

CQ CHATTER

OCTOBER 2023

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WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

New Trustee Named

At the August business meeting, the Club unanimously named Tom-WE8TOM to be the new Trustee of the K8TIH repeater system. N1RB elected to step down after well over a decade of service in that capacity.

The Trustee is responsible for maintaining the operation of the Club repeaters, as well as to bring up any issues such as the need to purchase replacement equipment or antennas to keep things going. He is aided in this endeavor through consultation with the Technical Committee, who usually try to make it a joint repair effort whenever there is a glitch in the operation of the repeaters. Congratulations to Tom for taking on this important responsibility.

Net Control Operators Wanted

The WCARC regular net meets each Tuesday at 9:00 PM on 147.18 MHz and 444.475 MHz. It is moderated by a Club member who acts as the Net Control Station (NCS). We currently have a group of four people who rotate NCS duties each week. Consider this an invitation to join the group if you are interested in participating in this activity.

The NCS should be comfortable with recording station call letters and operator names in what is sometimes rather fast succession. He should also be familiar with the protocol for running a controlled net. As an aid, if you volunteer, a suggested script for running the net will

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Net Check Ins-I

Sep 5

Traffic: 0

KG8FH (NCS)

WE8TOM

KE8EKT

WD8LEI

KD8NJW

WB8NQW

W8PSK

KD8RNO

N8VNT

N1RB

KE8WTG

KE8PJM

K8DLF (13)

Sep 12

Traffic: 0

KD8NJW (NCS)

KE8CVA

KC8EKT

KG8FH

WB8NQW

WD8LEI

KE8PJM

W8PSK

KD8VWU

KD8RNO

N1RB

KE8WTG/P

WE8TOM (13)

Brain Teasers

1. Which of the following is a common use for a Smith Chart?
 - a.) determine the length and impedance of an impedance matching stub
 - b.) determine the impedance of a transmission line, given the physical dimensions
 - c.) determine the gain of an antenna given the physical and electrical parameters
 - d.) determine the loss rate of a transmission line, given the velocity factor and conductors
2. What is the approximate bandwidth of a 13 WPM International Morse Code transmission?
 - a.) 13 Hz
 - b.) 26 Hz
 - c.) 52 Hz
 - d.) 104 Hz
3. What aspect of receiver analog-to-digital conversion determines the maximum receive bandwidth of a Direct Digital Conversion SDR?
 - a.) sample rate
 - b.) sample width in bits
 - c.) sample clock phase noise
 - d.) processor latency

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 7-8	0600 to 0600 Z	160 m to 10 m
Oceania DX 'test-SSB		SSB
Oct 7-8	1200 to 1159 Z	160 m to 10 m
Russian WW Digital 'test		digital
Oct 7-8	1600 to 2200 Z	160 m to 10 m
California QSO Party		all modes
Oct 14-15	0300 to 2100 Z	160 m to 10 m
Nevada QSO Party		all modes
Oct 14-15	0600 to 0600 Z	160 m to 10 m
Oceania DX 'test-CW		CW
Oct 14-15	1500 to 0500 Z	160 m to 10 m
Arizona QSO Party		all modes
Oct 14-15	1600 to 2200 Z	160 m to 10 m
Pennsylvania QSO Party		all modes
Oct 14-15	1800 to 1800 Z	160 m to 10 m
South Dakota QSO Party		all modes
Oct 21-22	1400 to 0200 Z	160 m to 10 m
New York QSO Party		all modes
Oct 21-22	1500 to 1459 Z	80 m to 10 m
Worked All Germany 'test		CW/SSB

Net Check Ins-II

Sep 19 **Traffic: 0**
WB8NQW **(NCS)**

WD8LEI
KD8NJW
KD8RNO
WD8ICP
N1RB
W8PSK
KE8PJM
KD8VWU
WE8TOM
KE8CVA
KG8FH
KC8EKT
KB8QEW **(14)**

Sep 26 **Traffic: 0**

N1RB
KD8RNO
KE8WTG
KE8CVA
KG8FH
WB8NQW
W8PSK
KE8PJM
WD8LIC
KD8VWU
WE8TOM
WD8LEI/P **(12)**

Amateur Radio Just Isn't 'Exciting'

Jenny List, Hackaday

In his capacity as the ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, has spent a significant amount of time proselytizing for the hobby. He has a standard talk about amateur radio that involves tales gleaned from his many decades as a license holder, and features QSL cards from rare DX contacts to show how radio amateurs talk all over the world.

He's delivered this talk countless times, and is used to a good reception from audiences impressed with what can be done with radio. But when he delivered it to a group of young people, as Southgate ARC reports, he was surprised to see a lack of interest from his audience, to whom DX or contesting just don't cut it when they have grown up with the pervasive Internet. Writing in an ARRL Annual Report, he said:

"Change generally doesn't come easy to us. But when I looked out at that group of young faces and saw their disinterest in traditional ham pursuits, I realized that I had to change. We have to change. It won't come easy, but it's essential that we get to work on it now."

If you were to profile a typical group of radio amateurs, it would not be difficult to see why K5UR found himself in this position. It might be an unflattering portrait for some amateurs, but it's fair to say that amateur radio is a hobby pursued predominantly by older more well-off men with the means to spend thousands of dollars on commercial radios. It is also fair to say that this is hardly a prospect that would energize all but the most

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WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

Oct	3	KG8FH
Oct	10	KD8NJW
Oct	17	WB8NQW
Oct	24	N1RB
Oct	31	KG8FH
Nov	7	KD8NJW

NEXT MEETING

Business Meeting

Monday

October 9

TIME: 7:30 PM/7:00 EB

PLACE:

Sheriff's Training Room

E. Gypsy Lane Rd. &

S. Dunbridge Rd.

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

Ham Radio Mini Beam

Al Williams, Hackaday

Years ago, ham radio operators more often than not, had ample land, and usually there weren't any restrictions on what kind of antenna they could erect on that land. These days you are more likely to live with less or no land, and even if you do own property, you might have restrictions that prevent you from putting up any kind of visible antenna.

But even if that's not the case, you might not have room for an old-fashioned "tri-bander" or "cubical quad" that the hams of old preferred. Waters & Stanton discovered a [65-year-old design for a miniature beam](#) that is clearly explained, and that produces a good beam antenna in a reduced amount of space.

The design uses a doublet — a dipole fed with a balanced line and tuned at the feed point. A 22-foot doublet can cover 20 meters down to 10 meters without traps. Adding a director and reflector element provides directionality and gain. A unique arrangement allows a 12-foot boom to support multiple elements on some bands by introducing a central coil on some elements. For example, the director is tuned to 15 meters using a center coil. But the coil is shorted with a 10 meter quarter stub that acts as a short on that band. This project is easy to put together and can be completed by using a simple antenna analyzer to tweak the lengths of the elements. ■

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dedicated of youthful radio enthusiasts. This is not a new phenomenon, as it was definitely the case back in the day.

Were we to find ourselves in the position of advising the ARRL on such matters, we'd probably suggest a return to the roots of amateur radio, a time in the early 20th century when it was the technology that mattered rather than the collecting of DXCC entities or grid squares, and an amateur had first to build their own equipment rather than simply order a shiny radio before they could make a contact. Give a room full of kids a kit-building session, have them make a little radio. And lobby for construction to be an integral part of the licensing process, it is very sad indeed that in the UK at least, the lowest class of amateur radio license precludes home-made radio equipment. Given all that, why should it be a surprise that for kids, amateur radio just isn't exciting?

We've seen examples of some fantastic amateur radio builds over the years. If you have a youngster with an interest in radio, show them a [BitX transceiver](#), or the world of [QRP](#). ■

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be provided. Please contact N1RB at boughton@bgsu.edu if you are interested in joining the NCS group, or if you have any questions about the position. ■

October Contests-cont.

Oct 22-23	1700 to 0100 Z	160 m to 10 m
Illinois QSO Party		all modes
Oct 28-29	0000 to 2359 Z	160 m to 10 m
CQ WW DX 'test-SSB		SSB

WCARC Participant in Preparedness Expo

On Saturday, September 23, the local LDS Church held an Emergency Essentials Fair which included a presentation from the WCARC. This is an annual event at this church, and includes exhibits from law enforcement, first responder organizations, and other community NGOs such as the Red Cross.

Club members in attendance were: KG8FH-Jeff, N1RB-Bob, W8PSK-Phil, KE8QGV-Roger, WE8TOM-Tom and KE8CVA-Terry.

At the expo, WCARC demonstrated the AREDN mesh by connecting through the Wood County Hospital node. This included a live video of the SR-6 and I-75 intersection from the mesh camera atop the County Home Rd. Tower. Also shown was the POTA set up of WE8TOM using all portable equipment and antenna. Other demos included a Morse Code practice oscillator that was a great hit with the kids. A brief example of voice communications using the K8TIH repeater system was also demonstrated.

Thanks to all who participated in this important exhibition of ham radio's capabilities to the public. ■

FOR SALE: MFJ-998 Legal Limit Autotuner

NEVER Used (Hooked up once)

Asking: \$500.00

Contact KG8FH at: jhalsey@woh.rr.com

**WOOD COUNTY ARC
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