Field Day 2021

Another Field Day is in the books. At about noon on Saturday, the gang hoisted up the all-band loop antenna as well as a trap dipole between the trees. The weather was beautiful and attendance was excellent. Participating this year were: W8PSK, KG8FH, W8PSK, W4LAT, K8DLF, WB8ZHU, WE8TOM, KB8QEW, WD8JWJ, K8LL and KG4UL.

The Club ran in Class 6A (6 transmitters on emergency power) this year. We had visits from Wood County Commissioner, Greg Lahote-K8IXL and from the ARRL Ohio Section Manager, Tom Sly-WB8LCD. Quite a few members of the general public also stopped by to see what the operation was all about. ∎

AREDN Group Meets

The Wood County ARES AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) met at the Fairgrounds Sheriff's HQ on Monday, July 12th. The goal of the group is to establish a mesh network of nodes that operate at WiFi frequencies (2.5 GHz and up). The availability of reasonably inexpensive commercially available equipment has made it feasible for operators to construct emergency "go"-boxes that are battery operated and that can be used to exchange messages, video information, etc., over a private mesh network that can consist of any number of AREDN nodes. This capability is useful for handling emergency situations or other events such as races,

Net Check Ins-I

Jul 6   *Traffic: 0*
> *WB8NQW   (NCS)*
> *WD8LEI*
> *KD8RNO*
> *W8PSK*
> *N1RB*
> *KD8NJW*
> *WD8ICP*
> *KE8CVA/P*
> *KE8PJM*
> *KG8FH*
> *KA8VNG*
> *KE8QGV*
> *WD8JWJ   (13)*

Jul 13   *Traffic: 0*
> *KG8FH   (NCS)*
> *K8BBK*
> *WE8TOM*
> *KB8QEW*
> *KC8EKT*
> *WB8NQW*
> *KE8QGV*
> *W8PSK*
> *KA8VNG*
> *KD8RNO*
> *WD8LEI*
> *N1RB*
> *N8VNT*
> *KE8QWV*
> *WD8ICP*
> *KE8PJM*
> *KE8CUZ*
> *KE8CVA/P (18)*

Brain Teasers

1. What is a primary advantage of using a toroidal core instead of a linear core in an inductor?

a.) toroidal cores contain most of the magnetic field within the core material

b.) toroidal cores make it easier to couple the magnetic energy into other components

c.) toroidal cores exhibit greater hysteresis

d.) toroidal cores have lower Q characteristics

2. What is the principal characteristic of a Zener diode?

a.) constant current under conditions of varying voltage

b.) constant voltage under conditions of varying current

c.) a negative resistance region

d.) an internal capacitance that varies with the applied voltage

3. What is the principal characteristic of a tunnel diode?

a.) a high forward resistance

b.) a very high PIV

c.) a negative resistance region

d.) a high forward current rating

August Contests

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

Aug 7-8	*1800 to 0559*	160 m to 10 m
North American QSO Party		**CW**
Aug 7-8	*1800 to 1800Z*	70 cm and up
ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance 'test		**all modes**
Aug 14-15	*0000 to 2359 Z*	80 m to 10 m
WAE(urope) 'test		**CW**
Aug 14-15	*1400 to 0400 Z*	160 m to 10 m
Maryland-DC QSO Party		**all modes**
Aug 21-22	*1800 to 0559 Z*	160 m to 10 m
North American QSO Party		**SSB**
Aug 28-30	*0400 to 0400 Z*	160 m to 10 m
Hawaii QSO Party		**all modes**
Aug 28-29	*1200 to 0300 Z*	160 m to 10 m
W/VE Islands QSO Party		**all modes**
Aug 28-29	1400 to 2000	80 m to 10 m
Kansas QSO Party		**all modes**
Aug 28-29	*1800 to 0400 Z*	160 m to 10 m
Ohio QSO Party		**all modes**
Aug 28-29	*1200 to 1200 Z*	160 m to 10 m
Romanian (YO) DX 'test		**CW/SSB**

Net Check Ins-II

Jul 20 **Traffic: 0**

N1RB   (NCS)
KE8CVA
KE8PJM
KE8QWV
KD8NJW
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
WE8TOM
KA8VNG
N8VNT   (10)

Jul 27 **Traffic: 0**

KD8NJW   (NCS)
KE8CUZ
KD8RNO
KE8CVA
WB8NQW
WD8LEI
KA8VNG
KE8QGV
KD8VWU
N1RB
KE8PJM
WE8TOM
WD8ICP
KG8FH   (14)

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

Learning and Using Morse Code-III

by Bob Nellans, K9DE

Copying the code

The *most important* thing, when it comes to learning the code is a positive attitude. I started out with an attitude of despising the code, but realizing it was, back before the days of the no-code technician license, a hurtle everyone must cross to attain any amateur radio license. With that negative attitude, I spent seven (7) weeks of a minimum of three -- fifteen minute sessions per day, trying to copy the code, and still failing my five wpm code test each week. At the suggestion of a neighbor amateur radio operator, who is now a silent key, meaning that he is deceased, I changed my attitude the eighth week, and passed the code test with flying colors. The better I became with the code the better I like it, and the better I liked it the better I became with the code -- commonly called the snowball effect.

Most of the code programs available today, are probably relatively good, since they virtually all use what is commonly called the "Farnsworth" method, of sending the code itself at a faster speed, with longer pauses between the letters, numbers, and punctuation to decrease the *net* code speed. It is best if you can find an app that starts out with the individual characters sent at 20 words per minute, using the Farnsworth method, which means the code is sent at a fast enough speed to keep you from trying to count the number of dits and dahs in each letter or number. The

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at *2100* all year

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Aug	*3*	*WB8NQW*
Aug	*10*	*N1RB*
Aug	*17*	*KG8FH*
Aug	*24*	*KD8NJW*
Aug	*31*	*WB8NQW*
Sep	*7*	*N1RB*

NEXT MEETING

Business Meeting

**Monday
August 9**

TIME: 7:30 PM/7:00 EB

PLACE:

**Sheriff's Training Room
E. Gypsy Lane Rd. &
S. Walbridge Rd.**

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 analog

Informal net

AREDN group at Sheriff's HQ: Tom-WE8TOM, Rex-KC8PFP, Jeff-KG8FH, Eric-WD8LEI and Lynn-KD8RNO

where both internal and external communications may be necessary.

Several members brought their completed or partially completed go-boxes to test if a signal from a 55 ft. Tower at WB8NQW's QTH on Bishop Rd. could be received and communications established. Phil-W8PSK set up his node at the top of the Fairgrounds bleachers and was able to use a program called Meshchat to exchange text with Bob-WB8NQW at his QTH. This was especially surprising since the microwave signal had to propagate through a stand of fairly tall trees.

The next test was to set up Tom-WE8TOM's and Jeff-KG8FH's nodes, establish communications with the bleacher node and thus with the Bishop Rd. node so that in fact a mesh network was formed. Eric-WD8LEI used a local

Phil-W8PSK observing message received

WiFi connection to Tom's computer to allow several of the spectators to send a message on the mesh network. This demonstration was essentially a "proof of concept" try, and all in all, can be rated as successful. Anybody who is interested in

Peanut gallery back: Lynn-KD8RNO, Phil-KG8FL, Bob-N1RB, and Terry-KE8CVA

getting involved with AREDN should contact the Wood County EC, Eric-WD8LEI. For further information, check: **https://nwo-aredn-users.groups.io** ∎

other reason for learning the code this way is the fact that the characters will sound exactly the same all the way up to 20 words per minute, since only the spacing will change as the code speed increases. The flexibility of his program seems to be virtually unlimited, since you can set up the program to send code groups of your choice. Those code groups can include the individual letters which may be giving you the most problems, any/all of the letters, any/all of the numbers, any/all of the punctuation, or any combinations thereof.

The other fallacy with trying to learn the code by use of any of the other computer programs that I have tried is the fact that you are required to type your responses on the computer keyboard, rather than to write out those responses, which automatically teaches you two other bad habits. You learn to copy code by running all of the text into one tremendously long stream, instead of providing extra spacing between words, and you learn to copy the code on a keyboard.

As for learning the code, there is no substitute for practice, practice, practice. Especially when you are starting out, you will soon find that you will be frustrated with not being able to copy each of the letters and numbers as they are sent to you, and that will be the case right up to the time when you finally master the code. From the start you should force yourself to just put an underline dash where the number, letter, or punctuation belonged in the text, if you cannot *immediately i*dentify it, and catch the next letter, number, or punctuation, rather than to anguish over the one you missed, while missing several others. You are much better off spending at least three, or perhaps more, five minute sessions each and every day, with the code program, then you are to force yourself to spend fifteen minutes on the code, once a day.

Never, ever miss a single session with the code programs, since you will rapidly regress any time that you miss even a single session. In other words, when you miss a session with those tapes, you do not start off the next session where you left off, but rather you will routinely find that you have lost a little ground in your effort to become fluent with the code.

Learning the code is much like learning another language, and for some reason that I have never heard anyone successfully explain, women *always* seem to learn the code with much less effort than *men*. Perhaps it is because men seem to adopt a defeatist attitude, rather than simply refusing to fail in the effort to master the code. Men often come to me with excuses such as saying they are "tone deaf". Everyone has problems at times telling the dits from the dahs, but the tone is the same for both the dits and the dahs, so tone deafness has nothing to do with their problem. That problem of

not being able to tell the dits from the dahs will automatically be resolved for you, if you conscientiously stick with the effort to learn the code.

If you ever start feeling sorry for yourself, because of the problems you may face while learning the code, you should realize that many of the people with real handicaps learn the code, so the rest of us do not have any legitimate excuse for not learning the code ourselves. Perhaps the following story will put all of that into perspective for you.

One day I found a station, on the air, sending code that was even worse than what is the typically atrocious code sent by a beginner, but I dutifully responded. However, I soon wished that I had not, since almost none of the code was good enough that even I, with all the experience of working thousands of stations sending lousy code, could guess what that person was trying to say, most of the time. Eventually the code improved enough that we were able to exchange the essential information, and we completed the simple QSO some 45 minutes later. Almost immediately, someone using that same call sign called me on that same frequency, but this operator had a beautiful fist (was sending perfect code). Obviously the person I first worked was operating under the control of the operator that was now calling me.

Responding immediately, I found myself working a teacher at a school for the visually handicapped, in New Mexico. I was informed that amateur radio, at least via CW, was a way for the students of that school to communicate without the people with whom they were communicating being able to detect that they had a handicap. I also was told that there were students of that school that were deaf, students that were blind, and students that were both deaf and blind.

I responded that I understood that those that were deaf could copy the code by the flashes of light, as triggered by the sounds detected at the receiver, and that those that could not see could copy the code by hearing the CW sounds. However, I had no idea how those people that could neither hear nor see could detect the code being received. The answer provided to that query was simply "the thumper". It seems that "the thumper" was a solenoid activated device that could be attached to the forearm of the student, and the solenoid then tapped out the code on the arm of that individual CW operator, as the code was received.

After hearing what all of those students went through to communicate in code, I no longer had any tolerance for the lame excuses I heard from less handicapped individuals, for not learning the code. Obviously, if someone wants to communicate in code, no matter what handicaps they might have, they can find a way to do so. Once I learned how helpful it was for those handicapped

8

students to work people in CW, I maintained a regular schedule with that school, and worked those students in CW. The teacher told me that those students valued the QSL cards, which I then sent to them to confirm those contacts, so very much that they continued to carry those cards around with them long after all of the printing had been worn off the cards. As an incentive for them to work more CW, I refused to replace those worn out QSL cards without some effort on their part, so I asked each of the students to earn other QSL cards by working additional QSOs with me.

Several of those students earned their own amateur radio licenses. Looking through my files of QSL cards, I readily found a QSL card from one of those students, Raul Midon, WD5AAR. He says on that card, in part, "Without your help, Bob, I would never have earned my own amateur radio license." Raul was 11 years old at the time, on 19 October, 1977.

That school, which had first opened in 1903, I understood later was the casualty of an austerity program, and was forced to close its doors. I worked Raul and several of the other students for several months after the school closed, but had to cancel that schedule when I was accepted for our state's vocational rehabilitation program, to be sent to college in 1979. I became eligible for that rehabilitation program as the result of the injuries suffered in a so-called fatal motorcycle accident in 1975, as well as the residual effects of the injuries suffered during my time in the Army, during the Vietnam War.

When I first started out in amateur radio, I was the last person in my novice class to pass my five wpm code test. (As you learned earlier, my main problem with the code was my bad attitude toward it.) However, unlike my classmates, I did not stop practicing the code, once I had passed that initial code test. Instead, I practiced copying the code even more than usual during the 12 weeks that I waited for my license to arrive. (Back then we had to have the license in our hands before we could legally transmit, and the FCC would not reveal the call sign until that license arrived.) By the time the license actually arrived, I felt confident about going on the air in CW, the only mode then available to me, as a novice.

However, although the novice portions of the low bands were then so crowded that you could barely find a frequency on which you could transmit, in spite of that high level of activity, I could not get anyone to respond to my calls. Recording what I was trying to send, and then trying to copy the code that I had sent, I soon found out why others were not responding -- my code sounded terrible. I soon brushed up on my code sending skills, and I was finally ready to get on the air, initially with a straight key and, and then, with an electronic keyer. ∎

August Hamfests

Aug 21 - GM ARC Trunk Swap. Packard Proving Grounds, Shelby Township, MI. **web: http://www.gmarc.org**

In Case You Were Wondering

from ARNewsline

The *Dayton Daily News* reports that Sandy Mendelson, founder of the legendary Ohio electronics retail store, Mendelson's Liquidation outlet, died on July 3rd at age 77. The downtown Dayton location, which was for decades a magnet for local and visiting hams especially during Hamvention, closed its doors in late 2019. Its eight-story building was sold to a Columbus, Ohio, developer. ■

INVITATION

Loren (Phil) Phillips, W8PSK, is celebrating his 90th birthday on Saturday, August 7, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, at the new Senior Center, 140 S. Grove St. in Bowling Green, OH.

Phil invites all club members to stop by and wish him many more birthdays. Anyone who is planning to attend please RSVP via email to:

1bethaphillips@gmail.com

no later than August 1st

AREDN Meeting

There will be a NW Ohio AREDN meeting Saturday morning, August 28th, in Toledo, at approximately 10:30.

Lucas County ARES (LCARES) meets at 9:00AM and this meeting will start after it ends. You are welcome to attend the ARES meeting too. It will be at the 911 training center, 2127 Jefferson St. in Toledo. (Directly behind the 911 building)

Please bring your go-kit if you have it running. We will be connecting them.

New and curious people are welcome too.

There is talk of resuming regular monthly meetings on the 4th Saturday of the month. ■

Renewed Yet???

WCARC 2021 membership dues are payable to:

WCARC Treasurer,

P. O. Box 534,

Bowling Green, OH 43402

WOOD COUNTY ARC
P.O.BOX 534
BOWLING GREEN, OH
43402