

CQ CHATTER

MARCH 2023

VOLUME B23 • ISSUE 1

WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	KG8FH	Jeff Halsey
Vice President	WE8TOM	Tom Leingang
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	KD8NJW	Jim Barnhouse
Board Members	WB8NQW/KE8QGV	Bob Willman/Roger Weith

Minutes *WCARC Meeting* February 13, 2023

Jeff-KG8FH presiding

Present: N1RB-Bob, KG8FH-Jeff, WE8TOM-Tom, WD8LIC-Bob, K8LL-Stan, KC8PFP-Rex, KD8NJW-Jim, KE8CVA-Terry, WW8MLL-Joe, KE8QGV-Roger, WB8NQW-Bob

Meeting called to order: by KG8FH at 7:30 with Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: of the December meeting as published in the January issue of CQ Chatter were approved unanimously (NQW/NJW).

Treasurer's Report: was presented by KD8NJW. Motion to approve (NQW/NJW) was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Jeff reported that about two years ago, there was a motion approved to send out an invitation letter along with the Club brochure (authored by KC8PFP) to hams in the nearby area. Bob (NQW) provided a list gleaned from the FCC records. This action has now been accomplished by sending out 37 packages last week. Jeff mentioned that some have been "returned to sender" due to a change in address, but hopefully we will get some response from the hams in the Bowling Green

continued on p. 6

Net Check Ins-I

Feb 7 **Traffic: 0**

WB8NQW **(NCS)**
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
WD8ICP
KG8FH
KD8NJW
N1RB
KD8VWU
KA8VNG
WD8LIC
WE8TOM
N8VNT
KC8NKC **(13)**

Feb 14 **Traffic: 0**

N1RB **(NCS)**
KA8VNG
N8VNT
WE8TOM
KD8RNO
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WD8LEI
KE8WNL **(12)**

Brain Teasers

1. Which of the following applies when the FCC rules designate the amateur service as a secondary user on a band ?
 - a.) amateurs must record the call sign of the primary service station before operating on a frequency assigned to that station.
 - b.) amateurs may use the band only during emergencies
 - c.) amateurs must not cause harmful interference to primary users and must accept interference from primary users
 - d.) amateurs may only operate during specific hours of the day, while primary users are permitted 24/7 use of the band
2. What causes HF propagation conditions to vary periodically in a 26-to-28 day cycle?
 - a.) long term oscillations in the upper atmosphere
 - b.) cycle variation in Earth's radiation belts
 - c.) rotation of the Sun's surface layers around its axis
 - d.) the position of the Moon in its orbit
3. What happens when inductive and capacitive reactance are equal in a series L-C circuit?
 - a.) resonance causes impedance to be very high
 - b.) impedance is equal to the geometric mean of the inductance and capacitance
 - c.) resonance causes the impedance to be very low
 - d.) impedance is equal to the arithmetic mean of the inductance and capacitance

March Contests

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

Mar 4-5	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
ARRL Int'l DX test-SSB		SSB
Mar 4-12	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 2 m
Novice Rig Roundup		CW
Mar 11-12	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
EA (Spain) PSK63 'test		PSK63
Mar 11-12	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	10 m
South America 10 m 'test		CW/SSB
Mar 11-12	<i>1500 to 2100 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
Oklahoma QSO Party		all modes
Mar 11-12	<i>1900 to 1900 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Idaho QSO Party		all modes
Mar 12-13	<i>1800 to 0100 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Wisconsin QSO Party		all modes
Mar 18-19	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Russian DX 'test		CW/SSB
Mar 18-19	<i>1400 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Virginia QSO Party		all modes
Mar 25-26	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
CQ WW WPX 'test-SSB		SSB

Net Check Ins-II

Feb 21 **Traffic: 0**
(NCS)
KD8NJW
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WD8LEI
WB8NQW
WD8LIC
KD8RNO
KA8VNG
N1RB
WE8TOM (10)

Mar 28 **Traffic: 0**
(NCS)
KG8FH
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
WD8ICP
WD8LEI
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
KE8QGV
KA8VNG
KD8RNO
N8VNT
N1RB
WE8TOM
W8PJZ (14)

Amateur Balloon's Fate a Mystery

from ARNewsline

The latest chapter in the story of mystery balloons being shot down over North America by US military planes could possibly involve amateur radio. The first and most famous, of course, was a suspected Chinese spy balloon. The audio of the Air Force pilots' communications was recorded successfully by an aviation enthusiast and radio buff during the downing of the balloon.

However, at the same time, questions were being raised about the whereabouts of an amateur radio balloon with the callsign K9YO-15, launched last October by a group known as the Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade. Unconfirmed reports say the 32-inch sphere carrying a 10-gram payload may be the same one that was shot down over the Canadian Yukon. Lightweight and relatively inexpensive to build, its payload, with a solar panel package and a tracker in the middle, transmitted APRS telemetry on HF at very low power. Cary Willis, KD9ITO, a member of the group, said the balloon has been declared missing in action and is considered lost.

According to a post on the website rtl-sdr.com, a memo from the Pentagon said an object was shot down over Canada that appeared to be a "small metallic balloon with a tethered payload." The description closely fits that of K9YO-15.

Cary said in an email: "I suppose anything is possible." He said that FBI agents visited the balloon program's website and spent time with members of the group on a conference call. Cary said: "I shared that besides having fun, we're here to teach others how to

continued on p. 7

Brain Teaser answers: (G) 1-c, 2-c, 3-c

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

<i>Feb</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>KG8FH</i>
<i>Mar</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>

NEXT MEETING

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday

March 4

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE:

Frisch's Big Boy

E. Poe Rd. &

N. Main St.

Bowling Green, OH

10 meter Nets

Informal SSB group meets

***Sunday @ 20:30 local on
28.335 MHz***

Informal CW group meets

***Tuesday @ 20:00 local on
28.050 MHz***

Fusion Net

Thursday

@ 19:30 local

on 442.125 MHz

Wires-X Operators

welcome

Informal net

minutes from p. 1

postal zone. Bob (RB) suggested that we do this regularly—like every two years or so

New Business:

- Mark Paley, K8LD, who is a resident of Bowling Green, has donated several pieces of equipment to the Club, including: a Yaesu FTDX-1200 (with FFT board), Yaesu MD-100 desk microphone, MFJ 991 autotuner, and an MFJ versa tuner II. Jeff has sent him a letter of thanks on behalf of WCARC.
- Bob (NQW) described the current equipment storage situation at the County Home Road radio shack, and proposed that the Club purchase some shelving to keep things in order. A motion was made (CVA/NJW) to this effect, and it passed unanimously.
- Jeff mentioned that it is time to start planning for Field Day, on June 24-25 this year. Bob (NQW) mentioned that once again, the County Historical Museum has graciously allowed WCARC to use their grounds for the event. Notice of the event has already been placed on the Museum's calendar.
- In the absence of the Wood County EC (WD8LEI), Bob (NQW) gave a brief rundown on the current status of the AREDN mesh that Eric has been

working on. He reported on all the nodes that are in operation, plus the nodes that are in the planning stage. A question was asked about any progress in securing a spot on the Newton Rd. water tower, but no further progress can be reported at this time.

- Jeff announced that he will submit the application he received for a WCARC table at the TMRA hamfest, which is back on the air this year, on Sunday, March 19.

Adjournment: at 8:05 PM (NQW/CVA)

After the meeting, a very interesting program was presented by WE8TOM (Tom) on Slow Scan TV (SSTV) activity in amateur radio. Tom recounted the history of image transmission, including Fax, Hellshreiber, and the many present and past commercial and government uses of this mode. He then gave an audio-visual demonstration of SSTV so that the audience could become familiar with it when they encounter it on the air. Tom mentioned some of the software available that can be easily implemented using a simple sound card set up (e.g., Signalink) connected to the radio. All the SSTV work on the bands happens on a designated calling frequency (14.230/233/236 MHz is a very popular meet-up place). Tom commented that if anyone wants a copy of his talk, they should send him an e-mail at: we8tom@we8tom.org. ■

March Hamfests

March 12 Northern Ohio ARS Hamfest. Lorain County Community College, Elyria, OH.

web: www.noars.net/winterhamfest

March 19 Toledo Mobile RA Hamfest. Owens Community College, Perrysburg, OH.

web: www.tmrahamradio.org

ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program Provides Incentive for Young Applicants

from ARRL News

Candidates younger than 18-years old will pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 (from the existing \$15) to the ARRL VEC VE team when taking a license exam. Proper identification must be presented to and be verified by the VEC team, per the procedures for all exam candidates. The \$5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18 regardless of the exam level taken.

Additionally, ARRL will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years old for tests administered under the ARRL VEC. The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL receives the completed grant reimbursement form and the new license has been issued by the

FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer listed on the form.

This is an incentive program for amateur radio clubs to be able to attract more young applicants to try to pass the license exams. ■

balloon from p. 4

build and launch Pico Balloons legally, following the Code of Federal Regulations relating to balloons." He said he told others on the balloon team that they should be proud of the project and what it has accomplished.

He added "Personally, I believe that if we were shot down, what a wonderful way to end our flight." ■

FOR SALE:

MFJ-998 Legal Limit Autotuner

NEVER Used (Hooked up once)

Asking: \$500.00

Contact: jhalsey@woh.rr.com

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

