

CQ CHATTER

APRIL 2024

VOLUME B24 • ISSUE 2

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

Minutes *WCARC Meeting* March 11, 2024

Jeff-KG8FH presiding

Present: N1RB-Bob, N1LB-Linda, Earl Wells, KG8FH-Jeff, WB8NQW-Bob, K8TEC-Terry, KG8QGV-Roger, WD8ICP-Chuck, WD8LIC-Bob, KD8NJW-Jim, WD8PNZ-Brent, KE8CVA-Terry, Gary Border, WE8TOM-Tom, W8AN-Steve, KC8IFW-Wil, WD8LEI-Eric, KG8QP-Jeff, K8LL-Stan, KD8UHO-Zach, KC8EKT-Ruth, N8XSF-Steve, KE8YTE-Teresa

Call to order: by KG8FH at 7:28 with Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff elected to reverse the usual order by moving the

speaker's presentation to occur before the business part of the meeting. A detailed discussion of the preparations that the Wood County EMA office is making for the upcoming total solar eclipse was made by Jeff Klein, KG8QP, County EMA Director.

Jeff reviewed the main concerns of emergency management in preparing for the possible visitation of a large number of solar enthusiasts to our area. These include: traffic congestion, communications breakdowns, shortages of food, medical and fuel supplies, and availability of adequate lodging. Jeff stressed that, depending on weather conditions, this event may involve a major effort on the part of volunteers, or may not be of much concern.

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Net Check Ins-I

Mar 12

**Traffic: 0
(NCS)**

**N1RB
KD8RNO
KE8CVA
KG8FH
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
WD8LIC
KE8QGV
KE8WTG
WE8TOM
KD8VWU
KE8NEC
KC8EKT
KC8JMU**

(14)

Mar 19

**Traffic: 0
(NCS)**

**KG8FH
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KD8NJW
WB8NQW
KD8RNO
KA8VNG
N8VNT
N1RB
WE8TOM**

(10)

Brain Teasers

1. What technique do individual nodes use to form a mesh network?
 - a.) forward error correction and Viterbi codes
 - b.) acting as store-and-forwarding digipeaters
 - c.) discovery and link establishment protocols
 - d.) custom code plugs for the local trunking systems
2. Which of the following signal paths is most likely to experience high levels of absorption when the A index or K index is elevated?
 - a.) transequatorial
 - b.) polar
 - c.) sporadic E
 - d.) NVIS
3. What is an effect of excessive phase noise in a receiver's local oscillator?
 - a.) it limits the receiver's ability to receive strong signals
 - b.) it can affect the receiver's frequency calibration
 - c.) it decreases receiver third-order intercept point
 - d.) it can combine with strong signals on nearby frequencies to generate interference

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.

Apr 6-7 Louisiana QSO Party	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
Apr 6-7 Mississippi QSO Party	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
Apr 6-7 Missouri QSO Party	<i>1400 to 0200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
Apr 6-7 SP (Poland) DX 'test	<i>1500 to 1500 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m CW/SSB
Apr 13-14 OK/OM (Czechia/Slovakia) DX 'test	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m SSB
Apr 13-14 Georgia QSO Party	<i>1800 to 2359 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
Apr 20-21 YU (Serbia) DX 'test	<i>0700 to 0659 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m CW/SSB
Apr 20-21 Nebraska QSO Party	<i>1100 to 0059 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
Apr 20-21 Michigan QSO Party	<i>1600 to 0400 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m CW/SSB
Apr 20-21 Ontario QSO Party	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m CW/SSB

Net Check Ins-II

Mar 26 **Traffic: 0**
KD8NJW **(NCS)**
KD8RNO
KE8CVA'
KC8EKT
KG8FH
KE8NEC
WD8LIC
WB8NQW
NM8W
KA8VNG
KD8VWU
N1RB
WE8TOM
KE8QGV
N8VNT **(15)**

Apr 2 **Traffic: 0**
WB8NQW **(NCS)**
KE8CVA
KC8EKT
KG8FH/P
KD8NJW
KD8RNO
W8PSK
KA8VNG
KD8VWU
N8VNT
WE8TOM
N1RB
WD8ICP **(13)**

Getting Started with Parks On The Air (POTA)

Parks on the Air® (POTA) started in early 2017 when the ARRL's National Parks on the Air special event ended. A group of volunteers wanted to continue the fun beyond the one-year event, and thus, POTA was born.

General information about the program is available at parksontheair.com, so we highly recommend checking out the information there. You may also want to join the [POTA Slack Channel](#) or the [POTA Facebook group](#), where you can easily interact with the POTA community online. POTA also maintains accounts on [Twitter](#) and [Mastodon](#) if you prefer to interact on those social media platforms.

Once you're ready to start, just remember that the golden rules of POTA are to have fun and keep it simple. We want to give you as much flexibility as possible, to have fun your way.

Getting started with POTA can happen via one of two paths — as an “activator” who heads out into the parks or as a “hunter” who is trying to contact someone in a park. The easiest way to participate in POTA is as a hunter, so we'll start there.

Getting Started for Hunters

Hunters are the individuals located anywhere, who contact the activators in the park. As a hunter, the rules are few and simple:

- Follow the law.
- Follow the [DX Code of Conduct](#).
- Follow the Golden Rule.

The first place to start as a hunter is to head to <https://pota.app>. The home page you land on will be the spotting page, which lets you know who is on the air, what parks they are in, and what frequencies and

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WCARC Weekly Net

Tuesdays at 2100 all year

147.18 MHz 67 Hz PL

Net Control Roster

<i>Apr</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>N1RB</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>KG8FH</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>KD8NJW</i>
<i>Apr</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>WB8NQW</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>N1RB</i>

NEXT MEETING

Breakfast Meeting

Saturday April 6

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

Business Meeting Called to Order: at 8:40 PM.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve (NQW/LIC) was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Bob (NQW) reported on the UHF repeater transmitter status. It appears that it was DOA. He suggested that Bruce be compensated for his effort to repair the device and moved to allocate a sum of \$200 for that purpose. Motion made (CVA/EKT) and unanimously approved. Discussion then moved to obtaining a replacement. After some discussion, the consensus was that the Kenwood TKR-850 would be an appropriate replacement. Motion made (LEI/RB) to allocate \$1000 toward obtaining a used model to replace the GE Master II. Motion was approved unanimously.

- Jeff (FH) announced that the TMRA approved our request for two tables at their upcoming hamfest at Owens Community College. Bob (NQW) displayed pictures of the equipment

residing in his basement that needs to be transported to Owens on Saturday. He requested volunteers who wish to help to check in with him.

- Eric (LEI) mentioned that the Club can man a table if desired at the Skywarn Training session on March 18. Anyone interested should check with him.

- Jeff announced that Field Day this year (June 22-23) will be held as usual at the Historical Museum grounds. He announced that there will be no "cruise-in" like last year. Mention was made that more trees have been removed in the vicinity of the loop antenna

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IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Dues Payable to:

WCARC, P. O. Box 534

Bowling Green, OH 43402

Senior/Student: \$10

Regular: \$15

Family: \$20

April Hamfests

March 10 Northern Ohio ARS hamfest. Lorain County Community College, Elyria, OH web: www.noars.net

March 17 Toledo MRA Hamfest. Owens Community College, Perrysburg, OH web: www.w8hhf.org

April Contests-continued

Apr 20-21 North Dakota QSO Party	<i>1800 to 1800 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m all modes
Apr 21 Quebec QSO Party	<i>1200 to 2200 Z</i>	160 m to 10 m CW/SSB
Apr 27-28 UK/EI (Unit. Kingdom/Ireland) DX 'test	<i>1200 to 1200 Z</i>	80 m to 10 m CW
Apr 27-28 Florida QSO Party	<i>1600 to 2159 Z</i>	40 m to 10 m CW/SSB

minutes from p. 6

supports, so some originality may have to be applied this year.

New Business:

- Eric (LEI) announced that he needs two volunteers for the EOC annual exercise on March 13 from 8:15 AM to noon—WB8NQW and KG8QGV volunteered.

Adjournment: motion to approve (LEI/NJW) @ 8:45 PM. ■

Want to Look Yourself Up?

Nowadays, with QRZ and other aids, it is no problem to look up the operator of a particular call and his location. But what if you need to go way back—like to 1975? The only resource available to do so then was the Radio Amateur's Call Book, which was published 4 times a year. Chuck, WD8ICP, has identified a site that might be useful: <https://archive.org>. Enter "call book" in the search box. ■

POTA from p. 4

modes they are currently operating on. Spin the dial, and answer their call if you can hear them. If you make a contact, you've officially started in POTA! That's all there is to it!

While at <https://pota.app>, click the "sign up" button to create an account, which will let you see your progress towards certificates and awards based on the logs that the activators you contacted submit. POTA is on the honor system, based exclusively on activator logs, so as a hunter, you don't have to lift a finger (Other than the one that hits your key or PTT!).

Getting Started for Activators

Activators are the individuals that pack up their portable gear and head out to a park, and set up a station. After you've done some hunting, you might want to take a shot at activating. The rules for activators are still fairly simple:

- Follow the law
- Follow the [DX Code of Conduct](#)
- Follow the Golden Rule
- Leave no trace
- Follow any instructions from park rangers you encounter
 - Be courteous of the public space you are using
 - You must have an account registered at <https://pota.app>
 - You and all your equipment must be within the boundaries of the park(s)

- You must submit an ADIF log after your activation is complete.

- Follow the Rules detailed here (docs.pota.app)

Once familiar with the rules, head to the map <https://pota.app/#/map>. Allow location services to quickly zoom to your location, or use the drop-downs to choose an entity and location. The yellow dots are approximate locations of parks in your area. Check official sources (park websites etc.) and ensure you are within the park's boundary.

Once you've chosen a location in the park, set up your gear, find a quiet frequency, and start calling CQ. While doing your initial CQ calls, you'll want to head to <https://pota.app> and click the button to add a spot. Once you've spotted yourself, the hunters will probably come fast and furious, so be prepared to start logging your QSOs!

You can use any logging method that generates a valid ADIF file. Refer to the [logging requirements section of the rules](#) for the required fields. After generating your ADIF file, head to the "My Log Uploads" section of the website (You'll find that under your callsign in the menu) and use the file dialog to upload your logs. You'll see your stats within a few hours, and any earned awards will start to populate through. At this point, you can sit back and congratulate yourself on joining the ranks as an Activator! ■

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

