

JANUARY | 2009 | ISSUE 1

OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR WILL BE ON JANUARY 20TH AT THE CLUBHOUSE. MEETING STARTS AT 8:00PM. FOOD & SOCIALIZING FUN STARTS IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. CU THERE!



<www.w3kwh.com>

KiloWatt Harmonics

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

New Officers, New Year, New Look!

Yeah, I decided to spice things up a bit with the newsletter. Figured it was time to brighten it up a little, add a little color & dimension and make it more fun to read. Lemme know what you think! I'll still be running all the regular columns and articles, but I need help on local news and goings-on in the area. So remember, if you have a local activity that you're aware of, send it to me so I can stick it in the newsletter for all to read and know about. Pictures, articles, especially Shack-Of-The-Month submissions are also welcomed.

Send me your thoughts/articles/pictures to <KQ3DX@hotmail.com>. And don't forget to let me know what you think of the new format newsletter. That's it for now. Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C et al!! Oh, and by the way: I'd like to wish all of our readers and members the best to you & yours in 2009!



Be An NTS Traffic-Handler

For those of you who want to learn how to handle NTS traffic (and/or who are curious about the Western PA 2 meter traffic net that is held every evening at 8 PM on 146.88), you're welcome to attend a class about traffic handling. The date is not set in stone – YET - however; it will be either in March or April at the Skyview clubhouse. Once I receive a firm date, I will pass that information along. The instructor will be N3KB, Kent, who is one of the local WPA traffic managers. (Thank you KB3NUQ)

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

**In The World Of DX..... Page 3
December Business Meeting
Minutes.....Page 4
ARRL WPA Section
News.....Page 5
Dec. News From The ARRL
Atlantic Division.....Page 6
Club News.....Page 7
On The National Front.....Page 8
What Are The Sunspots
Doing?.....Page 8
The W3SVJ Report.....Page 9
We're Puttin' Together A Club
Roster.....Page 11
Jan. News From The ARRL Atlantic
Division.....Page 12
We Need Your Help!.....Page 13
The Beginner's Help
Desk.....Page 16
What's Going On In Our Neck Of
The Woods?.....Page 18
January Calendar of
Events.....Page 21
February Calendar of
events.....Page 22
WASHFest 2009
Announcement.....Page 23
Dues Renewal Form.....Page 25
The Prez Sez.....Page 27
Last Minute DX News.....Page 29**

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Edited by Greg Babin, NB3C

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**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)
WA3TTS Beacon: 50.070MHz (CW) 1/2 w ERP
ATV Repeater: 426.250MHz (Currently off-line.
Contact AA3EE for more info.)
1296MHz Beacon: 1296.269MHz (CW) 1W**

**AND I COULDN'T HAVE PRODUCED
THIS NEWSLETTER WITHOUT THE
HELP OF THESE FINE PEOPLE:
WA3FWA, WB3HDI, WA3TTS, W3SVJ,
KB3NUQ, KA3LNG, N3MSE, N3LLR,
W3TOM & ARRL. THANKS ALL, FOR
YOUR EFFORTS. 73 DE NB3C ET AL!**

From various issues of The ARRL
DX Bulletin. Thanks, ARRL for
permission to reprint here.

In The World Of DX.....

- ⇒ **WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2.** Dani, EA4ATI is QRV as 9M2TI from Kuala Lumpur and is here for about one year. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW and SSB. This includes entries in the upcoming main international contests. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **ANDORRA, C3.** Salvatore is QRV as C31CT and has been active on 30 meters from around 1100 to 1130z. QSL via EA3QS.
- ⇒ **DJIBOUTI, J2.** Jean-Claude is QRV as J28JA and has been active on 20 meters around 1900z. QSL via F5JFU.
- ⇒ **BANGLADESH, S2.** Operators S21RC, S21AM, S21DM and S21S will be QRV from St. Martin's Island, IOTA AS-127, by the end of December. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to EB7DX.
- ⇒ **CHAD, TT.** Sylvain, F6CIS is QRV as TT8SK and may be here from six months to three years. Activity is on all bands during his spare time. QSL via F5OZF.
- ⇒ **COTE d'IVOIRE, TU.** Phil, F4EGS is QRV as TU8/ homecall from Abidjan until the end of February 2009 while on work assignment. Activity is mostly on 160 and 80 meters but he will also try the other HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **CROZET ISLAND, FT/W.** Florentin, F4DYW is QRV as FT5WO for one year while on work assignment. Activity will be in his spare time. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9.** Jim, ND9M is QRV as VQ98JC until December 31. He is also active as VQ9JC until April 2009. Activity is on 30 to 15 meters using CW and generally around 1200 to 1630z most days. This includes some activity on various satellites as well. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **SRI LANKA, 4S.** Nelson, 4S7NE is generally QRV on 160 meters daily between 2345 and 0015z. He is then active on 40 meters around 0130z. QSL direct.
- ⇒ **QATAR, A7.** Juma, A71EM has been active on 160 meters around 0000 to 0100z. QSL via EA7FTR.
- ⇒ **SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.** Janusz, SP9YI is QRV as HF0APAS until January 12 while on the Polish base "Henryk Arctowski" on King George Island, IOTA AN-010. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **DENMARK, OZ.** In celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Treaty of Roskilde, special event station OZ1658ROS is active until the end of 2009. QSL via OZ9EDR.
- ⇒ **SWEDEN, SM.** In celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Treaty of Roskilde, special event stations SH1658DK, SH1658OZ, SC1658OZ, SK1658OZ, SK1658DK and SB1658OZ are active until the end of 2009. QSL via operators' instructions.
- ⇒ **LAOS, XW.** Bruce, XW1B will soon be QRV. Activity will be on 160, 80 and 40 meters. QSL via E21EIC.
- ⇒ **MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7.** Neil, WD8CRT will be QRV as V73NS from Kwajalein atoll, IOTA OC-028, beginning January 5. He will be here for the next two years. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **CAMBODIA, XU.** Peter, NO2R is QRV as XU7ACY from Sihanoukville until the end of January. He is active primarily on 160 and 80 meters as propagation permits. QSL via W2EN.

(continued on page 14.....)

Business Meeting Minutes: December 2008

The meeting was moved from Tues. 12/16 to Thurs. 12/18 by President WA3TTS, Mike due to inclement weather, and called to order at 8 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the following Roll Call was answered by 26 members and 3 guests. The minutes of the Nov. meeting were accepted as published in the Dec. newsletter. The Treasurers report was given by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt and accepted by the membership.

Committee Reports:

Clubhouse WA3VXJ, Karl cleaned the clubhouse for tonight's meeting/party. He got a bid to have a survey done of the club's property and the membership approved the funds required for this endeavor. WB3HDI, Bob is preparing many goodies for this evening's holiday party. We received packages of treats from our DX members DL4ZAA, Ralf and DC3RJ, Andy, which was enjoyed by all. Danke schon!

Technical W3WTW, Tim had his friend trim the tree branches that had grown up through one of the yagi antenna elements, preventing it from rotating. Mike is constructing a microwave beacon for the club.

Contest ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes runs Jan. 17 to 19 and the CQ WW 160 M CW contest running Jan. 23 to 25.

PC Tim said that all things PC are working as they should. There is a new UPS for the PC that runs Echolink and the repeater controller.

Public Service KA3JKS, Sue expressed the need for volunteers for the Pittsburgh Marathon to be held next May. WA3BKD, Art had demonstrated CW to the WPA Model Railroad club and Chuck Rakiecz thanked him for his effort. Art also mentioned that there were 89k visitors this year on the sub Requin which he volunteers his time at it's Amateur Radio station. Walt, KA3YNO and Nate, W3SVJ, were invited to operate WX3PIT on SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY. WX3PIT is the ham radio facility located in the U.S. Weather Bureau Station on Shaffer Rd. They operated 20 and 40 meter SSB for a successful 5 hour session.

Membership Art gave the 3rd and final reading for AE3B, Dan who was voted into the club by the membership. Also voted in was DX member LX1UN, Alain who is working in the Pittsburgh area and has been a frequent visitor to the clubhouse. An acquaintance of Art, KB3RUK, Jim was given his 1st reading and he will be here late due to his work schedule.

New Business N3EQP, John is taking requests for any new books that the membership wishes to have in the club library.

Ways and Means WA3FWA, Joe will run the usual 50/50 raffle after the meeting.

Good of the Order KB3NUQ, Bob announced that his Rotary club is having a blood drive Sat Dec. 27, 9 AM to 3 PM, at the Public Safety Bldg. in Mt. Lebanon. Nate reported that KA3LNG, Kurt is back with us after having had eye surgery and that K0BUD, Mike has a new kidney and celebrating his 70th birthday. Nate also displayed the QSL card and certificate created for the Amateur Radio special event operation for the Pittsburgh 250 celebration. Mike thanked all who made an effort to operate the contests and did a lot of stuff for the club during his years as president.

Motion to adjourn by N3EQP, John.

50/50 raffle won by N3GHO, Gloria
Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary WA3FWA, Joe.

Our next business meeting will be
held on January 20th at 8PM. CU
@ the Clubhouse!!

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ARRL WPA Section News

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to attend the open house sponsored by the Skyview Radio Association. One purpose of the event was to recognize the 34 people that participated and completed the Emcomm classes sponsored by the club during this year. I want to acknowledge and congratulate the individuals participating and the club for sponsoring the event. At the open house I met Cynthia Garfold, KB3LZN, the instructor for the program. We discussed at length her ideas and goals and I was greatly impressed with her passion for training. I offered her the position of Assistant Section Manager for education and training. Thankfully Cynthia accepted the position and I want to welcome her to the WPA section staff. As assistant section manager she will be preparing opportunities for training for the ARES program featuring Emcomm and ICS classes among others. Please join me in welcoming Cynthia to her new position. She can be reached at <kb3lzn@arrl.net> I am looking forward to working with her and will be announcing some new programs after the first of the year.

As this is being written the Pennsylvania Act 88 has become law. This is what has become known as the tower bill. This law requires municipalities to reasonably accommodate amateur wishing to install antennas on their property.

I would like to hear from individuals that have used the law as support for being allowed to install an antenna at their home.

On February 22, 2009 the Wireless Association of South Hills will be sponsoring the first hamfest of the section for the new year. In addition to myself and director Bill Edgar, N3LLR will be Assistant Director Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH attending. I hope everyone will take the opportunity to stop at the league table and say hi. More information on the hamfest is at <http://n3sh.org/washfest_2009.htm>. Beginning with the new year an emphasis will be started to train and keep members of the various ARES groups informed of happenings. I will be requiring that each county EC set up training programs and also hold meetings with the members on at least a semi-annual basis. To help with this effort John Swarc the Section Emergency Coordinator is putting together a web site that will contain important information for the ARES program. The web site should be completed by the first of the year and a message will be sent announcing its becoming functional.

Finally, please take the time to participate in your local nets. Your help is needed in many areas including traffic handling and the ARES nets. The section traffic net is currently operating on 3983 KHz every evening at 5 PM due to changing propagation. Please check in and join in providing this much needed service. Also remember to rejoin your local club and support their efforts. If you do not belong to a club please locate your nearest club and join the group.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and a prosperous new year.

73

John Rodgers N3MSE, W. Pa. Section Manager

Dec. News From ARRL Atlantic Division

On December 8th, Pennsylvania's statewide PRB-1 antenna legislation (Act 88) went into effect. On December 11th, it passed its first test and with success for amateur radio. Chuck Mills W3YNI of Irwin, PA had received permission earlier from his zoning board to put up his antenna although with some restrictions. A neighbor filed an appeal and a hearing date was set for December 11th. Attorney and ARRL Volunteer Council, Mike Lazaroff K3AIR, presented his information along with information from Pennsylvania's Act 88. The Zoning Board upheld their decision 5-0.

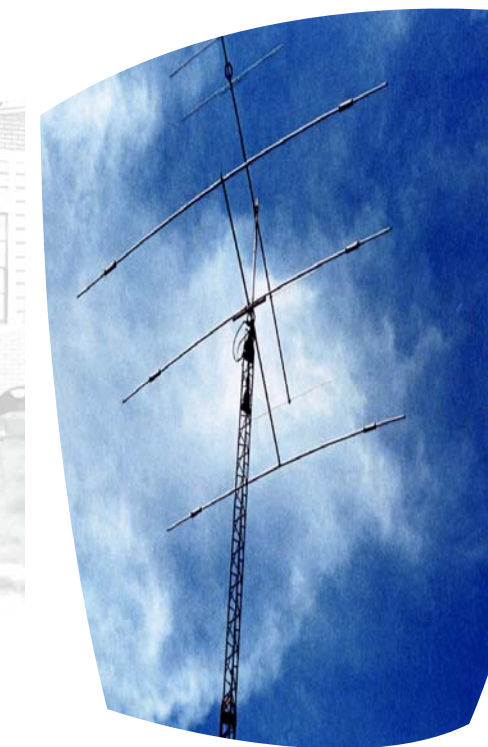
Best wishes to Southern New Jersey Section Manager to Jeanne Priestley KA2YKN who served for a number of years. Jeanne decided not to run again for the SNJ Section Manager position. Congratulations to George Strayline N3GZ who was elected to be the new SNJ New Jersey Section Manager.

Both Tom and I would like to wish each and everyone our very best wishes for this holiday season and for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

⇒ Education Events

Our thanks to Bill Dobson N3WD for an excellent webinar presentation on HF Operations for New Hams he presented November 8th. We even had a few 'old-timers' attend.

We've got a webinar set up on Monday, January 5th from 9pm through 10:30pm for new club officers or ARES/RACES leaders. We'll be giving some information for club



meeting topics, some club business topics and expect to have some panelists who have been successful club officers to help out at the question and answer session. Even if you aren't a new club officer you are welcome to join in.

The link to sign up for this webinar is: <<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/458677547>>

We are working on some new webinar topics: contesting, new Pennsylvania antenna legislation, message handling, emergency communication topics among others. More information will be passed out when the arrangements are firmed up.

These webinars will have audio available by VOIP and telephone. The VOIP is audible over your computer speakers. To sign up for any or all of these webinars, go to: <www.atldiv.org/training> and click on the register button for each one you are interested in.

Once you have registered, you should receive an email with the information to connect up for the webinar(s) you have registered for.

⇒ Division Awards

Check out the Atlantic Division website after January 1st for information about the Atlantic Division Awards that are available to Atlantic Division members. In addition to the Amateur of the Year, The Grand Ol' Ham and Technical Achievement awards, we have a new annual award to be given for the first time this year, the Keith Freeburg N2BEL Educator of the Year Award.

Stay tuned, awards information and the awards nomination form will be available then.

73, Bill Edgar N3LLR
Atlantic Division Director

Tom Abernethy W3TOM
Atlantic Division Vice Director

Club News

Hi Folks: I spent a few hours (well several actually) on Sunday checking the state of our low band wire antennas, particularly the 75m inv vee. It always had high SWR and I wanted to rule out all the obvious tests before climbing the tower to check the feed-point. Moving the ends of the vee higher in the air helped---a little bit. That was a good sign, but it was obviously coupling to nearby objects like the 40m vee and the UHF tower. After three or four orientation attempts I decided to bring both ends of the vee together on the ground to be sure they were the same length---surprise, one end was 3 feet longer than the other. After fixing the length error and rehangng the ends, the 75m vee was 1.4:1 at about 3850KHz. Next I decided to orient the 75m vee to face NE and SW. That got the antenna away from the things like the phone lines and the UHF tower, but one end of the vee was over the HF room. That change made the 75m vee resonant at 3800KHz with 1.4:1. I tried a few QSOs but was getting RF-on-the-audio reports with the amplifier on.

RF coupling----so the next obvious thing was to check the proximity of the feedline. It was on the roof and running right under one leg of the vee, so it got re-routed around the perimeter of the rear of the clubhouse on the ground.

Let me make one important statement about low band feedlines. **THEY SHOULD BE ON THE GROUND, NOT 15 FEET IN THE**

AIR WHERE THEY CAN COUPLE TO ANTENNAS AND TOWERS AND RERADIATE. With a coax cable on the ground of any appreciable length, there is enough distributed capacitance from the outer braid to earth to RF couple the cable to ground, which minimizes RF feedback and other related common-mode problems while improving the antenna pattern.

Having done this I was able to get a 5-7 report from LX1UN on 3799.7 MHz this evening.

There was some extra cable length for the 75M vee so I made a common mode choke of about 25 turns close wound on a 4 inch PVC form at the base of the repeater tower. That changed the 75M vee resonance to 3825KHz for 1.4:1, which confirms that the feedline is part of the antenna system. At least now the feedline runs straight down the tower to the choke, so it is predominately vertically polarized and omnidirectional for what RF it is radiating.

While I was at it I moved the 160m feedline to the ground and the coax feed for the R7000 vertical. That seems to have cleared up some of the RF feedback problems. I'm hoping it reduces the RF coupling on 160m as that RF was getting into the computer network cables in the attic.

I also moved the 40m vee to also be broadside NE and SW.

I still have some common mode chokes to make up on ferrite material and we should choke both ends of all the feedlines from 30m down with hi-z common mode chokes. Antennas work much better when feedlines are de-coupled from them.

The K9AY receive antennas were not working, but it was dark by the time I got around to investigating what that problem was. After an hour of troubleshooting with both the TS950 and the IC756, my best guess is one of the relays in the outdoor control box of the K9AY loops expired. That is my next maintenance problem to resolve.

While I have your attention there is a correct way to set microphone gain on a radio. Turn the RF power all the way down. Using headphones depress the monitor button on the radio and listen to yourself in the proper sideband mode transmitting minimum power into a correct antenna for the frequency of interest. Adjust the mic gain for clean audio, not for maximum RF power output. The mic gain should NEVER have to be set higher than 11 o'clock. Turn the processor OFF. Again, listen to yourself in the monitor before getting on the air with full power. I'm tired of seeing the mic gain on the TS950 or IC756 cranked past 3 o'clock and the speech processor turned all the way up. That is not responsible operating practice. Finally, stop
(More Club News on page 11)

On The National Front.....

From various issues of the ARRL Bulletin. Thanks ARRL, for permission to reprint here

⇒ FREQUENCY CHANGE FOR CANADIAN TIME TRANSMISSION STATION CHU

After 70 years of broadcasting Canada's official time, the National Research Council's shortwave station CHU <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html> will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009.

Broadcasting 24 hours a day, CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, a voice to announce the time in French and English and digital data to set computers. The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). Time transmissions on 3330 and 14670 kHz are not affected and will continue as before.

In April 2007, the ITU reallocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from the fixed service to the broadcasting service. Since then, the NRC said there has been a lot of interference on the 7335 kHz frequency from many information broadcasters around the world. "CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference," said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "We have heard from Amateur Radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. We also received comments from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment."

Pelletier noted that a leap second <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/fag_time_e.html> will be added at the end of December 2008; this will be indicated in the digital code until the time of the leap second. DUT1 will go from -0.6 to +0.4 seconds and will be indicated by double tones near the start of the minute and in the broadcast code <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/chu_e.html>. (More National News on page 10.....)

What Are The Sunspots Doing?

On Wednesday, January 7, a sunspot appeared very briefly in the lower right portion of the Sun's image. It was so brief that NOAA did not record it on the Space Weather Prediction Center's daily solar data chart for that day. Spaceweather.com reported a sunspot number of 11 for the day, and the magnetic polarity was consistent with a new Solar Cycle 24 spot. Today, January 9, there is another Solar Cycle 24 appearance, this time on the upper left of the image. Sunspot numbers for January 1-7 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean

of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.9, 69.9, 69.5, 68.8, 69.2, 68.7 and 69 with a mean of 69.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 3, 9, 4, 4, 3 and 3 with a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 3, 8, 5, 3, 2 and 1 with a mean of 3.9. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>.

(Courtesy of The ARRL Bulletin.)

The W3SVJ Report

Why is this man smiling? He is daydreaming and wishing he was in South Florida. The ham he is talking to gave Walt the WX report of "clear, blue skies and 75 degrees." A report like that can do that to you when it's 10 degrees here!

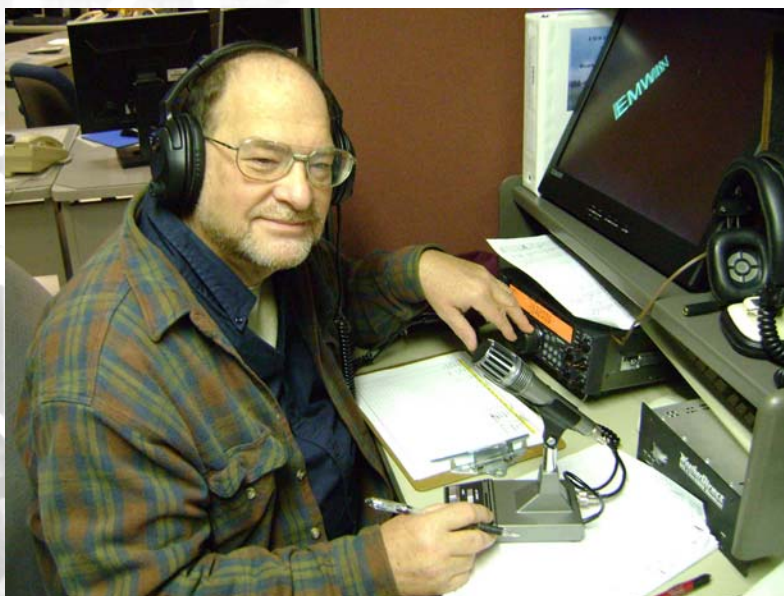
That's Walt, KA3YNO, operating WX3PIT at the U.S. Weather Bureau station on Schaffer Rd. in Moon Township.

The occasion was the "SKYWARN Recognition Day" special event activity on the 6th of Dec. 08.

The ham radio position is well "stocked" with equipment. 'Lots of gear and antennas for VHF/UHF repeater connections as well as a dedicated network on six meters to connect to our westerly neighbors in Ohio where most of our weather comes from.

The Bureau itself is "eye candy" for the technical types. Many big, flat screen WX monitors with real time radar inputs as well as computer driven analysis projections. The GS folks were very generous of their time to show us around even though they were operating with a weekend skeleton crew. I'm told that ALL the desks are occupied and people are called in when there is a "nasty" WX condition developing. 'Makes sense!

It was a great afternoon. 73 de W3SVJ



The January Birthday Bunch

Many happy returns to those in the club celebrating birthdays this month:

STEW, AK3J	18th
TOM, AA3TK	18th
DOUG, W3HH	20th

Happy Birthday, all!!
73 de W3SVJ & NB3C



WASHFest 2009: coming your way in February. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more info!!!

On The National Front (con't from page 8)

⇒ **ARISS Finalizes Plans for Silver Anniversary of Amateur Radio from Space**

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team is currently celebrating the silver anniversary -- 25 years -- of Amateur Radio operations from space. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the crew on the International Space Station (ISS) has configured the radio to support cross-band repeater operations. They have also supported some SSTV downlinks and participated in a special test of 9600 baud packet radio operations on the simplex frequency of 145.825 MHz.

After December 19, Bauer said he expects the ISS ham radio system to be on the 145.825 MHz frequency supporting 1200 baud packet. If PCSAT is configured during the week, he said double hop APRS is possible.

"During the week of December 21-26, we plan to support the cross-band repeater mode with a twist," Bauer said. "Our intent is to configure the radio for 145.99 MHz uplink -- including CTCSS tone of 67.0 and 437.80 MHz down. This will be performed in low power mode. We should also note that an extra-vehicular activity (EVA) is planned for that week -- Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT, plan to perform a spacewalk on December 22. As per standard procedure, the ISS ham radio system will be turned off for the EVA."

Bauer said that from December 28-January 3, the cross-band repeater will be reconfigured for what he called "a special experiment. This will be a test of our L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out. Plan for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and a downlink on the standard frequency of 145.80 MHz, using low power," he said. "Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, we hope some 'big guns' are able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler and make the connection."

A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS from November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009. This certificate will be

awarded to those who have had two-way communications with the ISS on voice, packet (APRS) or through the voice repeater. Those who hear the ISS from space in any of the ARISS operations modes -- voice, SSTV, school contact, voice repeater will also be eligible to receive a certificate.



To receive the certificate, Bauer said to note the ARISS mode of operation (such as SSTV, voice or school) on your QSL and whether the contact was one-way (receive only) or two-way. "You should send your self-addressed, stamped envelope to the normal ARISS QSL volunteer distributor in your area of the world," he explained. "On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words '25th Anniversary Certificate.' Make sure your envelope is big enough to accept an 8.5 x 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage."

If you do not know where to send your QSL, check the ARISS Web site to find the one that serves your part of the world.

"We will be sending your certificate to the volunteer distributors in bulk after the event is over," Bauer said. "This saves workload and money. So do not expect to see it until 1-2 months after the event closes on January 15." Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio on-board the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule.

School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," he said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate. Enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS!" (more National News on page 28.....)

We're Puttin' Together A Club Roster!

A printed roster of SCARC members

The officer corps of your Steel City ARC, especially Treasurer (KA3YNO Walt), Editor in Chief (NB3C Greg), Print Shop/Mail Room Chief (WA3VXJ Karl) and all the lackeys that help them, have acquiesced to the many requests from the membership for a PRINTED roster. Please help us complete this task as accurately and timely as possible.

The detailed information on the roster will NOT be on the club's web page and will be U.S. Postal mailed ONLY to fellow club members.

The web site lists call letters and names only and will continue in that fashion.

There is nothing particularly new that will be on this roster. QRZ.com will give a searcher a name and address to go with the call letters as well as a "reverse look up" to find call letters to go with a name! "SWITCHBOARD.com" and others will do the same for phone numbers and addresses. Even UNLISTED PHONE AND CELL numbers are available for a small fee.

'Not to generate any paranoia but, "**WE ARE NOT ALONE.**"

We thought that a simple roster would be no more intrusive than what's already out there and available but would be of a great convenience to the membership. Leave out what you wish.

CALL:

Name as you want it to appear (John, Jack, Bob, Robert, Tom, Thomas, Dilbert, Dill, etc)

Street

City

State

ZIP

Telephone
(wire line)

Cell number:
(wireless)

e-mail

THE FORM AND A SASE WILL BE MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS Thanks for your participation.
73 de "Da mail room Crew"

Club News (from page 7)

turning knobs and pressing buttons just because they are there and you don't know what they do. After a half-dozen people do that it takes a good half-hour for someone to re-adjust everything so the radio will work like it is supposed to. That is a half-hour wasted that cannot be spent operating. Leave things the way you found them so the next person can enjoy the radio. Thanks for listening.

73 Mike WA3TTS



Jan. News From ARRL Atlantic Division

⇒ News

The Atlantic Division Convention and the 75th Rochester Hamfest will be held on May 30, 2009. It will be at a new venue and it will be a one day event this year. There is a new website for the hamfest at www.rochesterham.org and the old website has not been updated to reflect the change. If you need more information about the new location or directions, check the new website or send an email to Len Crellin KC2PCD at kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com.

We are very excited about the change and are looking forward to the new location. Hope to see you there!

⇒ Education Events

We've got a webinar set up on Monday, January 5th from 9pm through 10:30pm for club officers or ARES/RACES leaders. We'll be giving some information for club meeting topics, some club business topics and expect to have some panelists who have been successful club officers to help out at the question and answer session. This is open to all interested hams who have been, are or interested in being club officers.

The link to sign up for this webinar is:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/458677547>

The Maryland/DC Section has a webinar setup for ARES Leadership in their section on Wednesday, January 7th from 8:00pm through 9:30pm. If you are involved as a leadership official within the

MDC Section ARES, you can sign up for this webinar by going to the following link:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/217454278>

These webinars will have audio available by VOIP and telephone. The VOIP is audible over your computer speakers.

To sign up for any or all of these webinars, go to:
www.atldiv.org/training

Click on the register button for each one you are interested in.

Once you have registered, you should receive an email with the information to connect up for the webinar(s) you have registered for.

⇒ Atlantic Division 2009 Awards Nominations

Do you know someone who has really stood out in their service to amateur radio? That service could be in: technical abilities; public service; training; education, you name it.

Wouldn't it be an honor for that individual or group to be recognized by their peers for their time and talents spent in good service to others?

Why not nominate them for one of the Atlantic Division Awards that they qualify for?

Atlantic Division awards are presented annually to the hams who make us proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service.

Nominations are taken from the ham community. Selection is made by an Awards Committee chaired by the Division Vice Director. The awards are conferred at the annual Division Convention. Amateurs of any license class may be nominated for awards.

Nominations must come from within the Atlantic Division.

The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, shift a nomination made in one award category to another award category, in order to honor a larger number of worthy nominees.

♦ AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Radio Amateur in the Atlantic Division whose record merits recognition for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service: He or she is active on the air and in Amateur Radio organizations. The Amateur of the Year is an all-round Amateur, whose activities, attitudes, and achievements may serve as an example to others. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities and family life. The Amateur of the Year exemplifies the "Amateur's Code."

In selecting the award recipient, emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge, and outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio in the year preceding nomination.

(continued on page 15)

Your Input Is Needed For Easier Ops @KWH

If you read the 'Club News' article on [page 7](#), (and I hope you did!), you'll notice that some ops experience difficulty in setting up the radios @ 'KWH properly. Some of the vets of the club are proposing a Quick Reference manual, to make it easier on those who don't know which button/knob does what! I'll let Mike 'TTS take it from here:

"Nate's (W3SVJ) suggestion of a Quick Reference solution is a well taken. We should be able to scan a front panel view of each radio from a manual and make it large enough for us plus 50~60~70 somethings to read and hang on a wall or put under table glass.

Here is a list (below) of what I think one needs to know the location of on a radio for basic operation. If you can think of other radio functions or want to re-organize it into Really Basic and Basic or other schemes, please send your suggestions to me (WA3TTS) and we can work something up for each radio as a club house quick reference guide. Let's just agree on some basic stuff like using Alphabetical Order versus the "Prozac Decimal System" (hi).

Feedback is important here, we need to be as inclusive as possible so everyone has a guide that makes sense to them. For example, I have Preamp and Advanced Intercept Point (same as preamp) listed under both A and P. We all think differently so please point out what needs multiple listings for alphabetical order as well as any common radio function I inadvertently omitted."

Thanks Guys and Gals....Mike/tts

BASIC RADIO FUNCTIONS

AIP---(Advanced Intercept Point) a.k.a. Preamp On/Off

AF Gain

AGC Fast/Slow/Off

Attenuator On/Off/Level

Audio Filter Adjust

Band Up/Down

Compressor On/Off Level

Direct Frequency Entry (Keypad)

Fast/Slow or Fast/Fine Tuning (for Main VFO Tuning)

Filter Selection

Frequency Entry, Direct (Keypad)

IF Shift

Keypad, Frequency Entry

Keyer---Speed and Enable/Disable

Microphone Gain/Level

Microphone Preamp (DO NOT Enable)

Microphone Impedance (500~50K Leave it Alone)

Mode (AM/FM/CW/USB/LSB/RTTY/Digital)

Noise Blanker On/Off/Level

Noise Reduction On/Off/Level



Preamp (a.k.a Advanced Intercept Point [AIP]) On/Off

RIT---Receiver Incremental Tuning On/Off

Split Frequency Enable/Disable

VFO---Variable Frequency Oscillator A/B Select

So, club members, what would you like to see included in the proposed Quick Reference Operating Manual? Grab Mike 'TTS or Nate, 'SVJ at the next meeting and tell them your thoughts. Remember, it's your Club; there's no fun in operating it if you don't know how!! Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C et al!!

More From The World Of DX..... (con't)

⇒ **TUNISIA, 3V.** Members of the Provins ARC will be QRV as TS7C from Kerkennah Island, IOTA AF-073, from January 8 to 19. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, FM, SSTV and PSK with six or seven stations. QSL via F4EGD.

⇒ **SWITZERLAND, HB.** In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Union of Swiss HF Amateurs, or USKA, Swiss amateurs are allowed to use the special prefixes HE8 and HB8 during the year 2009.

⇒ **NORWAY, LA.** AI, LA9SN is QRV as LA9SN/p from Flekkoroy Island, IOTA EU-061. He is generally active on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

⇒ **BELARUS, EW.** Vlad, EW7LO has been QRV on 40 meters around 1700z. QSL to home call.

⇒ **ARUBA, P4.** Marty, W2CG will be QRV as P40CG from January 3 to 17 while on holiday. He will be active on 80 to 10 meters. This includes an entry in the ARRL RTTY Roundup. QSL to home call.

⇒ **UGANDA, 5X.** Peter is QRV as 5X4X until June while working as a development aid worker in Arua. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters generally before 2000z. OSL via DF5GO.

⇒ **MALDIVES, 8Q.** Andy, G7COD
will be QRV as 8Q7AK from



**Make a resolution to
get more active in
YOUR club in 2009!!**

Embudu Island, IOTA AS-013, from January 11 to 27. Activity will be on 40 to 12 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

⇒ **CHILE, CE.** A large group of Amateur Radio operators from Copiapo will be QRV from January 11 to 25 with special event station XR27RAID in commemoration of the 27th Raid Atacama desert trophy. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via CE6TBN.

⇒ **IRAN, EP.** Mohsen, EP3SMH has been active on 20 meters using RTTY around 1330z and SSB around 0800z.

⇒ **BANABA ISLAND, T33.** Udo, DL9HCU is currently active as T33HC. OSL to home call.

Did you know?.....SCARC placed 5th nationally in the 2008 ARRL UHF Contest as a multi-op entry? VP Mike, WA3TTS sez that's pretty impressive, especially since we don't log local 440MHz FM Q's. You can check out the complete results at:

< <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results> >

Thanks to all who participated and helped achieve this score!

[illegible]

Jan. ARRL Atlantic Division News (con't)

♦ KEITH FREEBURG N2BEL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

This award is named after Keith Freeburg N2BEL who was very involved in amateur radio and amateur radio training in the Western New York Section. Keith had a unique ability to teach amateur radio to people of all ages. He had an affinity for working with young people and was very involved with one of the few Radio Coaches programs. It is very fitting that this award is dedicated to his memory and that the successful candidate demonstrate an ability to successfully train people in amateur radio. The emphasis is on quality of training and not purely the number of people trained.

♦ TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Radio Amateur(s) in the Atlantic Division whose technical excellence exemplifies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science, rather than self. Particular value will be placed on evidence of continuing contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. Groups of two or more Amateurs may be nominated for a joint award in this category. Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as the following: publications, research and development, creativity in hardware/firmware/software, systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications.

This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee, not necessarily every year.

♦ NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

The nomination period closes March 14, 2009 for this nomination.

♦ AWARD NOMINATION FORM

To display the award nomination form, go to the web site:
<<http://www.atldiv.org/AwardNominationForm.htm>>

73,

Bill Edgar N3LLR
Atlantic Division Director

Tom Abernethy W3TOM
Atlantic Division Vice Director

Don't forget about our monthly Social Nights! They're held every Wednesday of the month except for the week of our monthly Business Meeting.

Have Fun With Winter Field Day 2009!

The 2009 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 24, 2009 through 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 25, 2009. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators: set up emergency-style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period.

Check out complete details at:

<<http://www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php>>

The Beginner's Help Desk

A frequent feature where I try to run articles that will not only benefit the newcomers to the club, but you highly-seasoned ops as well. I'm always on the lookout for interesting things to put here. If you have something for the Help Desk, send it to me at: <KQ3DX@hotmail.com> Thanks!! 73 de NB3C!

Our topic this month comes from our VP, Mike WA3TTS

Binocular Core Common Mode Chokes

I came across some Type 44 split core ferrites awhile back on ebay for a bargain price and wanted to see how they would perform as feed line isolators in the HF bands. These particular cores are Fair Rite model 2644173551 and have a .75 inch ID. They have a 1.0 square outer dimension and are just over 1.5 inches long when paired together. This is large enough to slip over a PL259 connector but I wanted to see how they would work in a binocular core arrangement versus a string of beads on a coaxial transmission line.

These Type 44 split cores have a permeability of 500, whereas the more common Type 43 material has a permeability of 800. The lower permeability of the Type 44 cores can handle more RF power than the Type 43 cores---the tradeoff being slightly more turns required to achieve the same choking resistance for cores of equal size and mass.

Three different arrangements were tried: A simple dual split core, an extended dual split core (four split beads with two holes) and a side-by-side dual split core (4 holes). The photo below shows the devices to be tested and a single pair of split cores for comparison. All cores used RG-142 teflon coax to be usable at full legal limit power levels, although RG58 should be usable for up to several hundred watts with some attention to not exceeding 3:1 SWR conditions (See references on page 19 for safe power vs. SWR levels as a function of frequency and cable type). A total of five turns of RG-142 or RG-58 cable will fit within the .75 inch ID of this particular split ferrite core.



I first tried to use my MFJ-259B analyzer, but it has a few limitations for evaluating RF chokes. First, it is limited to measuring inductance, capacitance, or impedance up to 650 ohms, and secondly it cannot directly measure the complex LCR choking resistance. The better alternative was to measure actual RF choking attenuation at various frequencies with a spectrum analyzer. My HP141T has the 8555A RF deck for 10MHz to 18GHz, but a quick check with my collection of attenuators showed it performed reasonably well down to 1MHz. The club's HP141T has the 8554 RF deck that covers 100KHz to 1300MHz, so these chokes will also be measured with the proper RF deck and the data adjusted if needed.

I used 30dB of input attenuation to the spectrum analyzer and a 10dB attenuator on the MFJ-259B to minimize choke interaction on the instruments. A BNC jumper cable was modified to split the center conductor out in the middle with alligator clips for the choke connections. First I set a base line one 10dB grid down from the top of the analyzer display. Each large grid in the vertical direction is 10dB and the small ticks are 2dB (continued on next page.....)

The Beginner's Help Desk (con't)



⇒ Base Line for Zero Attenuation

Next I made a test on the small binocular core, which shows about 29dB of choking action at 3.8MHz---keep in mind that 30dB is a times 1000 factor in RF choke attenuation. See below....



⇒ Single Binocular Core Tested at 3.8MHz

Next I tried the extended binocular core made from four split core pairs. The performance at 3.8 MHz dropped to 28dB of RF choking attenuation, likely due to the increased turns capacitance for the longer coil turns. See below...



⇒ Extended Binocular Choke Tested at 3.8 MHz

Next I tried the dual (side-by-side) binocular core. The results were rather impressive with 34 dB of RF choking action at 3.8 MHz. This choke arrangement picked up 6dB over the extended dual core design. This is a worthwhile improvement (times four) given that the same number of split core components are used in a different arrangement. (continued on page 19.....)

So...What's going on in our neck of the woods?

SCARC sponsored V.E. Test Sessions - 2009

- MARCH 16, 2009

7:00 PM at the Steel City Amateur Radio Club's clubhouse. *

- JUNE 15, 2009

7:00 PM at the Steel City Amateur Radio Club's clubhouse. *

- SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

7:00 PM at the Steel City Amateur Radio Club's clubhouse. *

Testing starts promptly at 7:00 PM !

Please arrive by 6:45PM to complete all necessary paperwork.

* For directions to the testing facilities and other information regarding the VE tests, please contact:

Mark Strayer [[AI3J](http://ai3j.com)] -- 412.833.6049 or send email to: [<ai3j@w3kwh.com>](mailto:ai3j@w3kwh.com)

Pre-register to guarantee your session.

Walk-ins are limited and any type of disability must be pre-registered.

It's a little early for this one,
but I thought I'd put the
word out anyway:

BreezeShooters
HAMFEST 2009 and
COMPUTER SHOW

Web Site [<http://www.breezeshooters.net>](http://www.breezeshooters.net)

Email:

[<hamfest2009](mailto:hamfest2009@breezeshooters.net)

[@breezeshooters.net>](mailto:hamfest2009@breezeshooters.net)

General Hamfest Chair-
man : Bob Benna N3LWP
(412) 366-0488

BUTLER FARM SHOW
GROUNDS

SUNDAY June 7, 2009
8 A.M. to 3 P.M.

2009 Pittsburgh Marathon Needs Your Help!!

Sign up now to help work the 2009 Pittsburgh Marathon! We need around 150 Amateur Radio operators to help make this huge event a success. On-line registration makes it easy to volunteer. Even if you are new to Amateur Radio you can always help.

You will simply be paired up with a more experienced operator. We need people at mile posts, aid stations, shadows, on buses, bicycles and more.

Plan now on working the Pittsburgh Marathon on May 3rd, 2009. You'll be glad you did. For more details and to sign up simply go to:

[<marathon.central.org>](http://marathon.central.org)

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

Contact: Jeff Hutzelman N3NHS

[<jhutz@cmu.edu>](mailto:jhutz@cmu.edu)

412-401-8348

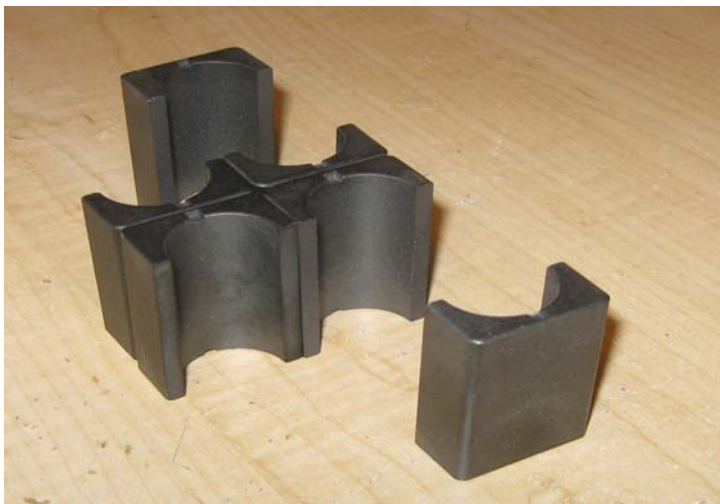
Thanks in advance for your support!

The Beginner's Help Desk (con't)



It can be seen that using binocular core arrangements are a much more efficient and affordable use of ferrite material for feed line isolation than stringing 10 to 30 split cores to achieve a similar result. Just remember to use the chokes at both ends of the feedline or the RF will just couple back inside the cable from the other (unprotected) cable end. Also, the choking action seems to improve with the cores in direct contact with each other.

Superglue is a convenient way to assemble a core stack. To assemble a core set with existing cables glue opposing core halves to each other, wind the coil turns, then glue and/or tape the remaining core halves in place. See below...



Transmission Line Power and SWR Calculators:

<http://www.vk1od.net/tl/tl1c.php>
(Choose the Source End Mismatch Option).

<http://www.timesmicrowave.com/cgi-bin/calculate.pl>

Understanding, Building, and Using Baluns and Ununs, (p 32-33) J. Sevick W2FMI.

Fair Rite Catalog Information:

http://www.dextermag.cn/uploadedFiles/Literature_Fair_Rite_EMI_App_Material.pdf

http://www.elnamagnetics.com/library/catalogs/fairrite/14th_rev2/Split_Round_Cable_EMI_Suppression_Cores.pdf

(continued on next page.....)



The Beginner's Help Desk (con't)

Supergluing the Ferrite Core Centers Together

Vinyl tape or heat shrink can then be used to protect the rather fragile cores from chipping or other impact damage.

Here is a summary of measurements on the three RF choke configurations

F (MHz)	Small Core	Extended Core	Dual Core
1.8MHz	20dB	18dB	25dB
3.8	29	28	34
7.0	27	35	40
10.1	32	26	38
14.2	26	20	33
18.1	24	16	29
21.3	20	14	26
24.9	18	13	25
28.5	18	10	22
50.1	12	-	16

I also tested a single binocular choke made with three turns of RG-142 cable to see how it would perform in the upper HF and 50 MHz range. Here are the test results.....

Three Turn Binocular Choke With Single Type 44 Binocular Core

F MHz	Choking Attn
50 MHz	28 dB
28	28
25	28
21	27
18	26
14	24

For comparison purposes I needed a total of ten (10) split core ferrites strung along a length of coaxial cable to achieve the same 28 dB attenuation level at 50MHz..

⇒ Conclusion

I'll be installing pairs of the dual binocular core chokes on the 160-80 and 40 meter wire antennas at W3KWH. It will be interesting to see how they help with common mode noise reduction on receive and improved antenna performance on transmit. I also want to try a three binocular core set to see if it will provide up to 30dB of choking action on 160M, but I'll save that information for next month.

January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>New Year's Day</i> SkyView 2M Net SARTG New Year RTTY Contest AGCW Happy New Year Contest	2 NCCC Sprint	3 ARRL RTTY Roundup EUCW 160m Contest
4 WASH Sun. Net ARRL RTTY Roundup EUCW 160m Contest	5 Breezeshooters Net	6 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Business Meting ARS Spartan Sprint	7 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net	8 SkyView 2M Net WASH Business Meeting	9 NCCC Sprint	10 NCCC Sprint MI QRP January CW Contest Midwinter Contest, CW North American QSO Party, CW
11 WASH Sun. Net MI QRP January CW Contest North American QSO Party, CW Midwinter Contest, Phone DARC 10-Meter Contest	12 Breezeshooters Net	13 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	14 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net NHARC Business Meeting	15 SkyView 2M Net	16 NCCC Sprint	17 <i>Skyview Holiday Banquet</i> NCCC Sprint HA DX Contest UK DX Test RTTY NA QSO Party, SSB ARRL Jan VHF SS LZ Open Contest
18 WASH Sun. Net Hungarian DX Contest UK DX Contest, RTTY NA QSO Party, SSB ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	19 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr., Day</i> Breezeshooters Net ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	20 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	21 Alleg Co. ARES Net	22 SkyView 2M Net NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	23 CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW NCCC Sprint	24 <i>CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW</i> BARTG RTTY Sprint UBA DX Contest, SSB REF Contest, CW
25 <i>CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW</i> WASH Sun. Net BARTG RTTY Sprint UBA DX Contest, SSB REF Contest, CW	26 Breezeshooters Net	27 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	28 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net	29 SkyView 2M Net	30 NCCC Sprint	31 WASH Breakfast SARL Youth Day Sprint

December 2008						
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			

January 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

February 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

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 WASH Sun. Net QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> Breezeshooters Net	3 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net ARS Spartan Sprint Skyview Business Meeting	4 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net	5 SkyView 2M Net 10 meter NRAU Activity Contest (NAC)	6	7 VT QSO Party YLI SSB QSO Party 10-10 Int'l Winter QSO Party MN QSO Party LA QSO Party DE QSO Party NM QSO Party
8 VT QSO Party YLI SSB QSO Party 10-10 Int'l Winter QSO Party LA QSO Party DE QSO Party NM QSO Party	9 Breezeshooters Net	10 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	11 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint NHARC Business Meeting	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i> SkyView 2M Net WASH Business Meeting	13 YLRL YL-OM Contest	14 <i>CQ RTTY WPX Contest</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i> YLRL YL-OM Contest Asia-Pacific Sprint Contest Dutch PACC Contest FISTS Winter Sprint
15 <i>CQ RTTY WPX Contest</i> WASH Sun. Net YLRL YL-OM Contest Dutch PACC Contest North American Sprint Contest SSB	16 <i>President's Day</i> Breezeshooters Net	17 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	18 Alleg Co. ARES Net	19 SkyView 2M Net	20 Russian WW PSK Contest	21 <i>ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW</i> Russian WW PSK Contest REF Contest SSB Feld-Hell Club Sprint Mississippi QSO Party NA QSO Party
22 <i>ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW</i> <i>Washington's Birthday</i> WASH Sun. Net REF Contest SSB Mississippi QSO Party NA QSO Party	23 Breezeshooters Net NC QSO Party (also Sunday) CQC Winter QSO Party (also Sunday)	24 <i>Mardi Gras</i> WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	25 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net SKCC Sprint	26 SkyView 2M Net	27 <i>CQ WW 160-Meter Contest SSB</i>	28 <i>CQ WW 160-Meter Contest SSB (also on 3-1)</i> WASH Breakfast UBA DX Contest (also 3-1) Open Ukraine RTTY Championship - Low Band

January 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

February 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

March 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				

Now in our *FOURTEENTH* big year!



WASHfest 2009

The South Hills Hamfest

Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 22nd, 2009

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR
WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE
DXCC Card Checker Mike Lazaroff K3AIR

*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA*

MAIN PRIZES — *You've Got to play to WIN!*

1st Prize: Yaesu FT-897D HF/6 M/2 M/70 cm
2nd Prize: ICOM IC-92AD 2 M/70 cm D-STAR
3rd Prize: LDG Z-100 HF .1—125 W Autotuner

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

Breakfast & Lunch provided
by **JACK'S CATERING**
of Peters Township

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Kevin Smith N3HKQ at (724) 228-4153, Bill Hill W3WH at (724) 746-1776, or Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466
E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

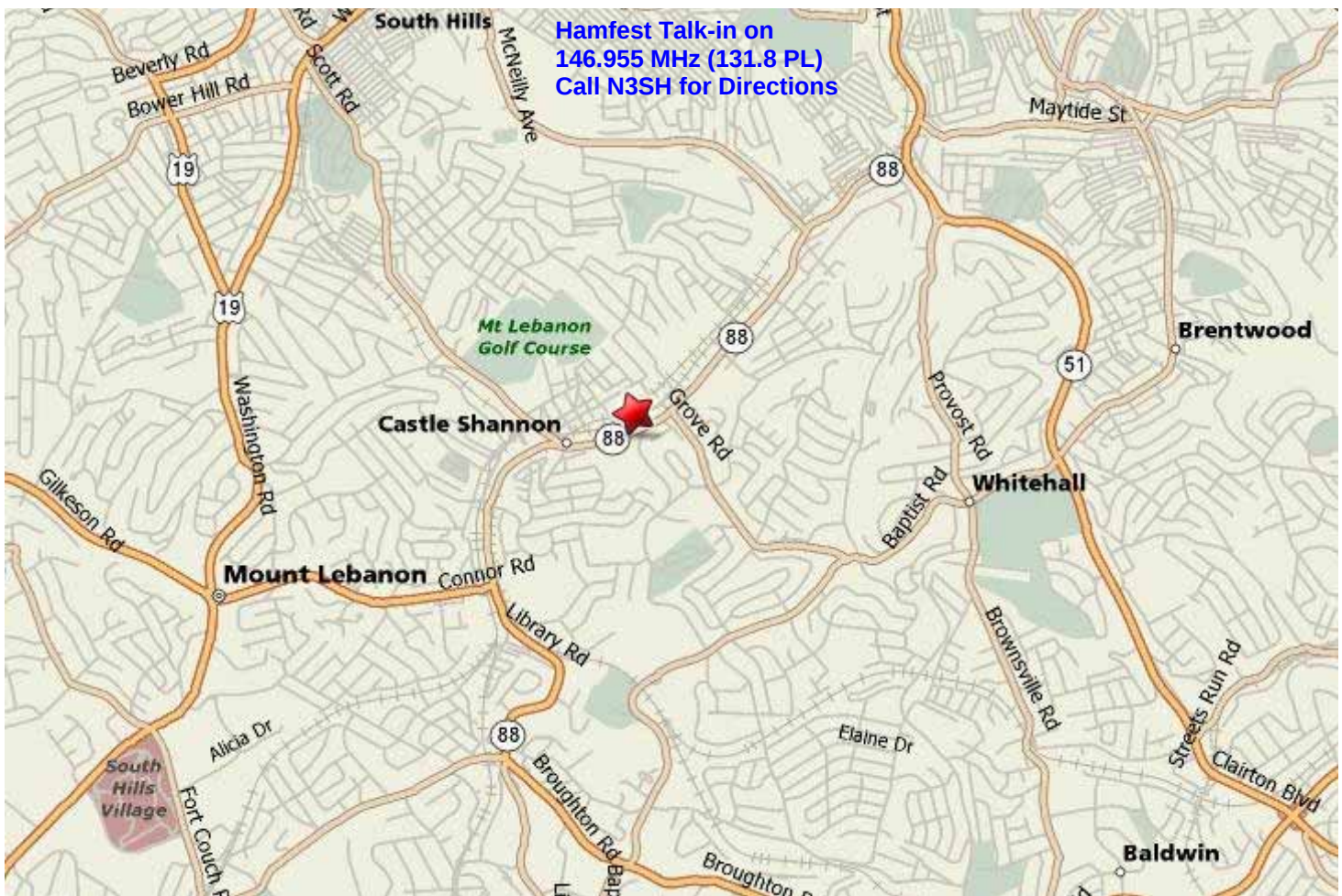
Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
111 Watson Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063-1045

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



Directions to WASHFest 2009



From State Route 51 (North or South): Take SR 51 to SR 88 South (Library Road at Saw Mill Run Boulevard. Proceed South about 1½ miles to Grove Road (3rd Traffic Light. Turn Right (North) onto Grove, and an immediate Left into the Parking Lot.

From US 19 South (Washington County): Take US 19 (Washington Road) North past South Hills Village to the intersection of Connor Road (by the Galleria). Turn Right onto Connor Road. At the end of the road, turn Left onto SR 88 (Library Road). Proceed North about 1½ miles to Grove Road (3rd Traffic Light. Turn Left (North) onto Grove, and an immediate Left into the Parking Lot.

From US-22, Interstate I-76 (PA Turnpike) or I-376 (Parkway East): Follow the Parkway East inbound towards Pittsburgh, to the Boulevard of the Allies. Follow the Boulevard to the exit ramp (on the left) for the Liberty Bridge. Cross the Liberty Bridge and proceed through the Liberty Tunnel. Take the exit for SR 51 South. Proceed about 3 miles to the intersection with SR 88 (Library Road) and proceed as above.

From Interstate I-279 (Parkway North) & I-79 North via I-279: Follow the Parkway North Southbound to the Veteran's Bridge I-579 exit. Cross the Veteran's Bridge and follow I-579 to the exit ramp for the Liberty Bridge. Cross the Liberty Bridge and proceed through the Liberty Tunnel. Take the exit for SR 51 South. Proceed about 3 miles to the intersection with SR 88 (Library Road) and proceed as above.

From State Route 28: Follow the SR-28 inbound to the exit ramp for the Veteran's Bridge I-579. Cross the Veteran's Bridge and follow I-579 to the exit ramp for the Liberty Bridge. Cross the Liberty Bridge and proceed through the Liberty Tunnel. Take the exit for SR 51 South. Proceed about 3 miles to the intersection with SR 88 (Library Road) and proceed as above.

From the West via State Route 60, US 22/30, or the Parkway West: Proceed inbound to the Parkway West. Follow the Parkway inbound to the intersection with SR 51 (exit to the right prior to the Fort Pitt Tunnel). Take SR 51 South and proceed about 4½ miles to the intersection with SR 88 (Library Road) proceed as above.

From Interstate I-79 South: Take I-79 to the intersection with the Parkway West I-279 and proceed as above. If coming from Washington County or further south, exit in Washington Pa to Murtland Avenue North and follow US-19 North.

SCARC DUES RENEWAL FORM FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2008

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBERS:

Day _____ Evening _____

BIRTHDATE _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ Exp _____

EMAIL: _____

Would you like the newsletter E-Mailed to you ? (Circle One) **YES NO**
(Please provide E-Mail address above)

Please indicate if you are also an ARRL Member. (Circle One) **YES NO**

ARRL information is requested to keep our ARRL affiliation current

Membership rates for 2008:
Regular Member : \$50.00
Retired member (Over 65) \$50.00
Additional Family Member \$15.00
DX Member \$15.00

Payment by check payable to: **STEEL CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** is preferred. Please indicate your call sign on your check. Your cancelled check serves as your receipt. Payments can be mailed to the P.O. Box on the back of the newsletter or to the treasurer.

Walt Adkins KA3YNO, Steel City Amateur Radio Club
476 First Street, Heidelberg, PA 15106 OR
SCARC, P.O. Box 281
Carnegie, PA 15106

Of course payment will be accepted on Wednesday evenings and on the meeting nights
Your early renewal assures your continued access to the clubhouse and permits better planning of club activities.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Name: _____ Call Sign:: _____

Address: _____
Street City State

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work): _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____
Name Relationship Telephone No.

License Class: _____ Equipment: _____

Amateur Radio Interests: _____
(Example: Contesting, Public Service,, Skywarn)

Would you be an Event Coordinator, Asst. Coordinator, Net Control _____

Club Affiliations _____

RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE

Name: _____ Call Sign:: _____

Address: _____
Street City State

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work): _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____
Name Relationship Telephone No.

License Class: _____ Equipment: _____

Location from Downtown (Home) _____ (Work) _____
(N, S, E, W) (N, S, E, W)

Would you be available weekdays?, Evenings? Weekends? _____

COMPLETE THE TOP AND BOTTOM PORTIONS OF THIS FORM AND SEND IT TO:
KATHY KING, 17 BELTZHOVER AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA. 15210

The Prez Sez.....

Well 2009 is here and we start a new chapter in our lives and at our club. I suppose this where I don the official robes, crown and wave my cattle prod like a scepter? I think turning over the spatula for the gavel should suffice.

I want to thank the 2008 Officers, Committee Chairs, and all SCARC members for their service and dedication to our club. I also want to thank everyone for heartily partaking of the meeting night eats and Karl, WA3VXJ, for putting up with me in the kitchen.

I guess he will have to find a new helper because he is probably going to be manning the kitchen while I'll be out in front. I promise to inflict some culinary delights upon all of you in the coming year. Perhaps each month could feature a different members cooking expertise? C'mon, show us what you got!

The 2008 year saw changes and improvements at SCARC and 2009 will have some changes and improvements as well. I would like, very much, to see 2009 as a productive year. I expect we will face any new challenges and changes with a bit of humor, the same dedication and a dose of common sense that has been evident since the glimmer of an idea to form our club over 65 years ago.

Kind of strange for me to imagine 30 some years ago I signed up to an organization made up of a diverse group people that, for me, seemed larger than life.

I guess I was impressionable at that age. Guess what folks, I'm still impressed.

My enthusiasm for this little slice of heaven we fondly refer to as Steel City, KWH, the club, or whatever pet name one wishes, has never diminished. I, like many others, had to put it on the back burner for a wee bit. Even during my non-active period, I've always kept up my membership because doing so would help to insure that SCARC would always stand.

I didn't do it all by myself. I couldn't. It took then and takes now a group effort. Just like the pioneers of our club did so many years ago. Like those before me I will give the best service and uphold the good name of SCARC.

Here's to us and I look forward to guiding us toward good things in 2009!

73's, Bob Lenfestey, WB3HDI, SCARC President

KB3NUQ/AE!: Congratulations go out to Bob Mente, KB3NUQ, who has just joined the ranks of the Extra class ops. Sez Bob: "Passed my Extra today. It took me two attempts, but I got it! I will be sending in for a vanity call as soon as the database is updated. Once I have my new 2x1 call, I will let yinz guys and gals know!"

I hope you'll continue to give the Officers of the club your full support, just like you have in the past. We have a fine staff of Officers who are going to lead us to bigger and better things in 2009! Get active now and be a part of the process and share in the successes. 73 de NB3C!!

2009 dues are due!

Dues are due!

For 50 bux a year,
that's just 4.16 a month,
96 cents a week,
14 cents a day,
and about .006 cents/hour!

Quite a bargain!

State of the Art equipment, great fellowship, and one of the best locations around!

Do you really want to miss this?

And just to make it easier, Ye Olde Editor has enclosed a dues form on page 25 for you!!

More news from the national front...(con't)

⇒ FCC COMMISSIONERS: NOW THERE ARE FOUR

The term of FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, a Republican from Tennessee, came to an end on January 3 as the 111th Congress convened for the first time. Originally selected by President Bush to fill the unexpired term of then-Chairman Michael Powell, Tate joined the Commission in 2005 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/11/10/100/>>.

In June 2007, Bush announced his intention to nominate Tate to a full five year term <<http://www.arrl.org/?artid=7534>>, but when the Senate failed to confirm her nomination by the close of the 110th Congress, Tate's tenure as a Commissioner came to a close.

"My term as a commissioner is at an end," Tate said, "and I would like to express what a great privilege and honor it has been to serve our country and the Federal Communications Commission over the past three years. I am grateful to President Bush for his appointment and for his confidence in my ability to make important decisions on behalf of the American people."

Tate said that she plans on advocating for children and families both in this country and abroad. She said she will also dedicate herself "to protecting our stories and storytellers, and to opposing the economic and moral harm of piracy." She also plans on launching a formal mediation practice "that will utilize the skills I have practiced daily at the Commission to develop resolution, consensus and collaboration in the communications sector and beyond."

Chairman Kevin Martin thanked Tate for her service to the Commission, saying her "good nature and distinct personality" will be missed. "Based on her experience as an effective state commissioner," Martin said, "Commissioner Tate demonstrated strong leadership during her tenure as Chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, and the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional

Separations. As Chair, she led the effort to address [these two] critical components of the telecommunications framework set forth by Congress. Commissioner Tate embraced the difficult task of trying to reach consensus between federal and state members on these very technical and complex issues."

Tate thanked the Commission's professional staff, calling them "the finest, most honorable group of civil servants in our government. They are viewed as the 'gold standard' by our international colleagues and I appreciate their dedication, integrity and commitment. All Americans should be proud of their work."

W3LBE & Brother



Kilo Watt Harmonics

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



NEW YEAR, NEW OFFICERS, NEW LOOK TO THE
NEWSLETTER! HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR
MEMBERS FROM THE OFFICERS (and Ye Olde Editor)
OF THE STEEL CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB!!

**NEXT
MEETING:
JANUARY 20,
8PM**



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

<www.w3kwh.com>



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