

Coshocton County Amateur Radio Association W8CCA

PO BOX 501 Coshocton, OH 43812

December 2005 Newsletter



2005 Club Officers

President:
Randy Fisher, KL7RF

Vice President:
Dan Hardy, N8VV

Secretary:
Pat Tucker, KB8CRB

Treasurer:
Fred Hobbs, KC8ZLJ

Coshocton County EC:
Bruce Adams, KE8XM

COARVET Manager:
Steve Wheatcraft, AA8BN

NETS

Coshocton Co. ARA
Sundays 2100 hrs EST
147.045 MHZ W8CCA Rptr

Coshocton Co. ARES®
Mondays 2100 hrs EST
145.230 MHZ KE8XM Rptr

Johnny Appleseed
Fridays 2100 hrs EST
28.450 MHZ SSB



**Meetings: First Tuesday Each Month,
7:00 PM, Coshocton County Services Bldg.
724 South 7th St.**

[Http://www.W8CCA.org](http://www.W8CCA.org)

PREZ SAYS

As the year winds down now through the holiday season, I am realizing that we have had a busy fall. The club picnic and Foxhunt were lots of fun, and with perfect weather too. The fair booth was a good success even though we had to scramble to set up at a new location within a few days. Many thanks goes to all who helped out at the fair, including Dan, N8VV (that new table), Steve, AA8BN, and Bruce, KE8XM for their efforts in getting it ready. The club school has just finished with several of our club members now preparing to take exams leading to upgrading their ham tickets. I very much appreciate Dan, N8VV for working with me on this project, and we wish those taking exams the very best success. With the FCC now considering the elimination of the code requirements,

it is a great time to be aiming toward that upgrade license. Steve, AA8BN, has been, and I know will be, ready to schedule VE exams whenever you are ready to take the next step. Go for it! I am in a "thanksgiving" mode, with that holiday just passed. I am thankful for many things indeed. With respect to the club, I am thankful for all those that participated in the committees that kept the club rolling throughout the year. Thanks to all for a great job. Thank you also to the officers of the club, who helped us sail through this year and keep me on an even keel.

(Cont. Pg. 2)

PREZ SAYS (cont. from page 1)

In a larger sense, I'm thankful that our county was not hit with any severe weather or other emergency requiring our ARES abilities. There were many areas of our country that were not as fortunate. Let us keep in mind that one of the biggest reasons we still maintain the radio frequencies allocated to us is our ability and willingness to serve our community and our country when normal communications fail. Let us continue to prepare ourselves and support our local Amateur Radio Emergency Services, nets, training exercises, and Skywarn activities.

At the December 6th meeting there will be the election of officers for 2006. Plan to attend; your vote counts. We will also have our holiday party, so bring some munchies, and let's have a great time.

Don't forget your 2006 dues that help us maintain the club repeater and our other activities.

I am looking forward to lots of ham radio fun and activities in the coming year. Let's keep ham radio alive and well in Coshocton County, keep the repeaters active and warmed up, make some new friends on the air, and prepare for what we can do in 2006.

73 to all,
Randy KL7RF

Fair Committee Thank You

The fair committee would like to thank all who gave time to help man the booth for the fair. Special thank you goes to Steve, AA8BN; Dan, N8VV; and Randy, KI7RF for their efforts in getting things ready in the new location on short notice.

The winner of the QSL card display was Sandy KC8STS. She got a \$10.00 Coshocton County Bucks coupon. Again thanks for another successful fair display.

The Fair Committee:
Pat, KB8CRB - Bruce, KE8XM - Sandy, KC8STS - Scott, KC8YYF

Update on Lucy

It was discovered by way of the coax that Lucy Bryant, widow Bob Bryant, W8JNS had gall bladder surgery. She has since returned to the West Lafayette Care Center and is doing fine.
Pat, KB8CRB

Election of Officers for 2006

Join us for the December Club Meeting on the 6th at 7:00 PM in Room 145 at the Coshocton County Services Building on 7th Street in Coshocton. We will be having a Christmas party so bring in some goodies to munch. Also, we will be having the annual election of club officers for 2006. We look forward to seeing you there.

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director and Vice Director Elected

Incumbent Director James E. "Jim" Weaver, K8JE, of Mason, Ohio, was elected to a second term. By a vote of 3505 to 883, he held off a challenge from Neil Sablatzky, K8IT. Weaver focused his campaign on having kept promises he made when he ran three years ago and on acting in accord with the wishes of his constituents. Among his accomplishments, Weaver introduced the motion before the ARRL Board of Directors to establish the ARRL Grassroots Legislative Action Program.

Returning to the back bench will be former Great Lakes Division Director and Vice Director Gary L. Johnston, KI4LA, whom Weaver defeated in a three-way race for Director in 2002. Johnston had served for about six months in the division's top spot that year following the resignation of former Director George Race, WB8BGY. Johnston out polled Daniel M. Romanchik, KB6NU, the only other candidate for the Vice Director's slot, 3033 to 1263. Current Great Lakes Vice Director Richard Mondro, W8FQT, did not run for another term.

Club PICNIC Sept. 2005

The Coshocton County Amateur Radio Association picnic held at Lake Park this past September was a great success. Thanks to the committee, KE8XM, KC8STS and KC8ZLI. Thanks to Bruce, KE8XM, for cooking. We appreciate all the HAMS and their families who turned out for the picnic and the good food they brought to share. Buehlers and Bakers donated food again this year. Thank you very much.

AA8UA , Picnic Chairperson

ARRL AMATEUR RADIO EXAM SESSION
COSHOCTON, OHIO Dec 3, 2005

Administered by the Coshocton Ohio Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner Team, sponsored by the Coshocton County Amateur Radio Association, W8CCA
www.w8cca.org

PLACE: Coshocton Public Library
655 Main St.
Coshocton, Ohio

DATE: December 3, 2005

TIME: 10:00 AM (arrive 30 min. before to sign in)

Walk-in session

All Exam elements available. The 2005 exam fee is \$14.00. Exact amount appreciated. Checks made out to ARRL/VEC accepted too. 2nd version of exam available at VE discretion, time permitting. Additional \$14.00. Handicap accessible. Copy machine available.

REQUIRED:

PHOTO ID (driver's license) or two forms of non-photo ID.

Persons without photo IDs, and/or young persons must supply TWO forms of alternate identification to satisfy their ID requirements. These two items can include: Non-photo ID/driver's license; Social Security Card (as FCC presently requires each applicant to supply a taxpayer ID number also known as your Social Security Number); Birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal); Minor's work permit or school report card; Utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the person; a postmarked envelope addressed to the person indicating the same mailing address as shown on Form 605; or an employment ID.

CURRENT ORIGINAL AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE and COPY

ORIGINAL valid CSCE(s) that apply and COPY Social Security number or FCC issued FRN (FCC Registration Number)

AA8BN, Session Mgr.

Contact person: Colleen, AA8UA 740.622.5761

Email : aa8ua@arrl.net

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD (LoTW)
OPENING TO WAS

LoTW is a log matching program developed by ARRL to reduce the cost of QSL'ing. It is fully operational for all awards in the DXCC family. As of November 23, 83,804,248 QSO's had been entered into the system with thousands of matches between station logs having been confirmed. With QSO's matched through LoTW, it is not necessary to mail cards between stations to confirm contacts; thereby saving postage and printing expense. LoTW is scheduled to become accessible for the WAS family of awards by early January at the latest. It is anticipated that still additional ARRL as well as non-ARRL award programs will be available through LoTW later this year. To learn about using LoTW, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> There is no charge for entering QSO data into LoTW. There is a small fee for redeeming credits through it.

Hamfests:

Jan. 29, 2006

Tusco A.R.C. Hamfest
965 North Wooster Ave.
Strasburg, OH
Contact:
K8WFN@tusco.net

Feb. 12, 2006

Mansfield Mid*Winter Hamfest and Computer Show
Richland County Fairgrounds
750 North Home Road
Mansfield, OH
Contact:
InterCity Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.iarc.ws>
Talk-In: 146.94 - (PL 71.9)

ARRL Contests 2006

Jan 1 Straight Key Night
Jan 7-8 ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 21-23 ARRL Jan. VHF Sweepstakes
Feb 13-17 School Club Roundup
Feb 18-19 ARRL International DX Contest (CW)
Mar 4-5 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2006>

Coshocton SKYWARN Gets Press

(Ed. Note: I'm not sure where this appeared. Steve got it from the internet.)

COSHOCTON -- Weather forecasters depend on volunteers such as members of the Coshocton County Amateur Radio Emergency Services for accurate local weather information. ARES volunteers coordinate weather information among the Coshocton County Sheriff's Office, the National Weather Service and Coshocton County Emergency Management. "Once the weather is bad, they get in their cars and go. They are our eyes in the skies," said Jean Honabarger, county emergency management and homeland security director. "I don't know what we would do without them."

ARES is under the umbrella of Skywarn, a program in which local individuals communicate weather conditions such as wind gusts, hail size, rainfall and cloud formations. They are called "storm spotters." According to the Skywarn Web site, there are more than 1,600 storm spotters covering Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland.

Local storm spotter Bruce Adams, ARES Emergency Coordinator, said they get warnings from the National Weather Service or watch the weather itself for upcoming storms. "A lot of times ARES people watch the Weather Channel to see what's coming," Adams said. Once there is an approaching storm, "we activate the net and away we go." Adams quickly pointed out there is a difference between being a storm spotter and a "storm chaser." Storm spotters are licensed amateur radio operators who coordinate weather information. Storm chasers may be "meteorologists doing specific research or gathering basic information for training and comparison to radar data," according to the Skywarn Web site. Other storm chasers may provide live coverage of storms for the media, or they may be simply thrill-seekers.

The equipment ARES personnel use is a 100-foot-tall repeater tower on Roscoe Hill to communicate with one another and various county agencies. Purchased by Adams in 1992, the tower is a relay station powered at 80 watts that repeats information back and forth to hand-held units. Radio operators can pick up signals from as far away as 30 to 50 miles, Adams said. "It gives us a lot more coverage. The advantage is when we go out on foot," he said. "If this one (the tower on Swayne Street) should fail, we use

(another tower) in Keene." Adams said the Roscoe tower also has enough battery power for ARES personnel to communicate for 48 hours if the electricity failed. The ARES truck, a refurbished ambulance, also has its own generator that will run radio equipment for about three hours.

Adams, who was the police chief in Mount Eaton in Wayne County for 28 years and is the current director of security at Buehler's, said he enjoys the volunteer work. "Everybody owes something to give back to society," Adams said. Colleen Wheatcraft, President of the Coshocton County Amateur Radio Association, said amateur radio operators do more than track the weather. She said they also spend their time contacting people across the nation and the world. In order to verify those contacts, the radio operators collect three-by five-inch cards with the person's call number and contact information. "I've got one from Aruba," Wheatcraft said. Adams said it's also fun "to hit your signal off the moon and see who you get." During one "moon bounce," he contacted someone in Texas.

Being a female radio operator has its advantages, said Wheatcraft. When there are a lot of people contacting one radio frequency, the relay person will choose to speak with Wheatcraft simply because her voice is unique among the male voices.

Wheatcraft, the senior manager of Radio Shack in Downtowner Plaza, became interested in being an amateur radio operator when a customer told her about the hobby. "Now I'm hooked," she said. Wheatcraft met her husband Steve in 1994 while taking a test to become an amateur radio operator. The couple got married five years later.

"If you can't get anything else out of it, you might find your true love," she said.

If you're interested in hearing ARES weather reports, tune in to 145.23 MHz on the scanner.

cashby@nncogannett.com
295-3437

Originally published Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Storm spotters: Amateur radio operators track weather
By CARY ASHBY
Staff Writer

NCVEC COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES NEW SCHEDULE

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has announced that the Question Pool Committee (QPC) has adjusted its schedule for revising Amateur Radio examination question pools. This decision was prompted by recent FCC announcements, changes in radio communication technology and recommendations from VECs.

"The QPC feels it is imperative to produce a new Technician class pool now to better position the Amateur Radio Service for growth in the years ahead," the QPC said in a statement released September 9. "The new schedule impacts previously announced release dates for all three question pools."

The new Technician class (Element 2) pool now tops the schedule and is due for release January 1, 2006, effective July 1, 2006. General class (Element 3) pool updates, previously scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2008, will be released December 1, 2006, and become effective July 1, 2007. The Extra class (Element 4) pool originally scheduled for 2005, will be released on December 1, 2007, and will become effective July 1, 2008. NCVEC Web site <http://www.ncvec.org>

Emergency Power Handbook

ARRL Emergency Power for Radio Communications book now available (Nov 21, 2005) -- When all else fails, how will you power your communication equipment? The ARRL's new Emergency Power for Radio Communications by Michael Bryce, WB8VGE, can provide the answer, with information on emergency or back-up power, energy independence, portable power and more. Emergency Power for Radio Communications explores the various means of electric power generation and shows you how to plan ahead to stay on the air when weather or other circumstances knock out conventional power--short-term or longer. It also examines how to go "off the grid" by employing alternative power-generation methods such as solar, wind and water power. There's a selection of emergency power projects and information from the pages of QST too. Emergency Power for Radio Communications is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

W1AW Code Practice Files Available

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html>



2005 Library Display

THE COSHOCTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION WILL RECEIVE A \$15.00 COMMISSION FOR EVERY NEW (OR LAPSED MEMBERSHIP OF 2 YEARS OR MORE) ARRL MEMBERSHIP. IN ADDITION, OUR CLUB WILL RECEIVE A \$2.00 COMMISSION FOR EACH RENEWING ARRL MEMBERSHIP.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ARRL, PLEASE SEND YOUR ARRL APPLICATION AND DUES TO THE COSHOCTON CO. AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 501, COSHOCTON, OH. 43812. THE CLUB WILL SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES TO THE ARRL AND BE ABLE TO RETAIN A PORTION FOR THE CLUB TREASURY.

(Family, Blind or 21-and-under discounted memberships are not applicable.)

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