

Kilowatt Harmonics

April, 2013



Ye Olde Editor Says...

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As I am writing this newsletter, killer tornadoes have ripped thru Oklahoma and are headed toward Missouri. Our hearts go out to those affected by these terrible storms. This weather situation should be a wake-up call here for us here in Western PA. Granted, the probability of having a tornado of the magnitude that Oklahoma experienced here is slim; nonetheless, it has already happened on May 31, 1985 in Beaver Falls, up North in Wheatland and over in Ohio. Unfortunately, we do have tornadoes here in the local area as well – let us not forget the Mt. Washington tornado of 1998. We as hams need to be prepared with a plan of action should another tornado visit our area. Let us not forget the sole purpose of our existence, either – to assist our served agencies (the NWS in this case) in return for a huge chunk of the RF spectrum. Sadly, there are interests out there that want our spectrum **badly**. We must continue to enhance our goodwill as hams by serving our served agencies, whoever they may be, with the utmost professionalism and courtesies.

Don't forget the Breezeshooter's Hamfest on Sunday, June 2nd at the Big Butler Fairgrounds! The Johnstown ARES conference is on June 15. Don't forget about Field Day on June 22-23. If you want to operate, please see AD3Q or K0LIN to get on their master sign up sheet!

Minutes of the April Business Meeting

Minutes of the Steel City ARC meeting Tues. April 16, 2013

The meeting was conducted by The President N3SBF at 8 PM with a Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence for our silent keys and a roll call of 22 members and 5 guests. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter. Treasurers report was given by Treasurer KA3YNO ; accepted.

Committee Reports

Clubhouse Funds was approved for N3UUZ to purchase 2A slag to finish covering the parking lot.

Ways and Means WA3FWA will run the 50/50 raffle after the meeting and collect any outgoing DX QSL cards for the ARRL bureau. If you go to the Dayton Hamvention, stop by the DX Engineering booth and mention you belong to SCARC as former member K3GP is on their staff.

Technical WA3BKD has installed a dual band 2 M and 440 antenna in the attic for the public service radio which KB3VHT programmed. Sun. Apr. 21 will be a work party to clean out the shed and attic. K5BPC is configuring the new PC's and will be given a key to the repeater room.

Contest AD3Q and WA3VXJ plan to work the Michigan QSO party this Sat.

Training WA3BKD is continuing to teach the CW course on Thurs. evenings.

Membership KB3VHT gave the 3ed reading for Greg KB3VCK who was then voted into the club's membership. The 2ed readings were given for Gabe KB3ZKC, Don KB3YLR and Rich W3RKT.

Volunteer Exams AD3Q said that 4 applicants passed their exams at the last Apr. 2 session. Next examination will be given on July. 2.

Public Service KA3MSE run the last 2 nets. The Red Cross will conduct a drill on Apr. 27. There is a free federal course online to familiarize you with the EC structure. N3EQP said that there is a need to re-certify with Skywarn.

Field Day AD3Q and K0LIN will co-ordinate. You will get a T-shirt by signing up for a specific time and work or log at least 20 QSO's. We will use Gabe's call, KB3ZKC, for the "Get on the Air" station, separate from W3KWH.

Old Business Email your library requests to N3EQP. See W3WTW or WB3HDI for noise on the repeater. W3SVJ is to give instructions on how to run the emergency power supply generator. The propane tanks can not be secured properly when full. N3SBF bought 3 new fire extinguishers. N3UUZ and KB3VHT will install them. KB3VHT inquired about the proposed audit. KA3YNO suggested that the audit be done after our taxes are filled. When will the exhaust fan be installed in the toilet? Soon!

New Business WA3BKD wants current projects finished before new ones are started. May 8 will be a priority meeting night. AA3CE wants to finish work in the VHF room. N3EQP is finding a backup battery for the ARES (public service) station. AD3Q recommended that we get a fireproof safe to store treasury records.

Good of the Order KB3VHT wants no fire arms brought on club property.

Adjourn on a motion by N3EQP.

50/50 raffle won by WA3FWA

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary WA3FWA.

Next Business Meeting: May 21st at 8 PM.

Western PA ARES HF digital training net

The Western Pennsylvania ARES HF digital training net will alternate with our existing VHF/UHF net with the following schedule:

- 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 8PM: 147.195 (PL 131.8) and 443.45 (PL 100) repeaters in New Castle and Pittsburgh and the W3YJ-R Echolink node.
- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 8PM: 3.583 MHz with a waterfall center frequency of 1500 Hz. Initial mode will be 8/500 Olivia. We may switch to MT63-500 or MT63-1000 for bulletins depending upon conditions and length of bulletins. Once we're comfortable with operating an HF net and master the basics we will start experimenting with the new high-speed modes and Flamp.
- 5th Sunday of the month (our Blue Moon scenario): haven't decided yet.

I will be monitoring the 147.195/443.45 repeaters and the W3YJ-R Echolink node during the HF net, so if you have problems or need assistance you can give me a call. I will publish the HF net procedures sometime before the first net, but it will not be very different from any other HF net. I see no reason to reinvent the wheel.

We want our focus to be on Western Pennsylvania and we don't want to be overwhelmed, so we will not be accepting check-ins from out-of-state on our HF net. We will accept check-ins from Eastern PA, but we won't go out of our way to encourage EPA participation.

If you check into the HF net, please prepare in advance a message to transmit during the net. We want this to be a net where we all practice sending traffic not just learn how to check in. I find "check in" nets where the primary activity consists of checking in to be boring and not very useful as a training exercise.

Please join the WPAARES-DIGITAL Yahoo group if you're interested in these nets. Also feel free to email me with any questions.

73,

Harry Bloomberg W3YJ

Assistant SEC, Western PA ARES

hbloomb@gmail.com

Editor's Note: There will be no net on Sunday May 26th!

JT63 Faux Paus

The unique thing about JT65 digital mode is that you have a limited number of characters with which to transmit information. Which is why, in this mode, exchanges are pretty much limited to call signs, signal reports and 73s. So if you're trying to tell your fellow ham about your power output and type of antenna, well... this screenshot speaks for itself.

The screenshot shows a software interface for digital mode decoding. At the top left, the time is 23:42:09 and the dial QRG is 0 KHz. The current operation is 'Receiving'. Below this are controls for Color-map (Blue), Brightness, Contrast, Speed (3), Gain (0), and Smooth. There are buttons for 'Clear Decodes', 'Decode Again', 'DT Offset' (0), and 'Restore Defaults'. A red instruction reads: 'Double click an entry in list to begin a QSO. Right click copies to clipboard.' The main display is a table of decoded messages with columns for UTC, Sync, dB, DT, DF, and Exchange. The message 'B 20W SCREWD 73' is highlighted with a red box. On the right side, there are controls for 'Message' (TX Te, TX Ge), 'Call CQ a', 'Call CQ', 'Answerin', 'TX DF' (-396), 'Zero', 'Single BW' (100), and 'RB/P Sound In'.

UTC	Sync	dB	DT	DF	Exchange
23:40	5	-6	0.0	910	B KC5JNR EA3NE JN11
23:40	5	-9	-1.2	622	B 20W SCREWD 73
23:40	5	-15	-0.8	390	B CQ SP9UXB JO90
23:40	3	-11	-1.9	199	B CQ IK4RSR JN54
23:40	3	-10	-0.7	-19	B CQ PY4ZT GH80
23:40	5	-11	-1.0	-398	K 9A6TKS KD8Ezs R-15
23:40	2	-11	-0.6	-748	B K6AEP KB1IZB RRR
23:40	7	-6	-0.5	-996	B KK4DFW W1CAM -11
23:39	6	-6	-0.4	910	B CO KC5JNR EM10

I think this ham is trying to say that they're running a screwdriver antenna and not trying to convey a more ominous message. I hope.

73 Doc KT3L

Driveway Stones

On April 26th, N3SBF, N3UUZ, WA3XVJ and WA3FWA placed large stones on the top portion of the driveway as a base:



On May 3rd, N3UUZ and WA3FWA placed 2A slag and tamped it in place:



GREAT JOB EVERYONE! – 73 DE YE OLDE EDITOR

VE Testing April 2nd

**Congratulations to all 4 candidates who passed and to our crack VE Team
Good job all! 73 de Ye Olde Editor**



Happenings

On June 2 the Breezeshooters will be sponsoring their annual hamfest at the Butler Farm show grounds. Additional information regarding the hamfest is available at

http://breezeshooters.net/html/our_hamfest-2013.htm

Don't forget the upcoming EMMCOMM Conference.

WPA ARES Conference, JUNE 15 at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Engineering Building.

The Energizing Emergency Communications WPA ARES Conference Agenda and Registration form are now available on the www.wpaares.org website.

Feel free to invite your EMA Director, Served agency Liaison and others you feel would be interested. It is important that we get a headcount as soon as possible so please emphasize the need for early registration.

Encourage folks to bring go-kits and especially specially equipped vehicles if possible. Information on overnight accommodation is being researched for those that may need it.

PRESENTERS-

The lecture hall in the Engineering Department is media ready including video projector and Internet connection. If you need some special hook-up, please send me an email with a copy to Bill Wieserman

k3zyk@pitt.edu .

It looks like a super emergency communications event!

73,

Larry AB3ER ab3er@comcast.net

http://wpaares.org/downloads/2013_EMCOMM_AGENDA.pdf

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Kilowatt Harmonics is published monthly for the members of the Steel City Amateur Radio Club. Reprints/quotes permitted provided credit is given to the original author and the Steel City Amateur Radio Club. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the club, its members and officers.

The Steel City Amateur Radio Club (412) 787-0777
2M Repeater: 147.030/147.630MHz (123.0 hertz PL tone)
70cm Repeater: 444.450/449.450MHz (103.5 hertz PL tone)

Club Officers

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Vice-President: Carol Danko, KB3GMN

Treasurer: Walt Atkins, KA3YNO

Recording Secretary: Joe Mielnicki, WA3FWA

Corresponding Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Bob Mente, NU3Q

License Trustee: Chuck Davis, N3UUZ