

WATTS HAPPENIN'

Newsletter Of The Wayne Amateur Radio Club



Monthly Meeting • Third Thursday
Wayne Co Communication Center • Corner of Burbank & Oldman Rds • Wooster, Ohio

W8WOO Repeaters
147.21 Mhz (PL 88.5) • 443.175 Mhz (No PL)



SERVING WAYNE COUNTY OHIO SINCE 1972

JULY MEETING

We meet on the third Thursday of each month and for July that would be the 20th. We start the meeting at 7:30 pm and meet at the Communication Center at the corner of Burbank & Oldman in Wooster, Ohio.

In addition to the usual monthly reports on Skywarn, the repeater, etc., we will discuss our participation in any upcoming events.

We will be monitoring 147.21, PL 88.5 should you need directions or have other concerns.

See you there.

• DX GROUP •



The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2017, and will be at Scotty Meyer's shack (KG9Z) starting at 7:30 pm.

If you like to talk radio, work DX, or just need a night out this is your place. Among other things, we will be discussing recent contesting activity, upcoming contests, recent DX contacts and activities. In other words, "good ol' Ham Radio".

The WARC DX Group also promotes and participates in a weekly DX Net every Thursday beginning when you hear someone talking. The net will be on 147.345 (PL 110.9). Listen in, participate and work some DX. You'll find everyone very friendly and helpful.

HOW TO COPY CW IN YOUR HEAD

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about CW is, “How do I learn to copy in my head?” When I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ, author of *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygg/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.

This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, “I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flashdrive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly.” Carl's program costs \$20 and is available from n7agk.com.

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, “I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear “dots and dashes”, then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head.”

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds “dah di dit...dah dah dah....dah dah dit,” should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pitbull, not the letters “D O G.”

How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code* and the *No Nonsense* series of amateur radio study guides. When he's not head copying on 30m, he blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com

Wayne Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of, June 15, 2017 Meeting

President Tom Zilko opened the meeting at 19:32 hours with 9 members present.

Secretary's Report – John Lilburn (KF4UTY)

The minutes of the April meeting which had been sent with the notice of meeting were presented at this meeting. A motion was made by Mike & Russ and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Russ McQuate (K8RMC)

The club's treasurer presented a report detailing the current finances of the WARC indicating a net balance of \$ 2881.01. A motion was made by John and Stan and the report was approved.

Repeater Trustee's Report

Russ McQuate reported that more debugging work is still needed but don't give up hope, we're almost there.

Emergency Coordinator- Mike Brugar (N8CEY)

Joe Valesqueze of the county EMA is interested in the digital radio work we are involved in for use in the state wide emergency system.

DX Group

The June meeting will be held on the 27th at 7:30 at Dave Balant's house

Old Business

This coming weekend are the Mohecan races. All radio crews should meet at McDonald's in Loudonville at 6 AM to review assignments and other updates on the 2 days of activities.

New Business

On June 6th, a group of members met at the cemetery and inspected the Xmas tree lights to get an inventory of cables and new lights needed. Apparently 4 new strings will be required with LED lights. The next step will be getting pricing for the cable and LED's. Assembly of the light strings will be later this summer/fall.

It was confirmed that the annual Field Day will be held on June 24/25 at Dave Baland's home on Springeville Rd., Wooster. The club will provide radios, generators, etc to augment Dave's equipment. A motion was made by Russ and Mike to provide food (not to exceed \$150.00). The motion passed.

Time and details of the event will be forthcoming via a separate E-Mail.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:28 hours.

Submitted by John Lilburn, KF4UTY

WARC Secretary E-mail – jlilburn1@gmail.com

2017 ARRL FIELD DAY

A great big “Thank You” to Dave Balint, N8IW, (and his family) for hosting ARRL Field Day this year.

Dave has plenty of room to hoist up antennas and set up stations. This year, we operated as 2A which gave us two HF radios and one VHF rig. We used the club’s generator and portable tower and operated from Dave’s front porch.

The largest portion of QSO’s was made by John Bastin (K8AJS). The bands were decent with most of the “Q’s” mad on 40 meters.

Using Dave’s words, “We had fun!”

WEEKLY CLUB NET

Every Wednesday evening at 9:00 PM local time (0100Z), the Wayne Amateur Radio Club sponsors a net on 2 meters and 70 cm using both of the club W8WOO repeaters. The frequencies are 147.21 Mhz and 443.175 Mhz (no PL). For both net and emergency purposes, the repeaters are crosslinked. Tom Zilko (N8JBG) handles the check-ins and net activity. It is a general information net and everyone is welcome to participate. Give it a try.

HAMFESTS

For details on other upcoming events and hamfests, please visit the WARC web site at w8woo.com.

ANYTHING TO ADD?

If you have any announcements that you want to put in a newsletter or you feel inclined to write an article, let me know. You can email me at K8RMC@arrl.net and I’ll do my best to get it in writing.