

FEBRUARY 2010 | ISSUE 2

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

**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 16, 8PM @
THE CLUBHOUSE. MEETING STARTS
AT 8:00PM. FOOD & SOCIALIZING
FUN STARTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE MEETING ENDS. CU THERE!**



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

► FOR THE JANUARY
BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES, TURN TO **PAGE 4**

► 4 PAGES OF CALENDAR
ACTIVITY THIS MONTH. **PAGE**
28 FOR FEBRUARY,
PAGE 30 FOR MARCH

KiloWatt Harmonics

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

The Prez Sez.....

Tools in the Drawer.

A while back a co-worker of mine got the itch to build something electronic. Something to use up parts he had sitting around. For those of us that are still the builder types, I understood his desire. His idea was to build a flasher circuit for his HO model railroad grade crossing (RR crossing) that would simulate incandescent lamps but using LEDs. After knocking some ideas around he came up with something that worked. Not exactly what he wanted so after some brainstorming, we got it to work like he wanted and it looks quite realistic. Built on a 2 x 3 universal type board from Radio Shack, using Dinosaur proportion parts (by today's standards) it is neatly done and functional and best of all...WE CAN SEE THE DARN THING!

So since my co-worker made the flasher I piped up and told him I'd make the signals for the crossing. So started an adventure! I gathered some supplies and through much experimentation I came up with a reasonable representation of a Grade Crossing Signal made from a bunch of tiny parts. (see picture on page 21)

I ordered up some goodies from a company that supplies homebrew parts and raw materials for the model railroad hobbyist and the flasher circuit I bought for 13.00 does the same thing as his but is the size of my pinky fingernail!!! Wow! Compare 30 parts to 8 and welcome to the 21st Century! Technology has marched on! Or has it?

The same place I ordered my supplies from had a really nice soldering iron for working on itty bitty teeny weenie surface mount parts. I got one and it works quite well and will come in handy when I solder the smaller than pin head sized LEDs to the finer than human hair wire for these signals. I still need tons of magnification. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)



Send Me Local News 'n Stuff!

Don't forget: I'm always on the lookout and in need of local news and operating events for the newsletter. So, if you know of any hamfest or local event (like the Marathon or the Grand Prix, or anything else for that matter) which requires our support, please let me know of it! I'll be sure and include it here for all to be aware of. Send your stuff to: [<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>](mailto:KQ3DX@hotmail.com). Remember, just because you know of an event doesn't mean I know. Some of it I catch, some of it I don't. Help me fill in the gaps! Thanks for your time. 73 de NB3C. And now, on to the newsletter!

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KiloWatt Harmonics

February 2010

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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
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<kq3dx@hotmail.com>**

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Club is an ARRL-Affiliated
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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.)
1296MHz Beacon: 1296.269MHz (CW) 1W

**AND I COULDN'T HAVE PRODUCED
THIS NEWSLETTER WITHOUT THE
HELP OF THESE FINE PEOPLE:
WA3FWA, WA3TTS, NU3Q, WB3HDI,
N3MSE, KA3MSE, E-BAY, ARRL.
THANKS ALL, FOR YOUR EFFORTS.
73 DE NB3C ET AL!**

In The World Of DX.....

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

- ⇒ **SENEGAL, 6W.** Peter, HA3AUI is QRV as 6W2SC until March 31 while on holiday. He spends his time at the border between here and Guinea-Bissau. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using mainly digital modes, with some CW and SSB if requested. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **HUNGARY, HA.** Gyuri, HA1CW is QRV with special event station HA2010S for all of 2010 during the 30th LEN European Championship in swimming, diving and other water sports that takes place in Budapest in August. QSL via operator's instructions.
- ⇒ **GUINEA-BISSAU, J5.** Peter, HA3AUI is QRV as J5UAP until March 31 while on holiday. He spends his time between here and Senegal. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using mainly digital modes, with some CW and SSB if requested. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **NORWAY, LA.** Special event station LM50NRK is QRV during 2010 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of television in Norway. Activity is on the HF bands, including some satellite activity. QSL via LA4FPA
- ⇒ **POLAND, SP.** Special event station 3Z0FCH is QRV until June 30 in commemoration of the 200th birthday of Polish composer and pianist Fryderyc Chopin. QSL via SP7PAD.
- ⇒ **TURKEY, TA.** In addition to two other countries, Istanbul was designated the third European Capital of Culture 2010. Members of the TC Special Wireless Activity Team are QRV with TC2010 prefixes for all of 2010. In addition, special event stations TC2010CCE, TC2010CCA and TC2010CCI are QRV until January 18. QSL via operators' instructions.
- ⇒ **MACAO, XX9.** Georg, DK7LX is QRV as XX9TLX from Coloane Island, IOTA AS-075. He is active on 80 to 10 meters using mainly CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **ROMANIA, YO.** Special event station YR5EPC is QRV from Transylvania until the end of 2010. QSL via YO6AJI.
- ⇒ **TUNISIA, 3V.** Members of two Tunisian clubs are QRV with special call sign TS8RW until February 14 in celebration of ROVER week. QSL via operators' instructions.
- ⇒ **TANZANIA, 5H.** Igor, UA3DJY is QRV as 5I3A until March 1. Activity is on all bands. QSL via RK3AOL.
- ⇒ **UGANDA, 5X.** Nick, G3RWF is QRV as 5X1NH until March 21. Activity is on all bands, except 160 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **GERMANY, DA.** Special event stations DR2010L, DR2010O and DR2010N are QRV throughout this year in celebration of Essen and the Ruhr area, capital of culture 2010.
- ⇒ **SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4.** Bernhard, DL2GAC is QRV as H44MS from Guadalcanal, IOTA OC-047, until April 19. This includes activating Temotu Province in February. Activity is on 80 and 40 meters using mainly SSB. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1.** Masa, JD1BMM is QRV from Marcus Island, IOTA OC-073, until the end of February. QSL via bureau.
- ⇒ **MONGOLIA, JT.** Sank, JT1AS is QRV as JT70AS throughout the year in celebration of his 70th birthday. Activity is on the HF bands using RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A.** Monk Apollo is usually QRV using RTTY on 160, 80, 40 and 30 meters around 1700 to 2100z. QSL direct.
- ⇒ **BELIZE, V3.** Gerd, DJ4KW and Gisela, DK9GG are QRV as V31YN and V31GW, respectively, until February 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes activity in several contests held during this time. QSL to home calls.
- ⇒ **JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND, CE0.** Toshi, JA8BMK is QRV as XR0ZA from Robinson Crusoe Island, IOTA SA-005. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters with an emphasis on the lower bands, using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **MALAWI, 7Q.** Harry, G0JMU is QRV as 7Q7HB for the next three months. He is active on the HF bands using CW and digital modes. QSL direct via G0IAS.
- ⇒ **CANARY ISLANDS, EA8.** Klaus, DK1AX will be QRV as EA8/homecall from Tenerife, IOTA AF-004, from February 2 to 14. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 15 meters using CW with QRP power near the usual QRP frequencies. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **BELIZE, V3.** Robert, N7MSU will be QRV as V31SU from various locations here from February 4 to 23. Activity will be mainly on 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **MARTINIQUE, FM.** Michel, FM5CD has been QRV using RTTY on 160 meters around 0500z. QSL via FM5VU.
- ⇒ **UGANDA, 5X.** Jack, NP2OR is QRV as 5X7JD from Masaka until May 25. He is active on 40 and 20 meters using SSB every day from 0500 to 1550z. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40.** Siegfried, DK9FN, Hans, DG1FK and Bernhard, DL2GAC will be QRV as H40FN, H40FK and H40MS, respectively, from Ngarando Reef, Swallow Island, IOTA OC-065, from February 6 to 19. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, digital modes and SSB, respectively. QSL H40MS and H40FK to home calls and H40FN via HA8FW.
- ⇒ **OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Cape Verde, D44TXP, D44TXO, D44TXS, D44TXI, D44TXF, D44TXQ and D44TXR

Business Meeting Minutes: January 2010

The meeting started at 8 PM and was conducted by the President WB3HBI, Bob. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed for our Silent Keys. 21 members answered the Roll Call. The minutes of the Dec. 2009 meeting were accepted as published in the Jan. 2010 newsletter. The Treasurer's report was given by KA3YNO, Walt and accepted by the membership.

Committee Reports

Clubhouse WA3VXJ, Karl is preparing the after meeting treats and he reported that N3EQP, John cleaned and straightened the clubhouse for the meeting and KB3SVF, Gary had removed some of the ice at the top of the road.

Technical Karl commented on the poor quality of audio from the speakers on the radios and the PC's. NB3C, Greg reported good quality from PC speakers which he uses, avoiding the high price of matching radio speakers. Hamfest purchases are a consideration. Further investigation will decide which avenue to pursue for the purchase of replacement speakers. Microphones were considered to be in good shape.

Contests N3EQP, John stated that the ARRL Jan. VHF contest will run this week end and N3SBF, Ritchie said that the Breeseshooters PSK 31 contest will be held this Saturday. NB3C, Greg said that there is a complete listing of contests in the newsletter. W3SVJ, Nate and KA3YNO, Walt have been putting SCARC on 222 Mhz on Tues. evenings.

Newsletter Editor NB3C, Greg wants local interest items, he needs a current roster and he suggests that we put advertisements for member's services in the newsletter. NU3Q, Bob said that he has submitted a local article for future publication.

Public Service KA3MSE, Lloyd will be the PS net control on Feb. 3. He stated that volunteer ops are needed for the St. Patrick's Day parade on Mar. 13 and the Pittsburgh Marathon on May 2.

Ways and Means WA3FWA, Joe reported that he paid the annual post office box fee, brought in the 2009 bound issues of QST, will collect any QSL cards for the outgoing QSL bureau and run the 50/50 raffle after the meeting.

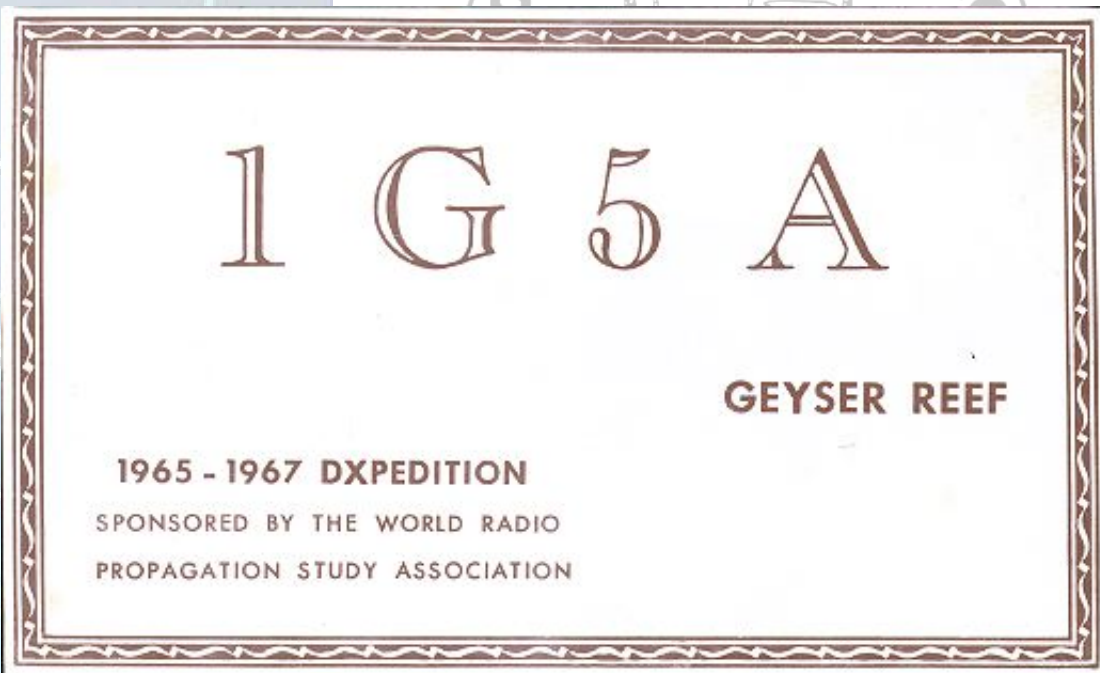
Old Business N3EQP, John is burning an i-tunes pod cast of "This Week in Amateur Radio" for the club library. Walt and Bob have info for club jackets. Amy the embroidery lady will sew your info on your own clothing or on jackets that she will discount to club members who can order individually. Further info will be sent out on the SCARC member's reflector, be published in the newsletter and put on the web site.

New Business WA3FWA, Joe disclosed that we received a solicitation for Ambulance service from the Rennerdale VFC. The membership agreed to pay for the service.

Good of the Order NU3Q, Bob reported that the Skyview club co-ordinates an annual train ride to the ARRL HQ in August. He will get the particulars for our members to possibly join in this "adventure". (Mobile operation from a train? -ed) WA3FWA, Joe presented a post card from DC3RJ, Andi from Nuremberg. W3SVJ, Nate presented a proposal from WDUQ to sell its surplus FM station for 12 million. Good for 6 M or 2 M operation!

Motion to Adjourn by NB3C, Greg.

50/50 raffle won by WA3VXJ, Karl
Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary WA3FWA, Joe.



**Our next business meeting will be held
on February 16 at 8PM.
CU @ the Clubhouse!!**

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ARRL WPA Section News

On Saturday January 16 I was privileged to be a guest at the annual Skyview Radio Society banquet. This was a kickoff to the beginning of their 50th year as a radio club. 2009 was not a good year for the club in terms of disasters befalling them. A violent and nasty storm hit early in the year and took down trees, antennas, towers and damaged much of the club area. This group pulled together and not only restored the club area but also had fun doing it. They also still managed to put together the W. PA. Section Convention. My personal congratulations to the officers and members of the club.

As I write this the board of directors is finishing the January board meeting in Connecticut. I wish to congratulate Kay Craigie on her election as the 15th President of the ARRL. Good luck to all the newly elected officers and I wish them success in their upcoming terms of office.

For several months I have been requesting help in filling various positions in the field organization here in WPA. We are in need of volunteers in the ARES program, a public information coordinator and especially a section traffic manager. I cannot continue to fill these duties myself and with well over a thousand individuals receiving this newsletter I would hope someone will step forward. During this time of disaster in Haiti when health and welfare traffic is so important to so many families I would hate to see this service slip away because we cannot find one person to lead the way.

The hamfest season will soon be here and the first two are scheduled for February. The first is a new event; a tech fest to be sponsored by the BVARA club and the boy scout explorer post 73. The event takes place on February 14 and additional information is available at <<http://www.w3sgj.org>> or on the league web site. The second event and first hamfest of the season for us will take place on February 28. The event is sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills. Additional information is available at <<http://n3sh.org>>.

With only six months to go till field day 2010 I suggest that clubs start making plans for this fun operating event. Clubs should also prepare for an early order of field day pins, hats and other items as last year many of these items were sold out early. Even some of my own order was not available at the time I ordered in early May. I look forward to again visiting as many clubs and field day locations as I possibly can this year.

I am scheduling club visits this year as the weather gets nice so if you would like me to attend a club meeting or other function be sure to send me a request with several available dates. An address where you meet is also appreciated for easy input into the GPS.

Larry Keller, AB3ER is conducting an ARES net on Saturday mornings at 10 AM local time. This net is operating on a frequency of 3983 KHz. Please join the net for information on the ARES program.

As always I encourage you to join one of the various traffic nets and help deliver messages to individuals in your community and throughout the country as amateurs struggle to keep this activity running strong. The section net is on 3983KHz every evening at approximately 4:45 PM local time due to poor band conditions. Join the nets and lets all get Radio Active.

73,

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



Website-O-The-Month.....

A semi-frequent feature where I try to highlight websites I hope you, my faithful subscribers will find interesting & informative, not to mention useful. YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER: I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in the websites hereby described herein. All I wants to do is to make this here publication just a tad bit more interesting than my competition out there.

Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C.....

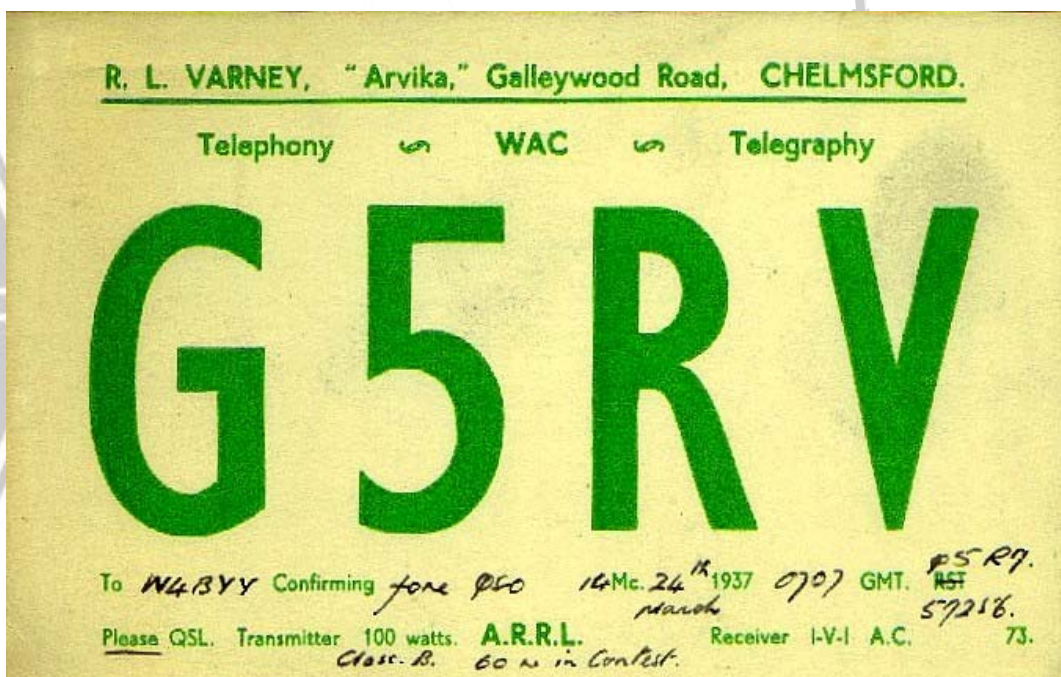


My Website-O-The-Month for February is dedicated to all you DX'ers out there -- The 425 DX News site: www.425dxn.org

One of the nicest FREE weekly DX bulletins out there, this site is definitely worth a look. Not only is there tons of DX news here, but you can also TelNet into a DXCluster if you like (see the 'Cluster' link window on the left of the site to do so). AND, you can also check out the latest propagation info simply by clicking on the 'Propagation' link at the top of the page. As if that isn't enough, there is a DX Calendar link also at the top where you can easily keep track of the all the upcoming DXpeditions in one place! There is also a cool QSL card gallery link where you can see pics of QSL cards from all them DX operations you missed out on!

But the reason the site exists is for the dissemination of DX info and that is where editors Mauro, I1JQJ and Valeria, IK1ADH excel. By clicking on the 'Bulletins' link on the top of the page, you can read the latest, as well as past issues of the bulletin. Each issue is full of current DX info, QSL routes, & interesting articles concerning DX. You can even subscribe to it and have it sent to your E-Mail address. Best of all: IT'S FREE FREE FREE!

This is a great all-in-one site for DX and propagation, software, IOTA, SWL-BCL listening and so much more. If you don't have it bookmarked after you read this, shame, shame, everyone knows your name. Seriously, it's a great site; bookmark it! You'll be glad you did. As always, thanks for reading along.....73 de NB3C.....



News From The National Front

AA3EE
AA3TK
AE3B
AE3JM
AI3J
AK3J
DC3RJ
DL4ZAA
K0BUD
K3FZF
K3GJS
K3JHT
K3LAB
K3RYA
KA3JKS
KA3LIW
KA3MSE
KA3MXQ
KA3YNO
KB3BZR
KB3CWE
KB3GMN
KB3LED
KB3LY
KB3MDN
KB3NZX
KB3ORO
KB3PJW
KB3PNE
KB3RUK
KB3SVF
KB3TEI
KD3GM
KD7HR
LX1UN
N3DQ
N3DXE
N3EQP
N3GHI
N3GHO
N3SAF
N3SBF
N3UWZ
N3VEF
NB3C
NU3Q
NU3S
W3BC
W3HH
W3JQJ
W3MAC
W3MHY
W3SVJ
W3UWZ
W3WTW
W6LAC
WA3BKD
WA3FWA
WA3PYU
WA3RVD
WA3SYB
WA3TTS

WA3VXJ
WA3YCU
WA8NLX
WB3AGB
WB3CRC
WB3HDI
WQ3T

The Steel City ARC Roster

⇒ Amateur Radio in Space: ARISS Notes Record Number of ISS-to-School Contacts

When the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program began coordinating ISS-to-school contacts in 2001, only one school -- Luther Burbank Elementary School in Burbank, Illinois -- participated. Ten years later, more than 120 schools participated in the ARISS program in 2009 alone. The number of ARISS-coordinated ISS-to-school contacts has climbed dramatically since that first contact in 2000. In 2001, there were 42 contacts, and in 2002, there were 40 contacts. During the first five years of the program -- 2000-2004 -- there was an average of 31.4 QSOs between the ISS and schools. In 2004, ARISS only conducted 35 contacts -- the lowest in its 10 year history -- but in 2005, 55 schools had contacted the ISS through the program. In 2006, there were 47 QSOs, 75 QSOs in 2007 and 62 in 2008. The 121 QSOs in 2009 show a jump of 95 percent over the 2008 numbers -- setting an ARISS record for the number of contacts.

⇒ Public Service: NHC to Provide Greater Lead Time for Watches, Warnings

Beginning with the 2010 hurricane season, NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami will issue watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along threatened coastal areas 12 hours earlier than in previous years. According to NHC experts, advancements in track forecasts are making it possible for forecasters to provide greater lead time. Tropical storm watches will be issued when tropical storm conditions are possible along the coast within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings will be issued when those conditions are expected within 36 hours. This is an increase of 12 hours from those issued in previous years. Hurricane season runs from May 15-November 30 in the Eastern Pacific and on June 1-November 30 for the Atlantic Basin.

⇒ Focus on the FCC: FCC Seeks Public's Help in Reform Effort

According to its chairman, the Federal Communications Commission wants to change the way it is seen by the American public. In order to further that effort, on January 7, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced that the Commission had launched a new Web site -- reboot.fcc.gov -- saying it is the first-ever Web site dedicated to soliciting public input on ways to improve citizen interaction with the FCC, "creating a forum where the public can participate in improving the FCC."



⇒ Board Recognizes Outgoing ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN

After more than 27 years of elected volunteer service to the ARRL, outgoing ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has retired. In recognition of his dedication to the League over nearly three decades, the ARRL Board of Directors bestowed their thanks in the form of an engraved plaque. Presented by incoming President Kay Craigie, N3KN, on behalf of the Board, the plaque recounts Harrison's elected service to the ARRL: Arkansas Section Manager, 1983-1988; Delta Division Director, 1988-1996; Vice President, 1996-2000; First Vice President, 2000-2006, and President, 2006-2010.

⇒ ARRL Board Bestows Awards at 2010 Annual Meeting

The ARRL Board of Directors had the pleasure and distinction of bestowing two annual awards at its 2010 Annual Meeting -- the inaugural George Hart Distinguished Service Award and the Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award. The Hart Award -- established by the Board at its 2009 Second Meeting -- is named in honor of George Hart, W1NJM, who served as Communications Manager at ARRL Headquarters and was the chief developer of the National Traffic System (NTS). The award is conferred upon an ARRL member whose service to the League's Field Organization is of the most exemplary nature. Selection criteria include the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



The Beginner's Help Desk.....

Here is the final installment on my discussion about Coaxial cable. This time I'll answer some FAQs you might have.

⇒ **I wanna replace cable for my HF rig.....What should I use?**

I recommend LMR-400 or Belden 9913. Both of these are a low-loss cable. You can run long lengths out to your tower or vertical, and not have to worry about signal loss or power loss. I like LMR-400 because it has a Silicone injected into it. This will help prevent the ingress of water, meaning you can direct-bury it outside. I have also buried 9913 with decent results, but you may have to replace it more frequently. Once water gets into 9913, forget it; you're better off replacing it outright. Of course, if you can bury it in some sort of conduit, go for it! It'll last much longer.

Belden 9913 is sometimes referred to as "Poor Man's Hardline". It has a solid center conductor, with an air dielectric. Try to avoid sharp bends in this cable; otherwise it may not perform properly.

RG-213 has an ultraviolet-resistant jacket on the outside, but has higher losses than 9913 or LMR-400. Still, if you're gonna run short lengths of it you should be OK. I ran it up the side of my tower and got good results out of it for many years.

All of these cables will work with your standard PL-259 connector. My advice: Spring for the silver-plated connectors; they are easier to work with when soldering.

⇒ **OK, now I wanna replace my cable for my VHF/UHF stuff.....**

Again, FOR SHORT RUNS, 9913 should be AOK. LMR-400 will work also. Otherwise, if you're gonna run 200-300' out to a tower 100' in the air, consider hitting the lottery and going with hardline. VERY EXPENSIVE, but if you are serious about weak-signal work in the VHF & UHF bands, it is worth it. For mobile installations, RG-8/X or RG-58/U will work fine. FOR SHORT RUNS ONLY! This cable has a higher loss, and is not recommended for weak signal work. For mobile FM or D-STAR, it'll work AOK.

The nice thing about LMR-400, RG-213, and Belden 9913 is that your everyday PL-259 connector, like those available at Radio Shack, will work just fine.

As Amateurs, we like to do things on the cheap. However, coaxial cable is NOT one purchase you want to skimp on. Used cable is no bargain at a hamfest. It is probably used for a reason: too old, water got in it, etc. Remember: They can't hear you if the cable between your rig and antenna is sub-standard. Open up the wallet, let the moths get some fresh air, and spring for the good stuff; you'll be glad you did.

Pros and Cons of some of the more popular cable:

Belden 9913:

- ⇒ **Pro:** High-quality low-loss cable, excellent for HF use. Easy to work with. Can handle legal limit power.
- ⇒ **Con:** A little pricey, but worth it. Keep sharp bends out of it.

Times Microwave LMR-400:

- ⇒ **Pro:** High-quality low-loss cable, excellent for HF use. Has silicone compound in it to help keep out water. Good for outdoor use. I direct-buried mine about 3 years ago, and it is still going strong. Can handle legal limit.
- ⇒ **Con:** Pricey, but worth it.

RG-8/X & RG-58/U:

- ⇒ **Pro:** Cheap, good for short mobile runs HF/VHF/UHF
- ⇒ **Con:** Lossy at the VHF/UHF frequencies. DON'T RUN MORE THAN 100 WATTS THRU IT ON HF/VHF/UHF!



Hardline:

⇒ **Pro:** It doesn't get any better than this for VHF/UHF. Very low loss. Can use it for long runs on VHF/UHF. Don't bother using it for HF; you probably won't notice a difference between it and 9913/LMR400.

⇒ **Con:** Pricey beyond belief! The good stuff could be as much as 5 bucks PER FOOT!! Yep, you read it right! Harder to work with than 9913/LMR-400. Needs special connectors which cost a small fortune. Still, if you got the cash, it's the best out there.

Well, that's it for the dissertation on coax. I hope you were able to learn something you didn't know. Remember, I'm always on the lookout for stuff to stick in this column. If you have something, share it! Send it to: KQ3DX@hotmail.com and I'll use it here. Ee-bah-dee, ee-bah-dee that's all folks! Thanks for reading. 73 de NB3C



Software Of The Month.....

A semi-frequent feature where I try to highlight software that I hope you, my captive, faithful readers will find informative, entertaining & useful. **YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER:** I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in Microsoft Corporation, and/or its software. All I wants to do is make this here newsletter a little more entertaining. Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C.

My topic of discussion this time out: Microsoft's latest OS, Windows 7

Have you been contemplating upgrading to a newer Windows operating system, but are afraid you'll lose the functionality of your favorite radio-related software?

Well, I think I have the answer to your needs: Windows 7.

I've been playing with the software for the last 6 months or so, and I like what I've seen so far. One of the nice things about it is that it is not a resource hog like Vista is. If you are familiar with Vista, bring up the 'Task Manager' and see how many processes are running in the background. Chances are it'll be around 60, maybe even 70 processes slowing down your machine. Not so with Win 7. I run the 'Professional' version, and I have about 45 processes or so. In my opinion there was a lot of un-necessary programs running in the background in Vista, and I shut a lot of them off, to free up memory and help speed the machine up.

Not only that, but the machines I run it on also seem to boot up faster. Another thing: When installing a program, I've noticed that the 'Compatibility Mode' feature works a lot better. If you run into problems installing a program, you can run it in compatibility mode for Windows XP Service Pack 2 or 3. I had some issues installing programs, and this cleared it right up, and I was able to install stuff with no problem this way. In the past, on Vista, I had no luck at all installing programs using the 'Compatibility Mode' option. (To do this, all you need to do is right-click on the setup icon of the program you wish to install, click 'Properties', then click the 'Compatibility' tab, then put a check in the 'Run this program in compatibility mode for' box, and then select the operating system from the drop down box.

But by far, the coolest thing I've seen with Win 7 is the 'Windows XP Virtual Mode' that runs inside the Windows 7 environment. What is it you ask? Well, it is simply Windows XP running as a program in Windows 7. Now, although I have had a lot of success running programs in Windows 7, there are simply some that will not work. The solution? Run 'em in an XP Virtual

Mode window. The window looks just like the XP screen you are used to, and functions just like it too, downloading frequent updates from Microsoft, and complete with all the functionality of Windows XP.

I've played with the XP Virtual Mode a little, and it looks and operates exactly like XP. I did notice that the max RAM it'll see is 512MB, even though you may have more installed on your machine. The only downside to the program is that it'll only run on the Windows 7 Professional or Ultimate versions. If you have the Windows 7 Premium version (which most machines seem to be shipped with), you'll need to upgrade to the Pro or Ultimate version. Also, it is not included with the software; you'll need to download it from the MS website. But the good news is, it's a FREEBIE download. BTW: It appears that the XP Virtual Mode operates as a 32-Bit system, even if the version of Windows 7 you are running is a 64-Bit version, thereby allowing even more functionality.

A note on Windows 7/Vista and radio software compatibility (or, for that matter, ANY program compatibility): I have had VERY FEW problems with installing ANY program on Vista or 7. As a matter of fact, I made it even harder on myself by running the 64 bit versions of Vista/7. I run all my radio programs in Windows 7, and NOT in the Win XP Virtual Mode screen, and have no problems. The only thing I've noticed with some of the digital mode stuff such as 'MixW' or 'MultiPSK' is that you cannot adjust the volume settings inside the program. Why? Because when Microsoft went to Vista, it changed the sound drivers included with it and some of these programs lost this functionality when running in a Win Vista or Win 7 environment. Not a problem though: You can simply adjust all your sound settings in the Control Panel by clicking on the 'Sound' icon.

When you purchase Windows 7 Professional or Ultimate versions, the box will include discs for BOTH 64 and 32 bit versions. IF YOU UPGRADE FROM A 32-BIT VERSION TO A 64-BIT VERSION, YOU'LL NEED TO DO A CLEAN INSTALL. YOU CANNOT INSTALL A 64-BIT VERSION OVER A 32-BIT SYSTEM. However, if you are still a little squeamish about eliminating XP on your machine, consider installing Windows 7 and configuring your system as a dual-boot machine. It is very easy to do: Simply partition your drive, and install Windows 7 on the clean, unused partition. Programs are available on the web for downloading. Simply Google 'Partition Magic', and choose from the programs available. ('Partition Magic' is a program by Symantec, the makers of Norton Utilities. However it is no longer available. But you can still Google it and select from other programs available for downloading to partition your drive.) Once Win 7 is successfully installed in this fashion, you will be able to choose at boot-up which OS you wish to use. THIS IS ALL CONFIGURED AUTOMATICALLY, AS LONG AS YOU INSTALL A NEWER OS ON A MACHINE AFTER AN OLDER OS. In other words if you install a newer OS such as Vista or 7 on a machine that already has XP installed, the procedure listed above will work fine. This way, you'll still have XP installed, PLUS Windows 7, and they'll both operate independently of each other. You can only boot into one OS at a time though. Once you feel confident about Windows 7 though, you can eliminate the XP OS and free up your drive space, and run any programs you want in the XP Virtual Mode screen in Windows 7.

I've seen Windows 7 Professional upgrade software available locally for about 200 bucks. The Ultimate version is available locally for about 20 bucks more. You can find it cheaper online though if you search. I believe in supporting the local guys, so I try to purchase locally when possible.

Yeah, I know what you're saying: 'Hey, this ain't radio software you're talkin' about!' True, but you can't run all them cool radio programs if you ain't got no OS to run 'em on! And like I said: I'm not trying to plug Microsoft here or any of their software products. I'm not a salesman for them. I'm just
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

The E-Bay Report.....

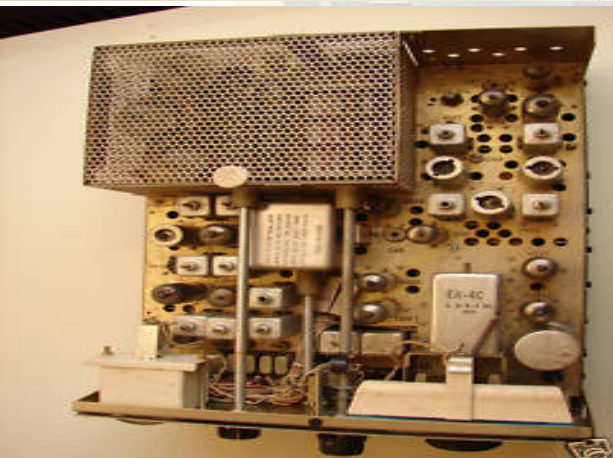
It's been a while since I did one of these, and it's shaping up to be a slow news month, and I figured 'What the hey', so here goes another installment of 'The E-Bay Report'. With apologies to WA3TTS, hi hi.

YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER: I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in any of the auctions listed here, blah blah blah ad infinitum. Thanks for reading (or snoozing) along! 73 de NB3C.....

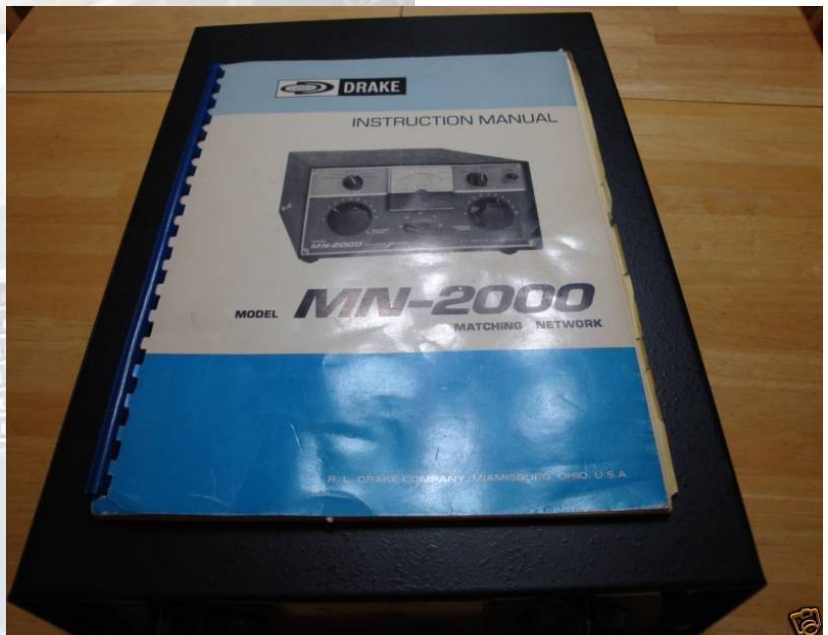
This month: All things Drake.

I dig them old Drakes. Did you know they are still around? Yep, but unfortunately, they are no longer manufacturing Amateur Radio gear. Luckily, a lot of their stuff is still available on E-Bay.

First up, a real clean Drake TR-4C transceiver. Not much available on this unit, but it appeared to be real clean. No cables with it; just the radio. Looked to be well cared-for. For some reason, Drake stuff, like Collins stuff seems to have been well cared for by their owners. You don't see much beat up junk when it comes to Drake on E-Bay. **Final bid: \$245.50**
Lots of activity on this piece, with 26 bids received.



Next up: A Drake MN-2000 Antenna Tuner. Another clean specimen, this is a 2KW tuner, complete with manual. You can connect 2 antennas (or is it antennae?) to it. The nice thing about stuff like this is it's just as functional & useful as it was 20-30 years ago. The only thing wrong with it is one of the rubber feet is missing. Other than that, just a few minor marks on the case. **Another lively auction with 13 bids received. Final price: \$253.00.**



MORE E-BAY REPORT ON PAGE 13

While it doesn't seem like there is much traffic coming out of Haiti on the ham bands, that could change at any time due to the needs of relief teams or from unforeseeable circumstances. Remember to keep the active emcomm frequencies (3977, 3985, 7265, 7290, 14265, and 14300 kHz) clear during contests. Even if YOU don't hear anything, that doesn't mean that there isn't some local communications there that would hear your signals. If you do have a high-performance station and some emcomm experience, you may be able to help as a relay or net control station, as N3HBX was able to do on the Salvation Army Emergency Net last week. After all, this is why we have contests in the first place - to build operating skill and station capabilities. (Courtesy of the ARRL Contest Update Newsletter)



After a long decline in favor of GPS and other radionavigation systems, LORAN-C finally goes dark in the US. Although LORAN was once a dominant and primary presence on 160 meters, a story on the Inside GNSS Web site quotes the US Coast Guard as planning for decommission of the stations beginning February 8 and transmissions ceasing entirely by October 1, 2010. This apparently also closes the effort to create a backup "eLORAN" system. (Courtesy of the ARRL Contest Update Newsletter)

I was able to find a seller, Captain Clothing www.shopthecaptain.com, on Campbells Run Road that sells the blue jacket I usually wear. This place can embroider but there would be a setup fee for our logo. However, you may if you wish, buy a jacket here or anywhere for that matter and give it to Amy for embroidering since she has already digitized our logo.

The prices I got from Captain Clothing are:
Charles River Apparel:

Navigator Jacket 9934 (just like mine) Fleece lining	53.95
Spectator Jacket 9923 (A lighter version of the 9934)	43.95
Portsmouth Jacket 9720 (A spring time version)	34.50

**FOR MORE
JACKET INFO, SEE
PAGES 24 & 25**

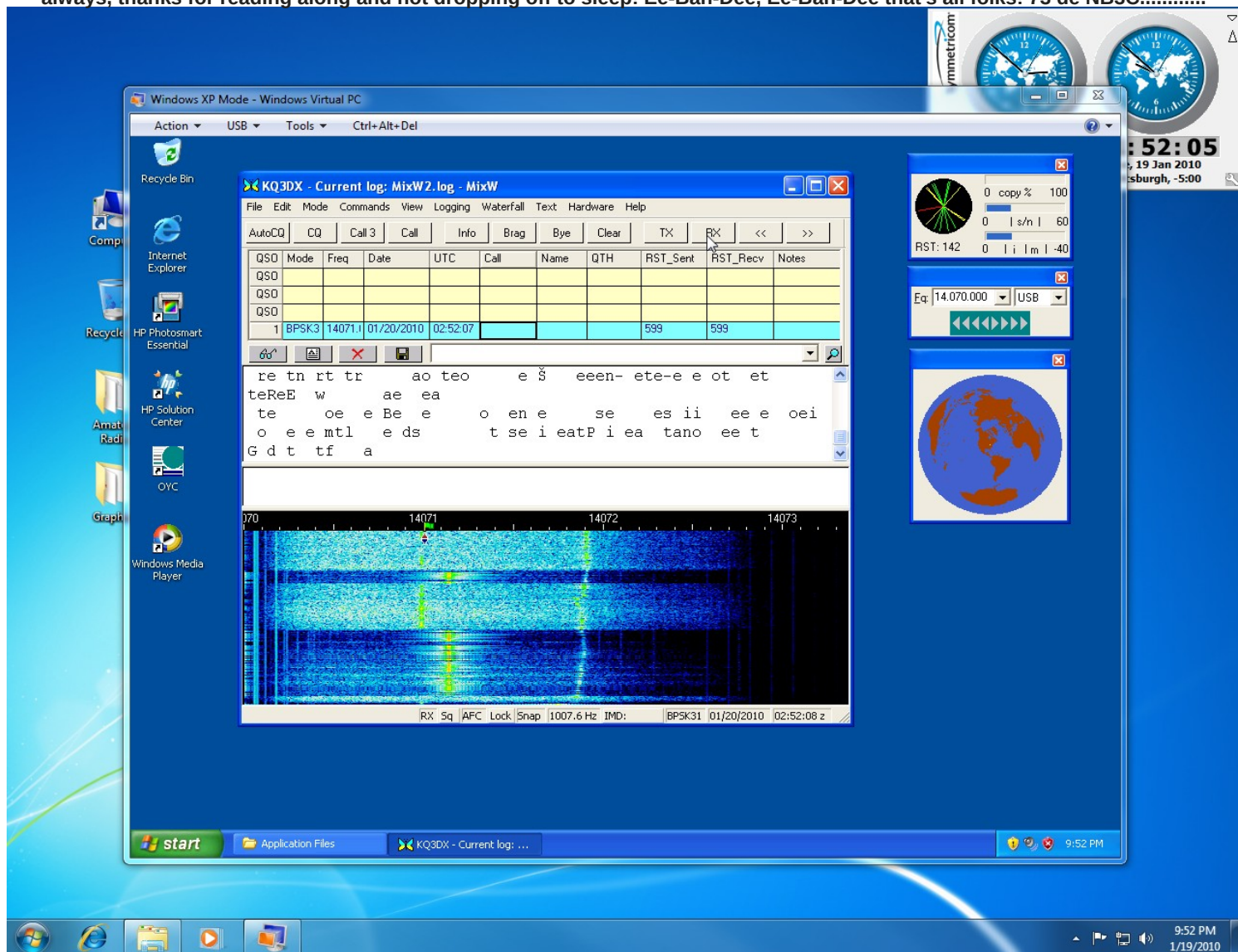
To view pics of these Charles River Apparel jackets you can go to:
<http://www.charlesriverapparel.com/CGI-BIN/LANSAWEB?PROCFUN+WEBC+WEBCLG2+A01+ENG>
and type in the above numbers then click the "find" button on the page. They may also give a discount if a large enough quantity is ordered. I will also bring to the club the catalogs I got from Captain Clothing this Wednesday for your viewing pleasure.
73 de Bob, WB3HDI

HamFest season is
almost upon us!

- ⇒ Feb 14: BCARA Techfest at the Boy Scout Explorer Post 73.
www.w3sgj.org for more details.
- ⇒ Feb 28: WASHFest 2010 at the Castle Shannon firehall, Rte 88 and Grove Road in Castle Shannon. n3sh.org for more info.
- ⇒ March 14: Foothills ARC Hamfest. www.w3lww.org for the full skinny on this one.
- ⇒ April 25: Two Rivers ARC Hamfest. www.mysite.verizon.net/n3xbw/trarc/index.html for more details.
- ⇒ June 6: Breezeshooters Hamfest, Butler Farm Showgrounds.
www.breezeshooters.net for the full poop.
- ⇒ July 11: North Hills ARC Hamfest, Northland Public Library.
nharc.org for more details
- ⇒ August 22: Skyview Hamfest & ARRL WPA Section Convention. Skyview clubhouse. www.skyviewradio.net for more info



trying to show all youse guys & gals that there are options available to you if you decide to upgrade your OS and NOT lose all the functionality of your radio software! BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING THOUGH, DOWNLOAD THIS FILE TO SEE IF YOUR MACHINE CAN RUN THE WINDOWS XP VIRTUAL MODE SOFTWARE. CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINK TO DOWNLOAD:
<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=0ee2a17f-8538-4619-8d1c-05d27e11adb2&displaylang=en>. Some processors are not able to run Win XP Virtual Mode. Well, I hope you enjoyed my 'Software-Of-The-Month' pick this time. As always, thanks for reading along and not dropping off to sleep! Ee-Bah-Dee, Ee-Bah-Dee that's all folks! 73 de NB3C.....



'Windows', 'Windows XP', 'Windows Vista' & 'Windows 7' are all registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation.

Software
Of The
Month
(from page 9)

This is what the Windows XP Virtual Mode window looks like running inside a Windows 7 environment. Like I said; it has all the functionality of Windows XP you are used to, with the additional benefit of having a newer, upgraded operating system running on your machine ready for all them new Windows 7 programs sure to be hitting the market soon. In this instance, I am running 'MixW' in XP mode, and the program appears to be fully functional (although I could not get the CAT controls to work to control the radio). Even the sound card settings can be adjusted inside the MixW window. BTW: The Window XP Virtual Mode window works in either Windows 7 32 or 64-Bit versions. If you look down in the lower right of the XP window, you'll see that XP updates have been downloaded and are ready to be installed, as denoted by the yellow shield with the ! in it. So, if you want to upgrade your Windows software, but don't wanna lose XP functionality, check out Win 7 Pro or Ultimate. (NOTE: IF YOU HAVE WIN7 PREMIUM ALREADY, YOU CAN UPGRADE TO 'PROFESSIONAL' FOR 90 BUCKS, OR TO 'ULTIMATE' FOR 140 BUCKS. YOU CAN GET THE 'ANYTIME UPGRADE' LOCALLY TOO. IT'S A LITTLE CHEAPER THAN BUYING THE REGULAR UPGRADES AS PRICED ON PAGE 9. JUST ASK FOR THE 'ANYTIME UPGRADE' SOFTWARE PACKAGES.) E - 23 (32)

Thanks for your time! 73 de NB3C.....

Here's a nice clean TR7 with a matching power supply. Other than some minor paint issues under some of the pushbuttons on the front and some missing inserts in the knobs, this is really in good condition. The seller reports that the case was professionally re-painted, which really enhances the appearance of this unit. Includes the 300Hz CW Filter. Power output is reported as 150W on all bands except 10M, where it is 120W. Starting bid is 600 bucks with a buy-it-now price of 700 bucks. **Final price: \$700.00 with the buy-it-now option exercised.**



The E-Bay Report
(from page 10)



Here's an old 2C receiver. I don't know what it is; the paint scheme or what, but these are just downright pretty radios. Not much info on this one, but it appeared to be clean inside and out, and included the original manual. Reported to be in working condition. Also being offered is the matching 2-NT CW transmitter. Looks to be just as clean, with the manual included. Top it off with the matching 2-CQ speaker and combination Q-Multiplier, and you have a really nice vintage setup. The speaker is just as clean as the other stuff listed by this seller. **The speaker sold for \$162.50, (15 bids) the 2-NT transmitter sold for \$167.59, (10 bids) and the 2C receiver sold for \$246.50 (17 bids).**

(MORE E-BAY ON PAGE 16)

nominee's operating record with the National Traffic System, participation within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), or station appointments and/or leadership positions held within the ARRL Field Organization.

The Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award is a national level award given each year to honor three professional journalists whose outstanding coverage in audio, video and print formats best reflect the enjoyment, importance and public service value of the Amateur Radio Service.

⇒ ARRL Holds Annual Meeting, Elects New President

The ARRL Board of Directors held its 2010 Annual Meeting on January 15-16 in Windsor, Connecticut, under the chairmanship of President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to consider and act on a number of recommendations from committees, as well as motions by Directors. With the election of ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as the League's 15th President, the 2010 Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors was off to a fast-paced start. Craigie, who ran unopposed, takes over the top leadership position from Harrison, who in October announced that he would not be seeking reelection. Craigie officially took office as President at the adjournment of the Annual Meeting.

⇒ Dominican Hams Attempt to Install Repeaters in Haiti

Members of the Radio Club Dominicano (RCD) -- the Dominican Republic's IARU Member Society -- and Union Dominicana de Radio Aficionados (UDRA) arrived in Haiti late last week to install an emergency radio communications station and a mobile station. Shortly after they arrived, the hams returned to the Dominican Republic for safety reasons.

"Within a few hours though, reports via the RCD Facebook page reported that the HI8RCD team of eight amateurs was back in the [Dominican Republic] border town of Jimani," said IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB. "Their convoy, which included other non related Dominicans, was assaulted. The radio amateurs are uninjured, but they decided to leave the capital for safety [reasons] and return to the border unescorted. They report the situation as 'extremely unsafe.'"

The team was able to install two VHF repeaters: one in the Dominican Republic border town of Jumaní and another Port-au-Prince. Mossop said that these repeaters have been used by the Red Cross and Civil Defense since, until quite recently, there has been no other way to communicate. The station at the embassy in Haiti could not be activated.

"The HI8RCD team of amateurs is still in

Jumaní, where many wounded are arriving," said IARU Region 2 Secretary Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK. "They are helping Haitians to contact their relatives and friends outside of Haiti, but they can't help the world to find specific individuals in Haiti. They are receiving many e-mails with such requests, but security and road conditions make impossible to look for specific individuals in Haiti at the present."

⇒ CQ Magazine Columnist Dave Ingram, K4TWJ (SK)

Dave Ingram, K4TWJ, who penned the "World of Ideas" and "How It Works" columns in CQ Magazine, passed away Wednesday, January 20, from complications due to a heart attack late last year. He was 67. A writer and columnist at CQ since 1981, Ingram -- an ARRL member -- began his career at the magazine writing the amateur television "World of Video" column that later morphed into the "World of Ideas," covering code keys, stealth antennas, building "new vintage" tube gear, mobiling and more. Ingram also served as CQ's QRP Editor. "His enthusiasm for whatever caught his interest was contagious and spread widely through his informal, yet educational writing style," recalled CQ Managing Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Ingram also wrote for RadCom -- the Radio Society of Great Britain's member journal -- and other international ham magazines. Funeral arrangements are pending (as of 21 January). -- Information provided by CQ Magazine

⇒ ARRL Sends Ham Equipment to Aid Haiti

While the communications infrastructure in earthquake-ravaged Haiti is being rebuilt, there is need for Amateur Radio communications. To assist in this effort, the ARRL's Ham Aid program is providing equipment for local amateurs to use. On Friday, January 22, the League sent a programmed Yaesu VHF repeater with a microphone, as well as ICOM handheld transceivers, Yaesu mobile 2 meter rigs with power supplies and Kenwood mobile 2 meter rigs. Comet antennas, Larsen mobile antennas with magnet mounts, coax and batteries were also included in the package. Most items were donated by their manufacturers; the repeater and power supplies were purchased by the ARRL several years ago using post-Hurricane Katrina grant funds.

On January 25, Doug Lapin, K1OY, the Dominican Republic's Ambassador Accredited to the Secretary of State of Foreign Relations, stopped by ARRL Headquarters on his way back home. When he left, he carried with him 10 Kenwood handheld receivers, courtesy of the League's Ham Aid program. "We're making progress," Lapin told the ARRL on January 27. "The [Ham Aid package you sent] is stuck in customs. I'm working on getting it out. Members of the Radio Club Dominicano were much appreciative of the radios I brought and found it funny that my hand-carried radios arrived before the package. If we get it out, we will go back to Haiti tomorrow with the equipment."

⇒ FCC NPRM to Revise and Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules Open for Comments

Late last year, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) -- WT Docket 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations. Interested parties may make comments on the NPRM in the following ways: via the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via the FCC's Web site. Comments must be submitted by 3/26/10; reply comments are due no later than 4/12/10.

I.....I Didn't Know That.....

The Amateur Auxiliary is composed of approximately 700 ARRL volunteer-appointees known as Official Observers (OO). Located across the country, they monitor the bands and notify amateurs of technical and operating discrepancies as a service to their fellow hams. Time and again, the FCC has indicated the responsibility to keep our operating standards and spectrum in shape rests with the Amateur Service. The Amateur Auxiliary program and its OOs are the League's answer to this challenge.

The OO Program has four main objectives: to foster a wider knowledge of and better compliance with the FCC rules; to extend the concepts of self-regulation and self-administration in the Amateur Service; to enhance the opportunity for individual amateurs to contribute to the public welfare, and to enable the FCC's Enforcement Bureau to efficiently and effectively utilize its limited manpower and resources. The role of the Amateur Auxiliary is to provide an unbiased forum for technical and operational advice and other assistance to amateurs who are receptive. The task is not to find fault or lay blame. It is to identify cause and effect, many of which are not based upon technical, but behavioral or social issues, as well as to find ways to achieve solutions to promote good amateur operating and engineering practice on our bands.



Even though you might consider yourself a good operator (and don't we all consider ourselves to be good operators?), you might receive an OO Notice. If you do get one, don't worry! The OO post card is simply a friendly note to alert you to possible equipment factors or operating practices that might have contributed to an apparent departure from a rule or the good amateur practice standard. Remember, OOs are friendly helper-advisors; their mission is to assist those who are receptive to being assisted. You do not need to reply to the notice, but you may want to take a few minutes to determine what caused the apparent problem and then take steps to fix it. Your corrective actions might even head off an FCC "pink slip" down the road (which, by the way, are not pink!).

Keep in mind that OOs are advised to avoid hair-splitting and to deal only with black-and-white rule discrepancies *only*. For example, an OO should not send a notice to someone who forgot to identify his station for 10 minutes and 8 seconds! If you feel that the OO sent you a notice that violates the principles of the program, send a copy to your [Section Manager](#) or to [Headquarters](#) for evaluation and possible action -- quality control is critically important in a program as sensitive as this one.

To emphasize the positive nature of the Amateur Auxiliary Program, OOs will also send out "Good Operator Reports" to those operators whose radio signals and/or operating practices are consistent with the highest standards and are a model for others to follow. Every amateur should strive to pattern their operating and signals after your example.

Prospective OOs must pass a comprehensive examination based on a set of study materials before they can be certified as members of the Amateur Auxiliary; they must also be an ARRL member and be licensed for at least four years. If you are interested in becoming an OO, contact your [Section Manager](#). *Now you know!*

There is a deep satisfaction in having
(COURTESY OF THE ARRL BULLETIN)

relies in maintaining its magnificent record
of safety and operating efficiency.

When Collins turned to war production,



The E-Bay Report..... (from page 13)

Going way back to 1962, here is a Drake 2-B receiver up for grabs. This is a triple conversion receiver that covered 20 600KHz segments of the HF bands, 3.5-30MHz. This unit has 10 crystal sockets, and included are 9 of the crystals, providing 18 of the 20 ranges. Reported as having no dents, blemishes and only minor scratches to the cabinet. This was back in the day when 'big & heavy' meant stable and well-constructed. **Final price: \$400.99 with 26 bids.**



01.09.2010



01.09.2010



01.09.2010

That's all I have room for this month. Thanks for reading!
73 de NB3C.....

Mt. Lebanon Sunrise Rotarian ... Ham Radio in Community Service

Bob Mente, of the Mt. Lebanon Sunrise Rotary, has presented his program "Amateur Radio in Community Service" to various clubs in the District. His presentation shows how Amateur (Ham) Radio Operators help the community in times of need. If natural disaster or sabotage destroys vital communication links, or if they become overwhelmed, Amateur Radio Operators step in to fill the void until these systems are restored. Amateur Radio Operators set up organized communication networks, ensuring messages are delivered. During these emergencies, Amateur Radio Operators assist public service officials at the local, state and federal level.

Furthermore, amateur radio operators do this *without* any financial compensation, giving freely of their own time and money, using their own equipment! It is in this true Rotarian spirit of "Service Above Self" that Amateur Radio Operators help the communities where they live.

For further information, contact Bob at 412 279-9016, or e-mail him at <rmmente@nu3q.com>.

(Article is courtesy of and ©2010 Rotary District 7300. From their January 2010 newsletter 'On My Honor' Many thanks to them for allowing me to reprint here. 73 de NB3C.)



Bob, NU3Q is putting together a multi-club railfan trip to ARRL HQ. It'll take place the weekend of August 12-14. You'll also be able to get some stick-time in at W1AW, so be sure & bring your license. If you're interested, let Bob know at <rmmente@nu3q.com>. That way, he can start to get a handle on hotel and rent-a-car planning. More details will follow as soon as I get them. 73 de NU3Q & NB3C.

Goin' To Hamvention 2010? Read 'n Heed!

There is a lot of good news in the constructions scene in the Dayton area, but there are still headaches.

First the US 35 Project East of I75 is complete. Needmore Road, which has had construction projects in 2 separate locations in the City of Dayton over the last 2 years is complete. The I-70 lane add in Huber Heights is done. The rebuild of the I-70 & I-75 interchange is also complete. The Monument Street bridge in downtown is now complete as is the Stewarts Street bridge near the Marriot. Also the construction on Salem Avenue that hit right at show time 2 years ago was followed up with an additional project from route 49 south to Denlinger Road. That is now done and has really improved the quality of the road surface in the area. It should be noted though that the intersection of Salem and Shiloh Springs has been changed in the process. If you were familiar with the intersection you may want to pay attention when you get there and not just go on autopilot.

Now for the headaches...

I-75 through Dayton is still in the midst of an extreme makeover (to take a line from TV). This project runs from I-75 on the north end of downtown and runs right in to a bridge replacement at the Great Miami River north of Stanley Avenue. The traffic moves OK most of the time, but there is a lengthy stretch that is 2 lanes each way and all it takes is 1 disable vehicle, 1 crash, or just high volume to bring it to a stand still.

The I-75 Lane add in the area just north of the Cincinnati area has shifted. The area that was effected last year was from Cincinnati-Dayton Road north to the rest area south of Route 63. That is now done but the same project is now from the rest area north to just north of route 73. This area is moving good unless there is a substantial wreck.

Just north of this project is the addition of the Austin Pike interchange between route 73 and I-675. They already have the main bridge deck done so delays here will be nearly non-existent.

Now for the closing....

I have not got info back from a few of the area engineer's offices yet so there is still possibility of the Ohio state flower being planted in areas we do not see yet. I will send updates as they become available.

A reminder, the Salem Avenue project 2 years ago popped up with no advanced warning a week before the show. Fortunately we have good relations with ODOT and that one did not cause us any headaches after a few quick phone calls.

Rob, KB8UEY
Hamvention Talk-In Chairman

(Thanks to Bob, NU3Q for passing this on to me.....)



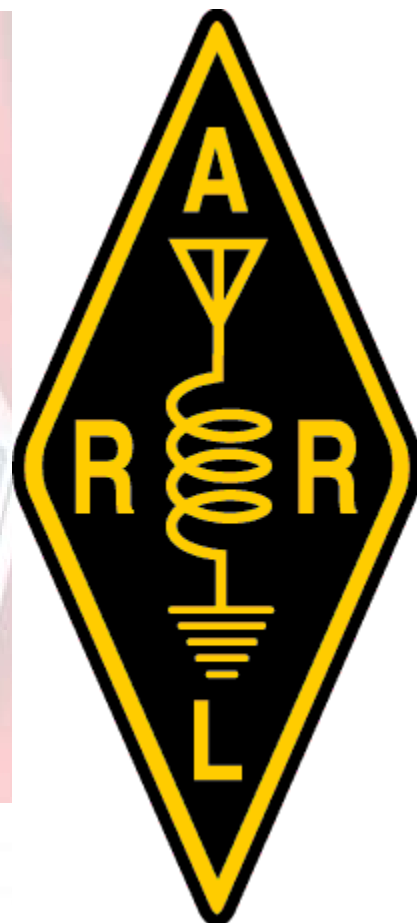
News From The IARU.....

Some recent activities:

- ⇒ IARU Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD and IARU Coordinator for Emergency Communications, Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS have attended meetings of the ITU Development Sector and are preparing for the World Telecommunications Development Conference to be held in Hyderabad, India in May.
- ⇒ IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR and I presented our credentials to ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun Touré, HB9EHT. We were fortunate to have a lengthy discussion with Dr. Touré where we outlined the goals for IARU within ITU. Dr. Touré expressed his appreciation of the activities of the IARU and the Amateur Service in general.
- ⇒ Prepare for the upcoming ITU Plenipotentiary Conference to be held in Veracruz, Mexico in October. Items on the agenda for this important meeting include the election of ITU officials and the consideration of changes to the ITU Convention and Constitution that may impact the role of observers such as the IARU. Region 2 Secretary Ramon Santoyo V, XE1KK is working with the Mexican society, FMRE, to arrange an amateur station for this event.
- ⇒ Vice President Garpestad and I attended meetings of ITU-Working Party 5A. In particular, we took part in Working Group 1 headed, for the first time, by new Chairman Ken Pulfer VE3PU. This gave us a chance to meet in person with a number of the members of the WRC-12 team. Both Ole and I were very pleased with the efforts that are being made in Working Group 1 and Working Party 5.
- ⇒ At our recent meeting in Christchurch, the AC established a common position with respect to the WRC-12 agenda items that are of interest to the Amateur Services
- ⇒ Amateur Radio Administrative Courses (ARACs) are in the process of being planned in both Laos and Oman for later this year.
- ⇒ Developed a plan to have the IARU better represented before some Regional Telecommunication Organizations.
- ⇒ Put in place a proposal to have more than one AC meeting a year with the additional meeting to be held on a "virtual" basis either through radio conferencing or teleconferencing.
- ⇒ Communication amongst the AC members and the team preparing for WRC-12 has been assisted by the establishment of two email reflectors. This, I think, went a long way in enhancing our discussions during the AC meeting which was held in Christchurch, New Zealand last October

I am very pleased with the cooperative approach of the AC members and our WRC-12 team and I think it bodes well for our future activities.

When I was first elected to this position, I provided the AC members with my view of our goals for 2009-2014. It is my hope that we should strive to make the IARU the global voice of the Amateur Radio Services and the world's leading organization of Amateur Radio Member Societies. I believe we are well along in that process. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)**



**AMATEUR
RADIO**
The
**INTERNATIONAL
AMATEUR RADIO
UNION**

Report From The Southern Outpost de N3SAF.....

Hi Guys! This is one of my reports from central Florida where it actually was freezing a few days ago... Really!!! After working for weeks on our "southern command QTH" we decided to take a break and go shopping a few miles away at a second hand store that usually has something interesting. A ham, WB2FAN, walked into the store and asked who N3SAF was..... It is a small parking lot and he saw my PA plate and antennas on the roof.... We exchanged the usual stuff, handshakes, e-mail address, QSLI & eyeball cards. Plus the XYL to XYL stuff also. We got an invite to breakfast another day, with a few from "the club".. Now Brooksville Fla. is the main town in Hernando county. About 30 miles north of Tampa near I75, 301 mile marker exit. There are tons of snowbirds here from all over the frozen north. It is very difficult to find a real FLA native. There is even a VEXXX from Canada a few houses away from me in the small village we live in outside "downtown" Brooksville. He doesn't say "EH" all the time like some do.....The breakfast was at a local place called 'THE ROOSTER'.... There were about ten of us there to enjoy the selection of eggs with hashbrowns or eggs with grits.. They have other stuff, but that is filling and cheap.... Great food and great people. After the filling breakfast, I was invited to their clubhouse about 15 min away. Their SHACK is located in a rv/ mobile home park.... Ample parking and they even have a Ford Crown Vic for a security patrol complete with a yellow light bar. The shack is located in the same building as the office..... Access requires 3 different keys to pass thru three locked doors.. In passing on the road you would not know that there was a ham located there except for the tri bander among the palm trees.. The clubhouse is about the size of our HF room and they run a net weekly for a couple of hours. Backup generator is there used frequently for the storms we get sometimes. This area of FLA we are at is called the hill area. The airport is 125 ft above sea level. Port Charlotte is located about 125 miles from us ,south where my son, N3SAE lives at a whopping 3 ft above sea level. In case there is a bad storm here, the residents should go to a concrete church about a half mile from the RV park.. Where my QTH is about two miles from them, we have a concrete and steel rec hall in the private village to go to. There are about 800 residents in my village, so it would be very crowded. There are a few repeaters in the area. One is inside the courthouse downtown. They have about 25 members in the club. "Unique" was all I could say to describe the room. WB2FAN said I must have said that word about three or four times in the first five minutes I was there...73s for now.....Miss yinz guyz.....

The Low Bands
Are Hot!!

Hi Folks: It's prime low band season and I've been checking my 160 and 80 meter receive antennas for performance. I'm picking up two National Weather Service radio re-transmissions, one on 1620KHz which seems to peak in the NE direction from my QTH and another on 1670KHz which seems slightly better on the SW antenna. These stations are in addition to the usual PENNDOT and airport Traveler Information System transmitters that are in the 1600-1700KHz range. My guess is the one NWS station on 1620KHz is coming from the RT19 and PA Turnpike Interchange area about 10 miles North of me. If anyone has location info on these NWS AM TIS stations I'd be interested to hear from you.

I did some snooping online and these transmitters appear to be 10Watt AM units with a 10 foot center-loaded vertical as a typical transmitter antenna (and a nominal ground system likely) . Here are some links:

[<http://www.radiosystems.com/ATseriesantenna.html>](http://www.radiosystems.com/ATseriesantenna.html)

[<http://www.radiosystems.com/lowpower.html>](http://www.radiosystems.com/lowpower.html)

I worked a pair of Ukranian stations, an Ireland station, and the TX3D DXpedition in the Austral Islands (South Pacific) on 160m....Interesting stuff out there if you care to fish out the weak CW. EI5HE in Ireland gave me a 349 on CW running 100W into my HF vertical, the other contacts were QRO level (and better reports). 73 Mike WA3TTS

One of our other goals is to provide more effective communication to Regions and Member Societies. Hopefully we are improving in that respect through some of the mechanisms we now have in place, such as this E-Letter. We also wanted to interact with our Member Societies more frequently than we have in the past. Ole, Rod and I have been able to do that in the past few months by our attendance at various Hamfests or in meeting with Societies directly. We both plan to have similar meetings throughout 2010.

Finally, I would like to thank each of you for your continued support of the IARU and its activities. Our work together will continue to enhance the position of the Amateur Radio Services.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the officer team if you have any questions or issues that you would like to raise. I can be reached by email at ve6sh@iaru.org.

==> Haiti Earthquake

(Note: The following account of the activities related to the response to the earthquake in Haiti that took place on January 12, 2010 is taken from the ARRL web site and provides information that is available as of January 14, 2010.)

On Tuesday, January 12 at 4:53 PM Haiti time (2153 UTC), a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit 10 miles (15 kilometers) west of Port-au-Prince, the island nation's capital. Communications in and out of Haiti have been disrupted. The ARRL encourages US amateurs to be aware of the emergency operations on the following frequencies: 7.045 and 3.720 MHz (IARU Region 2 nets), 14.265, 7.265 and 3.977 MHz (SATERN nets), and 14.300 MHz (Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net); the International Radio Emergency Support Coalition (IRESC) is also active on EchoLink node 278173.

There was no firm estimate on how many people were killed by Tuesday's quake. Haitian President Rene Preval said the toll could be in the thousands: "Let's say that it's too early to give a number."

Tuesday's quake was felt in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, and in Eastern Cuba, but no major damage was reported in either place. The January 13 edition of The Daily DX reported that the Rev John Henault, HH6JH, made contact late Wednesday morning with the Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net (IATN) on 14.300 MHz; this is the IARU Global Center of Activity frequency for

emergency communications. He said that he was safe, but had no power and no phone service. He was operating on battery power and hoping to get a generator running later in the day. The edition also noted that Pierre Petry, HH2/HB9AMO -- who was in Cap-Haitien (about 140 km north of Port-au-Prince) is safe; Petry is in Haiti working for the United Nations World Food Program.

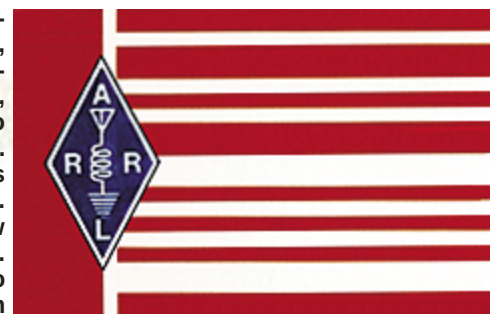
On Wednesday afternoon, Fred Moore, W3ZU, assisted Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR, with a phone patch to his friend Ariel in Miami. "It's bad, it literally is bad," Gaillard told Ariel. "We don't know how many people are dead. We do not know what to expect. It's chaos, I'm telling you -- it's real

chaos. We are really in a disaster area. It's really a war zone. Many, many buildings in the downtown area are stripped from the ground with many people buried underneath them - you name it, it's bad." Gaillard, who lives in Port-au-Prince, was using his neighbor's generator to make the contact. "It's really chaotic. I've never been in a war, but this is what a war zone would be like. Dead bodies all over the place, dead bodies buried. All I can tell you is that I'm okay, my house is okay. We've had 30 aftershocks, the main one yesterday. We are expecting some more shocks, so I'm a bit nervous to be inside the house."

According to IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC, members of the Radio Club Dominicano (RCD) -- the Dominican Republic's IARU Member Society -- and Union Dominicana de Radio Aficionados (UDRA) are preparing to go to Port au Prince on the morning of Friday, January 15, where they will install HI8RCD/HH, an emergency radio communications station and a mobile station.

FEMA (U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency) Administrator Craig Fugate advised that US assets should not self-deploy to affected areas. "Initial reports from Haiti in the wake of yesterday's earthquake are concerning and troubling," he said. "During times like these, the emergency response community always stands ready to assist those in need. The United States Department of State has the lead for foreign disaster assistance, and US assets should deploy only if tasked to do so by the State Department. The most urgent need that the response community can fulfill at this time is supporting ongoing disaster relief fund-raising efforts."

On Thursday, January 14th, planes carrying teams from China and France, Spain and the United States landed at Port-au-Prince's airport with searchers and tons of water, food, medicine and other supplies -- with more promised from around the globe. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said that "tens of thousands, we fear, are dead" and said United States and the world must do everything possible to help Haiti surmount its "cycle of hope and despair." The US Army said a detachment of more than 100 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division was heading out from Fort Bragg in North Carolina, looking for locations to set up tents and



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

other essentials in preparation for the arrival of another 800 personnel on Friday. That's in addition to some 2200 Marines to be sent, as the military prepares to help with security, search and rescue missions and the delivery of humanitarian supplies. More than a half-dozen US military ships also are expected to help, with the largest, the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, arriving later Thursday.

Calls to emergency services weren't getting through because systems that connect different phone networks were still not working, said officials from a telecommunications provider in Haiti. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is deploying 40 satellite terminals and 60 units with broadband facility to re-establish basic communication links, along with experts to operate them. The ITU will also set up "a reliable, responsive and complete cellular system designed to enable vital wireless communications aimed at strengthening response and recovery mechanisms in a disaster zone," said ITU Emergency Communications Division Chief Cosmas Zavazava. The ITU has allocated a budget of more than \$1 million US dollars to strengthen the disaster response effort in Haiti.



ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun Touré, HB9EHT, expressed his solidarity with the people of Haiti and offered his condolences to the bereaved victims of the disaster. "The whole world is in shock following the devastation and untold misery caused by the earthquake in Haiti," Dr Touré said. "ITU will do everything possible to provide assistance to the people of Haiti by re-establishing telecommunication links which will be vital in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the days ahead."

"The scope of the disaster clearly shows that the response to this is going to be a long term effort," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "The ARRL has been in contact with communications leaders of the American Red Cross and Salvation Army, as well as other key Amateur Radio operators throughout the region. As teams from the hundreds of responding agencies worldwide are formed for deployment, many will have Amateur Radio components.

ARRL is committed to providing communications aid to our served agencies and working with the international community in this time of crisis. At this time there are

no known requests from agencies for amateurs to travel to Haiti, but this can change. If it develops that there are ARES® assignments for a deployment in Haiti, these will be vetted and processed through each Section's Section Emergency Coordinators."

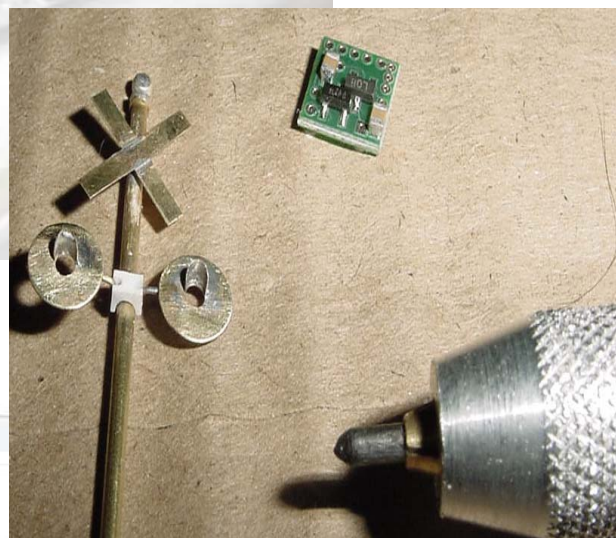
If you have any information that would be appropriate to publish in this electronic newsletter, please contact me at [<w6rod@iaru.org>](mailto:w6rod@iaru.org).

Rod Stafford W6ROD
IARU Secretary

(Secretary Stafford requested that I provide this update on IARU activities for the IARU E-Letter. I am pleased to do so. Tim Ellam VE6SH/G4HUA)

(FROM THE IARU E-LETTER, PUBLISHED BY THE ARRL)

Prez Sez..... (from page 1)



Now mind you I wasn't going to make something 'toy like' but something that looks convincing and as close to scale as I could using a collection of common hand tools. I'll spare you every detail of this work in progress. The learning curve progressed rapidly and the team work between my co-workers and I lead to improvements and changes that have helped to create the semi-final product.

Plastic (styrene) was out as an option. Styrene is easy to work with, but fragile. Stainless Steel tubing is available but tough to work and soldering is impossible. So brass was chosen.

1/16" dia. Tubing, some 5 thousands thick sheet, 26-28 gauge wire, solder, number 60-80 drills, pin vice, hole punch, really fine scissors, etc...and I am ready to go!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

Cell phone use while driving in Philly is illegal. It could happen to us Amateur ops too. Act now!

On January 26, 2010 the Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted on and passed HB2070(189-6). This bill deals with several subjects the most notable portion of this legislation for many people is the sections which deal with "Prohibiting use of interactive wireless communication device".

Below is a copy of Sections 2 & 3 of HB2070. It is notable that there are no exceptions for Amateur Radio. However, Section 2 of HB2070 on page 5 lines 19 Thru 22 there is this: "The term does not include a device being used exclusively as a global positioning or navigation system, or a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle. The question then becomes are 2 way radios which are wired into a vehicle included in this exemption? Surely using a hand held radio could place you in jeopardy. As it stands now the legislation may very well have an large impact on Amateur Radio mobile communications. If you would like to voice your opinion concerning this portion of HB2070, please contact your Pennsylvania State Senator. Remember that the "Interactive Wireless Communications Device sections are only a portion of the proposed bill and your comments to your Senator should reflect this fact.

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO YOUR PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR IS, USE THE FOLLOWING LINK.

[<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm>](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm)

TO VIEW THE ENTIRE BILL USE THE LINK BELOW.

[<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/)

After you are at the above link look in the upper right hand corner for the box labeled "Find Legislation By.." Then check the box "Bill #" Then enter HB2070 where it says "Enter Keyword(s). Then select "GO". The web site [<http://www.legis.state.pa.us>](http://www.legis.state.pa.us) contains an abundance of Pennsylvania legislative actions and contact information and should be a site that everyone has bookmarked.

HB2070
Sections 2 & 3

Section 2. Section 102 of Title 75 is amended by adding a definition to read:

102. Definitions.

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to specific provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

"Interactive wireless communication device." A wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, Portable or mobile computer, or similar device which can be used for voice communication, texting, e-mailing, browsing the Internet or instant messaging, but. The term does not include a device being used exclusively as a global positioning or navigation system, or a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle.

Section 3. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to read:

3316. Prohibiting use of interactive wireless communication device.

(a) Driver restrictions.--

(1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle upon a roadway or trafficway in this Commonwealth while using an interactive wireless communication device for a purpose other than:

- (i) voice communication through the use of an interactive wireless communications device while in hands-free mode;
- (ii) reading, selecting or entering a telephone number or name into an interactive wireless communication device for the purpose of making a telephone call voice communication; or
- (iii) utilizing a global positioning or navigation system.

(2) No person with a learner's permit or junior driver's license shall drive a motor vehicle upon a roadway or trafficway in this Commonwealth while using an interactive wireless communication device.

(b) Exceptions.--This section shall not apply to:

- (1) A driver using an interactive wireless communication device to contact a 911 system or wireless E-911 service, as defined in the act of July 9, 1990 (P.L.340, No.78), known as the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act.
- (2) A driver using an interactive wireless communication device when the vehicle is stopped due to traffic being obstructed and the driver has a traffic obstruction and the motor vehicle transmission is in neutral or park.
- (3) Operators of emergency vehicles who use an interactive wireless communications device for voice communication for the purpose of responding to an emergency while engaged in the performance of their official duties.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

(4) Volunteer emergency responders who use an interactive wireless communications device for voice communication for the purpose of responding to an emergency while engaged in the performance of their official duties.

(c) Seizure.--The provisions of this section shall not be construed as authorizing the seizure or forfeiture of an interactive wireless communication device.

(d) Penalty.--

(1) A person who violates subsection (a) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50.

(2) A person who violates subsection (a) while passing through a school zone, as defined and provided under the regulations of the department, commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$100.

An official traffic-control device shall indicate the beginning and end of each school zone to traffic approaching in each direction. Establishment of a school zone, including its location and hours of operation, shall be approved by the department.

(e) Public education and awareness program.--The department shall develop and maintain Statewide public education and awareness programs to combat distracted driving and driving under the influence and promote awareness of the provisions of this section subject to available funding.

(f) Guidelines.--The department shall, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania State Police, promulgate guidelines for the implementation of subsection (e) within six months of the effective date of this section.

(g) Insurance.--An insurer may not charge an insured who has been convicted under this section a higher premium for a policy of insurance in whole or in part by reason of that conviction.

(h) Department to compile report.--The department shall annually compile and make available to the Transportation Committee of the Senate and the Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives a report detailing the public education efforts to combat distracted driving and driving under the influence and promote awareness of the provisions of this section.

(i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Hands-free mode." The use of an interactive wireless communications device that allows the user to engage in communication without the use of either hand by means of an internal feature or function or an attachment or device.

"Volunteer emergency responder." Any of the following:

(1) A member of a volunteer ambulance service as defined in section 102 of the act of July 31, 2003 (P.L.73, No.17), known as the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Act.

(2) A member of a volunteer fire company as defined in section 102 of the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Act.

(3) A member of a volunteer rescue company as defined in section 102 of the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Act.

TO VIEW THE ENTIRE LEGISLATION HB2070 VISIT

<<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>>



Interested In A Club Jacket??

Steel City Amateur Radio Club Prices for Jackets TLJ754, J754 and JP54
Prices include 15% club discount Black Jacket and Gold Embroidery



- A long-time favorite, the Challenger has a traditional design that never goes out of style because the durable, water-repellent shell keeps you warm and dry. With plenty of color choices and styles, this jacket is a top performer.

- Teklon® nylon shell

- Poly-filled body with heavy-weight fleece lining for extra warmth

- Nylon sleeve lining
Slash zippered pockets, interior zippered pocket

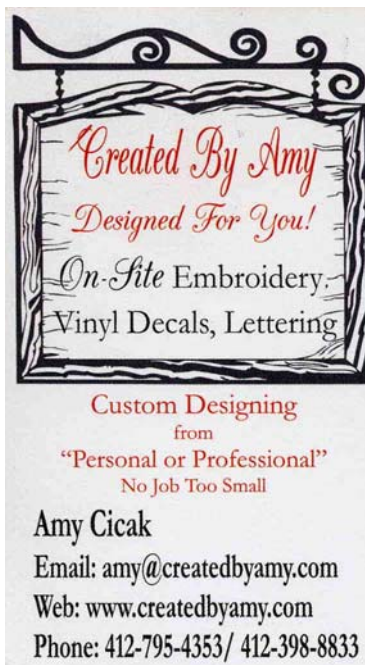
Adult Sizes: XS-6XL
J754

XS – XL
\$60 with front logo left chest and name/call sign right chest

\$85 w/back logo approximately 10.5"

2XL-6XL
\$70 with front logo left chest and name/call sign right chest

\$95 w/back logo approximately 10.5"



Tall Sizes: LT-4XLT TLJ754
LT and XLT

- ♦ \$65 with front logo left chest and name/call sign right chest
 - ♦ \$90 with back logo approximately 10.5"

- 2XLT-4XLT
- ♦ \$70 with front logo left chest and name/call sign right chest
 - ♦ \$95 with back logo approximately 10.5"

MORE JACKET INFO ON PAGE 11 TOO

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Interested In A Club Jacket?.... (con't)

Steel City Amateur Radio Club Prices for Jackets TLJ754, J754 and JP54
Prices include 15% club discount Black Jacket and Gold Embroidery



A preferred classic, the Competitor Jacket is a lightweight alternative to the Challenger™ Jacket. With sporty style, this workplace and off-hours favorite has reinforced seams and sturdy Teklon nylon to keep wind, rain and other elements at bay.

- Teklon® nylon shell
- Lightweight fleece lining
- Nylon sleeve lining for easy on/off
- Slash zippered pockets
- Interior zippered pocket
- Elastic cuffs with adjustable hook and loop tabs
- Elastic waistband

Adult Sizes:
XS-6XL JP54

XS – XL
\$45 with front
logo left chest
and name/call
sign right chest

\$70 with back
logo approxi-
mately 10.5"

2XL-6XL
\$55 with front
logo left chest
and name/call
sign right chest

\$80 with back logo approximately 10.5"

To view the jackets on Amy's site go to:
[http://www.companycasuals.com/
createdbyamy/start.jsp](http://www.companycasuals.com/createdbyamy/start.jsp)>

And type in JP54, J754 or TLJ754 (tall
size) in the search box.

Custom Designing
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"Personal or Professional"
No Job Too Small

Amy Cicak
Email: amy@createdbyamy.com
Web: www.createdbyamy.com
Phone: 412-795-4353/ 412-398-8833

Or so I thought. Well, the regular TV/Radio solder gave way to Silver solder, new drills to replace the ones that snapped, and remember that soldering iron I mentioned? While it is great for tiny surface mount parts....it didn't quite cut it for this type of work. Nor did a regular 30 watt iron like we all have. Soldering gun? Hmm...a bit too much. Besides, trying to hold those little bits together with tweezers, work the iron and apply solder was enough for me to want to chuck the whole deal.

There had to be an easier way. Super glue was out. We all know what happens with that stuff and tiny parts! Then it came to me. I had found one of those Cold Heat soldering irons that had been advertised on TV a few years back and I thought I'd try that. What I didn't realize, at that time, I was re-introducing myself to Resistance Soldering. Those Cold Heat tools are just that. With 2 graphite or carbon points, insulated from each other and a power supply, you have a compact Resistance soldering tool. Neat! Resistance soldering is a process where 2 resistive elements are brought into contact with whatever you wish to join and the current flow heats the joint quickly and is concentrated to a small area giving you with a neatly finished joint without excessive heat.

The advert for these tools was touted to be something NEW and WONDERFUL. It is actually, an old idea, repackaged in a compact form. While this tool is a bit cumbersome to use, it is effective, though battery life is extremely low. An external power supply will cure that. These Cold Heat tools are no longer being made but there are Resistance Soldering tools available but the average person would balk at the cost.

In true modeler/radio spirit (i.e. Cheap) I began looking around the net and found some pretty neat ideas from others that know the value of having this kind of tool in the drawer. Though the Cold Heat tools works ok, I wanted something a little different. Snooping around a local welding shop, I found carbon rods to homebrew my own setup but the rods cost a bit more than I wished to spend. But I did find a Pin vice, for cleaning cutting torch tips that is hollow throughout. Hmm...a piece of pencil lead, a bit of wire, a low voltage, moderate current power supply and viola!

As the old saying goes, "Crude but effective".

Some manufacturers attach RF connectors to cables using resistance soldering. Old technology like this used today? You betcha!

A word of caution. This is something you really do not want to use on electronic components since there is voltage present on the tips of the contact points and frying a transistor junction or other sensitive parts will only compound problems. However there is still a place for such a tool. Some radios have boards soldered to a framework. Shields that have all joints soldered shut. Solder a connector center pin to coax, without destroying the insulation. I think you get the idea.

While technology has marched on in many respects with much of what we take for granted these days, there are some old tools in the drawer that are still effective, should we choose to learn how to use them.

Something struck me as I was working on this project. This New/Old soldering tool that technology hasn't changed a whole lot is much like CW.

Sure there are some new materials, new packaging and improvements here and there. But the basics of this method of soldering and of CW are pretty much unchanged. Old tools in the drawer that are easy to use and as effective today as when first conceived.

Some of the new tools available today don't always work for all situations we may encounter. Does Resistance Soldering or CW fit/fix every problem? No, but it's nice to know how to use them should we need to do so. Get out those old tools, dust them off, and revisit that old school stuff. You may find a tool of great value in that drawer.

Thanks for reading along.
73
Bob

The web site for volunteering (as opposed to running in) is :
<<http://www.marathon.central.org/>>

Jeff N3NHS said that he needs 150 operators to participate. At this juncture he only has 6 volunteers. The web site works and volunteers can sign up there. The event is on May 2nd.

Mike WA3PYU needs additional volunteers for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13th. He can be reached on the Public Service Net Wednesday at 9:00 PM.

Marathon
Ops
Needed
(St.
Patty's
Day Too)

Field Day with the Scouts 2010.....

QST QST QST
DE KA3PMW

Calling all Hams and Clubs in Southwestern Pennsylvania

From W3S special event station for Field Day honoring the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. This event is mainly for the scouts to learn about Ham Radio and to participate on the air. It is being held at Camp Anawana near Amity, PA. We need Operators, Elmers, Old Equipment and items for museum display, and operators with equipment.

News media and elected officials will be invited to attend.

Free meals will be provided by the Scouts and a commemorative patch will be issued to all hams that participate. Please be sure we have the number of operators in your party. Remember since this is Field Day unlicensed operators are permitted to operate under supervision. This is a great opportunity to bring that family member that wants to get on the air with you for a week end of fun and learning.

Snacks should be purchased and brought with you. There are a few mom and pop stores in the area but they have limited hours and are expensive. If you bring your own snacks be advised there are raccoons and skunks that will want to share them with you so keep them in a safe place!

Showers are available.

We are working on providing power from the military. If you feel safer using your own generator feel free to bring it along. You buy the gas.

Plans are to run a "D" class station. There will be a cabin with a refrigerator for those that want to stay over night. The cabin sleeps 6.

The 2010 rules will be posted as a link when available.

We encourage anyone that has solar or wind powered equipment or other innovative equipment to bring it out.

We plan to operate 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2, 220, and 440 bands in various modes. The following are encouraged: Phone, CW, ATV, FSK and RTTY

Each band will have a band coordinator.

We are also planning to have a GOTA station and one or two stations for the scouts to operate on.

Those that are interested or can attend should reply to this email and provide the following information: Number of operators interested, Band and mode you are interested in, do you wish to be an Elmer, do you wish to participate in the museum, hours you are available to operate. Every effort will be made to see that everyone gets to operate and gets as much time as possible. Operating teams are welcomed.

The Call sign for this event is W3S and is reserved with the FCC for June 24th through the 28th.

Please help make this a fun and learning event for all.

No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the camp grounds.

Smoking is not permitted in front of the scouts. If you must smoke, please do it in an out of site area.

The site is atop a high hill with a good clear view. There are many trees around to hang wires from.

Maximum safety will be practiced at all times including station grounds and caution tape. The caution tape will be provided. See KA3PMW or N3TRF for caution tape.

Planned special side events include a Sky Warn training class and an Antenna Building class.

All are welcome whether you are club, individual, or family operators. For further information and answers to questions contact please reply to this email or contact KA3PMW or N3TRF through the <www.w3sfieldday.com> web site. For online sign up please go to <www.w3sfieldday.com> and look in the ham section. This site should be up and running February 1st, 2010.

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

February 2010

The Steel City ARC Monthly Contest/Event Planner

March 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 Breezeshooters Net GPVHF Society Meeting RSGB 80M Club Champ. SSB	2 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Business Meeting ARS Spartan Sprint 222 Tuesday	3 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net 144 Wednesday	4 SkyView 2M Net WACOM Business Meeting	5 NCCC Sprint Ladder	6 * VT QSO Party 10-10 Int'l Winter Test SSB MN QSO Party AGCW Straight Key Party DE QSO Party Mexico RTTY Test British Columbia QSO Party
7 * WASH 2M Net VT QSO Party 10-10 Int'l Winter Test SSB DE QSO Party Mexico RTTY Test NA CW Sprint British Columbia QSO Party	8 Breezeshooters Net NM QSO Party	9 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	10 * SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net AGCW Semi-Autmatic Key Eve	11 SkyView 2M Net WASH Business Meeting CW Ops Mini-CWT Test	12 NCCC Sprint Ladder PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	13 * CQ WW RTTY WPX Test SARL Field Day Asia-Pacific CW Sprint
	ARRL School Club Roundup					YLRL YL-OM Test
14 * CQ WW RTTY WPX Test BVARA TechFest WASH 2M Net SARL Field Day Dutch PACC Test YLRL YL-OM Test	15 Breezeshooters Net Dutch PACC Test Classic Exchange SSB	16 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	17 Ash Wednesday Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net 144 Wednesday AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	18 SkyView 2M Net RSGB 80M Club Champ. CW	19 NCCC Sprint Ladder	20 ARRL Int'l DX CW Test Feld-Hell Sprint
21 ARRL Int'l DX CW Test WASH 2M Net	22 Breezeshooters Net Run For The Bacon QRP Test	23 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	24 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net WACOM YL Net 144 Wednesday SKCC Sprint	25 SkyView 2M Net	26 CQ WW 160M Test SSB NCCC Sprint Ladder Russian PSK WW Test	27 * CQ WW 160M Test SSB WASH Breakfast REF SSB Test UBA DX CW Test NA QSO Party RTTY Russian PSK WW Test EPC WW DX Contest
28 * CQ WW 160M Test SSB WASHFest 2010 WASH 2M Net REF SSB Test UBA DX CW Test NA QSO Party RTTY High Speed Club CW Test						

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

February 2010

The Steel City ARC Monthly Contest/Event Planner

6	Sat	Black Sea Cup International
6	Sat	YL-ISSB International Winter Contest SSB
6	Sat	FYBO Winter QRP Sprint
7	Sun	Black Sea Cup International
7	Sun	YL-ISSB International Winter Contest SSB
7	Sun	ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint
7	Sun	NM QSO Party
10	Wed	NHARC Business Meeting
10	Wed	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
10	Wed	CW Ops Mini-CWT Test
10	Wed	RSGB 80M Club Champ. Data
10	Wed	144 Wednesday
13	Sat	Dutch PACC Test
13	Sat	FISTS Winter Sprint
13	Sat	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint
13	Sat	Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint CW
13	Sat	KCJ Topband Test
13	Sat	LA QSO Party
13	Sat	OMISS QSO Party
13	Sat	FISTS Winter Sprint CW
13	Sat	RSGB 1.8MHz Test CW
14	Sun	NA SSB Sprint
14	Sun	KCJ Topband Test
14	Sun	LA QSO Party
14	Sun	OMISS QSO Party
14	Sun	RSGB 1.8MHz Test CW
14	Sun	SKCC Weekend Sprint
14	Sun	Classic Exchange SSB
27	Sat	MS QSO Party
28	Sun	EPC WW DX Contest
28	Sun	MS QSO Party
28	Sun	NC QSO Party (also 3-1)



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& <www.sk3bg.se/contest> ----- Click here for Table Of Contents

February 2010
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 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
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March 2010

The Steel City ARC Monthly Contest/Event Planner

April 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> <i>GPVHF Society Meeting</i> <i>NC QSO Party</i>	2 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>Skyview Meeting</i> <i>AGCW YL Party</i> <i>222 Tuesday</i> <i>ARS Spartan Sprint</i> <i>AGCW YL-CW Party</i>	3 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>WACOM YL Net</i> <i>144 Wednesday</i>	4 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM Business Meeting</i>	5	6 <i>ARRL Int'l DX Test SSB</i> <i>Wake Up! QRP Sprint</i>
7 <i>ARRL Int'l DX Test SSB</i> <i>WASH 2M Net</i> <i>DARC 10M Digi Test</i> <i>UBA Spring Test CW</i> <i>SARL HamNet 40M</i> <i>Simulated Emergency Test</i>	8 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	9 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>222 Tuesday</i> <i>CLARA HF Test</i>	10 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>WACOM YL Net</i> <i>NHARC Business Meeting</i> <i>144 Wednesday</i> <i>CLARA HF Test</i> <i>CW Ops Mini-CWT Test</i>	11 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i> <i>WASH Business Meeting</i> <i>CW Ops Mini-CWT Test</i>	12 <i>HA3NS Memorial Sprint 80/40M</i>	13 * <i>EST ENDS 3/14! SPRING AHEAD 1HR BEFORE BEDTIME!</i> <i>AGCW QRP Test</i> <i>EA PSK31 Test</i> <i>SOC Marathon Sprint</i> <i>CLARA HF Test</i>
14 * <i>BEGIN Daylite Savings Time</i> <i>Foothills Hamfest</i> <i>WASH 2M Net</i> <i>EA PSK31 Test</i> <i>NA RTTY Sprint</i> <i>WI QSO Party</i>	15 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> <i>WI QSO Party</i> <i>Bucharest Test</i>	16 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>222 Tuesday</i>	17 <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>WACOM YL Net</i> <i>144 Wednesday</i>	18 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i> <i>NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint</i>	19	20 * <i>10-10 Mobile Test</i> <i>Russian DX Test</i> BARTG HF RTTY Test VA QSO Party
21 * <i>WASH 2M Net</i> <i>Russian DX Test</i> BARTG HF RTTY Test VA QSO Party SARL V/UHF Analog ...	22 * <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> <i>QRP Homebrewer Sprint</i>	23 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>222 Tuesday</i>	24 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>WACOM YL Net</i> <i>144 Wednesday</i> <i>SKCC Sprint</i>	25 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i>	26	27 <i>CQ WPX SSB Test</i>
28 <i>CQ WPX SSB Test</i> <i>WASH 2M Net</i> <i>UBA Spring Test 144MHz</i>	29 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	30 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>222 Tuesday</i>	31 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>WACOM YL Net</i> <i>144 Wednesday</i>			

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

March 2010

The Steel City ARC Monthly Contest/Event Planner

13	Sat	RSGB Commonwealth Test
13	Sat	ARCI HF GridSquare Sprint
13	Sat	Feld-Hell Sprint
13	Sat	Elecraft QSO Party
13	Sat	ID QSO Party
14	Sun	RSGB Commonwealth Test
14	Sun	Elecraft QSO Party
14	Sun	ID QSO Party
14	Sun	SKCC Weekend Sprint
14	Sun	UBA Spring Test 6M
14	Sun	NSARA Test
20	Sat	OK QSO Party
20	Sat	AGCW V/UHF Test 144/430MHz
20	Sat	ND QSO Party
21	Sun	OK QSO Party
21	Sun	ND QSO Party
21	Sun	9K 15M Test
22	Mon	Run For The Bacon QRP



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



WASHfest 2010

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **FIFTEENTH** big year!

Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 28th, 2010

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

Special Guests:

Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR
WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE
WPA DXCC Card Checker Art Lund NQ3A

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

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

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

- 1st Prize: ICOM IC-7200 HF & 6 Meters
2nd Prize: ICOM IC-91A/D 2 M/70 cm D-STAR
3rd Prize: Heil BM 10-5 Boom Headset



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

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Kevin Smith N3HKQ at (724) 228-4153, 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: _____

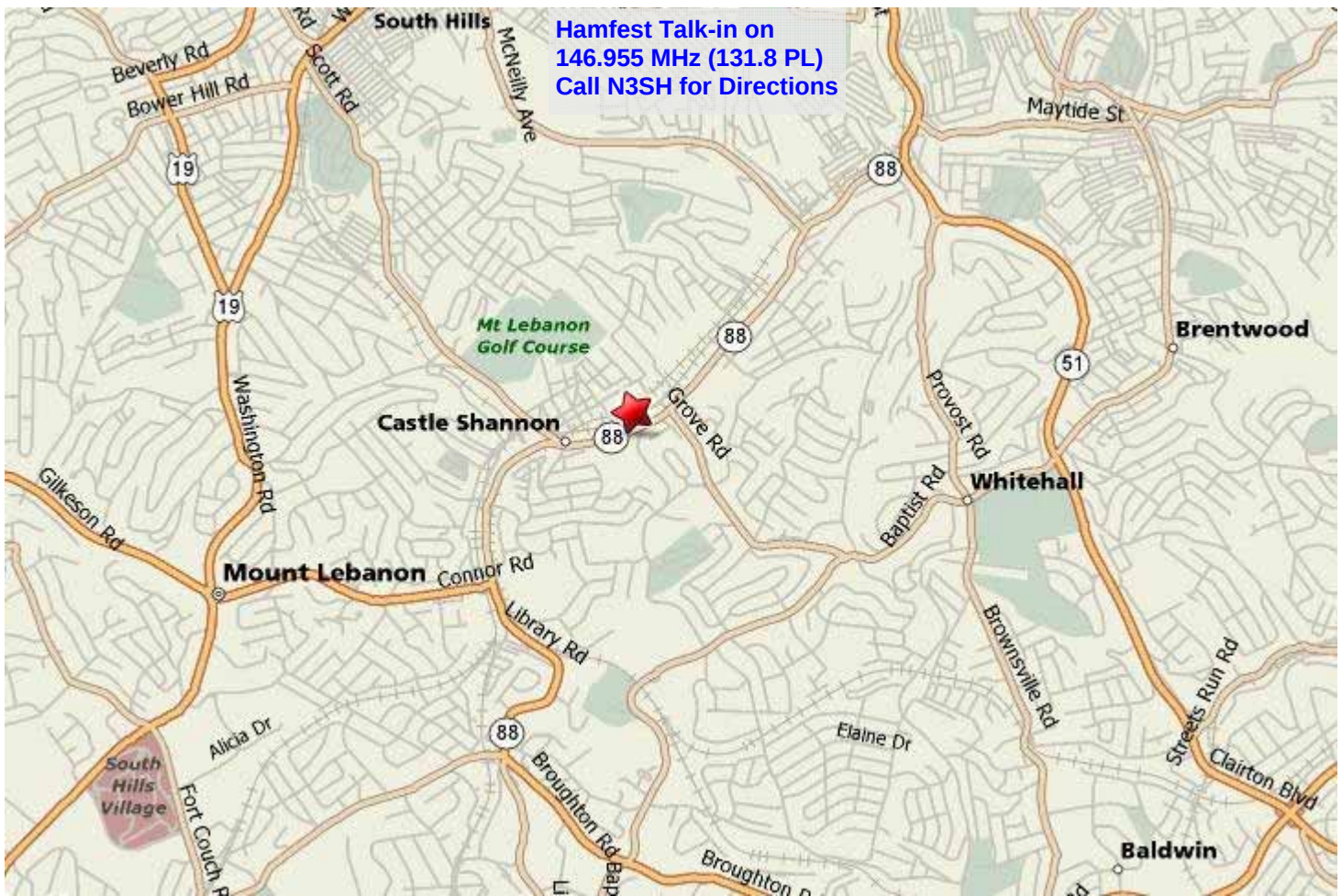
Call Sign: _____

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 2010



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.

Kilo Watt Harmonics

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

W3KWH

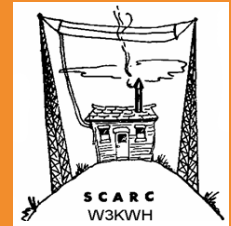
Hamfest season is just about here! Pretty soon, we'll see tables full of stuff like this. See **page 11** for upcoming Hamfest info. WASHFest this month, February 28! See **page 32** for details.

**NEXT
MEETING: 16
FEBRUARY
8PM**



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

<www.w3kwh.com>



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Editor: Greg Babin, NB3C
<KO3DX@hotmail.com>

