

The Official Newsletter of  
the Steel City Amateur  
Radio Club

All the (Amateur) news  
that's fit to print

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**Make plans now to attend the next business meeting: August 21.  
Come on out and support YOUR club. Meeting starts at 8:00PM.  
BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!!**

# KiloWatt Harmonics



Check us out on the web: [www.w3kwh.com](http://www.w3kwh.com)

**August, 2007**

## A Word From Your Editor : THANKS!!!

I'd like to take this opportunity to say "Thanks" to all of you for your kind E-Mails and comments I received over the last month.



Members were walking up to me at the last business meeting (Where were you??) and offering nothing but high praise for the quality of the newsletter. Some even said it was the nicest newsletter they ever read. Now my problem is, I have to out-do myself in this newsletter and keep the ball rolling!! No sweat though; with my staff of associates, (W3SVJ, KA3LNG and KB3NUQ) we will continue to bring you a great newsletter and keep you posted in all the goings-on in the area concerning Amateur Radio.

Thanks to your comments/constructive criticisms, I've implemented changes in the

newsletter this month, making it easier to read. (Larger fonts, more color.)

I would like to enhance the quality of the newsletter with a Swap 'n Shop section. So, if you have any radio-related items for sale or wanted, shoot me an E-Mail and let me know. I'll be happy to put them in here. Pictures will make it even better.

Also, I'm constantly on the lookout for articles, pictures, and ideas. So start thinking and start writing and send it to me. A simple text document will work fine. If you don't have MS Word or anything fancy, no sweat. Don't worry about spelling and punctuation. (I don't. My computer takes care of all that!) Imagine the thrill you'll get seeing your name in print!!! Let me know what you would like YOUR newsletter to be. As always, your comments and criticisms are welcome at:

[KQ3DX@hotmail.com](mailto:KQ3DX@hotmail.com).

Thanks/73 de KQ3DX, et al



## D-STAR Has Arrived In Pittsburgh!

As an owner of D-STAR (a digital voice and data protocol) equipment and no one to play with, it gives me great satisfaction to report that a D-STAR repeater system has been set up in the Pittsburgh area.

Sponsored by the North Hills Amateur Radio Club, the repeater has been installed and is operating in a local on-the-air repeater mode only. It's frequency of operation is 444.35MHz, and is installed

at WQED's tower in Oakland. They are now awaiting the arrival of their computer. Once it arrives, the gateway software will be installed and the repeater will be interfaced with it, allowing access to other D-STAR systems all across the country.

**(continued on page 4)**



## Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Special Event Station W3P A Success!!

Thanks to Bob, W3RJM's efforts, the PVGP Special Event station that was operated on July 14-15 in conjunction with the actual race was a great success. Bob was the one responsible for putting this operation together. Many people came out and operated during the weekend. This was a joint venture between the Steel City Amateur Radio Club and the Wireless Association of South Hills to com-



memorate the 25th Anniversary of the PVGP, and the call used was W3P. A total of 358 QSO's were made during the weekend, and the activity was on 17, 20, 30 and 40 meters. QSO's: 10CW, 22 PSK31 and the rest on SSB. Special thanks goes out to all the ops who helped out: W3SVJ (Nate), W3WH (Bill), WQ3T (Dave), KB3PJW (Matt), K3LAB (Doug), WB3IKJ (Ron), WB3AGB (Joe), WA3VXJ (Karl), N3SBF (Rich), N3ZEL (Jacque), and N3ZNI (Ed). Special thanks goes to Ed N3ZNI for being QSL manager. If you want a QSL/certificate, send your card to Ed's callbook address. He's also good on QRZ.com. (Thanks to W3RJM for the info.)



## FCC/Regulatory Happenings

### PA Senate Bill SB884: It's still not too late!!



From the desk of Larry O'Toole, K3LBP,  
WPA Section Manager:

"I've received several requests for information to supply to our PA. Senate relating to Senate Bill SB 884, which seeks to codify Federal PRB-1, amateur antenna pre-emption provisions into Pennsylvania law."

"Perhaps letting legislators know of the FCC's feelings might fill that request. Therefore, I've taken excerpts from the July 13 "ARRL Letter" for your use. You are free to quote from it, but the ARRL does ask (reasonably) that you cite it as the source." (Reprinted below)

"FCC Releases Post-Katrina Order, Final Rule"

"On July 11, the FCC released their Order regarding the recommendations of the independent panel reviewing the impact

of Hurricane Katrina on communications networks (the Katrina Panel). The Commission asked for comments a week after the release of the report and directed the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) to implement several of the recommendations. The FCC also adopted rules requiring some communications providers to have emergency/back-up power to conduct analyses and submit reports on the redundancy and resiliency of their 911 and E911 networks.

The Commission noted that "the Amateur Radio community played an important role in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other disasters," and instructed the PSHSB to "include the Amateur Radio community in its outreach efforts."

**(continued on page 4)**

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August 2007  
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Regulations section  
501 (C) (3)

## DX News & Views

- Scarborough Reef cards are now in the mail. KU9C is the manager.
- FO/C: Clipperton Island. Bob, N6OX will be traveling there along with a crew of 23 others to activate this one sometime in March 2008. Still much needed, as it ranks #35 worldwide on the Most Wanted List.
- TI9M: Cocos Island. Look for this one sometime in 2008. Dates TBA at a later time.
- Disbanding of the Netherlands Antilles. This is being planned for December 15, 2008, which happens to be the Netherlands "Kingdom Day". An agreement was reached on July 12th of this year making Saint Marten (or Sint Maarten) a country within the Kingdom. Bonaire (PJ4), Sint Eustatius (PJ5) and Saba (PJ6) would become special municipalities of the Netherlands. So, if everything goes as planned, on December 15, 2008 the Netherlands will be 4 countries: The Netherlands, **(continued on page 13)**

## Local Stuff: Amateur Radio Training Schedule

(Many thanks to Kurt, KA3LNG for submitting this info for the benefit of our members. **If you know of someone interested in obtaining their ticket, pass this info on to them!!** Thanks/73 de KQ3DX.)

Amateur Radio Training Schedule: September 6, 2007 to January 10, 2008

All classes at the E.O.C., 400 North Lexington Street, Pittsburgh, PA. 15208

Technician: Sept. 6, Sept. 13, Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 11 2007, 7:00PM-9:00PM on the above listed dates  
VE Test: Oct. 18 2007, 7:00PM

General: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 8, Nov. 15 2007, **No class on Nov. 22 (Thanksgiving Day)**, 7:00PM-9:00PM on the above listed dates. VE Test: Nov. 29 2007, 7:00PM

Extra: Dec. 6, Dec. 13, Dec. 20, Dec. 27 2007, Jan. 3 2008, 7:00PM-9:00PM on the above listed dates. VE Test: Jan. 10 2008, 7:00PM

If interested in any of the above classes, shoot Joe Sculli an E-Mail at: [KA3TDQ@verizon.net](mailto:KA3TDQ@verizon.net)



## Club Stuff: Happy Birthday, Hams!!

**Happy birthday to those of our club members who celebrate in the month of August:**

**Doug Fitzsimmons, K3LAB, 8/05**

**Bob Plumskey, W6LAC, 8/19**

**Dale Luepke, WB3CRC, 8/22**

**Della Mueller, N3DQ, 8/26,**

**Bob Knowlton, N3EVM, 8/26,**

**Jack Wisniewski, W3LZA, 8/28,**

**"Doc" Kump, KT3L, 8/29,**

**Bob Lenfestey, WB3HDI, 8/30,**

**Jason Mueller, AE3JM, ex KA3OYI, 8/30 (A brand-new extra!! Congratulations on the upgrade! What a nice present!!) Many Happy returns to all! May your skip be long, your solar storms short!! (Txn W3SVJ for the info)**

## Website Of The Month

A monthly feature in which I will highlight a website that I hope you will find interesting and useful. **Ye olde editor's disclaimer:** I have no monetary or pecuniary interest in the sites listed herein. I'm just trying to make for some interesting reading. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX.

**Our site this month: MM Hamsoft**

<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca>

This is an absolutely AWESOME site loaded with lots of FREE software. It is run by JE3HHT, Makoto, and has all kinds of software available for download. Freebies include: "MMSSTV", an excellent SSTV decoder program that can also be used to format and send/receive SSTV pics, "MMTTY", a program used for sending and receiving RTTY signals, and "DSP-Filter", an absolutely neat program that can turn your computer into a powerful DSP filter. (As long as you have audio from your rig feeding into your computer.) Also available is "MMANA GAL", an antenna analyzing program, and "MMVARI", a program for decoding RTTY, PSK, FSK, and MFSK modes. I've played with some of this stuff and I can highly recommend it. Help files are available to get you started. Neat stuff, and best of all, all downloads are FREE!! So, give it a look; I think you'll find it a great site.



**D-STAR (from page 1)**

Apparently, they had some problems with getting a new computer. The first time, all the vendor shipped was an empty case. The second time around, all the pieces arrived, except the motherboard was broken. Once everything arrives safely, they will load the Linux OS onto it, along with Icom's gateway server software.

For more info, check out their website: [dstar.nharc.org](http://dstar.nharc.org) (no "www" in front of that address).

For more info on D-STAR, check out this month's "Beginner's Help Desk" article on page 7.

**FCC/Regulatory Happenings (con't from page 2)**

The FCC invited comments on the Katrina Panel's recommendation that the FCC "act to enhance the public safety community's awareness of non-traditional emergency alternative technologies that might be of value as back-up communications systems in a crisis." Several commenters suggested that the public safety community be educated about the applicability of Amateur Radio in a crisis. The FCC agreed. They directed the PSHSB to "develop and implement an awareness program to educate public safety agencies about alternative technologies and to encourage agencies to provide regular training on any alternative technologies to be used," including educating public safety agencies about alternative technologies.

The recommendations said that several Amateur Radio operators recommended changes to Part 97 of the FCC's rules; Part 97 is the section that covers Amateur Radio. Many of the suggestions, the report said, have already been implemented, and as such, require no further action. For example, "the Commission recently eliminated Morse Code proficiency as a license requirement, an action supported by several commenters in this proceeding.

(Courtesy of the ARRL Letter, July 13 Edition)

**Local News/Goings-On**

- Don't forget about the ARRL WPA Section Convention, which will be held on August 26, in conjunction with the SkyView Radio Society's Swap 'n Shop HamFest. It'll be at the SkyView Clubhouse, 2335 Turkey Ridge Road in New Kensington. Talk-in will be on 146.640MHz (PL 131.8). For more information, shoot Mac Laing an E-Mail at: [maclaing@comcast.net](mailto:maclaing@comcast.net), or check out their website at: [www.skyviewradio.net](http://www.skyviewradio.net)
- Forest County ARC will be holding their 1st annual flea market on September 22. Talk-in will be on 146.580MHz simplex. For more info, check out their website at: [www.forestcountyarc.com](http://www.forestcountyarc.com). You can also shoot an E-Mail to [rwkeith1@verizon.net](mailto:rwkeith1@verizon.net) if you have any questions.
- WACOM's HamFest will be held on November 4 at the Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main Street, Washington, PA. Talk-in will be on 145.490MHz (No PL tone). For more info, check out their website at: [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org). You can also shoot Jacque, N3ZEL an E-Mail at: [N3ZEL@arrl.net](mailto:N3ZEL@arrl.net)
- The North Hills Amateur Radio Club will be holding their annual picnic on August 19th at North Park, Sesqui Grove. Website : [www.nharc.org](http://www.nharc.org).
- Don't forget about the Warren (Ohio) HamFest. It'll be on Sunday, August 19th, at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds. Talk-in will be on 146.970MHz. For more info, shoot an E-Mail to: [KD8BHR@yahoo.com](mailto:KD8BHR@yahoo.com), or check out their website at: [www.w8vtd.org](http://www.w8vtd.org)
- Effective July 12, 2007, Drew McGhee, KA3EJV, is appointed DEC for the South-2 portion of the Western Pennsylvania Section. Drew has been Acting DEC for South-2 for some time, standing in for Jim Metzler, who had been unable to continue for medical reasons.
- Also coming up in October is our very own PA QSO Party. It'll be held the weekend of October 13-14. Lots of fun, lots of ops going portable and mobile activating PA counties. Every county should be on the air for this one too, for you county hunters out there. It's popular outside the state too. So mark your calendars for this one. BTW: This year marks 50 years of the PA QSO Party.



## Minutes From The July 17, 2007 Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt (the President WA3TTS, Mike was just a few minutes late as it turned out). The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and followed by a moment of silence for our Silent Keys. The Roll Call was answered by 24 members and 4 guests, a special note of WB3CRC, Dale who has returned after serious medical problems. The minutes of the June meeting were accepted as published in the July newsletter. The Treasurers report was given by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt and accepted by the membership. Walt revealed that 61 members have paid their dues to date.

### Committee Reports

**Clubhouse** WA3VXJ, Karl had cut the grass and cleaned up the clubhouse, WA3FWA, Joe rehung the aluminum soffit and fascia panels to the front of the clubhouse, and W3SVJ, Nate and W3MAC, Mac fixed the generator.

**Technical** WA3TTS, Mike said that W3WTW, Tim requested boom mikes for the radio operating rooms. WQ3T, Dave will research MFJ stuff for possible audio interfaces to the radios. May get the use of a bucket truck to remove interfering tree branches from a yagi antenna.

**Membership** WA3BKD, Art gave the first reading for 3 new membership applicants. They are: KB3PHJ, Donna, KB3PHW, Matt and WA8NLX, Rick.

**Newsletter** KQ3DX, Greg, our new editor, said that he would publish all articles sent to him. He was given a round of applause for getting off to a great start with his initial newsletter publication.

**Ways and Means** WA3FWA, Joe will have the usual 50/50 raffle after the meeting. He asked if the club still had the MFJ Grandmaster keyer bought from this committee's funds many years ago. It was revealed to be in the locked hall cupboard and in need of repair.

**Contest** W3RJM, Bob gave the operating results of the special event station for the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. Three stations were on the air from the clubhouse

making a total of 358 QSO's on SSB, CW and PSK modes. N3ZNI is the QSL manager. The CQ WW VHF Contest runs this weekend, July 21 & 22. A UHF contest runs the 4th weekend of August.

**Old Business** W3SVJ, Nate sent info to Allegheny County for the required "tower tax" to be paid by the cell phone lessee.

**New Business** WB3CRC, Dale has a 3-band quad free to anyone who will remove it from his property. W3JQJ, Matt expressed concern that the club road has developed some sink holes. Mike said that the road repairs would eventually be done when the municipal sewer system is established.

**Good of the Order** KA3YNO, Walt announced that W3SRS, Stew's father has passed away. We should send

a note of thanks to AA3CE, Tom for his time and effort spent as the previous newsletter editor. WA3RVD, Mel was relieved to be told that the club will not be obliged in any way to become part of the proposed municipal sewer system.



**Motion to adjourn** by WA3BKD, Art.

**50/50 raffle** won by KB3GMN, Carol.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary, WA3FWA, Joe.

**John, N3EQP, has volunteered to head up a project to update the club's library. If you have any books you would like to see the club purchase for the benefit of it's members, shoot John an E-Mail at:**

**[N3EQP@W3KWH.com](mailto:N3EQP@W3KWH.com). Thanks, John for volunteering to take care of this detail!**



## The E-Bay Report

This is a monthly feature I dreamt up to keep tabs on what is going on at the Amateur Radio auction listings on E-Bay. It makes for interesting reading, as well as gives you an idea of the stuff being listed and the price it is selling for. **Ye olde editor's disclaimer:** I have no interest, whether pecuniary or monetary in these listings. I'm just trying to spice up the newsletter a little bit and make it more enjoyable. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX.

Our topic this month: Cool boat anchors I found on E-Bay

Boat anchors. I love 'em!!! If I could have a house full of 'em, I'd be in heaven! Unfortunately, I'd have to throw the XYL out. (Well maybe that's not so bad after all!!!) There's nothing better than firing up an old tube radio, and heating up the shack on a cold winters day while it makes beautiful noise. Anyway, here's some older stuff I found while perusing E-Bay this past month:

Here's one I wished I had bid on: An extremely (and I mean EXTREMELY) clean Drake TR4 CW. Listed with a "flawless" cabinet, the radio was described to be in near-perfect condition. A simple, reversible modification was performed on it, replacing the #47 bulbs with blue LED's. I thought it gave the radio a cool look. The first time around, it had a buy-it-now price of \$1299.00. However the highest bid entered was \$635.00, and it did not sell. The second time around it sold for \$840.00. Someday, I'll start adding clean stuff like this to my collection again.



The Drake TR4 CW offered on E-Bay



Another one of my favorite brands is Hallicrafters. I shoulda bid on this one too. This was a SX-24 Skyrider receiver from the early 1940's, and it also was in excellent condition. Not as clean as the Drake, but still very clean. In working condition, this one didn't even sell for the minimum bid of \$50.00. According to the listing, one went for \$644.00 last year on E-Bay. Oh well, maybe next time I'll add one like this to my collection, too.

The Hallicrafters SX-24 listed on E-Bay



Here's a radio that looks like it has seen better days. This is my absolute favorite Hallicrafters radio of all time, the SX-28 Super Skyrider. A pre-WWII monster, this is what a boat anchor should look and feel like. Just not in this condition. Looks like somebody forgot it was left out in the rain. (For YEARS.) I thought for sure this one would go no bids received. But, because the radio is so popular with collectors, and so hard to find, it made it all the way to \$221.50. These can fetch 2 or 3 times that in good condition. Maybe we'll see this one fully restored in a future E-Bay auction. With this baby weighing in at 95 lbs though, I feel sorry for the UPS man who has to deliver it.

**That's it for this month. CU next month with more goodies from E-Bay. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX**



The Hallicrafters SX-28 Super Skyrider listed on E-Bay



# The Beginner's Help Desk (editor's disclaimer: I am not trying to plug Icom's stuff here.

I'm just trying to explain a new developing technology in Amateur Radio .) Thanks/73, de KQ3DX

While this one may not be a monthly feature, I'll try to run it as long as I have stuff to write about. HELP!! I need material for this column. If you have an interesting topic that will benefit the newcomers/newly licensed or upgraded ops, whether its technical or operation-oriented, SEND IT TO ME!! Thanks/73 de KQ3DX.

Our topic this month: **D-STAR. What is it all about??**

D-STAR. You may have seen the ads in the candy-store catalogs, in the monthly magazines, or on the Internet, but what exactly is it? What can it be used for??

Simply put, it is a digital voice and data system utilizing repeaters (or simplex ops) which can be used for local communication, as well as being interfaced with other repeater systems around the world linked via an Internet Gateway.

The D-STAR standard which was published in 2001, resulted from 3 years of research funded by the Japanese government and administered by the JARL (the Japan Amateur Radio League, the ARRL's sister society in Japan) to investigate digital technologies for Amateur Radio. D-STAR is an open protocol, meaning it can be implemented by anybody. Systems can be built using commercial equipment, or it can be home-brewed. While at this time, Icom is the only commercial manufacturer of D-STAR, any manufacturer can start it's own D-STAR line of equipment at any time.

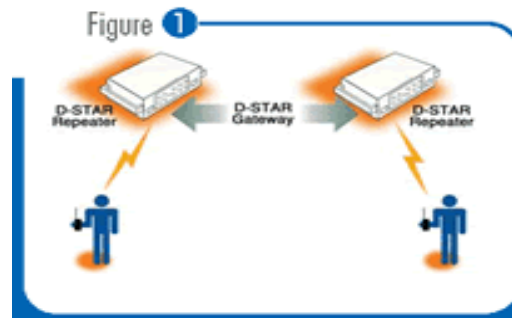
In a D-STAR system, D-STAR-equipped radios can communicate directly to each other, with or without the aid of a repeater system. The repeater can operate just like the FM repeaters you are used to using (I.E. for local communications), or they can be connected via an Internet Gateway for communicating across the country/world. The difference between FM and D-STAR is that D-STAR converts a voice transmission to a digital data stream, known as a "codec". The D-STAR codec is known as an AMBE® (Advanced Multi-band Excitation). The voice signal is sent at a rate of 3600 bits/second (3.6kbps).

While voice communications are possible on 144, 440 and 1296MHz, data-only transmissions are limited to the 1296MHz band at this time. The digital data stream is sent with a bit rate of 128kbps. Connection from a computer to Icom's ID-1 1296MHz voice/data radio can be accomplished via an RS-232 interface or a USB 1.0 connection.

Theoretically, you could connect your computer to the radio and surf the internet while operating mobile. It would be treated just like a wireless modem. Ordinary terminal emulation software (for digital voice), or a web browser (for digital data) would work fine for exchanging data.

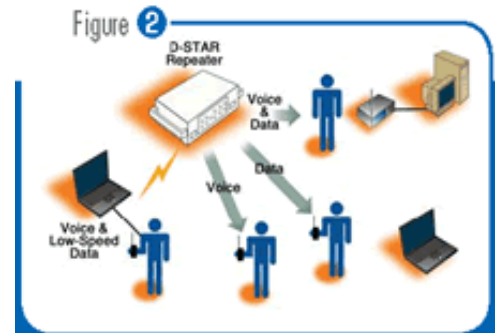
**So, what's the big deal with D-STAR??**

Well, for one thing, it takes up MUCH less bandwidth than an ordinary analog FM signal. D-STAR requires only 6KHz of bandwidth compared to 20-30KHz of an FM signal. As mentioned



Pictures courtesy  
and copyright  
Icom

earlier, repeaters can be linked via the Internet to form a nationwide system, and beyond.

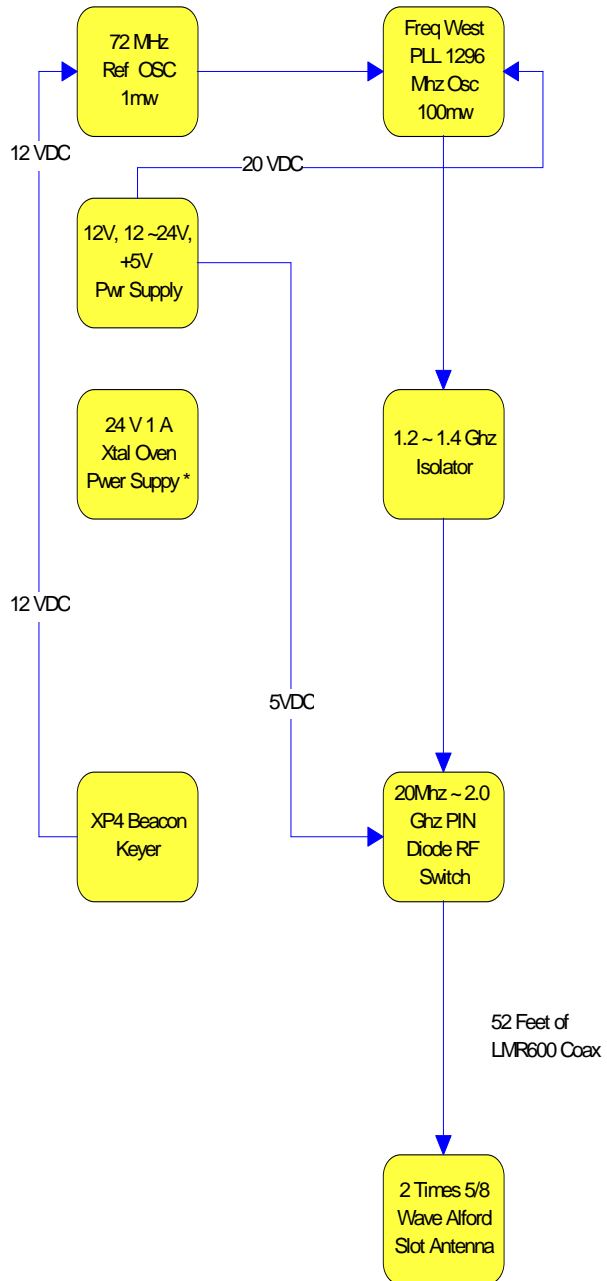


**So, what can D-STAR be used for??**

Well, for one thing, emergency communications come to mind. Status reports, damage assessments, request for resources take nothing more than a few keystrokes. D-STAR has the capability to combine voice and data into one single channel simultaneously. No longer is there a need for a separate TNC and radio. All you need is to connect your PDA or laptop, and you're ready to go. Also, you can send pictures of damage, weather images back to the command post. E-Mail, file transfer, Internet access are all possible.

Currently D-STAR is available in handheld and mobile sized radios, so portability is not a problem. **(con't on page 11)**

## Update On The Club 1296MHz Beacon



\* = Not Completed

**Editor's note: Many thanks to our club President, Mike, WA3TTS for submitting the following information about the new 1296MHz Beacon recently installed at the clubhouse.**

I ordered a set of RA18H1213G RF modules and boards to build up a 1296 amplifier for the beacon. My plan is to build one amplifier for a homebrew transverter I am working on and test it at home on the bench before incorporating it into the 1296 beacon. Then I will build a second amplifier for my HB transverter. Ideally I am looking for about 5W output for 50mw of drive which is less than a third of its 18W rating, but with continuous duty beacon service it becomes necessary to be more conservative. The Down East Microwave web site has a good article in its library on building amplifiers with these modules. Persons interested can view it at the following URL:

[www.downeastmicrowave.com/PDF/MOSFET%20PA.pdf](http://www.downeastmicrowave.com/PDF/MOSFET%20PA.pdf)

I have been able to drive around the N Hills and copy the 23cm beacon with a receive converter-preamp and a small PC card log periodic antenna using my FT-817 as the I.F. radio from favorable hilltop locations. The extra 20db of signal with a 5W amplifier should make quite a difference.

**To the left is the 1296MHz beacon flow-chart submitted by Mike, WA3TTS**



**I'm happy to report that Chuck, N3UUZ is recuperating nicely from recent surgery. He reports that all went well, and is starting to walk again. He also sez he has it rough, just laying around, with all those pretty nurses coming over, asking him if he needs anything. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Chuck ! We'll be seeing you soon at the clubhouse!!**



## Ham Radio Is Alive & Thriving!

**(Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the July 2007 issue of Allegheny West Magazine, published by Jennette Communications Group of Imperial, PA. Many thanks to them for allowing me to reprint it here for the benefit of our members who do not receive their magazine in the mail. This article is copyright 2007, Jennette Communications.)**

Often times in natural disasters, there is no telephone service. There is though, a network of people able to communicate without needing electricity. They're amateur radio operators, or hams, who work behind the scenes and provide communication services. They get the message through when conventional communication methods fail. Their slogan, "When all else fails..." is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, the Internet, or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis.

There are several hundred active ham radio operators in the Pittsburgh area, including the 60 members of the Steel City Amateur Radio Club based in Collier Township. The club meets every third Tuesday evening at their Collier Township clubhouse. Its members are active in different ham radio activities, including providing communication services for numerous events in the Pittsburgh area, like the Saint Patrick's Day parade, the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, and the MS 150 bike race.

Bob Mente of Collier Township has been a licensed ham radio operator for almost a year. Ham radio operators must be tested by a volunteer group of ham radio exam coordinators and are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) before they can communicate. Bob said he was first introduced to ham radio in the 1970s. He was reintroduced to it by a friend last year. Bob joined the Steel City Amateur Radio club immediately thereafter, took his exam, and is now a licensed ham radio operator.

For Bob, being a ham radio operator provides him a chance to provide a public service. Not only do ham radio operators provide communication for public service events, they also

communicate with the National Weather Service through the Skywarn Program. Bob said hams provide ground level observations to the National Weather Service during severe weather events, allowing the National Weather Service to provide timely and accurate weather warnings.

One way ham radio operators prepare for emergency situations is their annual Field Day weekend. During Field Day, ham radio operators in the United States and Canada simulate emergency situations and practice communicating under harsh circumstances. Bob said Field Day is about being prepared. Field Day weekend is a 27-hour event held the last weekend in June. During Field Day weekend, ham radio operators are not permitted to use any household current for their equipment. Bob said instead they rely on batteries and generators to run their radios.

When not providing emergency services, Bob said most hams chit chat on their radios or have specific discussion groups called nets. Ham radio operators also participate in a national traffic net that passes messages across the country. Locally, ham radio operators receive and pass messages to and from the national traffic net at 8 p.m. every day of the year.

Ham radio operators communicate on VHF, UHF, and HF frequencies with different types of radios, including hand-held radios. Hams also use satellites and microwaves to communicate. Some hams communicate in Morse code, something Bob is in the process of learning. The FCC eliminated the Morse code requirement to obtain a ham radio license in February. He said he communicates by voice and has contacted other hams as far away as England and Australia.

Ham radio operators are prohibited from broadcasting anything on their radios, like music. Under FCC rules, the only thing that can be rebroadcast are space shuttle transmissions.

**(continued on next page)**

## Ham Radio Is Alive & Thriving! (continued)

An expensive hobby, most radios average from \$150 to \$3,000, not including other equipment such as antennas, amplifiers, or antenna tuners, for example. Bob said most hams keep their equipment for a long time. There are various vendors for supplies and equipment.

Ham radio is a hobby for Bob and his wife Joyce. She's also a licensed ham radio operator and is employed full-time by UPMC as a patient information coordinator. Bob is a virtual IT manager for his company, Mente IT Consultants, LLC. His company provides information technology consulting services to businesses in and around the tri-state area.

(Note: Bob Mente may be contacted via e-mail at: [kb3nuq@comcast.net](mailto:kb3nuq@comcast.net), or by telephone at (412) 294-1955).

BY HEATHER SCHIEFER MURRAY



Our man of the hour and fellow club member, Bob Mente, KB3NUQ in action! (Picture courtesy and © 2007, Jennette Communications)

## Club News: CQWW VHF

Doug, K3LAB and Mike, WA3TTS worked the CQ WW VHF Contest from the clubhouse July 21-22. Although conditions were horrible, they managed to work 60 Q's on 6M and 10 Q's on 2M. (Don't feel bad guys, ye olde editor only managed to work 2 Q's on 2M and 3 Q's on 6M!)

## More Local News: Uniontown GabFest Announcement

Uniontown Amateur Radio Club  
W3PIE

58<sup>th</sup> Annual GABFEST

Saturday, September 1, 2007

8:00 A.M. ----- 1:00 P.M.

**FREE ADMISSION!!**

The GABFEST will be held at the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club grounds located on Old Pittsburgh Road just off Rt. 51 and US Rt. 119 in Uniontown, PA.

Gates will open at 8:00 A.M. with vendors welcome at any time prior to 8:00 A.M.!

Talk in provided on 147.045 + . Call W3PIE GABFEST Talk-In.

This talk in is provided for directions (which may be needed due to construction in the area) and GABFEST information. No check in is needed if you know how to get here!

FREE Swap-N-Shop set-up with registration! As always, FREE parking is available! Of course, that world famous W3PIE breakfast will be available as well as other fine refreshments!

### PRIZE LIST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Yaesu FT-7800-R 144/430 MHz Dual Band FM Transceiver  
2<sup>nd</sup> Yaesu FT-60-R 144/430 MHz Dual Band 5 W Handheld

3<sup>rd</sup> Yaesu VX-150 144 MHz VHF FM 5 W Handheld

4<sup>th</sup> Sox Key Telegraph Key (Hand-made Key)

**PLUS OTHER HOURLY PRIZES & 50/50 DRAWING**

Top four prizes & 50/50 awarded beginning at 12:30 P.M.

Winners need not be present for the top four prizes!!

(Top four prizes are subject to change due to availability.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tony Alviar, KA3VOR (724) 430-1277 (M-F 8-4);  
Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO (724) 326-8810  
or Ralph Bliss KB3LBB (724) 438-5182

Information may also be obtained from any net operator on the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club's net held every Thursday evening at 9:00 P.M. on 147.045 + .

(Thanks, Kurtie, KA3LNG for the info)

## Late Breaking News

I know I'm beginning to sound like a broken record, but this one is so important, I've decided to run it again. If you have NOT written your State Legislator, now is the time to do it while there IS still time to do it!! If we don't, we've nobody to blame but ourselves. Part of this is reprinted from last month's newsletter. Thanks/73de KQ3DX.

### To All WPA Amateurs:

For perhaps the first time in our lives as radio amateurs, we have a chance to make a legislative difference. The Pennsylvania Senate is now considering Senate Bill SB 884, which would codify the federal PRB-1 regulation into Pennsylvania law. Reportedly, it would make it more difficult for municipalities to enact regulations limiting amateur antennas. I hope that all amateurs will support this bill. Your action now can make a difference. Please call or write to your state senator now, and ask that he or she vote for this provision so that radio amateurs may continue to provide that critical communication link "when all else fails."

To read the actual bill, go to:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billType=B&billNbr=0884&pn=1076> (Ye olde editor's note: For some reason Adobe Acrobat won't hyperlink to the full address on this one. You may have to type it in manually. Sorry about that!!)

I know, it's a long URL! For a shorter version, go to: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm> and enter "sb884", click "GO", then click on the "text" link on the page that follows.

To find your state senator, follow the link below: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>

Enter your zip code in the upper right-hand corner of the page, then click "GO." If you do not know your "plus four" designation, you can follow the link to find it. But, in most cases, it isn't necessary. Most importantly, DO IT NOW while it is still fresh in your mind!

**UPDATE:** Message from N3HBT, via WB3FPL, is as follows: "Just received a call from Rep. Watson and the house now has the bill for the state in the hopper. The number is HB1777. Along with the senate SB884 this will allow the state to mirror the federal PRB1 limited preemption for hams to put up antenna support structures. Please let all of the hams in the Commonwealth know about this. 73 George N3HBT"

(Thanks to Larry O'Toole, K3LBP, WPA SM. From the ARRL WPA Section Home Page Website)



## Beginner's Help Desk (con't)

**What does it sound like?** Ever hear a computer generated repeater I.D. voice? It sounds just like that but at a MUCH higher fidelity. It sounds just like your voice, but digitized. It's pretty neat!!

### Truesies & Falsies about D-STAR:

**D-STAR requires an upgrade to new equipment:** True. However, D-STAR radios are backwards-compatible with existing FM equipment. In other words, if nothing is shaking on D-STAR, simply dial in your favorite FM repeater frequency and chat like you've always done in the past. However, new D-STAR-only repeaters would be required for use in a D-STAR system. Today's FM repeaters cannot be made compatible. So if you're in the market for a dual-band FM rig, consider spending a little more and get the digital D-STAR capability and be ready when it is deployed here fully in the area.

**There's no difference between D-STAR and Echolink:** False. Echolink does not support data transmissions. Also D-STAR is 100% digital from the time your voice enters the microphone until it comes out the other guys speaker. Also, only D-STAR can target calls to a SPECIFIC user. Echolink can't.

**D-STAR is nothing more than fancy packet:** False. VHF Packet is usually 1200BPS or so. D-STAR simultaneous data and voice is sent at 4800BPS. Data-only on the 1296MHz band is sent at 128KBPS.

**D-STAR data will work only on the 1296MHz band:** False. Low-speed data will work AOK on the 144 and 440MHz bands. 1296MHz affords the bandwidth (128KBPS) that high-speed data requires.

**Remember; it is not my intention to plug Icom's equipment here; I'm not a salesman for them. I'm just trying to explain and promote a promising new technology here. It seems to be catching on and growing rapidly in other parts of the country.**

Interested in learning more?: Check out the Icom D-STAR forum at: [www.icomamerica.com/support/forums](http://www.icomamerica.com/support/forums) (It's free to join!)

Also check out these D-STAR websites: [www.d-starradio.org](http://www.d-starradio.org) and [www.d-starusers.org/dstar.php](http://www.d-starusers.org/dstar.php)

**Editor's note:** I have D-STAR equipment, and I am interested in corresponding with anybody who is interested in this technology. Shoot me an E-Mail at: [KQ3DX@hotmail.com](mailto:KQ3DX@hotmail.com) if you are too! Thanks/73 de KQ3DX.

Information for this article was gleaned from ICOM's D-STAR website: [www.icomamerica.com/amateur/dstar/default.asp](http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/dstar/default.asp)



## Still More FCC/Regulatory News: ARRL vs. FCC On BPL

On July 24, FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein testified at a House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet hearing that "three of the many urgent priorities we face" include the need for "a national broadband strategy to ensure the ubiquitous deployment of affordable, high speed broadband infrastructure to this country." FCC Chairman Kevin Martin and Commissioners Tate, McDowell and Copps testified as well at the "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission" hearing.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, responded via fax on July 25 to Commissioner Adelstein's remarks. "I cheered silently when I came to your reference to the 'current anemic definition of high-speed' that includes service that is too slow to meet citizens' reasonable expectations," he wrote. "I was even more impressed with your statement in the next paragraph, 'We must take a hard look at our successes and failures.'"

Sumner, however, expressed "great disappointment" over Adelstein's reference to "broadband over power line" (BPL) as "a technology deserving of 'increasing incentives for investment.' None of your colleagues' testimonies contain a similar reference," he pointed out.

Sumner reiterated the ARRL's position with regard to BPL technology and "its propensity to interfere with radio communication, a flaw that is not shared by other broadband delivery platforms. As long as interference is avoided," Sumner said, "it is of no concern to us whether private investment is devoted to BPL. However, we must object to your identification of BPL as a technology that is particularly deserving of favorable public policy treatment."

Calling the FCC's "inexplicable favoritism of BPL in the face of contrary evidence" one of the Commission's "failures," Sumner noted that according to the Commission's own latest figures, "of 64,600,000 'high-speed' lines, only about 5000 are BPL. This is a share of 0.008 percent, a share that actually declined in the six-month period between reports--and if an 'anemic' definition were not used, none of the 5000 or so BPL lines would qualify."

ARRL's concern, Sumner said, at the "prospect of an even greater encouragement of BPL, as your testimony suggests, is that--even at the very low level of deployment that exists to date--the FCC's enforcement efforts have proved to be woefully inadequate to address ongoing cases of harmful interference from BPL systems."

Sumner went on to note "one example of documented interference (Enforcement Bureau File No. EB-06-SE-083) has been caused by the Ambient Corporation's Briarcliff Manor, New York installation for more than three years without being corrected and without penalty to the system operator...If the Commission is unable to protect its licensees from harmful interference from BPL now, it is difficult to imagine how it will be able to do so should BPL be more widely deployed in the future."

Sumner also attached a letter from William E. Burton, Chairman of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Burton's letter described the interference BPL is causing to local Amateur Radio operators in the village of Briarcliff Manor. He stressed that the FCC "should require that...Ambient cooperate with the ARRL and its BPL technical experts forthwith...This would include both the current experimental system, as well as any future or 'second generation' technology."

Burton's letter went on to say that "the best way for the FCC to promote a new technology while protecting public safety...[is to] make clear that complaints concerning harmful interference are taken seriously."

Sumner concluded his comments: "We respectfully submit that BPL has not earned a place in the much-needed national broadband strategy to benefit all Americans. Resources are better devoted elsewhere, to more promising technologies that do not pose a threat to the Commission's radio service licensees."

(From the ARRL Letter: Vol. 26 No.30, July 27, 2007)

**(More FCC/Regulatory news continued on next page)**

## Still More FCC/Regulatory News (continued)

### FCC Denies Vanity Call Sign Petition

On Friday, July 20, the FCC denied the petition of Quinten R. Erickson, NORD (formerly N7GXA), of Big Lake, Minnesota, requesting a reconsideration of his application for vanity call sign N7AZ. The FCC granted N7AZ to Jon F. Goering (formerly NJ7I) of Apache Junction, Arizona on February 13, 2007.

Section 97.19(c)(1) of the Commission's Rules provides that a call sign shown on an expired license is not available to the vanity call sign system for two years following the expiration of the license. This two-year period corresponds to the grace period during which the licensee of an amateur station may apply for renewal of the station and operator license. The expired call sign becomes available for reassignment the day after the two-year period ends. Call sign N7AZ expired on January 13, 2005 and was available for assignment on January 14, 2007.

Goering's application for N7AZ was received by the FCC on Sunday, January 14, 2007. Because the application was received on a weekend, the FCC deemed it to be filed on the next business day, Tuesday, January 16. Erickson argued that the FCC should have dismissed Goering's application for N7AZ as "premature." The FCC said that Erickson "assert[s] that Mr. Goering's application should have been dismissed because the prior license was still reflected in the Commission's licensing records on Sunday, January 14, 2007. We disagree. That the Commission's records were not updated until after the weekend does not change the date on which the call sign became available to the vanity call sign system. Mr. Goering's application therefore was not premature."

Goering and Erickson's applications for N7AZ, the FCC said, were included in a lottery to determine the processing order of applications with a filing date of January 16, 2007. Of the applications that requested N7AZ, Goering's was the first selected. "Consequently, we conclude that his application was properly granted, and your application was properly dismissed," the Commission said.

Erickson subsequently applied for vanity call sign NORD on April 10, 2007 and received it on April 28, 2007.

(From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26 No. 30, July 27, 2007)



## DX News & Views (continued)

which would include the municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba, and the 'countries' of Curacao and Sint Maarten. So what does this mean to the deserving?? POSSIBLY, the addition of two new DXCC Countries (Curacao and Sint Maarten). It's still a little too soon to tell, but I'll keep you posted on this one as we get closer to the big day in December 2008.

- As of July 16, 2007 all Montenegro ops will start using the new 4O (4 Oscar) prefix. The ITU assigned this prefix in May, 2007 and also took back Serbia's 4N and YZ prefixes. These will be retained by the ITU for future assignment. No word though on when Serbia will discontinue using those callsign blocks. Serbia is no longer using the 4 Oscar prefix.
- Look for JA8BMK, Toshi, from Canton Island (Central Kiribati) sometime in late October. He'll be signing T31XX on all bands, 160M-6M using SSB, CW and RTTY. He also plans to be active from Western Kiribati, T30 in September. He also says that, time permitting he will activate T33ZZ from Banaba Island while on his Pacific odyssey.
- Look for Susan, W7KFI to activate Johnston Island (KH3) in the very near future, possibly a week or two or so. She is currently enroute, signing W7KFI/MM
- IY6GM is a special-event station celebrating the 103rd anniversary of experiments carried out by Marconi at Monte Cappuccini. They will be active from that location August 5-19.
- Be on the lookout for 3B7C, from the Isle du Sud, St. Brandon from September 7th to the 24th. They have received special permission to operate on 6M. (Normally, 6M operation is not permitted on Mauritius, and it's outlying islands.) 6M frequencies will be limited to the following: 50090(CW), 50102(CW) & 50145(SSB). I'm running out of room! Check out their website for LOTS more info: [www.3b7c.com](http://www.3b7c.com).



# THE REAL CHEFS OF SCARC

Ritchie, N3BSF and Carol, KB3GMN, have added some real class and culinary expertise to our humble SCARC kitchen. I'm sorry that I missed the photo of Ritchie and his "Ham Radio Chefs" apron. How appropriate. He looked just *stunning* as he manipulated the **corn on the cob** in the "manly" propane fired cooker on the front porch to go with the **fried chicken** for the June meeting feed along with a half dozen or so side dishes. Impressive indeed.

Why so glum Ritchie? Ya done **GOOD!**

For the July meeting the dynamic duo went a little on the lighter side with some really good sandwich rings along with cold salads and the usual condiments. Great stuff. *The pie'ce de résistance* were the spectacular cupcakes baked by Carol. Really good stuff all around.

Thank you again for the great work.

We recently found out that they will NOT be preparing the feed for the August meeting. It wasn't a full time job anyway. I guess I'll just have to re-order the 55-gallon drum of MALOX!!



***To share often and much; to leave the world a little better; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. That is to have succeeded. -- Ralph Waldo Emerson*** *Would that we all could and did.*

## They're BAAACK!!!

And happily so.

The July meeting was really complete with the appearance of Dale, WB3CRC. Dale is in the process of recovering from major surgery that ended in a relapse with extended stays in the hospital. Although he looks a tad on the lean side he is not far from his regular "fighting" weight. If attitude has anything to do with healing Dale has this thing beat!

He sounded like his "old self" during the ride up the Boulevard to the club. We were surprised that he was driving solo, Good for you Dale. A lean, mean fighting machine.



It's good to hear you, see you and we wish you continued success on your speedy recovery.

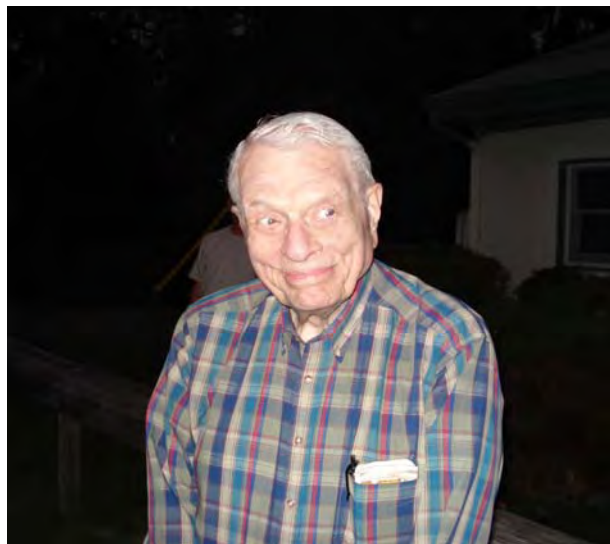
Text by SVJ, blur by Sony

Mugging" it up for the camera Jack, W3UUH, gives us his famous "What, me worry?" pose.

You'd think that the guy who has taken tens of thousands of pictures would be able to play it straight for one of himself. Not so for our dear Jack. Always the kibitzer.

He too has been missed on the SCARC seen/scene list. But, with a little bit of help from his friends he was able to make the July get together a bit more memorable.

Jack is diligently working on getting the two-meter radio into his new SUV so that we will again hear W3UUH mobile.



Still doing some volunteer work at Mercy Hospital, the radio will make the commute a bit quicker.

The following were licentiously liberated from the "Summer 2007" QCWA Journal, no by line.

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching that metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer mug/can across the room, splattering it against the freshly stained heir-loom piece you were drying.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools (also coping & compass) built on the "Ouija" board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

## A Trip Down Memory Lane

**(Editor's note: Many thanks to Bob, WB3HDI for this insight into SCARC's past.)**

'Twas 30 years ago....

1977 was a banner year for SCARC as we had 36+ folks join our ranks. A good year financially with all those dues rolling in!

Of the 36+ that joined only 6 remain with us as active members with 30 years continuous service. See list below gleaned from old news letters. I may have missed a few folks and if they want to file a complaint....well....you know where to find me.

Conversations with "other old timers" at the shack and Bill K3RYA, specifically, since we joined the same year has been a trip down memory lane. Grand memories they are at that.

Some have been good, some bad, but all part of SCARC's history.

While we had many new members join in 1977, we had our losses as well. And like our other SK's, I still miss them.

Joe Merloni W3ZDW, Joe "Mo" Mozuch W3NSX, Tom "Page" Brennan W3YD

Suffice to say I never got to know these fellows as well as I would have liked to. Being a new kid on the block at the time, I was 15 when I joined, the impressions they left on me for the short time I knew them was good.

The first time I "met" Joe Mo W3NSX was on 2 meters. Paul W3WHY SK and I sat in his car out in front of my house and Paul let me talk to Joe. I didn't have my ticket yet and I fumbled with Joes' call and the phonetics. UGH! How do these radio people figure this stuff out and keep it all straight??

Later on at the club, when listening to Joe talk about antennas and watching him read and explain Smith charts left me in a state of awe! I wish, now, I had a portion of his expertise and knowledge!

Joe Merloni W3ZDW was always warm and friendly to me. Patient and kind of grandfatherly. But with a sense of order and an easy going manner to keep a young pup on the straight and narrow.

Page W3YD was wit, wisdom and salt (not in that order) and lots of times all in the same breath. Listening to him and his stories at times would have everyone laughing and some even blushing.

All first class radio ops!

So with this being my 30th year at SCARC and 31st year as a radio op, I felt compelled to take us on a trip down memory lane, some kicking and screaming! hihi

Paul W3WHY gave me my first year membership as a birthday present. As my Elmer and long time friend of my family and really part of my family, he started me on my radio career and what will be a life long association with a bunch of other radio nuts! And what a bunch! Karl WA3VXJ was the lucky(?) soul who gave me my Novice test so he can be blamed as well! hihi

The friendships made and experiences had has been some of the best parts of my life and my time at SCARC.

I wouldn't trade any of it for anything.

73's

Bob WB3HDI

### February 1977 Members admitted to SCARC—W3KWH

WB3DQV Frank Hodan	Active SCARC Member 75
WB3EHQ Al Pelkey	Listed in QRZ data base
WB3CST Tom Bryer	Listed in QRZ data base
KS6FG/3 - N3BMA Gene Wasosky	Not listed in QRZ DB—SK?
WB3AUV - N3MC Mark Cmar	Listed in QRZ data base
K3VMG Hillary Cox	SK
WB3AUE ?? Leo Eger	Call sign might be a typo.
W7KDP/3 Russ Hauser	Not listed in QRZ DB SK?
K3RYA Bill Jacobs	Active SCARC Member 79 (ex83)
W3QCD Earl Rapp	SK SCARC Member 83

(continued on next page)



## A Trip Down Memory Lane (continued)

W3NDH Stan Walkuski Listed in QRZ data base  
 WB3HAT John Wineland Not listed in QRZ DB SK?  
 WB3EHR Herb Wirth SK SCARC Member 85  
 WA3ZOE Bob Drexler Listed in QRZ data base

### April 1977 Member admitted to SCARC - W3KWH

WB3CRF Rich Dolenc Active SCARC Member 87

### May 1977 Members Admitted to SCARC - W3KWH

WB3DZC Rich Bradley Listed in QRZ data base  
 WB3FWC Bill Boehmer Active SCARC DX Member 92  
 WB3FXC Bob Boehmer Listed in QRZ data base  
 WB3HCL/WA3DEE - ND8L Listed in QRZ data base  
 W3KH Buck Ruperto Listed in QRZ data base

### July 1977 Members admitted to SCARC - W3KWH

W3UIR Andy Nestor Not listed in QRZ DB SK?  
 K3DXV Rich Coen Listed in QRZ data base WB3CRC  
 Dale Luepke Active SCARC Member 103  
 WA3VSW Steve Evans Listed in QRZ data base  
 SWL John Herman ???  
 SWL Joe Munn ???  
 WB8WJT Rich Justice Jr Listed in QRZ data base  
 W8KQA Rich Justice Sr Listed in QRZ data base SK??  
 WB3HDI Bob Lenfestey Active SCARC Member 98

### August 1977 Members admitted to SCARC - W3KWH

K3LIE Jim Cottrill Listed in QRZ data base  
 WB3FKC Bob Bash Listed in QRZ data base WB3HDI  
 Brother Nick Lorson Listed in QRZ data base  
 SWL Dick Lackey ???  
 WB3HND Jim Duncan Listed in QRZ data base  
 W3LOH Charley Hutchin Not listed in QRZ DB SK?  
 WB3IYM - N3ALJ Hank Soracco SK SCARC Member 101

**\*Because of the membership cap at that time, with 100 as the limit, some applications were not acted upon in 1977.**

**Tip 'o the hat to those still with us and fond remembrances of those who are not.**

### Happenings of Yesteryear 1977 or Forward into the Past

**In this blurb we will look back 30 years to some high lights of happenings around SCARC and the world around us. Why 30 years? To quote Dr Emmet Brown, "It's a nice round number".**

**Hey, it worked for 3 successful Back to the Future movies!**

**These ramblings are from the pages of the Kilo-Watt Harmonics August 1977 issue as put to paper by our then editor Ken WA3TSI SK and those who contributed... complete with all typos!**

Mac WB3BRY (ex BRY, KC3RJ, WB3BR4 -is that warrant still active? Now W3MAC. -hdi) is looking into having a SCARC corn roast this fall.

Frank WB3DQV and Rich WB3CRF had investigated installation of facilities at the clubhouse.

Karl WA3VXJ was unanimously elected Treasurer to fill the term of SK Joe W3ZDW

There was no program.

Bill K3VSL presented a scrap book entitled "The Good Times" and dedicated it to Joe W3ZDW and SCARC. (anyone know where it is at? I'd like to copy some pictures of W3WHY -hdi)

SCARC received a letter from Gene KS6FG/3. He has a new job at Jakarta, Indonesia and hopes to be operating at YBO around the middle of September. He invited all SCARC members to visit his new home!

Also while on vacation in California Gene visited SCARC. Southern California ARC.

(shall we sue them? -ed)

Karl WA3VXJ, Frank WB3DQV, Bob WB3HDI and Ziggy W3UHM formed a work party on a recent Saturday morning and got the club grounds and store area cleaned up. Thanks, guys.

**(continued on next page)**

## A Trip Down Memory Lane (continued)

Rich WB3DZC is sporting a new Yaesu FT-101ee.

Bill K3RYA is sorting through W3KWH QSL's and plans to apply for a club DXCC.

Ray WA3DEE applied for and got his old call. (ex WB3HCL). Did you hear all the publicity on KDKA for ham radio during the Johnstown disaster? (flood) That was Ray at the mike.

SCARC and KWH were well represented during the Johnstown flood. Bruce WA3SYB, Dan K3MOB, Nat W3SVJ, Hilory K3VMG and Dick WA3EBA volunteered their time, equipment and services to the cause and operated from Johnstown. Bruce has interesting tales of installing emergency power at the morgue and post office, operating Army and Navy MARS and helping for find a "lost" Army helicopter. Nat took photos and will show them at a future meeting.

Ray WA3DEE operated as net control station for a while at the Pgh Red Cross headquarters.

W3KWH also participated as a traffic handling station and as net control back-up. Primary operators were: Mac WB3BRY, Burke W3SDV, Bruce WA3SYB and Nat W3SVJ. Other participants were Bob WB3HDI, Karl WA3VXJ, Bill K3VSL, Kay his XYL, Bill K3RYA, Ziggy W3UHM, and Ken WA3TSI. KWH was running a KW on 75 and was simultaneously monitoring 34-93 Johnstown; 75-15 Johnstown and 69-09 Pittsburgh.

Will he who disconnects the club linear cease and desist? It doesn't need to be disconnected - there is an automatic bypass. (Special request from Nat W3SVJ)

N9RL visited the club house recently for an eyeball. N9RL is Roger Lory, ex WB9UWC, ex WA3TPM. (last call I know that he held was K3TP -hdi) Roger hopes to return to the PGH are soon. (K3TP -SK -hdi)

Tom W3YD is following his Doc's orders and is doing FB.

Ike W3GSI needs transportation to KWH . It seems that his regular car pool stays out to late!

It was good to see Bill K3SKK at the last meeting.

**There we have it folks, a blast from the past, hope you enjoyed this impromptu burst of contribution to the newsletter which I do not do very often. 'twas some good times.....**

**73's**

**Bob WB3HDI**

**August 2007 happenings about the place.....**

Bob WB3HDI was seen giving trees along the road a bit of pruning. Joe WB3AGB doing a fine job of supervising with member-hopeful Matt KB3PJW providing the muscle of hauling the debris. We need more young'uns for all this heavy labor cause us old farts are just.....too tired! hihi

And in the small world department...while looking over the goodies at the Heidelberg Shop-n-Save Bob HDI happened upon a familiar face, "Doc" Kump KT3L (ex N3BLT - Bacon Lettuce Tomato are good phonetics for a pile up right?) Doc is looking good and he and the family are doing fine. He is busy with all the usual family things and work and said he will try to visit the shack soon.

And that's all I know....or can remember. HDI



## Look, Up In The Sky: It's MARS!

**From Kurtie, KA3LNG, comes this little tidbit of information. Not exactly radio-related, but I figured you astronomers in the club would like this one:**

**Two moons on 27 August, 2007**

Planet Mars will be the brightest in the night sky starting August. It will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. This will cultivate on Aug. 27 when Mars comes within 34.65 million miles of earth.

Be sure to watch the sky on Aug. 27 12:30 am. It will look like the earth has 2 moons. The next time Mars may come this close won't be until 2287.

It might be nice to share this with your friends as NO ONE ALIVE TODAY will ever see it again.

(Maybe someone in the club will make the first EME contact! Earth-Mars-Earth, that is. 73 de KQ3DX)



## Miscellaneous Stuff (or how to fill up a whole empty page in a newsletter)

### Propagation Report

Average daily sunspot numbers rose very little this week, less than 6 points to 7.3. There were no major geomagnetic upsets, only slightly unsettled conditions on the first day of August.

We saw eight straight days of no sunspots, then a spot or two over four days, then no spots on the first two days of August. A week from now, August 10, we may see the beginning of several days with a few sunspots every day. Expect unsettled geomagnetic conditions centered on August 7 and again on August 10.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions August 3-5, quiet to unsettled August 6, unsettled to active August 7, and back to quiet August 8-9.

There were six and two meter reports this week. On Sunday, July 29 Dick Bingham, W7WKR, who lives in the very remote mountain village of Stehekin, Washington (reached by boat) reports that he began hearing six meter beacons around 1800z, and until 2300z he worked 22 grids, including HR9BFS in EK66 (Honduras) as well as WA/CA/ID/MT/CO/TX/UT. Dick is blocked by a high ridge running northwest to southeast, with takeoff elevations in excess of 25 degrees, so he doesn't hear the northeastern United States and Canada.

WB4SLM reported interesting E-skip on 2 meters, and from EM82 he worked EM14, EM15 and EM25, all around 2100z on Sunday. He lives in Georgia, and during a 30 meter QSO with his father, W9JNH in Texas, around 2133-2135z he heard long delayed echoes on his CW signal.

Four days earlier on June 25, Roger Laphorn, G3XBM reported his best 6-meter DX ever when he worked K1TOL in Maine on CW. Roger was running just a few watts into a vertical mounted on the side of his house. Roger says the distance was over 5000 kilometers.

Monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers for April 2006 through July 2007 were 55.2, 39.6, 24.4, 22.6, 22.8, 25.2, 14.7, 31.5, 22.2, 28.2, 17.3, 9.8, 6.9, 19.8, 20.7 and 15.6. Monthly averages of daily solar flux for the same period were 88.9, 80.9, 76.5, 75.8, 79, 77.8, 74.3, 86.3, 84.4, 83.5, 77.7, 72.2, 72.4, 74.4, 73.7 and 71.6.

(From the ARRL Propagation Report, August 3rd 2007 Bulletin)



## Swap 'n Shop

(If you're looking for a particular item, or want to part with something radio-related, shoot me an E-Mail at: [KQ3DX@hotmail.com](mailto:KQ3DX@hotmail.com), and I'll stick it in here. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX)

For Sale:

RG-58 Mil Spec coax (Good stuff) I am selling off some of this surplus to my needs. Cable @ .20 cents/foot for SCARC members and .25 cents/foot for non club members with the extra proceeds going to the SCARC OM Retirement fund. Seems they need to buy new wickets for the croquet field. Get yours before it's all gone. Contact Bob WB3HDI @ 412-276-5106, or E-Mail me at:

[rlnfe429@aol.com](mailto:rlnfe429@aol.com)



**Still getting this newsletter via U.S. Mail?? Consider having it sent via E-Mail. All you need is the Adobe Acrobat Reader. It's a freebie!! The nice thing about Acrobat Reader is that you can enlarge the page/fonts, making it easier to read. Shoot me an E-Mail at: [KQ3DX@hotmail.com](mailto:KQ3DX@hotmail.com), and I'll see that you get on the mailing list. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX**



## Credits/Thanks

I'd like to thank all my contributors to this month's newsletter. It was a doozie, I'm sure you'll agree:

**KA3LNG, W3SVJ, W3RJM, WB3HDI, WA3FWA, WA3TTS, ARRL, Icom & Jennette Communications.**

**Thanks for helping to make our newsletter interesting and informative reading.**

**That's it for this month. (That's enough!!). CU next month, 73 de KQ3DX et al.**

**(Hey, I gotta give N3UUZ SOMETHING interesting to read while he recuperates from surgery!!)**



July 2007

S M T W T F S  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
 29 30 31

# August 2007

September 2007

S M T W T F S  
 1  
 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
 9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
 23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09 9PM WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	2 WACOM Meeting	3	4 European HF Championship North American CW QSO Party ARRL UHF Contest
5 North American CW QSO Party SARL HF Contest WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM ARRL UHF Contest	6 BreezeShooters Net 28.480MHz 9PM	7 Skyview Business Meeting WACOM 2 Meter Net 8:30PM 145.490MHz WACOM 10Meter Net 9PM 28.34MHz	8 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09 9PM WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	9 WASH Business Meeting	10	11 WAE CW Contest Maryland-DC QSO Party
12 WAE CW Contest WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM Maryland-DC QSO Party	13 BreezeShooters Net 28.480MHz 9PM	14 WACOM 2 Meter Net 8:30PM 145.490MHz WACOM 10Meter Net 9PM 28.34MHz	15 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09 9PM WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	16	17	18 ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest New Jersey QSO Party
19 WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM NHARC Club Picnic Sesqui Grove North Park ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest New Jersey QSO Party	20 BreezeShooters Net 28.480MHz 9PM	21 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> WACOM 2 Meter Net 8:30PM 145.490MHz WACOM 10Meter Net 9PM 28.34MHz	22 Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09 9PM WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	23	24	25 WASH Club Breakfast Ohio QSO Party Hawaii QSO Party SCC RTTY Contest
26 Skyview Swap 'n Shop Hamfest ARRL WPA Section Convention?? WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM Hawaii QSO Party SCC RTTY Contest	27 BreezeShooters Net 28.480MHz 9PM	28 WACOM 2 Meter Net 8:30PM 145.490MHz WACOM 10Meter Net 9PM 28.34MHz	29 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09 9PM WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	30	31	

August 2007  
 S M T W T F S  
 1 2 3 4  
 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
 26 27 28 29 30 31

# September 2007

October 2007  
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 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
 28 29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 All Asian SSB DX Contest Russian RTTY Contest
2 WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM All Asian SSB DX Contest	3 <b>Labor Day</b> Breezeshooters Net 8:00PM 28480KHz	4 SkyView Business Meeting WACOM 2-Meter Net 8:30PM 145.490MHz WACOM 10Meter Net 28.34MHz 9:00PM	5 <b>SCARC Social Nite</b> Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09MHz 9:00PM WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	6 WACOM Meeting	7	8 ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party
9 <b>Grandparent's Day</b> WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party	10 Breezeshooters Net 8:00PM 28480KHz	11 WACOM 2-Meter Net 8:30PM 145.490MHz WACOM 10Meter Net 28.34MHz 9:00PM	12 <b>SCARC Social Nite</b> Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09MHz 9:00PM North Hills ARC Business Meeting WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	13 WASH Business Meeting	14	15 ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest
16 WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest	17 <b>Citizenship Day</b> Breezeshooters Net 8:00PM 28480KHz	18 <b>SCARC Meeting</b> 8:00PM 2 Rivers Meeting WACOM 2M Net 8:30PM 145.490MHz WACOM 10M Net 28.34MHz 9PM	19 Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09MHz 9:00PM WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	20	21	22 <b>Autumn Begins</b>
23 WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM	24 Breezeshooters Net 8:00PM 28480KHz	25 WACOM 2-Meter Net 8:30PM 145.490MHz WACOM 10Meter Net 28.34MHz 9:00PM	26 <b>SCARC Social Nite</b> Allegheny County ARES Net 147.09MHz 9:00PM WACOM YL Net 7:30PM 146.790MHz	27	28	29 WASH Club Breakfast CQ WW RTTY Contest
30 WASH Sun Eve. Net 146.955MHz 9:00PM CQ WW RTTY Contest						

**The Steel City Amateur Radio Club  
(412) 787-0777**

**2M Repeater:  
147.030/147.630MHz (PL 123.0)**

**70cm Repeater:  
444.450/449.450MHz (PL 103.5)**

**WA3TTS Beacon: 144.300MHz (CW)**

**ATV Repeater: 426.250MHz  
(Currently off-line. Contact AA3EE for  
more info.)**

**1296MHz Beacon:  
1296.268~270MHz (CW) 50mw**

**We're on the web!  
[www.w3kwh.com](http://www.w3kwh.com)**

**The Steel City Amateur Radio  
Club is an ARRL-Affiliated  
organization**



**Another feature-packed issue!! The E-Bay Report, DX  
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Pittsburgh, Website Of The Month, Local News, FCC  
News and much more!! Check it out!!!**



**Special Event Station W3P: Celebrating 25 Years Of The  
Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (see page 2)**



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