

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

FEBRUARY MEETING

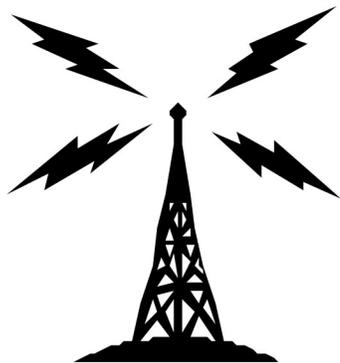


The Wayne Amateur Radio Club meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month. For February, that would be the 21st. We meet at the communication center on the corner of Oldman & Burbank roads in Wooster. Look for the 200' tower next to the building. Meetings start at 7:30 pm.

In addition to our regular reports, we will have a "Hands On Radio" presentation entitled "SWR and Line Loss".

We will be monitoring 147.21 (PL 88.5). See you there.

• DX GROUP •



The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be February 26, 2019, at the home of John Bastin (K8AJS).

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.

Amateur radio (illegally) aiding yacht racers

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Golden Globe Race (<https://goldengloberace.com>), a 30,000 mile, non-stop solo yacht race to celebrate Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's historic 1968/9 world first solo non-stop circumnavigation. There are 18 sailors in the race, which started on July 1, 2018 from Les Sables-D'Olonne, France.

Amateur radio is at the heart of the latest controversy surrounding the race. *Scuttlebutt Sailing News* reported (<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2019/01/21/maintaining-information-barrier/>) on January 21, 2019 (day 205 of the race):

“Sailors have been making use of the Amateur Radio net (ham radio) for decades, and while National telecommunication authorities have often turned a deaf ear to unlicensed operators using made-up call signs while at sea, warnings from a National regulator to Golden Globe Race skippers has created intrigue into an exciting finale for race leaders.

“Modern navigation and routing tools are restricted from use in the 2018-19 contest, limiting GGR skippers to the type of equipment available for the inaugural Sunday Times Golden Globe solo non-stop round the world race in 1968-69. That includes Amateur Radio.

“The skippers have been using this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, which is allowed under the Race Rules. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by National and International regulations which Jean-Luc Van Den Heede and Mark Slats, in first and second in the race, have not been doing. [[Neither Van den Heede or Slats have valid amateur radio licenses...Dan]]

“Said the warning, 'You use an amateur callsign and are making connections with amateur radio operators. The call sign letters are not registered, and thus illegal. I ask you to stop. If you have a legal amateur callsign then I urge you to present it.'”

As a result of this warning, Slats is considering dropping out of the race, even though the race is nearly complete. *Yachting Monthly* reports (<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/golden-globe-race/golden-globe-race-slats-considers-quitting-comms-row-68574>):

“Mark Slats, who is less than 50 miles from Golden Globe Race leader Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, has announced he is thinking about retiring from the race after being banned from broadcasting on the Ham Radio Net.

“Race organisers said the Dutch skipper does not have the required licence, and has been warned by the Dutch authorities to stop broadcasting, which has left him unable to communicate with his shore team.

“Under the rules of the race, all of the entrants are able to use this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, but, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by national and international regulations.”

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It's not only the yachters that are flouting the rules, it's the amateur radio operators who are communicating with them. According to *Yachting Monthly*, OFCOM, the UK regulator issued the following warning:

“Fair warning both to unregistered GGR skippers and to legitimate Ham radio operators communicating with them. In Britain, the Ham Radio net is controlled by OFCOM, which recently revoked more than 500 licences for non-compliance. This includes communicating with unregistered Ham radio operators. The maximum penalty is 6 months in prison, a £5,000 fine and loss of their licence.”

This is a fascinating story, and I wish that I'd found out about this sooner. It would be interesting to listen in on some of these communications. One question I have is why these guys failed to obtain a valid amateur radio license? The Golden Globe Radio website notes, “[The race] will be sailed under the auspices of the Royal Nomuka Yacht Club in the Kingdom of Tonga. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a Ulukalala is Patron of the Race.” They probably could have issued valid amateur radio licenses to all the racers.

If any of you have heard the communications or know any more about the technical details, I'd love to hear from you.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). When he's not think about operating maritime mobile, you'll find him on 30m, 40m, and 80m.

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

In addition to the regular activity reports at our meetings, we have scheduled a couple of presentations:

- ♦ March 21, 2019—”An introduction to EZNEC”
- April 18, 2019—Hands On Radio Experiment 83—”Circuit Simulation Part 1”

If you are an ARRL member, you can go to their web site and download the Hands On Radio articles by H. Ward Silver (N0AX)

Wayne Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of January 17, 2019 Meeting

President Tom Zilko, N8JBG, opened the meeting at 00:30Z hours with 5 members present.

Secretary's Report

The December 2018 minutes were not available. The motion to accept will be postponed until the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report • Russ McQuate • K8RMC

The club's treasurer presented a report detailing the current finances of the WARC. A motion to accept this report was made, 2nd, and passed

Trustee's Report • Mike Bruggger • N8CEY

Mike deferred to Russell McQuate for an update. The repeaters have been working fine with no reported situations. Tom Zilko will not return the repeater to normal operation after next week's net in order to test a new macro added to do just that at 0100 every morning.

Emergency Coordinator • Mike Bruggger • N8CEY

Mike met with Joe (EMA) and discussed a review of the communication plan for emergencies. Mike tested the radio equipment at the EMA and discussed testing radio equipment at other locations such as the hospitals.

Skywarn – Mike Bruggger • N8CEY

Mike reported no activity.

David Rose (KE8KQB) reported on activities at a winter session of Skywarn Training.

Steering Committee • Duane • WD8BVV

No report

DX Group • Russ McQuate • K8RMC

The December meeting was cancelled since the 4th Tuesday fell on Christmas. The January meeting will be at Russ McQuate's (K8RMC) shack on the 22nd.

Hamfests and Computer Shows

We announced the Tusco and Mansfield hamfest. The details were in the newsletter. Follow links in newsletter or go to W8WOO website.

Old Business

Tom Zilko thanked all who helped in taking down the Wooster Christmas Tree lights.

New Business

We had a brief discussion of our Field Day plans.

Russ McQuate offered to prepare some basic presentations for our monthly meetings and took suggestions from members present.

Motion to adjourn was 2nd and passed.

Submitted by Russ McQuate • K8RMC • WARC Secretary

2019 CLUB DUES ARE DUE

Dues for the 2019 year are currently due and payable.

A single membership is \$17 and additional family members \$1 each.

Please pay the Treasurer directly or mail to :

WARC
P.O.Box 881
Wooster, OH 44691

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.