

CQ CHATTER

DECEMBER 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

Please Note: December Meeting Location Change

The December WCARC business meeting, on Monday, December 11, at 7:30 PM/ 7:00 EB, will not be held at the Sheriff's Training Facility as is usual. Due to a scheduling conflict, it has been moved to the WB8NQW QTH at 14118 Bishop Rd. in Bowling Green.

In addition to the usual business meeting, Bob will also display some of the Club's surplus equipment items that are available for purchase by members. There was a list of the items to be auctioned printed in a recent supplement. If you arrive at the usual "eyeball QSO"

time around 7:00 PM, you will have a chance to look over the equipment and place a bid if you wish to purchase something.

The normal business meeting will follow at around 7:30 PM with agenda items sure to include nomination of the 2024 officer slate and arrangement for the kick-off banquet on January 8th. Please plan on attending. ■

Kick-off Banquet Planned

The annual kick-off banquet is planned for Monday, January 8, at the Country Farmhouse restaurant, 117 E. Main St., in Wayne, OH. The get together is slated to begin at 6 PM, with dinner ordered from a limited menu. If you plan on attending, please let Bob-WB8NQW know by Jan. 1: blacksmth@reagan.com ■

Net Check Ins-I

Oct 31 **Traffic: 0**

KG8FH (NCS)

N8VNT

KD8RNO

N1RB

KD8VWU

WE8TOM

WD8LEI

KD8NJW

WB8NQW

W8PSK

KE8QGV

KE8CVA

KC8EKT

WD8ICP (14)

Nov 7 **Traffic: 0**

KD8NJW (NCS)

KE8CVA

KG8FH

WB8NQW

W8PSK

KD8RNO

WE8TOM

KE8QGV

KD8WTG

KD8VWU

N1RB

KC8EKT (12)

Nov 14 **Traffic: 0**

WB8NQW (NCS)

KE8CVA

KG8FH

KD8RNO

KD8NJW

WD8PIC

Brain Teasers

1. What circuit is used to select one of the sidebands from a balanced modulator?
 - a.) carrier oscillator
 - b.) filter
 - c.) IF amplifier
 - d.) RF amplifier
2. How is an LED biased when emitting light?
 - a.) in the tunnel-effect region
 - b.) at the Zener voltage
 - c.) reverse biased
 - d.) forward biased
3. Which of the following components should be added to a capacitor to increase the capacitance?
 - a.) an inductor in series
 - b.) an inductor in parallel
 - c.) a capacitor in parallel
 - d.) a capacitor in series

December Contests

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

Dec 1-2	<i>2100 to 2100 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
SEC (yes the football league) QSO Party		all modes
Dec 2-3	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m
FT Roundup		digital
Dec 9-10	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	10 m
ARRL 10 m 'test		CW/SSB
Dec 16-17	<i>1400 to 1400 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
Croatian (9A) DX 'test		CW/SSB
Dec 30	<i>0000 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m
RAC (Canada) Winter 'test		CW/SSB

December Hamfests

Dec 3 **Fulton County ARC** hamfest. Rauhley Park Pavilion, Archbold, OH
www.k8bxq.org/hamfest

Machine Teaches Morse Code

Al Williams Hackaday

If you are a ham radio operator of a certain age, you probably remember ads for "The Instructograph," a mechanical device for learning Morse code. *Our Own*

Devices has an ancient specimen of the machine and shows us how it works in the video below.

https://youtu.be/uQ_laYUzB9Q?si=0yQRxNKZDWcJ-UyW

The machine is a model of simplicity. You wind up a spring-driven motor like you
continued on p. 6

Net Check Ins-II

Nov 14 *continued*

KE8QGV
N1RB
N8MSU
KD8VWU
WE8TOM
KE8WTG (12)

Nov 21 *Traffic: 0*
(NCS)

N1RB
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH
WD8ICP
WB8NQW
N8VNT
KD8RNO
KD8VWU
KE8WTG
WE8TOM (11)

Nov 28 *Traffic: 0*
(NCS)

KG8FH
N8VNT
WD8LEI
KE8QGV
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
KC8EKT
KE8CVA
WE8TOM
KD8RNO
KD8VWU (11)

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

SKYWARN Recognition Day Is Ready to Go

from ARRL News

The 2023 SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will be held on December 2, from 0000Z to 2400Z. The event honors all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions to the National Weather Service (NWS) during severe weather. Amateur radio operators also provide vital communication to the NWS and emergency management when normal communications fail.

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) website is now updated with the SKYWARN registration form, mapping form, and rules and information you'll need to check in for this year's event.

It's important to review the following event resources on the NOAA website:

- Operating procedures
- Participant registration lists
- SRD 2023 contact log sheet
- SRD 2023 NWS office contact log sheet
- SRD 2023 NWS operational details
- Social media planning document

SRD was developed in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL. Amateur stations exchange contact information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters, plus the 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands. Contacts are also permitted using repeaters. Non-amateur radio spotters can exchange information with NWS offices using social media.

To learn how to become a trained NOAA storm spotter visit [Spotter Training \(weather.gov\)](#). In 2022, more than 5,000 spotters participated in SKYWARN Recognition Day. ■

WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year
147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

<i>Nov</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>KG8FH</i>
<i>Dec</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>Dec</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>Dec</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Dec</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>KG8FH</i>
<i>Jan</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>

NEXT MEETING

Business Meeting

Monday

December 11

TIME: 7:30 PM/7:00 EB

PLACE (note change):

**WB8NQW's QTH
14118 Bishop 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

machine from p. 3

would for an old record player or music box. A slider sets the playback rate, and paper tape starts to spin. The paper tape looks like computer tape, but since it only has literal long and short notches, it has



Instructograph Code Machine circa 1944

two distinct sides. When you learned one set of messages, you could flip the tape over and get more practice that way. How did the machine read the paper tape? With a mechanical contact. Literally, if the paper had a hole in it, you made the circuit. If it didn't, the circuit was broken.

A buzzer and batteries or some other kind of sounder was all you needed.

The company was in business for 50 years. The newer versions had more electronics, but they always used the paper tape mechanism to store the code practice sessions. A 1962 ad noted that the machine could play back the tapes from three words a minute up to 40. You could buy or rent the machine, and we always assumed it was pretty pricey for its day. Around 1965, a new unit would cost \$53 but did not include a headset or a key. So that was actually more reasonable than we expected. In 1965, a brand-name clock radio cost about \$50, so it wasn't any more than that.

Everyone has their own [favorite method for learning code](#), especially Ludwig Koch. At least you [don't have to learn Alex-style](#). ■

K8TIH UHF Repeater Not Transmitting

The Club's analog UHF Repeater, operating on 444.475+ MHz has been observed to have no transmitted output. The UHF receiver however, is still functioning, and continues to link its audio to the VHF transmitter. The Technical Committee is attempting to diagnose and correct the problem, assuming replacement parts are available. Both analog repeater transmitters have been operating reliably for a couple of decades. ■

**WOOD COUNTY ARC
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