

CQ Chatter

MAY 2019

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WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	WB8NQW	Bob Willman
Vice President	KD8VWU	Doug Perez
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	KD8NJW	Jim Barnhouse

Minutes ***WCARC Meeting*** **April 8, 2019**

Bob-W8NQW, presiding

Present: Eric-WD8LEI, Terry-KE8CVA, Bill-WD8JWJ, Rex-KC8PFP, Jim-KD8N-JW, Phil-W8PSK, Steve-K8BBK, Bob-WB8NQW, Stan-K8LL, Chuck-WD8ICP

Meeting called to order: at 19:32 with Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of February business meeting as published in March CQ Chatter were approved (NJW/CVA).

Treasurer's Report was submitted and approved (JWJ/CVA).

Announcements and Reports:

- Bob reported that he manned the Club Table at the TMRA hamfest. He passed out the printed flyers and also

displayed the Silent Key plaque. All seemed to appreciate it. There was an encouraging increase in attendance this year.

- Bob expressed thanks to N1RB for the awesome newsletter that he edits.

Old Business:

- Due to the audio problems with the 147.18/78 repeater, the Technical Committee plans to swap cable pairs in near future. Chuck (ICP) suggested that the net be moved to the ARES 146.79/19 machine but it was decided to check the pairs first.
- Eric (LEI) reported that the antennas on the Sheriff Department roof are repaired. Further updates are still required.
- Bob once again brought up the topic of what to do about the Club's assets and updated Phil (PSK) since he was away for the winter.

New Business:

- Eric (LEI) reported that there isn't much new to convey about the upcom-

continued---on p. 4

Net Check Ins

Apr 2 **Traffic: 0**

KD8NJW (NCS)
K8BBK
KE8CVA
KG8FH
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
W8PSK
K8JU
KC8EKT
KD8VWU (10)

Apr 9 **Traffic: 0**

N1RB (NCS)
KE8CUZ/M
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
WB8NQW
KD8NJW
W8PSK
WD8JWJ
KD8RNO
N8VNT
WD8LEI/M
K8OVO
KG8FH
KD8VWU (14)

BRAIN TEASERS

1. What causes tropospheric ducting?
 - a.) discharges of lightning during electrical storms
 - b.) sunspots and solar flares
 - c.) updrafts from hurricanes and tornadoes
 - d.) temperature inversions in the atmosphere
2. What is the most common cause of failure in coaxial cables?
 - a.) moisture contamination
 - b.) gamma rays
 - c.) velocity factor exceeds 1.0
 - d.) overloading
3. What is the amount of change in dB, of a power increase from 20 W to 200 W ?
 - a.) 10 dB
 - b.) 12 dB
 - c.) 20 dB
 - d.) 24 dB

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 4-5	1200 to 1159 Z	80 m to 10 m
ARI (Italy) Int'l DX 'test		all modes
May 4-5	1300 to 0700 Z	160 m to 10 m
7th Call Area QSO Party		all modes
May 4-5	1500 to 0300 Z	160 m to 10 m
Indiana QSO Party		SSB/CW
May 4-5	1700 to 2359 Z	160 m to 10 m
Delaware QSO Party		SSB/CW
May 4-5	2000 to 2359 Z	80 m to 10 m
New England QSO Party		all modes
May 4-5	0001 to 2359 Z	10 m
10-10 Int'l Spring 'test		CW
May 11-12	1200 to 1159 Z	160 m to 10 m
CQ-M (Russia) Int'l DX 'test		SSB/CW
May 11-12	1400 to 0200 Z	80 m to 10 m
Arkansas QSO Party		all modes
May 17-19	0900 to 1700 Z	80 m to 10 m
Portugal Navy Day 'test		all modes
May 18-19	1200 to 1200 Z	160 m to 10 m
King of Spain 'test		CW
May 18-19	1200 to 1200 Z	80 m to 10 m
EU PSK DX 'test		PSK
May 25-26	0000 to 2359 Z	160 m to 10 m
CA WW WPX 'test		CW

minutes— from p. 1

ing GOBA ride. He will keep everyone informed.

- Eric mentioned that amateur assistance may be needed for the Bikes4Tykes event that will be taking place on the weekend of April 13-14. He will advise if volunteers are needed.
- As Field Day gets closer and closer, the need for volunteers to handle the various jobs grows. Bob (RB) has offered to take care of equipment and coordination of operating positions as before. As yet, there have been no volunteers for food coordination—is a potluck desired? How about breakfast?
- The Dayton Hamvention is approaching in mid-May. Club members who attend should monitor 147.18 simplex to talk to the group.
- An ad for shirts with club logos from KA7UNW are available at: www.etsy.com/shop/KA7UNW. Could be an option for wearing at events.
- Eric (LEI) said a few words about the ARES Hospital Net and what its purpose is. He detailed how the net is run and why.

Adjournment: at 20:46 (PSK/NJW). ■

CW: What's The Attraction and How Does One Learn It?

by *Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE* on e-ham.net

Before I can answer the question why CW would be of interest to any ham in to-

day's high tech world, let's spend some time first on how it all got started back in the day of the telegraph.

The telegraph was developed in the 1830s-1840s by Samuel Morse (1791-1872) and other inventors. It was revolutionary long distance communications done by transmitting electrical signals over wires between stations. Morse invented a code (Morse Code) that assigned a set of dots and dashes to each letter of the English alphabet, which gave an understandable format to the electrical signals.

The first telegraph transmission in 1844 was between Washington DC and Baltimore, and by 1866 an oceanic line had linked the USA and Europe. By the end of the 19th century, telegraph communications became the backbone of our country. Yet with the invention of the telephone, telegraph lines became of less importance in the early part of the 20th century. However, Morse Code (CW or continuous wave) continued to be used with the newly developed radio transmitters of that era. Even with the advent of AM transmission and later SSB, CW was the preferred mode for ship-to-shore, commercial and military applications through the 1950s due to its effectiveness to get through in poor atmospheric conditions with compromised equipment. With the coming of microwave, fax and satellites, CW use waned, but maintained its major use among the amateur radio community.

So is there value in CW today, or is it a lost art of the past? Let's take look back

continued---on p. 6

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

<i>Apr 30</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>
<i>May 7</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>May 14</i>	<i>K8OVO</i>
<i>May 21</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>May 28</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Jun 4</i>	<i>KD8VWU</i>

NEXT MEETING

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday

May 4

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE:

Frisch's Restaurant
N. Main St. & 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 16

Traffic: 0

WB8NQW (NCS)

K8BBK

KC8EKT

WD8LEI

KD8NJW

N1RB

KD8RNO

KD8VWU

N8VNT

W8PSK

KE8CVA

WD8JWJ

K8JU

(13)

Apr 23

Traffic: 0

N1RB (NCS)

K8BBK

KD8RNO

KE8CVA

KC8EKT

KG8FH

WB8NQW

KD8NJW

W8PSK

N8VNT

KA8VNG

WD8ICP

KE8CUZ

(13)

CW—from p. 4

to what it was like when I first got my license in 1965 when CW was still required by the FCC. The FCC required all entry level Novices to be able to copy 5 words per minute. Back then there were no computers, internet or software for learning CW, so an aspiring Novice had to seek out a local ham to help with learning CW and theory. That local ham would also give the Novice exam and code test. There were no repeaters, so most all hams were HF-active and imparted these skills to their eager students. So there was a direct connection between aspiring Novices and established HF operators. Seeing the experienced operators handling CW at high speeds was fascinating and motivating. There was also something very engaging about hearing CW over what we now call Boat Anchor radios. When one tuned one of those vintage radios and saw the glow of the tubes, it felt like real solid equipment which we developed admiration and respect for. For some older hams today, the need to own those very rigs is due to this same connection made years ago.

Once we became Novices, we were not allowed to have VFO privileges and we worked off crystals. This meant we were stuck with a handful of individual frequencies. Our first receivers were not the best, and we had to learn to receive CW with drifting receivers, poor sensitivity and no selectivity, the very things we take for granted in modern radios. These challenges made us excellent listeners and with that our speeds and CW skills increased as we progressed in the hobby. Back then to get a General license, 13 words per minute was required and 20 for the Extra. As we became more proficient to reach these required speeds, we developed head copy and CW became a language and not a series of dots and dashes. This is why many of the older hams still prefer CW to voice and digital as they have developed a strong connection to the CW mode. To me there is nothing more satisfying in the ham radio hobby than having a CW QSO at a rapid speed with the chal-

May Hamfests

May 17-19 Dayton ARA. Annual Hamvention and ARRL National Convention.

Greene County Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH . web: <http://www.hamvention.org>

June 1 Fulton County ARC. Annual Hamfest. Roth Family Woodlot, Wauseon,

OH. web: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

June 2 Chelsea ARC. Annual Hamfest. Chelsea Fairgrounds, Chelsea, MI. web:

<http://wd8iel.com>

CW—from p. 6

lence of copying in poor conditions, making few sending mistakes.

So getting back to the original purpose of this article: why should we be interested in CW today? I can list a host of reasons as follows:

- CW can get out better when the ham has a compromised antenna or low power. CW is ideal for QRP and portable operations. With weak signals it's harder to comprehend SSB than it is CW, so CW has a clear advantage.
- CW can be copied easier under today's poor atmospheric conditions
- Sometimes it's nice to operate your radio and not have to physically talk.
- CW bands are less crowded than the SSB portions, so there is less competition to make a contact.
- The challenge to send CW well is always there. We call that 'having a good 'fist' .
- CW is like a language and it's no doubt good exercise for one's cognitive health and hearing.

Knowing CW requires a good knowledge of operating techniques and protocols which will challenge the individual

ham. So one might ask, why CW if we have FT8 or other digital modes which can also get out in poor conditions. The digital modes leave most of the skill to a computer where CW is 100% the skill of the operator. To me it is truly more rewarding to make a CW QSO than sit idly by a computer and have it done for you, yet this is for any ham a personal choice.

Since CW was eliminated from the FCC license requirements in 1991, exams have been issued by Voluntary Examiners. In many cases after the exam, there is no longer any connection between the examiner and the new licensee. Most new hams think that our hobby all revolves around an HT and repeaters. Some have no idea of the thrill of operating on the HF bands or the attraction of CW. Unfortunately a lot of these new hams become inactive as they are not engaged. With this deficit of active hams, when it comes to contests like Field Day and other special events, the demand for CW operators far exceeds what is available today.

continued--on p. 8

CW—from p. 7

So what is there to do about this? I myself, along with my friend Rich K2UPS, decided to make a difference. In 2018, we established the Long Island CW Club (longislandcwclub.org). We teach CW via a video conference platform at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Students get actual QSO training also by video conference for honing technique and increasing skill. We have found the interest very high from the students and everyone is having a lot of fun. The retro-ness of CW is very appealing in today's fast moving world, and it's nice to make a connection to the bands with art and skill. It does take some dedication to learn CW and this commitment, like learning any language is not for everyone. So how does one learn CW?

- Using a combination of what are called the Koch and Farnsworth methods, we send CW at 20 words per minute character speed, but with spacing between letters at 5 words per minute. This method acclimates the student to higher speeds from the beginning and prevents the counting of dots and dashes, which can only slow the learning curve
- We teach 11 classes of 1 hour per week at various levels. For beginners, the student needs to practice 15-20 minutes daily using G4FON CW software; 4 letters and/or numbers are taught per week.
- Sending skills are honed along the way.
- QSO skills are taught live as soon as a student can send their call sign and 599. We feel it's important to get students on

the air quickly to help mitigate any fears and to see the value of their studies. Like learning any language, I must admit there is a dropout rate, as some students find out they don't have the time or commitment. However those who stick it out are rewarded by carrying on a skill and tradition that is most enjoyable and unique.

I hope after reading this article, hams that were considering to learn CW or had it on the 'back burner' will now spring into action. See you on the lower part of the HF bands! ■

Where It All Started...

from Hamvention.org

Since 1952 Hamvention® has been sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from around the globe. In about 1950, John Willig, W8ACE, asked DARA to sponsor a HAM Convention, but was turned down. John wanted to have a quality affair. Speakers and prizes would be a drawing point. John finally found a champion in Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), the newly elected president of the Club. A meeting was held, and the DARA Board allocated \$100 to get started. The first organizational meeting was held in January 1952. The Southwestern Ohio Ham-vention was born. The first committee consisted of: John Willig, W8ACE, General Chairman; Al Dinsmore, W8AUN, Arrangements; Bob Siff, W8QDI (K4AMG), Prizes and Exhibits;

continued---on p. 9

hamvention— from p. 8

Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), Publicity; Bob Montgomery, W8CUJ, Finance; Clem Wolford, W8ENH, Program; Ellie Haburton, W8GJP (W4ZVW), Women's Committee.

The next year, the name became "Dayton Hamvention®" and was registered as a trademark. April was determined to be the best time, but the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Dayton was booked. March 22 was the chosen date, causing a short lead time. How far did \$100 go? Not far! A 12" TV was raffled off to help raise funds. The FCC agreed to give license exams, and Phil Rand, W1BDM, a pioneer in TVI elimination was on the program.

The first prize, a Collins 75A2, was purchased locally. Hoping for 300 visitors, the committee was amazed that over 600 showed up! There were 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The ladies program was successful with a luncheon at the Biltmore and a trip to a local TV station.

In 1955, the Awards Program began with the "Amateur of the Year." The Flea Market has grown from 200 to more than 2000 spaces.

In 1964, the Hamvention® moved to Hara Arena. Shuttle buses and handicapped parking were added in 1969. In 1973, it became a 2 day event with Sundays added in 1974. The program has grown to a "Souvenir Program" and in 1976, the dimensions changed from 6"x9" to the current 8-1/2"x11". Two years ago, because of the demise of Hara Arena, the event was moved to the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, OH, where there is a lot more room to spread out. ■

Recipe Corner

Hot and Sour Soup Beijing Style from an old family recipe -ed

1/4-cup	shredded pork or beef
1-tsp	cornstarch
1/4-cup	"wood ears" or strip-sliced mushrooms if unavailable
1/4 cup	bamboo shoots-jullienned
2 1/2-tbsp	cornstarch
1/2-cup	cold water
2-tbsp	vinegar
1/4-tsp	white pepper (or hotter red pepper if desired)
3 1/2-cups	soup stock (pork or chicken)
3/4-tsp	salt
1 1/2-tbsp	soy sauce (I recommend <i>Kikkoman</i> low sodium)
1/2-cup	shredded tofu
1	egg (beaten)
1-tsp	sesame oil
1-tbsp	minced green onions

Mix shredded pork and corn starch together. Soak wood ears in 2 cups boiling water. Cover and soak 15 minutes. If using mushrooms, saute first. Snap off wood pieces from wood ears if any. Break large pieces of wood ears into smaller pieces. Wash, drain and squeeze out water.

Mix 2 1/2 tablespoons of cornstarch with 1/2 cup cold water.

Put cider vinegar, white pepper in a large serving bowl.

Put soup stock (you can use 1 can + 1 1/2 cups water minus the 1 teaspoon salt) and 1 tablespoon soy sauce in a medium sauce pan. Bring to a boil and stir in mixed pork (beef).

Boil 1 minute and add wood ears (mushrooms) and bamboo shoots. Boil another minute and add bean curd. As soon as soup boils again stir in corn starch mixture.

Mix in 1 beaten egg and remove from heat immediately.

Pour into serving bowl with vinegar and pepper. Garnish with sesame oil and minced green onions. ■

**WOOD COUNTY ARC
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