



▶ CLUB OFFICER INFORMATION AND TABLE OF CONTENTS ARE ON **PAGE 2**

▶ FOR THE OCTOBER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, TURN TO **PAGE 3**

▶ SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER: **PAGE 6** FOR NOVEMBER, **PAGE 7** FOR DECEMBER

**NEXST MEETING: NOVEMBER 17 AT THE CLUBHOUSE. MEETING STARTS AT 8:00PM. FOOD & SOCIALIZING FUN STARTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING CONCLUDES. CU THERE! COME OUT AND VOTE!**

[www.w3kwh.com](http://www.w3kwh.com)

# KiloWatt Harmonics

THE OFFICIAL (AND ONLY) NEWSLETTER OF THE STEEL CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Sunspot 1029: Just In The Nick Of Time!

Just in time for the 2009 CQWW SSB Contest, Sunspot 1029, one of the first of Cycle 24 made its appearance. As far as I'm concerned, it couldn't have come at a better time, either. During the contest, it pushed the solar flux up to around 76 or so, with a low 'A' and 'K' index to boot. Not a great number, but it opened the bands up enough to make the contest VERY interesting and fun.

And boy, were the bands open too! 20M was open to SE Asia in the early evening, 40M opened there in the wee hours of the morning, and lots and lots of stations from all over the world were up and running too! I put lots of BYs, 9Ms, JAs, VKs and more into my log over the weekend. I missed an A7, A4 and a 5R8 but they were all there working the contest. 15M opened nicely to Europe.

Does this mean that the sunspot drought is at an end? Probably not, but it sure is a good sign of better things to come! The week after the test the flux ran as high as 82, a lot better than the 68 or so it's been stuck at for the last year or so. So, hopefully the bands will heat up as the weather cools off. Here's hoping the sunspot drought is FINALLY over! 73 de NB3C!



## I'm On Vacation! (From life & the newsletter!)

Chances are, by the time you read this, I'll be cruising the warm Caribbean, sipping on a fruity-flavored alcoholic beverage, relaxing & watching the waves & life pass by! That's the reason for the thin content in this month's newsletter. I'll be back to reality next month, and the newsletter will be back to normal too. In the meantime, I still need your submissions to keep it interesting. So, please consider writing something for me. Your pictures are always welcome too. Send 'em to: [KQ3DX@hotmail.com](mailto:KQ3DX@hotmail.com). Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C.....

**OFFICER ELECTIONS THIS MONTH!! NOVEMBER 17 @8:00PM. BE THERE!! COME OUT & VOTE!**

## Club & Officer Info/Table Of Contents

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE: (CLICK ON AN ARTICLE TO READ IT)

October Business Meeting  
Minutes.....Pg 3

Bum Of The Month de  
WB3CRC.....Pg 4

Interested In VHF/UHF?...Pg 5

SET 2009: Yes, We Did That....Pg 5

November Calendar.....Pg 6

December Calendar.....Pg 7



November 2009

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Amateur Radio Club

Edited by Greg Babin, NB3C

'KiloWatt Harmonics' is  
published monthly for the  
members of the Steel City  
Amateur Radio Club.

All contributions are  
welcome at:

<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>

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2M Repeater: 147.030/147.630MHz (PL 123.0)  
70cm Repeater: 444.450/449.450MHz (PL 103.5)  
WA3TTS Beacon: 144.300MHz (CW)  
WA3TTS Beacon: 50.070MHz (CW) 1/2 w ERP  
ATV Repeater: 426.250MHz (Currently off-line.)  
1296MHz Beacon: 1296.269MHz (CW) 1W

AND I COULDN'T HAVE PRODUCED  
THIS NEWSLETTER WITHOUT THE  
HELP OF THESE FINE PEOPLE:  
WA3FWA, WA3TTS, KA3MSE,  
WB3CRC, ARRL. THANKS ALL, FOR  
YOUR EFFORTS. 73 DE NB3C ET AL!

## Business Meeting Minutes: October 2009

The meeting was conducted by the President WB3HDI, Bob at 8 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and was followed by a Moment of Silence for our Silent Keys. The Roll Call was answered by 27 members and 5 guests. The minutes of the Sept. meeting was accepted as published in the Oct. newsletter. The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt and was accepted by the membership.

### Committee Reports:

**Clubhouse:** WA3VXJ, Karl prepped the clubhouse for tonight's meeting and WB3HDI, Bob reported minor vandalism to the exterior of the clubhouse and the generator shed to the police.

**Technical:** WA3TTS, Mike reported that he found and fixed a short in the jumper connector to the patch panel which was intermittently halting operation of the TS-2000 during the PA QSO Party. Mike described his operation from Blue Knob that netted a 160-mile contact with a ¼ watt on 10 GHz.

**Contest:** The up to date PA QSO club score is 98,750 points to which will be added 121,350 from W3BC, Joe who worked from Jefferson County. The CQWW SSB contest is this weekend. Karl worked K4M, Midway Island from the club station.

**Membership:** WA3BKD, Art has 2 applicants, neither of which is in attendance.

**Newsletter:** NB3C, Greg set an Oct. 31 deadline for Nov. newsletter submissions due to his upcoming vacation.

**Public Service:** KA3MSE, Lloyd will run the public service net next Wed. and will work the SET from the club station on Sat. 10/31. W3YJ, Harry is the new SM replacing KA3VXM, Kathy. She and OM WA3PYU, Mike had been running most of the public service events in the past.

**Ways and Means:** WA3FWA, Joe will run the 50/50 raffle after the meeting which will include 2 Hamfest tickets donated by WACOM, and collect any outgoing QSL cards for the bureau.

**Volunteer Exams:** AI3J, Mark said that the next session is scheduled for Mon. Dec. 14.

**Old Business** N3EQP, John will acquire a new RSGB 6 meter handbook for the club library. He pointed out that ARRL books are cheaper through Amazon than buying from the League!

**New Business:** Art indicated that the same officers will run again for 2010 but nominations from the floor will be taken at the next meeting when the election will be held. Art wants to make the first improvements to the clubhouse during the coming winter. These would exclude any technical items such as radios and antennas. Bob reported that the equipment insurance premium has increased due to an updated inventory. W3SVJ, Nate will explore security systems for the clubhouse which may reduce the insurance premium.

**Good of the Order:** WA3TTS Mike is donating 2 books to the club library. N3EQP, John is donating a WX station to the club.

**Motion to Adjourn:** by KA3MSE, Lloyd.

**50/50 raffle:** won by KB3GMN, Carol. She also won 1 of the WACOM tickets and NB3C, Greg won the other ticket. Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary WA3FWA, Joe.

**Our next business meeting will be held  
on November 17 at 8PM. CU @ the  
Clubhouse!! ELECTION TIME!**

## Bum-Of-The-Month Report de WB3CRC....

Today, October 12, 2009 was the 333<sup>rd</sup> get-to-gather of the Bum Of The Month group. This all started in January of 1982 by a few ham guys like Tony, Ed, Roy and Herb that thought it would be nice to "break bread" with fellow hams once a month.

Originally everyone who attended had to buy a one-dollar ticket to a 50-50 raffle for half of the pot, and the other half went into the "kitty" and was used each December for a banquet type party for the "gang". Herb, WB3EHR was the official treasurer and took care of collecting and making the arrangements for the party. This was held until into the 1990's until we had more people come to the Christmas party then attended the monthly get-togethers and the "kitty" didn't have enough money to provide for the increased number of guests. Here are still some from the beginning years that come such as myself, Dale WB3CRC and Nate W3SVJ, to name a couple, that come and 'break bread' each month and enjoy the camaraderie of the bunch.



This picture was taken at the Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> gathering with eleven in attendance.  
From left to right is: **Brian K9VKY**, Lloyd KA3MSE, **Bob WA3BTU**, Joe WB3LBX, **Wayne WT3P**, Al K3YUB, **Bob N3LWP**, Nate W3VSJ, **Bruce N3GHI**, Jack KA3HDM, and **Dale WB3CRC**.

There has been a change of leadership in ARES. Harry Bloomberg has assumed duties as the Allegheny County Emergency Coordinator.

If you are a member of ARES and your card has a date that is less than one year old, it is still valid. If it is dated greater than one year or if it is not dated then it is invalid. Harry is procuring replacement cards.

Harry's email address is: <[w3yj@arrl.net](mailto:w3yj@arrl.net)>

## Interested In The VHF/UHF Bands?.....

I'd like you and everyone in Steel City ARC, plus any other V/UHF'ers in your entire region to know what we've been doing over here in SE WI and the Great Lakes region.

222 TUESDAYS are well underway. N8WNA EN82 and KC8QAE EN91 got the 222 activity restarted this summer. Then QAE asked me if I'd spread the word. So I am. No reason 222 Tuesday can't become a nationwide deal. Only obstacle is apathy and hams not spreading the word. I am encouraging \*everyone\* with 1.25m to get on/near 222.100 SSB and 223.5 FM any Tuesday that is convenient. This is not a net, nor is there a focused geographical region. You get on, call CQ, swing your beams and look around. Do this from roughly 8-10pm (eastern) and see what happens. WB4NKM in EM87, just on the VA side of the KY/VA line really perked things up last Tuesday. He worked both N8WNA and KC8QAE and handed them a new grid.

On WED NIGHTS I run long-range nets on 144.240 and 144.250. I'm not worried about whether I can specifically work a W PA station. Instead, I hope that VHF'ers in your area at least know about the MI/OH/IN activity to the west. I don't know about your area, but we don't have nearly enough activity on the bands. That's the whole reason I do these nets: to create activity in my region that will hopefully spread to other areas. We lose veteran ops because we don't have enough activity. We don't keep new ones because we don't have enough activity. This is a curable condition. I'm seeing big improvement in SE WI and NE IL. I want more VHF'ers everywhere, so that's why I contact clubs/ops outside of my immediate area.

Best way to keep up with what's going on is my website. <<http://www.kc9bqa.com>>. It's a V/UHF newspaper for a wide region. Read the newspaper a few times a week and you're up to speed with what we're doing.

Last thing -- we have been encouraging the use of the <[www.on4kst.com](http://www.on4kst.com)> 144/432 MHz chat room during these 222 Tuesdays and the 144.240 and 144.250 nets on Wed's. It beats the dxworld.com prop loggers hands-down. The ability to see in real-time who all is in the room, ready to play radio with a purpose is very exciting. Much easier to get guys to swing a beam your way, to QSY, if you can simply type a message to them in real-time. The on4kst.com chat is the same deal that 1000's of USA/VE hams have been using for 6m for years. It's now time to put it to use for 144, 222 and 432.

Thanks for your time and spread this info to those who will enjoy the activity. If I can help in any way, just ask.

73, Todd, KC9BQA EN63ao, 40 N of Milwaukee

YE OLDE EDITOR'S NOTE: Many thanks to Mike, WA3TTS for passing this on. If you're interested in VHF & UHF work, this is worth looking into. Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C

There were five members working at the club. John N3EQP worked VHF/UHF phone and digital. He checked us into the phone control frequency on the 09 repeater. He also established and maintained our connection to the UHF digital repeater. John K3JHT ran the HF band. He checked us in and maintained our connection with the NTS 80 Meter Phone Net. John (EQP) received two messages from the digital system but we were only able to relay one, because the second message was over the twenty five word limit of the NTS and was returned to the originator. Lloyd KA3MSE and Nat W3SVJ served as runners between the two rooms. Nat also brought doughnuts and made coffee. Joe WA3FWA joined us in progress and served as support. After the SET was secured, a debriefing session was held at Sky-view. Harry Bloomberg and Dave Kleber were pleased that SCARC was willing to participate. We were the only relay between VHF/UHF digital and HF phone. Larry Keller the new Section Emergency Coordinator also thanked us for participating

SET 2009:  
Yes, We Did  
That.....



Tnx to Lloyd, KA3MSE, for sending this into me.

October 2009  
 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

# November 2009

## The Steel City ARC Monthly Contest/Event Planner

December 2009  
 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>BEGIN EASTERN STANDARD TIME</i> <i>WACOM HAMFEST (last one this year!)</i> WASH 2M Net High-Speed CW Club Contest	2 Breezeshooters Net GPVHF Society Meeting	3 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net ARS Spartan Sprint Skyview Business Meeting	4 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net	5 SkyView 2M Net NCCC Sprint WACOM Meeting	6 NCCC Sprint	7 ARRL CW Sweepstakes Ukrainian DX Contest ARRL EME Test IPARC CW Test
8 WASH 2M Net ARRL CW Sweepstakes Ukrainian DX Contest ARRL EME Test IPARC SSB Test DARC 10M Digi Test	9 Breezeshooters Net	10 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	11 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net NHARC Meeting WACOM YL Net	12 SkyView 2M Net WASH Meeting RSGB 80M Club Sprint SSB	13 NCCC Sprint	14 <i>WAE DX RTTY Test</i> KY QSO Party OK/OM DX CW Test CQ-WE Test JIDX Phone Test
15 <i>WAE DX RTTY Test</i> WASH 2M Net KY QSO Party OK/OM DX CW Test CQ-WE Test JIDX Phone Test	16 Breezeshooters Net Run For The Bacon QRP Test	17 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	18 Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net	19 SkyView 2M Net NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	20 NCCC Sprint YO Int'l PSK31 Test	21 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes All-Austria 160M Test RSGB 160M CW Test LZ DX Contest SARL Field Day Feld-Hell Sprint RSGB 160M CW Test
22 WASH 2M Net ARRL SSB Sweepstakes All-Austria 160M Test RSGB 160M CW Test LZ DX Contest SARL Field Day RSGB 160M CW Test	23 Breezeshooters Net	24 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	25 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net RSGB 80M Club Sprint CW SKCC Sprint WACOM YL Net	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i> SkyView 2M Net	27 NCCC Sprint	28 <i>CQ WW CW Test</i> WASH Breakfast
29 <i>CQ WW CW Test</i> WASH 2M Net	30 Breezeshooters Net					

Complete contests list: <[www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html)>  
 & <[www.sk3bg.se/contest](http://www.sk3bg.se/contest)> ----- Click here for Table Of Contents

November 2009  
 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

# December 2009

## The Steel City ARC Monthly Contest/Event Planner

January 2010  
 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Business Meeting	2 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net	3 SkyView 2M Net WACOM Meeting ARCI Top Band Contest	4 ARRL 160M Test	5 ARRL 160M Test ARRL EME Test TARA RTTY Melee TOPS Activity Test Wake Up! QRP Sprint
6 WASH 2M Net ARRL 160M Test ARRL EME Test TOPS Activity Test	7 Breezeshooters Net GPVHF Society Meeting	8 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	9 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net NHARC Meeting ARS Spartan Sprint	10 SkyView 2M Net WASH Meeting NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Test	11	12 ARRL 10M Test Feld-Hell Sprint MDXA PSK DeathMatch Int'l Naval Test  NA High Speed ...
13 ARRL 10M Test WASH 2M Net MDXA PSK DeathMatch Int'l Naval Test SKCC Weekend Sprint	14 Breezeshooters Net	15 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	16 Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net	17 SkyView 2M Net	18 AGB Party Contest Russian160M Test	19 OK DX RTTY Test RAC Winter Test Croatian CW Test  Lighthouse X-Mas ...
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally						
20 WASH 2M Net Croatian CW Test ARCI Holiday Sprits Homebrew Test	21 Breezeshooters Net Run For The Bacon QRP Test	22 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	23 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net SKCC Sprint	24 SkyView 2M Net	25 Christmas Day	26 WASH Breakfast DARC X-Mas Test Stu Perry TopBand Test
Lighthouse X-Mas Lights QSO Party						
27 WASH 2M Net Stu Perry TopBand Test PODXS 070 Club QRP Scramble RAEM Test	28 Breezeshooters Net	29 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	30 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net	31 New Years Eve SkyView 2M Net		
Lighthouse X-Mas Lights QSO Party						

Complete contests list: <[www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html)>  
 & <[www.sk3bg.se/contest](http://www.sk3bg.se/contest)> ----- Click here for Table Of Contents

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**NEXT MEETING:  
8PM, 17  
NOVEMBER**



**BE SURE AND CHECK OUT OUR COOL WEBSITE:**

[<www.w3kwh.com>](http://www.w3kwh.com)



**Don't forget about the big election this month! Your vote counts! Be there November 17, 8PM @ the Clubhouse. It'll take place during the course of the monthly business meeting. CU there!**

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