

The Official (and only)
Newsletter Of The Steel
City Amateur Radio Club

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

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**NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 18TH @ 8:00PM.
CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT
THIS TIME ALSO. YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!
CU THERE!!**



KiloWatt Harmonics

Check us out on the web: www.w3kwh.com

November 2008

SB-884: WE WIN!!!

Although it's a little old by now, this news is worth repeating:

On Wednesday, October 8, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell (D) signed into law a bill that guarantees radio amateurs the right to erect antenna support structures up to 65 feet without the need for a Special Use Permit.

The bill passed in the House with a vote of 196-1; it passed in the Senate with a vote of 49-1. The new law is scheduled to go into effect December 8, 60 days after signing.

Senate Bill 884 (now Act 88), An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Restricting Municipalities from Regulating Amateur Radio Service Communications, was first introduced on June 1, 2007 by Pennsylvania Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf (R) who represents portions of Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

The bill requires local municipalities to "reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications, and to impose only the minimum regulations necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the municipality" and says that "no ordinance, regulation, plan or any other action shall restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 65 feet above ground level, but a municipality may impose necessary regulations to ensure the safety of amateur radio antenna structures, but must reasonably accommodate amateur service communications."

Nominations for Club Officers This Month!

Don't forget: Elections will be held at the November Business Meeting on November . These club members have been nominated for the following positions: **President: Bob, WB3HDI, Vice-President: Chuck, N3UUZ, Mike, WA3TTS, Richie, N3SBE, Colin, KB3PNE, Treasurer: Walt, KA3YNO, Recording Secretary: Joe, WA3FWA, & Corresponding Secretary: Sue, KA3JKS.**

If you or someone you know is interested in running, contact Art at: 724-356-7381, and he'll add you to the list.

So, come on out to the club and cast your vote for the 2009 Club Officers. The meeting starts at 8:00PM. Remember, don't complain if you don't take the time to vote!! CU at the clubhouse NOVEMBER 18 for the vote. 73/CUL de KQ3DX et al.

The Steel City Amateur Radio Club:

**President: Michael Sapp,
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**VP: Madison McKee, W3MAC
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(412) 429-8055**

**Editor: Greg Babin, NB3C
<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>**

DX News & Views

◆ KP5 TO BE ACTIVATED NEXT YEAR

Press Release # 1---Desecheo KP5---2009 The Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex has selected and announced a team of operators to activate Desecheo Island (KP5) sometime between January 15, 2009 and March 30, 2009. The Team will be co-led by Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ and Bob Allphin, K4UEE.

Background: On June 30, 2008, the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge office in Puerto Rico sent a letter to persons that had previously made inquiries about an Amateur Radio operation from Desecheo. They announced their decision to allow one group to activate the island and invited proposals that must adhere to strict guidelines and criteria. Applicant's had 45 days to prepare and submit their proposals.

CNWR received seven written proposals. A panel of three Fish and Wildlife Service employees, from areas within the Service outside of the Caribbean refuge, spent September 24 & 25 reviewing and evaluating the proposals. The selection criteria used were those outlined in the proposal invitation letter. Points were awarded for how well criteria were addressed for thoroughness and documentation.

The proposal with the highest ranking was submitted by team leaders Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, and Bob Allphin, K4UEE. Their plan involves a team of fifteen operators for a 14-day operation. USFWS has not announced the actual dates of the operation yet, but the DXpedition is expected to take place between January 15, 2009 and March 30, 2009.

A Special Use Permit (SUP) will be issued as per USFWS regulations. We expect that the DXpedition team and DXers worldwide will have a minimum of 30 days notice.

A website is being planned and will be announced in the near future. (Courtesy of K4UEE.)

◆ **ANTARCTICA.** Nicolas, F4EGX will be QRV as FT5YI from the French base "Dumont d'Urville" on Petrel Island, IOTA AN-017, from November to mid December. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB in his spare time. QSL to home call.

◆ **BELGIUM, ON.** Special event station ON55INR is QRV until December 31 to mark the start of TV broadcasting from Brussels from the Institut National Belge de Radio-diffusion. QSL via bureau.

◆ **ANTARCTICA.** Bob, VK2ABP will be QRV as VK0BP on Davis Base from November 1 to March 7. He will be active in his spare time. QSL via VK2CA.

◆ **LATVIA, YL.** Latvian amateur radio operators will use the special prefix YL90 during the month of November in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Latvia.

◆ **NIUE, ZK2.** Dave, N1EMC is QRV as ZK2DF. He has been active on 40 meters using SSB, listening up, around 0930z. QSL to home call.

◆ **OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Iraq, YI9PT, 2008 operation.

◆ **BHUTAN, A5.** Members of the Clipperton DX Club are QRV as A5100A from Thimphu until November 17 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Kingdom of Bhutan. In addition, Pradan, A51PN is active as A51PN/p from three different southern regions. Activity is on all HF bands. QSL via operators' instructions.

◆ **ANTARCTICA.** Joel, ON5XX will be QRV as OP0DL from Patriot Hills until around December 25 while on work assignment. QSL to home call.

KiloWatt Harmonics,
November 2008

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Amateur Radio Club

Edited by Greg Babin,
NB3C

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Amateur Radio Club.

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defined under IRS Rules
& Regulations section
501 (C) (3)



Ham Rail Fans Fall 2008 Excursion Pics!



Art, WA3BKD and friends relaxing on the excursion



A picture of the famous Horseshoe Curve from the train



Many thanks to Chuck, N3UUZ for sending me the pics! More pics located throughout the newsletter.

Bill, N3BPB and friends getting ready to go.

10/19/2008

Business Meeting Minutes: October 2008

The President WA3TTS, Mike called the meeting to order at 8 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was held for our Silent Keys. 23 members and 6 guests answered the roll call. The minutes of the Sept. meeting were accepted as published in the Oct. newsletter. The Treasurer's report was given by V.P. W3MAC, Mac in the absence of the treasurer and was accepted by the membership.

Committee Reports

Clubhouse WA3VXJ, Karl cleaned the windows and swept the rug for the PA QSO contest. WB3CRF, Rich removed and sealed the level gauge plug on the fuel tank. The gauge was damaged due to a suspected theft of kerosene from the tank through the gauge port. Mike reminded us that the culvert along the driveway side still needs to be filled in before winter arrives. Funds have been appropriated for this project and we need only to get the volunteers together and the materials needed to get it gone.

Technical N3EQP, John remarked that the TS-950 has been returned to us from being serviced for repairs, mods and re-alignment. Shipping charges was almost as much as the service and repairs! John also inquired if we should consider replacing the TS-820 as an IF function. The Ten-Tec radio was left here by AA3CE, Tom our former newsletter editor and remains until he reclaims it.

Membership WA3BKD, Art gave the 3rd reading for KD7HR, Gregor who was then voted in as a new member. Welcome Gregor. He then gave the 1st reading for AE3B, Dan who submitted an application this evening.

Newsletter Editor NB3C, Greg would like more member's pictures for his "Shack of the Month" articles.

Ways and Means WA3FWA, Joe will run the 50/50 raffle after the meeting and mentioned that the club received certificates from the Breeseshooters for 1st place in PSK-31 and 2ed place in CW during their early 2008 contests. These and other awards are being kept in an "Awards" binder on the open bookshelf.

Contest CQ WW SSB contest this weekend (10/25 & 26), N3EQP, John operated the 432 sprint last Wed. There will be an ARRL 160 contest in Dec. W3WTW, Tim reported on the Club's operation in the PA QSO party of Oct. 11 & 12. Tim found that the 4-position long wire switch works great on 160 and 80 meters.

Public Service KA3MSE, Lloyd will cover the next net on Nov. 12. N3EQP, John put W3KWH on the recent SET trial.

Web Site W3WTW, Tim said that all of the logging PC's were OK. The PC for Echolink, in the repeater room, is old, tired and worn out and needs to be replaced. Funds were then approved to replace that PC.

Old Business N3EQP, John reported that all funds for library books have been depleted. He requested that the members submit a list of any new books desired for future purchases.

New Business Art displayed the QSL card designed for the Pittsburgh 250 operating event. His XYL N3DQ, Della will explain the use of the defibrillator at the next meeting.

Officer Nominations for 2009

President; WB3HDI, Bob

Vice President; KB3PNE Colin, N3SBFRitchie, WA3TTS Mike, N3UUZ Chuck

Recording Secretary; WA3FWA Joe

Corresponding Secretary; KA3JKS Sue

Good of the order Karl introduced Kevin Rhodes, a railroad engineer, who gave a DVD presentation of safety with trains at railroad crossings and entertained questions after the showing.

Motion to adjourn: by WA3TTS, Mike. **50/50 winner:** WB3HDI, Bob
Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary WA3FWA, Joe.



The ARRL WPA Section Page

THE ARRL WPA SECTION:

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By now most of you are aware that senate bill 884 was approved by the state legislature and signed by Governor Rendell. This law will be known as Act 88 and takes effect on December 8, 2008. Many people were involved in getting this approved and I personally want to thank all those that wrote letters or in some way contacted their senators or representatives asking for their support. Your efforts were instrumental in getting this bill passed. A very special thanks goes to Senator Greenleaf and his staff for the fine work they did and to Eric Pauley for working with all of us here in Pennsylvania and with Chris Imlay to work details out. We will soon have our tower law in effect.

Band conditions were once again an issue during the PAQSO Party. 40 meters was long and I worked more sections than I did counties on that band during Saturdays contest. I spent a good part of Saturday on 75 meters and as always had a great time making contacts and chatting with old friends and making a few new ones. To all that participated I hope you also enjoyed the event and I am already looking forward to next year.

I recently installed an HF rig into my 4x4 and have been having a wonderful time operating when I am traveling about. This was my first opportunity to work HF mobile and I can tell you I will always have a rig in the vehicle. If you have never done so and get the opportunity I encourage you to take up the challenge.

We are still in need of people to step up and fill positions as emergency coordinators for some counties. We need people willing to coordinate the ARES program in some counties. A key issue to remember however if you are interested a requirement is that you must complete and submit a monthly report to the District Emergency Coordinator and to the section EC. This requirement must be met by all for the program to continue and for individuals to retain their appointments. I want to thank Ray Albert, N3XCD, for again accepting my request for him to be EC of Butler County. Thanks Ray for accepting both mine and SEC's request to fill the position again. I know your leadership is appreciated.

I would also like to remind clubs and groups that would like to have me attend one of their meetings or events next year to send your requests early with possible dates you would like me to attend. My schedule fills quickly so get your request in early so I can attempt to make it to your event. I have not made a decision on what I will do for Field Day this year but will let everyone know once plans are confirmed.

Please remember that at any time that you have a need for support and cannot contact me directly please go to the league website for additional contact information for other section leaders. Assistant section Manager Bruce

(continued on next page)

ARRL WPA Section News (Con't)

Watson, AA3LX has full authority at any time that I am not available for contact. Our section information is available at <http://www.arrl.org/sections/WPA.html>. Anyone having photos they would like to submit for inclusion on the web page should send them directly to me. I will be happy to post them on our section page.

Please remember to join a traffic net across the section. There are 2 meter nets, CW nets and the section net the WPA phone and traffic net. This net meets at 6 PM local time every evening of the year on 3983 KHz. Please check in and lend a hand passing traffic to others in the area and prepare for any emergency situation.

73, John Rodgers N3MSE, W. Pa. Section Manager



Taken at the famous Horseshoe Curve, this is a static display of an old Pennsylvania RR GP-9 (I think) diesel engine.



10/19/2008

ARRL Atlantic Division News

Tuesday, November 4th is the date for the US Presidential elections and we encourage everyone to vote for the candidate of their choice. If you think one person doesn't make a difference, I would like to tell you where one person did make a difference.

Just last month, Pennsylvania's House and Senate passed legislation for a state wide PRB-1 law and it passed with one dissenting vote in the House and one dissenting vote in the Senate. Governor Rendell signed the bill and it becomes law on December 8th. One person, George Brechman N3HBT was very instrumental in contacting his state senator, Senator Greenleaf. George convinced his state senator that this bill was important for amateur radio operators in Pennsylvania and Senator Greenleaf then tasked his aide, Eric Pauley to work on this. As a result, the hams in Pennsylvania did a fabulous job in contacting their state representatives and senators to sponsor and support this legislation.

Our hat's off to George N3HBT who is one person who definitely made a difference!

On another matter, I'm pleased to announce that Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH has accepted a leadership position within the Atlantic Division as an Assistant Director. We are excited to have Riley on board the Division leadership team and are looking forward to his participation.

On September 20th, EmComm East in Rochester, NY was held and the organizers did a wonderful job. The topics were outstanding and there was lots of interest generated and good information passed out. They have plans for holding this event next year. ARRL EmComm Emergency Preparedness Manager, Dennis Dura K2DCD was the speaker from ARRL HQ this year.

The Western New York Section Convention sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club was held on October 15th. This event was in the Buffalo, NY area and they did their usual excellent job. Chuck Skolaut KOBQG was the ARRL HQ speaker this year.

Vice Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM, Check Skolaut WOBQG and I received a kind invitation to attend the CCAFMA Annual Awards Banquet in Jamestown, NY. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves -- the fellowship and the meal were simply superb. This is a very active amateur group and it was fun to see John Crossley WZ2X present a canned ham to a new ham, Diane Ryan KC2SOA, who was this year's Annual Awards Banquet Chair.

73,

Bill Edgar N3LLR, Atlantic Division Director

Tom Abernethy W3TOM, Atlantic Division Vice Director



Kurt, KA3LNG and friends waiting for the return trip to Pittsburgh.



SCARC
W3KWH

October 2008

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November 2008

December 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW Ukrainian DX Contest
2 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW WASH Sun. Net Ukrainian DX Contest DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	3 Breezeshooter's Net	4 Election Day WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Business Meeting	5 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net	6 Skyview 2M Net WACOM Business Meeting	7	8 WAE DX Contest, RTTY Kentucky QSO Party OK/OM DX Contest, CW
9 WASH Sun. Net WAE DX Contest, RTTY Kentucky QSO Party OK/OM DX Contest, CW	10 Breezeshooter's Net	11 Veterans Day WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	12 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net NHARC Business Meeting	13 Skyview 2M Net WASH Business Meeting RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	14 NCCC Sprint	15 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB ARRL EME Contest Feld Hell Sprint RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW SARL Field Day Contest
16 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB WASH Sun. Net ARRL EME Contest RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW SARL Field Day Contest	17 Breezeshooter's Net	18 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Social Nite 2 Rivers ARC Business Meeting	19 Alleg Co. ARES Net	20 Skyview 2M Net NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	21 YO International PSK31 Contest	22 LZ DX Contest
23 WASH Sun. Net LZ DX Contest	24 Breezeshooter's Net	25 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	26 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net RSGB 80m Club Sprint CW SKCC Sprint	27 Thanksgiving Day Skyview 2M Net	28	29 CQ WW DX CW Contest
30 CQ WW DX CW Contest WASH Sun. Net						

November 2008

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December 2008

January 2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	2 <i>SkyView Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net ARS Spartan Sprint</i>	3 <i>SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	4 <i>SkyView 2M Net WACOM Business Meeting ARCI Topband Sprint</i>	5 <i>ARRL 160M Contest NCCC Sprint</i>	6 <i>ARRL 160M Contest TARA RTTY Melee</i>
7 <i>ARRL 160M Contest WASH Sun. Net</i>	8 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	9 <i>WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net</i>	10 <i>SCARC Social Nite NHARC Business Meeting Alleg Co. ARES Net NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint</i>	11 <i>SkyView 2M Net WASH Business Meeting</i>	12 <i>NCCC Sprint</i>	13 <i>ARRL 10-Meter Contest</i>
				NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally		
14 <i>WASH Sun. Net ARRL 10-Meter Contest</i>	15 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	16 <i>SCARC Business Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net</i>	17 <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	18 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i>	19 <i>Russian 160-Meter Contest NCCC Sprint</i>	20 <i>Feld Hell Sprint Int'l Naval Contest Croatian CW Contest OK DX RTTY Contest</i>
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter ...			Lighthouse ...			
21 <i>Winter Begins WASH Sun. Net Int'l Naval Contest Croatian CW Contest</i>	22 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	23 <i>WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day SkyView 2M Net</i>	26 <i>DARC Christmas Contest</i>	27 <i>WASH Breakfast Stu Perry Top Band Challenge RAC Winter Contest Original QRP Contest</i>
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party						
28 <i>WASH Sun. Net Stu Perry Top Band Challenge Original QRP Contest RAEM Contest</i>	29 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	30 <i>WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net</i>	31 <i>New Year's Eve SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>			
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party						

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: 1296.269MHz
(CW) 1W



We're on the web!

www.w3kwh.com

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



Long-time SCARC member Art, WA3BKD, as he
prepares to share lunch with other train
enthusiasts on the annual Ham Rail Fans Fall 2008
Excursion. More pics inside!!

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