

Wavelengths

January 2017

Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net XWARN (W8XRN)

147.1650+ (123.0) (Analog Only)

443.1000+ (123.0) (Analog + System Fusion)

Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7:30PM,

Greene Memorial Hospital ([1141 N Monroe Dr, Xenia, OH](#))

Herman Menapace Auditorium



Editor's Note: This is another picture from the 1974 Xenia Tornado showing the level of destruction. I looked up the address,

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President's Message

A New Year is upon us and this is a good time to think about plans for the upcoming period. In the coming year, we expect to do many of the same things that we did last year. If there is an activity that you would like to see added to our calendar, please drop me a message or bring it up at a club meeting.

We will continue in our mission to support Skywarn and other related activities. We expect to get the refurbished 147.165 repeater into service in the next few months. The temporary repeater now on the air has provided good coverage, but it is hoped that the replacement will have sufficiently better selectivity to remedy the intermod issues. It is also hoped that we can make progress toward getting a second site active. While coverage from the current site is pretty good, a second repeater site should improve coverage in the Northeastern part of the county.

A notable event for 2017 is that Hamvention will be held at the Greene County Fairgrounds complex. Most of you are already involved as volunteers. If you would like to join the new adventure, I can help you link up with a volunteer job. Of course, XWARN will be there with official Hamvention t-shirts and we need all able members to assist with this.

The Resolution Run on New Year's Eve signals a pause in public service events. Without events that force us to keep our equipment ready for use, we need to make a special effort to make sure that we are ready in case we are called upon to support a weather related situation. Also, with activity slow, there couldn't be a better time to perform maintenance on your station, especially on outside antennas.

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Calendar of Events

Dec 31 (Sat), Resolution Run (5k)
Beavercreek H.S. DARA will sponsor
Ham License exams at the school
before the race.

May 19-21. Hamvention 2017.

Amateur Radio in Action

For this month's Amateur Radio in Action, we have two events to share - Hurricane Watch in Central America and the Tennessee wild-fires.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) activated on Thanksgiving Day for Hurricane Otto. The Category 2 storm with maximum sustained

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Club Contacts

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On December 10, we supported a new event: the Ugly Sweater Reindeer Run & Winterland Walk. It was cold and windy, but we were able to look after the 65 participants without any major issues. This event started and finished at Xenia Station and went down the bike path, turned around, and returned via the same path.

On December 12, we had a nice Christmas party at The Golden Corral in Beavercreek. The turn-out was pretty good and I hope that those in attendance had a good time. A special thanks goes to Phyllis for making the arrangements and providing the decorations and prizes. Since we did not conduct a business meeting, there are no minutes to be published.

Next meeting: Monday, January 9, at 7:30, at Greene Memorial Hospital, 1141 N. Monroe Dr., Xenia 45385, in the Herman Menapace Auditorium. Meeting after the meeting at Frischs.

73, Bob N8ADO

A Letter to XWARN

XWARN is helping the Dayton VA Hospital Radio Club, proving once again why I am proud to be a member of XWARN.

Back in 1987 I joined the XWARN radio club before I was an amateur radio operator. Over those 29 years I have seen time after time how XWARN has helped in the local community. Even today with temperatures in the twenty's, we were there supporting a local 5K walk.

I have agreed to volunteer at the newly formed Dayton VA Hospital Radio Club. With the exception of two VHF/UHF radios, everything has been donated -- HF radios, tower, coax, antennas. Many Hams have made this happen. Jim Simpson has spent many hours and days getting things ready.

The club while not in full swing on air wise has made several contacts, most notably W6VAH, the VA hospital in Loma Linda California. I am proud to say XWARN has agreed to buy N3FJP's logging software for the VA club. We at the VA club thank you for the generous donation.

Remember the VA club is looking for volunteers to join contact Chris Geib at cwgeib@att.net or me at kb8emd@arrl.net.

73

Larry Baker KB8EMD

Amateur Radio in Action



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winds of 110 MPH made land-fall on the southern Nicaraguan coast on November 24 and passed over Central America with no reported fatalities but generating flooding. The net stood down at 2200 UTC. Otto

was the strongest Atlantic hurricane on record this late in the year.

“All members of HWN gave their best effort to obtain weather data from the affected areas of Nicaragua and Costa Rica,” said net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV. He said that, with poor propagation on both 20 and 40 meters, the only station in the affected region the HWN was able to contact was in Costa Rica.

Amateur Radio volunteers are providing communication support to American Red Cross shelters in Sevier County, Tennessee. Wind-driven flames and embers from the Chimney Top Fire in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, now closed, spread on Monday to threaten the communities of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge in East Tennessee. Authorities have closed Highway 441 into Gatlinburg, although it remains open only to emergency traffic and outbound evacuation traffic. Media reports indicate that fire caused considerable destruction in Gatlinburg, a resort community that attracts thousands of visitors throughout the year. At peak, an estimated

XWARN Mission

The mission of the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net (XWARN) amateur radio club is to conduct weather spotting nets during severe weather and other communication services for the City Of Xenia and all other Greene County communities.

In this capacity, we are set up to provide communication services as required to the Greene County Ohio Public Service Agencies and other local government entities. The communications services provided to the supported agencies may be for emergency purposes or to simply enhance their communications abilities. On an as needed basis XWARN provides similar services to various government entities of our surrounding counties.

Additionally, XWARN provides communications support to various community organizations in support of marathons, 5K runs, 10K runs, bicycle events, etc. to provide health and safety assistance to the participants and sponsors of said events.

In support of these goals, XWARN operates and maintains amateur radio repeaters and other equipment in Greene County.

This Month with Larry

For some strange reason, maybe because I'm closer to 100 than 1 in birth years, when I receive my copy of QST magazine, I always stop on the page that lists the "Silent Keys". Most often I check the section that list the 8's to see if someone close by has become a silent key.

From Wikipedia:

Silent Key refers to an amateur radio operator who is deceased. The "key" in the term refers to a [telegraph key](#), the instrument that all early [amateur radio](#) operators, as well as many contemporary amateur radio operators, have used to send Morse code.

The term SK, used in telegraphy to indicate an end of transmission, is therefore also used to refer to any amateur radio operator who is deceased, regardless of whether or not they were known to have used a telegraph key or [Morse code](#) in their two-way personal communications.

As anyone who has attended any radio club meeting can attest, too many of us hams fall in the old bird rather than the young bird stage of life. Having lost several ham friends this year as well as in the past, I decided to count the SK's in January's issue of QST. Two hundred and two (202) is the figure I came up with, and I may have missed some. If we just use 200 as a count each and every month, that adds up to two thousand, four hundred (2,400) men and women. I'm afraid at this rate this wonderful hobby we all enjoy is destined to vanish. Talk about an endangered species.

The question is, what can we do about the lack of new hams entering the hobby?

Do you know any young people who may be interested in becoming hams? Have you invited them and their parents into your shack? Have you showed them how to make contacts using digital or SSB modes? Have you explained to them how some people talk to astronauts or cosmonauts on the International Space Station? Have you showed just plain old "rag chewing" on single side band? Have you showed them the joy of making a CW contact, listening to dots and dashes turn into letters, letters into words, words into sentences?

I have renewed my status as a VE. In the past I did testing as well as instructing for the XWARN club and the Cedarville College radio club. At the last test I attended, we had about ten people taking the tests. Far too few.

73

Larry Baker KB8EMD

In Other News



Bob Rhoades, KC8WHK, the Ohio District 3 ARES District Emergency Coordinator, died in an automobile accident on November 19, 2016. Fred Stone, W8LLY, will be taking over as District 3 DEC. Fred has been the Greene County, Ohio, Emergency Coordinator for over 20 years and was in the process of stepping down when asked to perform the District 3 DEC role.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, died as the 114th Congress of the United States drew to a close. After having passed the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote, the bill stalled in the Senate. The legislation will be reintroduced in both houses of Congress after

the 115th Session begins in January.

The Second Annual Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest! ARES is tasked with being able to provide communications “When all else fails.” Local communication is critical and typically takes place on the VHF or UHF amateur band. In order to improve our ability to perform on these bands, Ohio Section ARES is sponsoring the ARES VHF Contest (Yeah, we know, but calling it the Ohio VHF / UHF Contest got a little long-winded). Participants in the contest are encouraged to make as many contacts as possible within the time-frame of the contest with as many different geographical locations as the bands permit. The contest is open to all amateur operators. When did you say it was? The contest is January 14, 2017. The start time is (for those of us who sleep in) 10 AM through 6 PM Eastern.

Fox Hunting with Larry



In the past I have participated in Fox Hunts as have several of our members. In the past I built a device that runs off a 9 volt battery, has a left-right indicator, and an audio signal to detect a hidden "fox".

It uses two antennas. Whichever antenna receives the signal first is indicated by the meter. When both antennas receive the signal at the same time, the indicator needle is centered. The good thing about the receiver is it can use a 2 meter (144 Mhz) or 70cm (440MHz) radio. I use two antennas - one for 2 meter and one for 440MHz.

If anyone is interested in building such a system I will get you the plans, I have some very old printed circuit board transfers which may or may not work. I made my own PC boards. Everything is mounted in an enclosure. Mine did not turn out looking the best, but it does work.

Larry, K8EMD

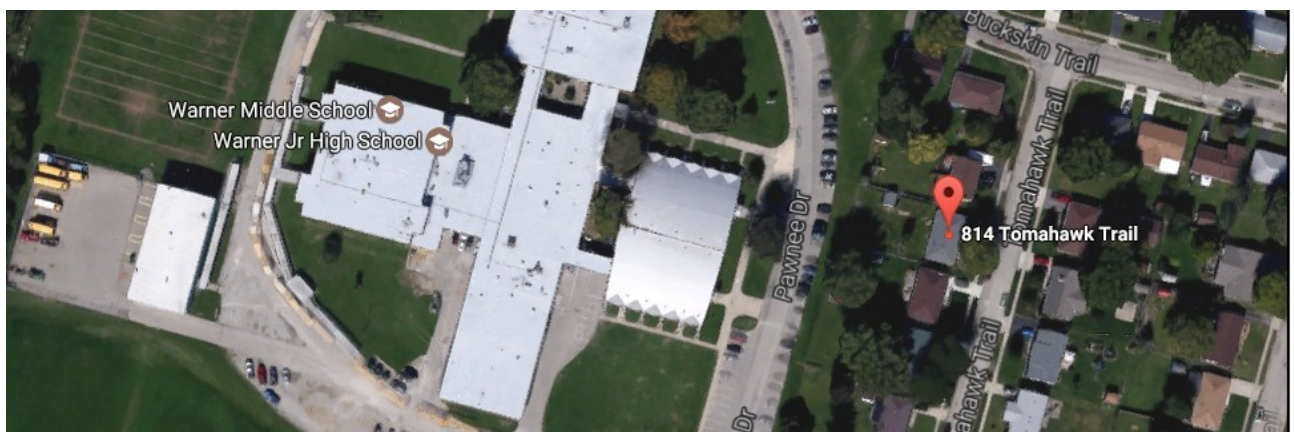


Regularly Scheduled Nets



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814 Tomahawk Trl, and found both street and satellite views that are current. The heavily damaged arch structure in back of the residence is actually part of Warner Jr High School. The structure is still present in the current satellite view. However, I don't know if was repaired or simply torn down and rebuilt.



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«FNAME» «LNAME» - «CALL»
«ADDRESS»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

Wavelengths

Wavelengths is published monthly by the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net. Our meetings are currently held on the 2nd Monday of each month at **7:30 pm** at the Greene Memorial Hospital Auditorium. You can find additional information about our organization at www.xwarn.net. We welcome new and experienced Amateur operators and those interest in becoming an Amateur operator to attend our meetings.