

# CQ CHATTER

APRIL 2022

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## WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	KG8FH/W8PSK	Jeff Halsey/Loren Phillips
Vice President	WE8TOM	Tom Leingang
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	KD8NJW	Jim Barnhouse
Board Member	WB8NQW	Bob Willman

### Hamvention Is a Go (So Far)

With the coming of spring, the thoughts of the average amateur tend to dreams of a large assemblage of display buildings abutting a flea market where all sorts of interesting merchandise is on display. Yes, this is a vision of the annual trek that many hams from all over the world make to the Dayton area. This year this event will once again be held at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, from May 20 through May 22 (Friday through Sunday). Ticket sales are open at \$26 advanced and \$31 at the door. Go to the [hamvention.org](http://hamvention.org) website for information.

The statement below appears at the top of the Dayton Hamvention website:

*Hams and vendors hoping to attend Hamvention 2022 are asking questions about plans to deal with COVID. Hamvention management is monitoring the situation closely. General Chairman Rick Allnutt, WS8G, has issued the following statement:*

*"We strongly anticipate that the Hamvention 2022 is a go. We cannot guarantee what government may decide about unknown changes in the pandemic. It has become obvious that the State of Ohio is very unlikely to call a halt to large gatherings anytime soon. Despite a recent large spike in Omicron COVID cases and hospitalizations, there is no move to restrict large indoor or outdoor events such as sports events."*

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## Net Check Ins-I

**Mar 8** **Traffic: 0**

**WB8NQW (NCS)**  
**KE8CVA**  
**KC8EKT**  
**KG8FH**  
**KC8NKC**  
**KD8RNO**  
**KD8NJW**  
**N1RB**  
**WE8TOM**  
**KA8VNG**  
**WD8LEI (11)**

**Mar 15** **Traffic: 0**  
**(NCS)**

**N1RB**  
**KC8EKT**  
**KE8CVA**  
**KG8FH**  
**WD8ICP**  
**WD8LEI**  
**KD8NJW**  
**WB8NQW**  
**KE8QGV**  
**WE8TOM**  
**KD8VWU**  
**KD8RNO**  
**N8VNT (13)**

**Mar 22** **Traffic: 0**  
**(NCS)**

**KG8FH**  
**KC8EKT**  
**K8BBK**  
**KG8FL**

## Brain Teasers

1. When selecting an SSB transmitting frequency, what minimum separation should be used to minimize interference to stations on adjacent frequencies?
  - a.) 5 to 50 Hz
  - b.) 150 to 500 Hz
  - c.) approximately 3 kHz
  - d.) approximately 6 kHz
2. On which of the following bands is image transmission prohibited?
  - a.) 160 m
  - b.) 30 m
  - c.) 20 m
  - d.) 12 m
3. What is the peak-to-peak voltage of a sine wave with an RMS voltage of 120.0 volts?
  - a.) 84.8 V
  - b.) 169.7 V
  - c.) 240.0 V
  - d.) 339.4 V

# 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.

<b>Apr 2-3</b>	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Louisiana QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 2-3</b>	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Mississippi QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 2-3</b>	<i>1400 to 2000 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Missouri QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 2-3</b>	<i>1500 to 1500 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>SP (Poland) DX 'test</b>		<b>CW/SSB</b>
<b>Apr 2-3</b>	<i>1400 to 2200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
<b>Florida Parks on the Air</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 9-10</b>	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>OK/OM (Czech/Slovakia) DX 'test</b>		<b>SSB</b>
<b>Apr 9-10</b>	<i>1300 to 2200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Nebraska QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 9-10</b>	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>New Mexico QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 9-10</b>	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>North Dakota QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>
<b>Apr 9-10</b>	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
<b>Georgia QSO Party</b>		<b>all modes</b>

## Net Check Ins-II

**Mar 22-cont**

**KD8NJW**  
**WB8NQW**  
**KE8QGV**  
**WE8TOM**  
**NM8W**  
**KA8VNG**  
**KD8RNO**  
**N8VNT**  
**KD8VWU**  
**N1RB**  
**KE8CVA/P**  
**WD8ICP**  
**WD8LEI**  
**KC8NKC (18)**

**Mar 29**      **Traffic: 0**

**KD8NJW (NCS)**  
**K8BBK**  
**KE8CVA**  
**KC8EKT**  
**KG8FH**  
**WD8LEI**  
**WB8NQW**  
**WD8PIC**  
**KA8VNG**  
**N8VNT**  
**KD8RNO**  
**WE8TOM**  
**N1RB**  
**KG8FL**  
**KC8TRL (15)**

## What is FT-8?

A currently very popular mode of communications on the ham bands is FT8 (Franke-Taylor 8 bit design). Many hams who haven't used it wonder what kind of mode it is, and how they can implement it in their own shack.

FT8 is one of a succession of software modes that utilize AF shift keying through the sound card on your computer to (more or less) provide an automated way to communicate using QRP (5 W or less) signals, even down to milliwatt levels.

Development of a suite of low signal-to-noise programs was originally begun in 2001 by Joe Taylor, K1JT, to make meteor scatter and EME communications more efficient. The reader is referred to the [WSJT](#) home page for background details. The software techniques developed by K1JT allow for the extraction of very weak signals from noise even when they cannot be detected by ordinary means. In a nutshell, the technique entails repetitive scanning of the signal over an extended period of time, originally usually a minute or two. The simple idea that the signal is coherent whereas the noise is random allows the software to accumulate the intelligent information (the signal) while the random noise averages to zero, or close to it, after numerous scans.

**FT8** is an extremely-weak-signal, digital, narrow bandwidth (50 Hz), QSO-only communication protocol used only by hams. It is popular because of its ability to successfully send signals despite challenging propagation conditions, high noise environments, low power (QRP), or even compromised antennas.

Over a 15s (12.5s content and 2.5s decoding) transmit/receive cycle, FT8 transmits and receives only the bare essentials needed to make an amateur radio

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Brain Teaser answers: (T) 1-c, 2-b, 3-d

## **WCARC Weekly Net**

Tuesdays at 2100 all year

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

### **Net Control Roster**

<i>Apr</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>KG8FH</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>N1RB</i>

## **NEXT MEETING**

### ***Business Meeting***

Monday

April 11

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

**PLACE:**

Sheriff's Training Room

S. Dunbridge Rd. &

E. Gypsy Lane Rd.

Bowling Green, OH

## ***10 meter Net***

***informal group***

***meets***

***Sunday***

***@ 20:30 local***

***on 28.335 MHz***

## ***Fusion Net***

***Thursday***

***@ 19:30 local***

***on 442.125 MHz***

***Wires-X Operators***

***welcome***

***Informal net***

### ***Hamvention— from p. 1***

*Allnutt added that he anticipates the official state guidance may be to recommend (but not require) wearing a mask and social distancing. Hamvention will support State guidance. We do not anticipate checking immunization status on site.*

*Some have asked whether COVID testing will be available at Hamvention. At this time there are no plans to have testing on site. Watch [hamvention.org](http://hamvention.org) for any updates dealing with the COVID situation.*

After a two-year hiatus, many hams are chomping at the bit to get back to normal by attending hamfests and keeping their inventory of new and used equipment up to date. The Dayton Hamvention is the granddaddy of them all, and is a must-go experience for any ham. See you there! ■

## **Field Day Volunteers Wanted**

Field Day this year will be held on June 25-26 (Sat/Sun). This contest always provides a good time for all participants, and with our Club, it is strictly a volunteer effort.

As usual, the Club is calling for volunteers to help out in several areas: first and foremost is setup on Saturday at noon. Bob, WB8NQW, has once again reserved the grounds of the Wood County

Historical Museum on County Home Rd. (just south of US Rte 6) for our activities.

Saturday set-up traditionally consists of erecting a loop antenna along with other wire antennas for the general use of Club members on the Museum grounds near the Blacksmith shop. Equipment, including emergency generators, is set up on or near several operating tables, and connections made to the antenna farm, in readiness for the start of operations at 2 pm. Quite a few volunteers are needed for the noon set up.

We have also usually had an evening meal that can be a potluck affair with main courses (hotdogs and hamburgers) or simply carryout pizza, with beverages provided by the Club. If there is a group that wishes to stay on-site overnight to continue operating, a modest breakfast is usually provided on Sunday morning. Finally, around noontime on Sunday, the antennas and equipment must be taken down, again with voluntary help.

If you wish to volunteer for the set-up/tear-down, food, or equipment committees and have input on what's happening, please let [Jeff-KG8FH](#) know so that planning can go forward for the event.

Of course, the best part of Field Day is operating—if you are there for set-up on Saturday, make sure you stick around to try your hand at making a few contacts. Don't worry if you haven't tried it before; there will be plenty of help to get you into the Field Day rhythm. ■

# April Contests – cont.

Apr 15-16	2100 to 2100 Z	160 m to 10 m
Holyland DX 'test		<b>all modes</b>
Apr 16-17	0700 to 0659 Z	80 m to 10 m
YU (Serbia) DX 'test		<b>CW/SSB</b>
Apr 16-17	1600 to 0400 Z	80 m to 10 m
Michigan QSO Party		<b>all modes</b>
Apr 16-17	1800 to 1800 Z	160 m to 10 m
Ontario QSO Party		<b>all modes</b>
Apr 17	1200 to 2000 Z	160 m to 10 m
Quebec QSO Party		<b>all modes</b>
Apr 23-24	1300 to 1259 Z	160 m to 10 m
Helvetia ( Switzerland) DX 'test		<b>all modes</b>
Apr 30-May 1	1200 to 1200 Z	80 m to 10 m
UK/EI Britain/Ireland DX 'test CW		<b>CW</b>
Apr 30-May 1	1600 to 2159 Z	40 m to 10 m
Florida QSO Party		<b>all modes</b>

## *FT8 – from p. 4*

contact: exchange of callsigns, readability report, signal strength report, and "best regards" ("73"). Because only this information can be sent, FT8 is not a "conversation" mode. It transmits this minimum amount of information in a semi-automated fashion, and so FT8 is not a "keyboard-to-keyboard" (real-time chat) mode (see sample QSO on p.8). For this reason, a lot of experienced hams feel that "something's missing" in this mode. On the other hand, FT8 does give the average

*continued on p. 8*



**FT8—from p. 7**

ham the ability to test the limits of his station's low-signal capabilities and has become quite popular in recent years. All you need is an inexpensive computer and a sound card interface such as the Tigertronics *Signalink* box—give it a try! ■

**A Typical FT8 QSO**

<b>Characters Sent / Received</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
"CQ KI7PO DN06"	CQ call from radio operator "KI7PO" along with his Maidenhead grid square locator code <a href="#">📍</a> .
"KI7PO IZ1M JN35"	Radio operator "IZ1M" replies with his callsign and grid square locator.
"IZ1M KI7PO -10"	KI7PO responds with a signal report <i>(in the form of a WSJT-X dB reading instead of in a more conventional, though more subjective, rstS <a href="#">📍</a> reading)</i>
"KI7PO IZ1M R-12"	IZ1M confirms signal report & replies with his own report
"IZ1M KI7PO RRR"	KI7PO tells IZ1M, "Reception Report Received" <i>(This can also be shortened to "RR73" indicating, "Report Received 73," which would be a completed QSO)</i>
"KI7PO IZ1M 73"	IZ1M says "Best regards" ("73")
"IZ1M KI7PO 73"	KI7PO says "Best regards" ("73") <i>(not used if KI7PO's third transmission was "RR73")</i>

The above lines are sent over a 15 second transmit/receive cycle for a total QSO time of 105 s. A 15 second receive cycle is executed to listen for replies after transmitting a CQ.

***IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP***

**Dues Payable to:**

**WCARC**

**P. O. Box 534**

**Bowling Green, OH 43402**

**Sen/Stu: \$10**

**Reg: \$15**

**Fam: \$20**



# **Trunk Sale & Swap Meet**

Sponsored by:

Lucas County Amateur  
Radio Emergency  
Services

**50/50 Raffle**

**\$5 Admission**

must be present to win

**9AM-12PM**

Vendor Setup: 8AM

More Info & Vendor Registration Info:

<http://tinyurl.com/lcaresswap>

567-318-2291 or [lucascountyares@gmail.com](mailto:lucascountyares@gmail.com)

**Talk In 146.610/- (pl 103.5)**

**Sunday, May 1, 2022**

Toledo Speedway  
5639 Benore Road  
Toledo, Ohio 46312

All Proceeds benefit the operations of the Lucas County ARES

# FREE STUFF

Some equipment looking for a good owner:

**Free:**

Alinco *DJ-112* 2m Mobile Transceiver. Powers up fine. Display is Fine. RX is OK—will not TX (carrier but no audio) someone that is good with hardware could probably fix this. Purchased at a hamfest some 15 years ago for SK N8RFW  
If interested contact Shawn Hudson, [kb8qew@gmail.com](mailto:kb8qew@gmail.com)

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

