

WD8IJ 147.06+ ECHOPRODUCER OPERATION & BULLETIN SCHEDULE

The 147.66/06 EchoLink node, operated by N8GD, and transmitting through the WD8IJ 147.06+ repeater, now has new features enabled by the addition of an EchoLink add-on program called **EchoProducer** (written by EI4JR, Peter Homer, in Ireland). The program adds many features to the basic EchoLink node and greatly enhances the repeater's operation by providing the following capabilities:

1. Announcements concerning club functions and items of interest to local Amateur Radio Operators
2. News Bulletin/QST transmission on predetermined days and times
3. Local weather conditions (extracted from the N8GD/wintersville.com weather station in Wintersville, Ohio)
4. Local weather forecasts from the National Weather Service
5. Local weather alerts from the National Weather Service
6. On demand weather conditions, forecasts, temperature, and alerts (via DTMF)
7. On demand re-transmission of NOAA/NWS weather radio audio and information (via DTMF)
8. On demand system audio help (via DTMF)
9. Other new features to be announced (as I dream them up - N8GD)

The following sections detail how all of these new features work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The current schedule for time sensitive announcements and weather-related information is as follows:

ANNOUNCEMENT NOTES:

Announcements consist of various short audio clips detailing items such as the following:

- Club related activities (meetings, dinners, special club events, etc.)
- Individual related activities (such as kit building projects, radio operating efforts, etc.)
- Global/national/local on-the-air activities (contests, special events, DX opportunities, etc.)

- Hamfests or other social activities (local or national)
- Training activities (for personal or community advancement - such as FCC licensing classes or ARES/EmComm training sessions)
- Local or regional VE testing notifications (either SWARC or other club/group supported)
- And. . . . most any other type of announcement that would present information of interest to Amateur Radio Operators in the area individually or as a group or groups

All local Amateur Radio Operators are encouraged to submit ideas for and information about any and all announcements of interest to the local Ham Radio community.

Announcements will run on the EchoLink system via the WD8IJ 147.06+ repeater as follows:

Every 30 minutes: Announcements & items of local interest (sent on the hour, and half hour)

Every 3 hours, starting at 8:00 AM: Weather **conditions** at 8:00 AM, then the weather **forecast** at 11:00 AM, repeated in that order again at 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM (these weather items replace any announcement scheduled for that particular hour)

All announcement schedules are subject to change.

BULLETINS/QST:

The WD8IJ 147.06+ repeater will broadcast bulletin (QST) programs of interest to all Amateur Radio operators on a regular basis.

BULLETIN/QST NOTES:

QST refers to the "Q" signal (from CW) that means "calling all amateurs" or "calling all stations," being a general call to all stations listening on a frequency, in addition to being the title of the popular ARRL monthly journal sent to all members of that organization (again, that title referring to the fact that the magazine is literally "calling all amateurs" to read its contents).

All bulletin/QST programs are broadcast at 8:00 PM on their respective nights, and all programs are broadcast on a weekly basis, except where noted. Some programs may not be broadcast on certain weeks due to holiday or other scheduling conflicts of the respective producer(s) of the program(s).

In the United States, bulletin/QST programs can be re-transmitted by any licensed radio amateur as long as his/her station operation conforms to Sections 97.111 and 97.113 regarding

one-way transmissions. This is permitted under the same rules that allow ARRL's W1AW to broadcast bulletins of general interest to Amateurs.

BULLETINS SCHEDULE:

Monday at 8:00 PM - The RAIN Report (Radio Amateur Information Network)

Friday at 8:00 PM - Amateur Radio Newsline

Saturday at 8:00 PM - ARRL Audio News ("The ARRL Letter" in audio format)

4th Thursday of each month at 8:00 PM - ARRL E-Letter (ARES news)

WD8IJJ 147.06+ ALL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE:

The WD8IJJ 147.06+ repeater has many activities scheduled throughout the week. The overall schedule of activities that occur on the repeater, whether handled electronically (through the EchoLink/EchoProducer system) or by live radio operators (nets, etc.) is as follows:

Sunday - NO bulletin/QST (The SWARC Sunday Night Net takes precedence)

Monday - "RAIN Report" (Radio Amateur Information Network); usually approximately 15 minutes in length

Tuesday - NO bulletin/QST (The Digital Net takes precedence)

Wednesday - NO regularly scheduled bulletin/QST broadcast (Wednesday "Round Table" nets take precedence on 2nd, 4th, & possibly 5th Wednesdays)

Thursday - "ARRL E-Letter," **broadcast only on the 4th Thursday of the month** - This program is an audio broadcast of the ARRL E-Letter, a monthly publication concerning ARES topics; usually lasts approximately 15 minutes

Friday - "Amateur Radio News Line," founded and edited by Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles California; usually approximately 30 minutes in length (the longest bulletin/QST transmitted on this system)

Saturday - "ARRL Audio News," the audio version of the weekly ARRL Letter; usually approximately 15 minutes in length

(NOTE: Both ARRL programs, the "ARRL Audio News" and the "ARRL E-Letter" are not always available due to ARRL production lapses, holidays, etc. The other programs, "AR Newsline" and "The Rain Report" are almost always available with few if any missing episodes. An announcement will be made by the system if a program is not available.)

DTMF (Touch Tone ®) Commands:

Various functions are accessible via DTMF (Touch Tone ®) commands. These commands are:

DTMF COMMAND NOTES:

1. Please identify your station, press the following keys, then unkey your radio and listen for the response.
2. Identification is necessary since the WD8IJJ repeater will not pass the DTMF commands to the EchoLink system until after the delay introduced during your identification process.
3. Some commands, when accepted by the system, will incur a delay, of which you will be informed)
4. If, after 15 seconds, or so, you receive no response from the system, resend the DTMF commands - the system may have not recognized them initially. BE SURE to identify prior to sending the DTMF commands to incur the required delay for retransmission of the tones by the repeater.

COMMAND LIST:

Commands that produce output created locally by EchoLink/EchoProducer:

#91 - Current temperature at N8GD in Wintersville, Ohio (directly from N8GD's Davis Vantage Pro 2 weather station)

#92 - Current weather conditions at N8GD in Wintersville, Ohio (temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed/direction, etc., directly from N8GD's Davis Vantage Pro 2 weather station)

#93 - National Weather Service (NOAA) Weather Forecast (for today and several days thereafter)

#97 - Weather Alert Summary

#98 - Weather Short Alert

#99 - Weather Long Alert

NOAA/NWS Weather Information played directly from the Internet:

#82 - "Hourly Observations" (from NOAA NWS Weather Radio, WWF-35, Bridgeport, OH)

#83 - Current weather "Forecast" (from NOAA NWS Weather Radio, WWF-35, Bridgeport, OH)

#84 - "Climate" report (from NOAA NWS Weather Radio, WWF-35, Bridgeport, OH)

#85 - "River Forecast" for Ohio (from NOAA NWS Weather Radio, WWF-35, Bridgeport, OH)

On demand system audio HELP (via DTMF)

#44 (for the letters "HH"[Help] on your DTMF pad) - Transmits limited audio help for all of the above EchoProducer commands. A listing of **EchoLink** commands is available on the <http://www.swarc.net> website and is not available via this audio help facility.

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