally went silent. Attendees can visit the exhibits dedicated to broadcast pioneer Powel Crosley Jr., see a huge collection of Drake Amateur Radio gear and VOA's remaining 250,000-watt transmitter as well as the 1960s master control room. Or do what hams enjoy best: get on the air from the ham shack for WC8VOA, the West Chester Amateur Radio Association.

For more information on hours and exhibits visit <http://voamuseum.org> - and see you at the VOA! ■

Field Day is Coming!!

On the weekend of Saturday-Sunday, June 23-24, the WCARC will participate in the annual Field Day activity. If the participation from last year is any guide, this year's event should be full of enthusiastic participants.

Once again, the Club has reserved the premises of the Wood County Historical Society for its operating venue. Many of the hams who take part

bring in campers or camping equipment with plans to spend Saturday night operating. Each separate station uses a separate antenna, and last year there were five separate operating positions. There is a chance that we may even exceed that number this year.

The fun will begin around noon on Saturday, June 23rd, with the hanging of the large loop antenna that has the old oil derrick as one anchor point. The other anchors are provided by various trees surrounding the field near the blacksmith forge.

The aim is to have all the preparations complete by the time 2:00 o'clock rolls around and the contest begins. Once the confusion begins, and all stations are in full-swing operation, the object is to make as many QSOs as possible in as many different ARRL sections as possible. For a list of the ARRL sections, consult the front of a QST magazine.

Around 5:00 o'clock, when people start to get hungry, the designated chef fires up the grill and starts cooking. All friends, family and members of the WCARC are welcome to join in. Please bring a potluck salad, vegetable, or dessert dish to share. It is a tradition that a lot of tall tales are shared during and after the meal.

When the dinner is over, most of the operating positions continue to pile up the contacts until late into the night. It has been common for four or five operators to camp overnight

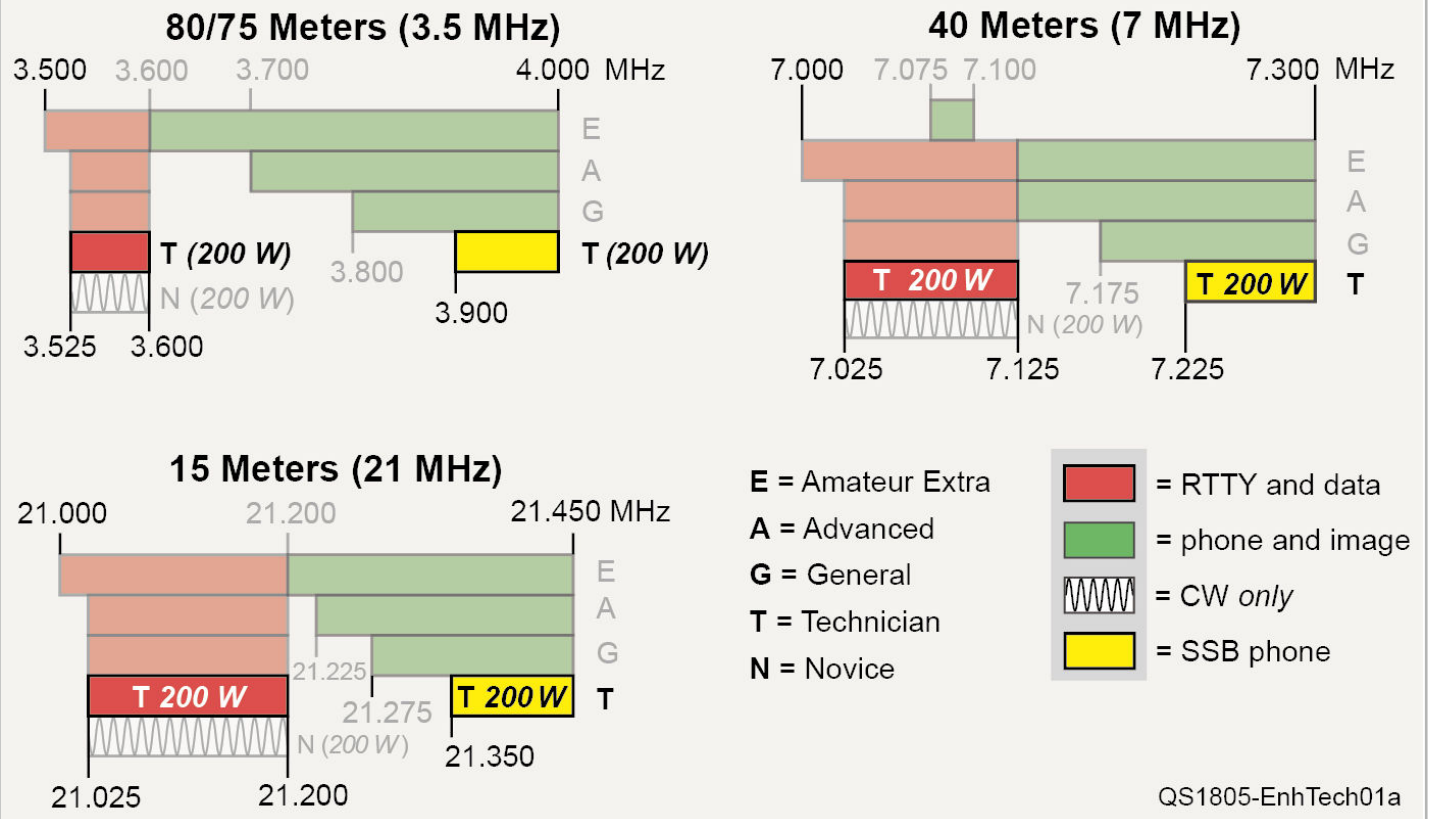
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The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges.

ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination

preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs. See the chart below for details of the newly proposed allocations. ■



Newly proposed Technician Class HF frequency privileges as contained in new ARRL petition to FCC

privileges—*from p. 8*

and continue their operations throughout the night, occasionally catching a few winks here and there. It is also planned to have an early breakfast on Sunday morning, usually eggs and sausage or bacon.

Around noon on Sunday, the tear-down begins, and the equipment is stowed away until next year. If you would like to participate, or just observe, please contact Bob, WB8NQW, at blcksmth@wcnet.org. If you are planning to join in the dinner on Saturday, it is helpful if you indicate what you are bringing for potluck—salad, side, or dessert. Field Day is always a lot of fun—please join us! ■

**WOOD COUNTY ARC
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