

WATTS HAPPENIN'

Newsletter Of The Wayne Amateur Radio Club



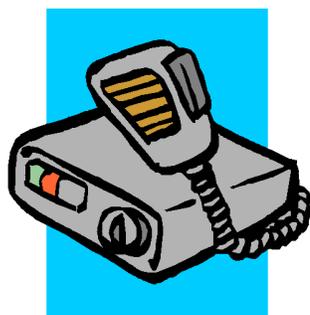
Monthly Meeting • Third Thursday
Wayne Co Communication Center • Corner of Burbank & Oldman Rds • Wooster, Ohio

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



SERVING WAYNE COUNTY OHIO SINCE 1972

JUNE MEETING



The regular meeting of the Wayne Amateur Radio Club is this coming Thursday, June 22, 2018, at 7:30 pm. We meet at the Wayne County Communication Center at the corner of Oldman and Burbank in Wooster, OH. Look for the 200 ft. tower.

In addition to the regular reports, we will discuss our participation in ARRL Field Day this coming weekend and comments on our experience with the Mohican 100 in Loudonville.

We will be monitoring 147.21 (PL 88.5) for call ins.

• DX GROUP •



The group normally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month and for June, that would be June 26, 2018, and will be at Dave Balint's (N8IW) shack. We will start 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.

Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

K0NR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio? (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)

N0SSC's Millennials are killing ham radio (<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)

PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio? (<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)

NZ0T's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio? (<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, K0NR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? I've written about that topic, too (<https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/>).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post (<https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html>), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 – Damaging to Amateur Radio?" (<https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/>) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, N0SSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes,

"A hackathon isn't a coding competition. It's explained well in this Medium article (<https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601>). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders...anyone with an interest in solving a problem with technology."

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn't just millennials we're talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don't think it's my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don't even know if that's really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

WAYNE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of May 24, 2018 Meeting

President Tom Zilko (N8JBG) opened the meeting at 19:34 hours with 8 members present.

Secretary's Report- John Lilburn (KF4UTY) The minutes of the April meeting, which were forwarded in the announcement of this meeting, were reviewed. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Russ McQuate (K8RMC) The club's treasurer provided a report detailing the current finances of the WARC indicating the net balance is \$2,775.32. The report was approved.

Repeater Trustee's Report – no report

Emergency Coordinator – no report

Skywarn - no report

DX Group – There will be no meeting in May. The next meeting will be at Scotty Meyer's house on June 26th.

Old Business –

The famous Xmas tree lights were finally taken down through the efforts of 5 of our members. Our thanks to all.

The Muskegee "Fly-in", held at the Wayne County Airport, was apparently a huge success. There were approximately 3000 attendees.

New Business-

The Mohegan Races are scheduled for June 16-17 at the state park. New methods of reporting racer times through the various "check points" are being considered. Instead of radioing this data from the various points, a method of "photographing" the data sheets on cell phones and relaying this data electronically is under review. There will still be a need to have radio operators at the usual check-points to relay other important data to net control.

Field Day is scheduled for June 23rd & 24th at the "Com Center" A motion was made and approved to purchase food with a limit of \$200

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:44 hours

Submitted by John Lilburn, WARC Secretary E-mail – jlilburn1@gmail.com

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.

MONDAY LUNCHEON

Every Monday at 11:30 am, area amateurs meet at the north end Wendy's (by Lowe's and Walmart) for lunch. All amateurs and friends are welcome.

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.