

CQ Chatter

OCTOBER 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

Foxhunt a Success on September 7th

The WCARC held its summer foxhunt on Saturday, Sept. 7, immediately following the bi-monthly breakfast meeting. Bob-WB8NQW served as the wily fox and positioned himself in a location northeast of Bowling Green. The four participants: Hoot - WB8VUL, Terry - KE8CVA, Lynn - KD8RNO and Phil - W8PSK, immediately jumped into action. After almost an hour, the first hound to find the fox was KE8CVA, who did not need to use sophisticated direction-finding equipment.

Rather, Terry employed the simple but effective technique of using his body to shield his HT antenna to determine the direction of the transmissions. Second prize was won by W8PSK, and third prize by WB8VUL.

It should be mentioned that the prizes were in fact virtual ones, but the hunters can at least be happy about being able to find the fox and having fun doing it. ■

Ontario considering permanent two-way radio exemption for Amateurs

From Southgate ARNews

Distracted driving regulations continue to be an area of interest for many Canadian Radio Amateurs and their U. S. visitors. These regulations are made and enforced by provincial governments and can vary considerably from province to province, and over time.

In Ontario, RAC Directors Allan Boyd, VE3AJB (Ontario North/East) and Phil McBride, VA3QR (Ontario South) have been working hard on this issue.

On December 15, 2017, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) announced that the current two-way radio exemption for "Amateur Radio operators and specified commercial, public transit, and public function drivers was extended for a further three-years until January 1,

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Net Check Ins

Sep 10

Traffic: 0

N1RB (NCS)

KE8CUZ

K8BBK

KE8CVA

KG8FH

KC8EKT

WD8LEI

K8OVO

WB8NQW

KD8NJW

KD8RNO

W8PSK

KA8VNG

WD8JWJ

K8LL (15)

Sep 17

Traffic: 0

KD8VWU (NCS)

K8BBK

KC8EKT

KE8CVA

KG8FH

WD8JWJ

WD8LEI

WB8NQW

W8PSK

KD8RNO

N1RB

N8VNT

KB8QEW

WD8ICP (14)

BRAIN TEASERS

1. What is the relationship between the current through an inductor and the voltage across it?
 - a.) voltage leads current by 90°
 - b.) current leads voltage by 90°
 - c.) voltage and current are 180° out of phase
 - d.) voltage and current are in phase
2. What is the best time of day for transequatorial propagation?
 - a.) morning
 - b.) noon
 - c.) afternoon or early evening
 - d.) late at night
3. What happens to the bandwidth of an antenna as it is shortened through the use of loading coils?
 - a.) it is increased
 - b.) it is decreased
 - c.) no change occurs
 - d.) it becomes flat

October Contests

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

Oct 5-6	0800 to 0800 Z	160 m to 10 m
Oceania DX 'test		SSB
Oct 5-6	1600 to 2200 Z	160 m to 10 m
California QSO Party		all modes
Oct 6	0500 to 2300 Z	80 m to 10 m
RSGB DX 'test		CW/SSB
Oct 12-13	0300 to 2100 Z	160 m to 10 m
Nevada QSO Party		all modes
Oct 12-13	0800 to 0800 Z	160 m to 10 m
Oceania DX 'test		CW
Oct 12-13	1600 to 2200 Z	160 m to 10 m
Pennsylvania QSO Party		all modes
Oct 12-13	1600 to 2359 Z	160 m to 10 m
Arizona QSO Party		all modes
Oct 12-13	1800 to 1800 Z	160 m to 10 m
South Dakota QSO Party		all modes
Oct 19-20	1400 to 0200 Z	160 m to 10 m
New York QSO Party		all modes
Oct 20-21	1700 to 0100 Z	160 m to 10 m
Illinois QSO Party		all modes
Oct 21-25	1300 to 2359 Z	160 m to 10 m
ARRL School Roundup		all modes
Oct 26-27	0000 to 2359 Z	160 m to 10 m
CQ WW DX 'test		SSB

What is an Electronic QSL Anyway?

by **Bob, N1RB**

The practice of exchanging QSL cards when amateurs make a contact over the air dates back to very beginnings of the hobby. The idea of exchanging a postcard containing the contact information with another station, including the call, date, time, frequency, mode, signal report and a reply address swiftly became popular even in the early days of spark transmission. In one way, the QSL gave a ham bragging rights to back up his claim of a long distance contact. It also served as a way of striking up friendships with other hams that one had frequent contacts with. To this day, many hams use a printed QSL as sort of a calling card when being introduced to other hams.

With the advent of computer logging programs and thereby the storage of log-books as digital files, the idea of having an electronic QSL service in lieu of the sometimes clumsy snail mail postcard/QSL bureau route caught on. One reason that many hams collect QSL cards for their contacts is because they provide evidence to the organizations that offer many prestigious amateur awards—certificates for working all states (WAS), working one hundred different countries (DXCC), working all world zones (WAZ), working 400 different prefixes (WPX) and many, many more, are points of pride to the DX'er.

As originally set up, all these awards require the applicant to submit the appro-

priate original QSL cards as proof of the contacts that are required. It is in fact possible to still apply for just about any award using this method.

However, about twenty years ago, several groups got the idea that, since hams are using digital logs now, it would be much more efficient for the applicant to submit the log containing the confirmations electronically over the internet, thus bypassing the whole snail mail/QSL bureau route.

One of the original entities to start performing this service was eqsl.cc. It is a completely volunteer organization, and one can become a member for free. There are of course additional benefits to be had for an additional fee. The basic idea is that a ham sends a digital file of his log to *eqsl* and their server identifies QSO matches with other stations who have also submitted their logs. The user logs on and opens his InBox to see what QSOs have been matched up. He then consults his log to check whether the station, date, time and frequency match up and if so, confirms the QSO, thus providing an electronic QSL exchange on the honor system. The station on the other end can receive the confirmation as an e-mail.

Unfortunately, QSOs confirmed in this way are not recognized by any of the significant awarding agencies. In particular the ARRL, which handles WAS, WAC and DXCC; CQ magazine, which handles WAZ and WPX awards among others, also did not recognize the honor system set up by *eqsl*. Perhaps this attitude

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WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Oct 1	K8OVO
Oct 8	WB8NQW
Oct 15	N1RB
Oct 22	KD8VWU
Oct 29	KD8NJW
Nov 5	K8OVO
Nov 12	WB8NQW

NEXT MEETING

Business Meeting

Monday

October 14

TIME: 7:30/7:00-EB PM

PLACE:

Sheriff's Training Room

S. Dunbridge Rd. &

E. Gypsy Lane 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

Sep 24 Traffic: 0

KD8NJW (NCS)
KD8RNO
N8VNT
KC8EKT
KE8CVA
WB8NQW
W8PSK
N1RB
NM8W
KG8FH
WD8ICP
K8BBK
WD8LEI (13)

Oct 1 Traffic: 0

N1RB (NCS)
KE8CVA
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
KD8RNO
K8BBK
KG8FH/M
KE8IJR (8)

QSL—*from p. 4*

stems from their intimate knowledge of the degree of rabidity that many DX aficionados employ.

At the same time, a group at the ARRL was attempting to set up an electronic QSL system that would guarantee that the QSO was legitimate by using a double-blind system. It was implemented a couple of years after *eqsl*, and is based on a public key-private key method of identifying the owner of a particular log, and thus the QSL that results from a match-up with another ham's log.

For this reason, the application process is rather cumbersome, because an applicant must first receive a password via postcard, then use this to register for an encrypted electronic key which then authorizes him to enroll in the logbook of the world (*LoTW*) system. The key to using the system is the software application *tqsl* (trusted qsl) that is available for download from the ARRL site. There are versions for all popular platforms: Windows, MacOSX and Linux. One of the nice features of *LoTW* is that it automatically keeps track of all your contacts, matches them up with everybody else's logs (if in the system) and then automatically reports on your status for several of the awards that the ARRL handles (WAS, DXCC, VUCC) as well a couple that CQ magazine awards (WPX, WAZ). The application for *LoTW* is free to all, but of course one must become an ARRL member to apply for their awards, or be a subscriber to the magazine to apply for the CQ awards.

The *eqsl* QSL system is not recognized by the main award granting entities, so they have set up a system of so-called e-awards (at a cost) that they will provide for achievements similar to the requirements for WAS, DXCC, etc. In addition to *eqsl* and *LoTW*, there are a number of other informal digital QSL services such as QRZ.com (membership required) and QRZCQ.com, which is based in Europe. For those who want a modern, simple way to keep track of their QSLs with little or no expense, any of the above systems will do the job—it's just a matter of how serious you are about the wall-paper. ■

Ontario—from p. 1

2021.” The latest report is that the Ministry is currently considering making the two-way radio exemption permanent and it has invited comments on this proposal as well as any additional suggestions or comments on how it could minimize distracted driving while supporting economic growth and prosperity in the province. ■

Suggestions Wanted

The annual kick-off banquet that is held in January of each year has been held at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in recent years. Unfortunately, the building is no longer available.

At the last Business meeting, WB8N-QW requested suggestions for a new venue to hold the event in 2020. Basic requirements are for a separate meeting room to house 25 or 30 people if possible, a reasonable price level, and—always remember—buffets are very popular with the WCARC members and families. If you have any ideas, let any of the Officers know. ■

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Asking \$85.00 OBO

Chuck-WD8ICP

419-601-9188 or dicken@bgsu.edu



October Hamfests

October 12 Northwest Ohio ARC Hamfest. Allen County Fairgrounds Rabbit Bldg, Lima, OH. web: <http://nwoarc.com>

October 27 Utica-Shelby ECA. ARC Hamfest. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876, Madison Hts, MI. web: <http://usecaarc.com>

November 3 Massillon ARC Hamfest. Massillon Boy's and Girl's Club, Massillon, OH. web: <http://w8np.org>

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