

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

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

Inside this issue:
(Click on an article
to read it.)

DX News & Views	2
March Business Meeting	
Minutes	4
WPA Section News	5
Local & Misc. News	6
Shack Of The Month	7
Website Of The Month /	
E-Bay Report	9
Report From Honduras	12
Birthdays/Propagation	13
April Events Calendar	14
May Events Calendar	15

The Steel City Amateur Radio Club:

President: Michael Sapp,
WA3TTS (412) 364-2740

VP: Madison McKee, W3MAC
(412) 279-8756

Treasurer: Walt Adkins,
KA3YNO (412) 276-0825

Recording Secretary:
Joe Mielnicki, WA3FWA
(412) 922-6340

Corresponding Secretary:
Sue Rakiecz, KA3JKS
(412) 243-3061

License Trustee:
Karl Pastorak, WA3VXJ
(412) 429-8055

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

**DON'T BE AN APRIL FOOL! COME OUT TO THE NEXT
BUSINESS MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 15th @
8:00PM!! BUT FIRST, DON'T FORGET TO MAIL IN
YOUR TAXES; THEY'RE DUE THAT DAY ALSO!!**



KiloWatt Harmonics

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

April, 2008

Editorial Ramblings

Happy spring!!! Let me be the first to congratulate you on this feat: **We made it thru another winter!!** I don't know about you, but I look forward to the warm weather and being able to move outside again for outdoor activities (like putting up new antennas, Field Day, Hamfests and all the other radio-related activities that we enjoy on warm, sunny days).

By the time you read this, the CQ WPX SSB DX Contest will be over. Hope you had the time to participate in this one. As I write this, the experts are saying that the propagation should be pretty good for this contest. I hope so, because Ye Olde Editor took three days off from work to play in this one. I'll be pretty disappointed if the bands are dead. Also, a lot of DXpeditions recently wrapped up, or will be wrapping up soon. Again, I hope you had the opportunity to put rare ones like TX5C (Clipperton Island), 9X0R (Rwanda), and VP6DX (Ducie Island) into your logbook.

For those of you who have traveled to Dayton Hamvention in the past, and lodged via the KQ3DX plan, I am sorry to say that I was not able to reserve any rooms this year. So if you have not made reservations for Hamvention 2008 yet, I suggest you do so ASAP. **(More Dayton Hamvention news appears on page 6.)**

Don't forget: I am constantly in need of articles and pictures, especially local news. So, if you know of something going on in the area that is radio-related, send it to me. I can put it to good use here, and I know the membership will appreciate it too. Send your submissions to: **<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>**.

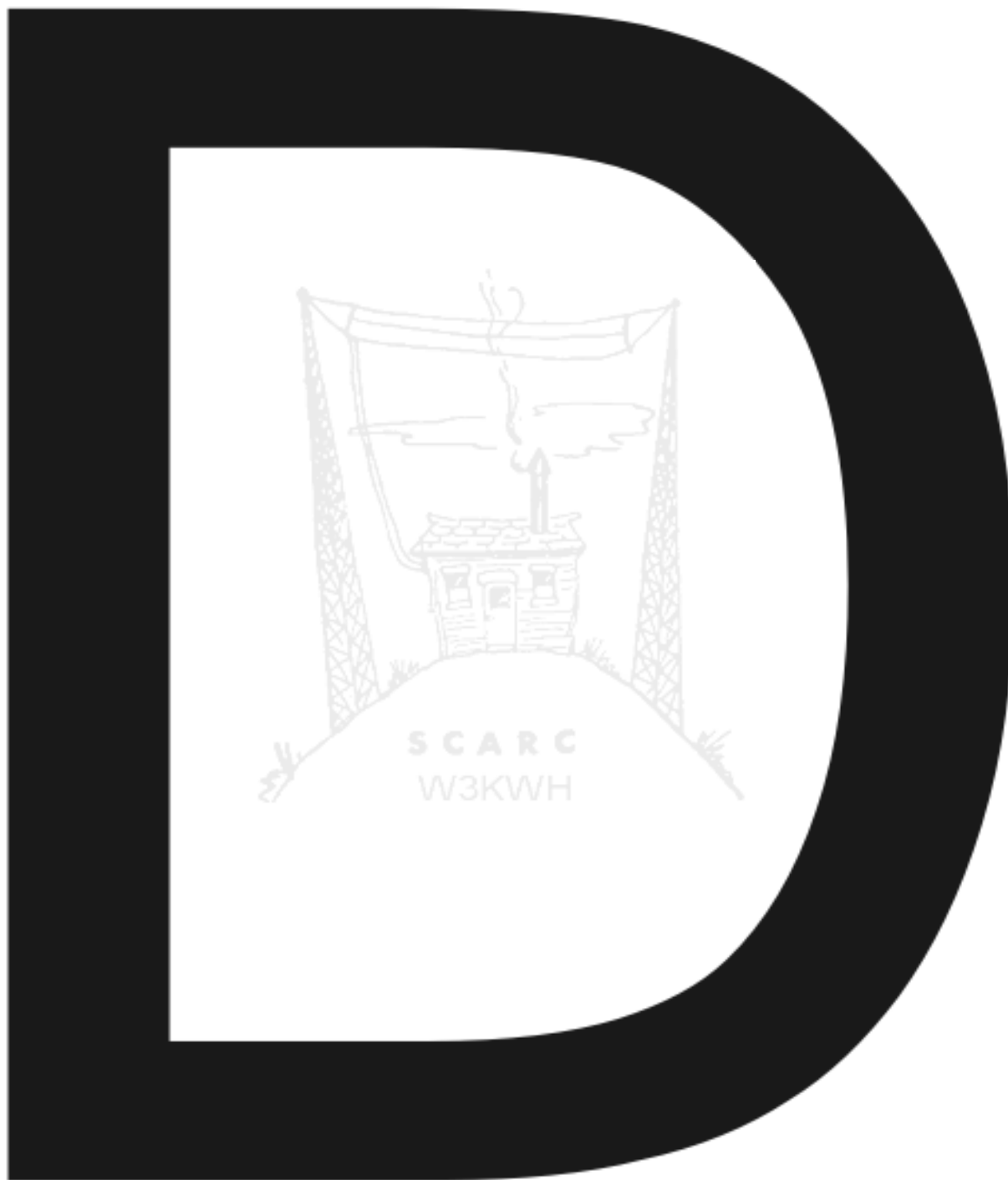
That's all for now. Thanks for reading!!
CUL/73 de KQ3DX et al.



Please read this!! New improvements to the newsletter are being made with this issue!!

In an effort to make our newsletter more readable and enjoyable to our membership, (especially some of the more 'senior' members), I've decided to make a minor improvement to it. **Starting with the 'DX News & Views' article on page 2, you'll notice that the size of the font has increased slightly.** As I stated, I am doing this to make the newsletter a little easier to read and enjoy, especially for those of you whose eyesight (like mine) is not what it used to be. So, I hope you like it and I hope it makes for better reading. As always your comments about the newsletter are most welcome at: **<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>**. Thanks for reading!! And now, on to the newsletter!!

DX News & Views



Continued on pages 3-1000. To read, simply detach the pages, lay them out in your back yard in order according to page number, then stand on a ladder to read. **APRIL FOOL!!!!**

(The real 'DX News & Views' is on the next page.)



(The Real) DX News & Views

Gleaned from various issues of the ARRL DX Bulletin. Thanks to them for their permission to reprint here.

- ♦ **SVALBARD, JW.** Operators PE1L and PA0ZH are QRV as JW/home calls until June 15. Activity is on 6 meters. QSL via operators' instructions.
 - ♦ **LIBERIA, EL.** Bruno, HB9BEI and Chris, HB9AUZ are QRV as EL8BK and EL8CB, respectively, until the end of April. They will use CW and digital modes in their spare time. QSL via operators' instructions.
 - ♦ **OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** TX5C, Clipperton Island, VP6DX, Ducie Island. Both are 2008 operations.
 - ♦ **MADAGASCAR, 5R.** Franck, F4DBJ will be QRV as 5R8HT from March 30 to April 15. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters in his spare time while on holiday. QSL to home call.
 - ♦ **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q.** Thor, SM7RME is QRV as 9Q/home call for a few months. He is active in his spare time. QSL via SM7EHU.
 - ♦ **PHILIPPINES, DU.** In commemoration of the 75th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association, call signs 4D75A through 4D75Z are active until the end of October 2008.
 - ♦ **ITALY, I.** Members of the Vecio Piave Team and ARI Treviso are QRV as I13PIAV until August 31 in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the end of World War I. QSL via IK3GES.
 - ♦ **CAMBODIA, XU.** Retu, XU7MDY will be QRV from Si-hanoukville from April 3 to 14. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct to OH4MDY.
 - ♦ **OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Western Sahara, S05A, 2007 operation.
 - ♦ **RWANDA, 9X0.** The 9X0R operation is now QRT. The multi-national DXpedition team made just under 63k QSOs: +31k/CW, +26k/SSB and 4.9k/RTTY. The complete breakdown is available on their Web page. QSL via EA5RM. For more info on the DXpedition, please visit their Web page at: <http://www.9x0r.com>
 - ♦ **KH3, JOHNSTON ISLAND.** OPDX readers have been asking about Susan, W7KFI, and her trip to KH3. Well, Susan in Kee'hi Lagoon, Honolulu, told your editor the trip is still on, but she is currently saving money to replace an engine (as she put it....it has died a horrible death) for her boat. She states, "Just as soon as I get it replaced I am off to KH3 -- should be in about two months, I hope..... I will make the trip... it has been in the planning for over 25 years."
 - ♦ **R1, FRANZ JOSEF LAND.** R1FJT has been very active on 80/40/30/20/17 meters CW. Activity is from the Krenkel polar station which is situated on Heyss island. This operation is valid for Arctic challenge program. <http://f6kdf.ath.cx/f5nod/arcticchallenge/index.htm>
 - ♦ **P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.** David, P29GQ, can usually be found on the Pacific ANZA Net on 14183 kHz between 0500-0600z on the weekends. QSL via P29GQ
 - ♦ **T2, TUVALU.** Paul, A35RK, talked to Udo, DL9HCU, who is currently active as 3D2HC in the Fiji Islands for about another two weeks and was told Udo will be heading to Tuvalu after his Fiji stay.
- (Many thanks to the OPDX Bulletin/KB8NW/OPDX/BARF80 for allowing reprints of excerpts from their Internet DX Bulletin.)

KiloWatt Harmonics,
April, 2008

© 2008, The Steel City
Amateur Radio Club

Edited by Greg Babin,
KQ3DX

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

All contributions are
welcome at:
KQ3DX@hotmail.com

Reprints/quotes permit-
ted provided credit is
given to original author
and the Steel City
Amateur Radio Club.

SCARC is a not-for-
profit organization as
defined under IRS Rules
& Regulations section
501 (C) (3)



Business Meeting Minutes: March, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the president WA3TTS, Mike at 8 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence for our Silent Keys and 25 members and 1 guest answered the Roll Call. The minutes of the Feb. meeting were accepted as published in the March newsletter and were not read. The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt and accepted by the membership.

Committee Reports:

Clubhouse: WA3VXJ, Karl said that N3VEF, Billy cleaned the clubhouse for tonight's meeting.

Technical: WQ3T, David has enabled the IC-746 and the TS-2000 rigs to send CW from a PC keyboard. Mike implored all who use the rigs to return them to phone mode when finished using them in a digital mode to reduce operator consternation. He also reported that the 6-meter amp still needs to be repaired.

Membership: WA3BKD, Art gave the first reading for prospective member KD7HR, Greger.

Newsletter: Editor KQ3DX, Greg requested more local news for the KiloWatt Harmonics newsletter.

Ways and Means: WA3FWA, Joe will have the 50/50 raffle after the meeting as well as auction the 2007 Call Book CD. He listed the members who have keys for the new locked library cabinet: KA3YNO, Walt, N3EQP, John, WA3FWA, Joe, KA3LNG, Kurt, WA3VXJ, Karl, WB3HDI, Bob, and WA3TTS, Mike.

Contest: Illness and bad WX limited club contest activity. K3LAB, Doug, N3VEF, Billy and KB3NUQ, Bob operated the club station last weekend for the Breeze Shooters Ground Wave Contest.

Public Service: KA3MSE, Lloyd reported that the St. Patty Day parade volunteers included N3EQP, John and KB3NUQ, Bob. There will be a Skywarn class on April 10. W3MAC, Mac and KB3MDN, George determined that the club would need 3 MARS licensed members to become an approved MARS station and that at least one of them would have to be on hand to operate that station. George, Billy and KA3JKS, Sue are current MARS members. Mike pointed out that our participation in MARS is of value to SCARC as we would become a part of an emergency communication system and thereby fulfill our public service status.

Web Site: Mike said that the remote control of Echolink is in the works.

Old Business: W3JQJ, Matt inquired when the roadside ditches will be backfilled with gravel. That will be a spring project, he is told.

New Business: WA3BKD, Art explained that the club's scholarship for CCAC electronics study is still being offered but has had no takers. Our club members are not eligible. At a recent school conference that he attended, Art was told that many scholarships being offered are not being applied for. W3WTW, Tim may put the scholarship info on the SCARC web site. WA3VXJ, Karl commented that there is a N3LL (Bob Carnahan) beacon on 50.068 Mhz.

Good of the Order: W3SVJ, Nate, invited the "Pittsburgh 250" committee to meet at the clubhouse early in April. This will be the third meeting of the amateur radio steering committee representing the local radio clubs for the "250" special event stations. The on air operations are planned for the first weekend in August with each of the area clubs operating on one, or more as needed and capable of, amateur bands.

Art will host an open house at the club for a group of the Western PA Model Railroad Society members on Sat. Apr. 5th from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Motion to Adjourn: by WA3TTS, Mike

50/50 raffle: won by N3VEF, Billy

Call Book CD Auction bid won by WA3RVD, Mel

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary,

WA3FWA, Joe.



♦ **DON'T FORGET: DUES FOR 2008 ARE PAST DUE. IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YET, STICK A CHECK OR M.O. FOR \$50.00 PAYABLE TO 'SCARC' IN AN ENVELOPE AND SEND IT TO: SCARC, P.O. BOX 281, CARNEGIE, PA. 15106. YOU CAN ALSO PAY IN PERSON AT THE NEXT BUSINESS MEETING (APRIL 15).**

The ARRL WPA Section Page

THE ARRL WPA SECTION:

SECTION MANAGER:

John V. Rodgers, N3MSE
803 S Main St.
Butler, PA 16001-6326
724-287-0424
<n3mse@arrl.org>

ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER ASM DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Anthony F Petrucci, KE3ED
473 Park St.
Rochester, PA. 15074-1859
(724) 774-4173
<ke3ed@arrl.net>

CHIEF ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER:

Bruce E Watson, AA3LX
4347 Highland Ave.
Butler, PA. 16001-2959
(724) 482-2756, (412) 482-2756
<aa3lx@aol.com>

ASM MEDIA LIASON:

Tony Zona, WB3KGT
2485 Dorn Rd.
Waterford, PA. 16441-4013
<wb3kgt@arrl.net>

AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR:

Keith "Pete" Highlands, N3RLJ
212 N 1st St.
Jeannette, PA. 15644-1827
(724) 523-6232
<n3rlj@arrl.net>

OFFICIAL OBSERVER COORDINATOR:

R Ralph Ofchinick Jr, W3ZPI
9 Brooklane Dr.
Harrison City, PA. 15636-1515
(724) 744-7180
<w3zpi@arrl.net>

SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR:

John S Szwarc, N3SPW
PO Box 207
Kylertown, PA 16847-0207
(814) 255-7600 444, (814) 345-6727
<n3spw@philipsburg-ara.org>

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER

Christin J Albert, N3YTD
150 Wahl Rd.
Harmony, PA. 16037-7704
(724) 452-0583
<cja@fyi.net>

Atlantic Division Awards:

Atlantic Division members really rose to the occasion this year with the increased number of nominations for division awards received. The Awards Committee will be reviewing the nominations received in order to select the recipients of the Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year and the Atlantic Division Technical Achievement Award for this year. The awards will be announced at and presented to the winners at the Atlantic Division Convention in Rochester, NY at the end of May this year.

Division Club Teleconference/Webinars

We have two more teleconferences/webinars that have been scheduled and open to interested ARRL members. On Saturday, April 19th at 11am to 12pm, meet with ARRL's Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, Dennis Dura K2DCD, who will present information about the ARRL's EmComm program and what he's been working on. This webinar/teleconference is for club members, ARES members, Section Managers, Section Cabinet Staff and those interested in emergency communications. You can register for this webinar at: <<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/874893521>>

On Saturday, May 24 at 11am to 12pm, meet with ARRL's Media and Public Relations Manager, Allen Pitts W1AGP, who will present information about the ARRL's new public relations program for 2008. This webinar/teleconference is for Public Information Officers, Public Information Coordinators, club members, ARES members, Section Managers, Section Cabinet Staff and those interested in public relations as it pertains to amateur radio. You can register for this webinar at: <<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/939266067>>

For more information about Atlantic Division Teleconferences/Webinars, you can go to the Atlantic Division Website Training page located at: <<http://www.atldiv.org/training>>

Grab and Go Kits

We have had some suggestions for a future division teleconference/webinar on grab and go kits within the Atlantic Division. We plan on featuring the top notch grab and go kits within the division with pictures and a component list of equipment and features of the top grab and go kits. If you would like to have your grab and go kit considered, please send pictures and information about your kit to <grabandgo@atldiv.org>. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2008.

Conventions within the Atlantic Division

We have several conventions that have been approved. Those approved conventions are:

Atlantic Division Convention -- May 30 & 31 Rochester, NY
Eastern PA Section Convention -- July 4, Bressler, PA
Western PA Section Convention -- August 24 New Kensington, PA
EmComm East Emergency Communications Convention -- September 20 Rochester, NY.

Local & Miscellaneous News

♦ IF YOU ARE GOING TO DAYTON HAMVENTION 2008, READ AND HEED!!

Major construction on two of the main roads feeding the Dayton Hamvention is threatening to cause significant disruptions. Hamvention Talk-In Chairman Rob Lunsford, KB8UEY, says Needmore Road, the main link from Interstate 75, will be reduced to one lane in each direction, and I-75 itself just north of downtown Dayton will be subject to lane closures during the Hamvention weekend. Lunsford has put together a list of recommended alternate routes, and plans to have it posted on the Hamvention website, <http://www.hamvention.org/>, in time for the big weekend in mid-May.

♦ The following is a press release courtesy of CQ Magazine:

(Hicksville, NY) March 21, 2008 -- Kosovo is being added to the list of countries and territories recognized for CQ DX awards, effective immediately, CQ DX Awards Manager Billy Williams, N4UF, announced today.

Verifications for contacts made on or after February 17, 2008 are acceptable for CQ DX Award credit. CQ DX Honor Roll members with 335 or more credits should update by May 31st for highest placement in Honor Roll listings.

The new 339 entity maximum will appear on CQ DX Honor Rolls to be prepared in early June. CQ DX Honor Roll listings prepared in early April will be based on a 338 maximum count. All Kosovo contacts will count for field KN on applications for the CQ DX Field Award.

Kosovo's status has been the subject of some controversy in the amateur radio community as well as the world community, as the ARRL declared that special operations from there on February 17 will count as Serbia, not Kosovo, in terms of DXCC credit. The United States and many European countries immediately recognized Kosovo's independence. However, Russia and China are opposed to it and Russia has threatened to veto any U.N. action to recognize Kosovo as an independent nation.

"We are aware that the ARRL has not yet added Kosovo to the DXCC list," explained CQ magazine Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. "The League says it is waiting for Kosovo to become a member state of the United Nations or be issued a call sign block by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a U.N. agency. However, because of geopolitical issues far beyond the realm of amateur radio, it is unlikely that the United Nations or the ITU will act on Kosovo in the near future, even though the United States and many other countries have granted it recognition."

"Because it is CQ's policy to grant credit for contacts with 'new' entities as of the date that their status changes," Moseson continued, "we have decided not to wait for U.N. action, but to follow the lead of the United States and other countries that have recognized Kosovo's independence, and to grant credit for contacts made with stations in Kosovo as of its independence day, February 17, 2008."

(NOTE: This action does not affect the country list for the CQ WW DX Contest. CQWW rules state that its country list is composed of those entities on the DXCC list and the WAE (Worked All Europe) award list. If the WAE Committee decides to add Kosovo to its list, it will automatically be added to the CQWW list.)

♦ UPDATE: Kosova (Kosovo) added to CQ WW DX Contest / CQ DX Marathon Lists

(Hicksville, NY) March 26, 2008 -- The Worked All Europe (WAE) award committee of the Deutsche Amateur Radio Club (DARC) has voted to add Kosova (Kosovo) to the WAE country list. The CQ World Wide DX Contests and the CQ DX Marathon both use a combination of the DXCC and WAE lists as the basis for their country lists. Therefore, Kosova will now be considered a separate entity for both the CQ DX Marathon (effective February 17, 2008) and for the CQ WW DX Contests, beginning with the CQWW RTTY DX Contest on September 27-28, 2008.

CQ previously announced that it was accepting Kosova as a separate entity for award credit, as of February 17, 2008. (Courtesy of CQ Magazine) (continued on page 8)

Shack Of The Month: KB3NUQ



Attached is a picture of my ham shack. I updated since the last picture with a new computer, which I custom built myself. It has two rigs:

- ◆ **ICOM IC-208H dual band** – Arrow J-pole on my roof
- ◆ **Yaesu FT-450AT** – uses a homebrew 6 meter SSB wire antenna hung temporarily in the rear of the basement (I use it as a listening antenna for now). I will relocate it outside at a later date, along with a Gap Titan DX and a Carolina Windom 160 (and quite possibly a 6 meter VHF FM antenna). My summer project is to build a nice antenna farm so I can do some serious DXing!

Many thanks to Bob Mente, KB3NUQ for sharing pics of his shack with us this month!!
73 de KQ3DX. (I still need Shack-Of-The-Month stuff. Consider sending me pictures of your setup; I'd like to feature it here.)



More Miscellaneous News (con't from page 6)

◆ NORTH HILLS ARC OFFERING CPR COURSES

At the next 2 North Hills Amateur Radio Club Activity meetings, March 26 and April 23, you will have the opportunity to get CPR training. The training is The American Heart Association course.

We need a positive response if you wish to get certified. This is important for trainee to trainer ratio, and also to determine if we need a larger meeting place.

We would like to thank Craig Pearson KB3NWE and the trainers from the Elfinwild VFC, for allowing us this opportunity.

PLEASE respond to [<kb3iys@hotmail.com>](mailto:kb3iys@hotmail.com) or 412-486-2785. Thanks; Jim KB3IYS and Cathy KB3OYS

We look forward to seeing you there.

◆ STATION LOCATOR SERVICE NEW FOR FIELD DAY 2008

This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site [<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>](http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php) and follow the instructions.

To list your club on the locator service, a club official or Field Day Chairman needs to go to the Web site. Once there, click on the link for "Add a Station" and follow the instructions.

ARRL Field Day will be held June 28-29. For more information, please visit the Field Day Web page [<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>](http://www.arrl.org/fieldday).

◆ MORE LOCAL HAMFESTS FOR 2008

April 20th 2008

54th Annual Hamfest/Electronics & Computer Show. Location: Emidio & Sons Party Center, 48 East Bath Road. Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Talk-in: 147.270+. Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS [<w8tts@w8tts.com>](mailto:w8tts@w8tts.com) [<http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2006.htm>](http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2006.htm)

April 27th 2008

Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club. Location: at The Spectrum, 6001 Smithfield Street Boston, PA. Talk-in 146.730. Contact: William Hetrick, N3LQC [<n3lqc@comcast.net>](mailto:n3lqc@comcast.net) [<http://www.qsl.net/w3oc>](http://www.qsl.net/w3oc). VE testing. Breakfast and lunch served.

May 16th – 18th 2008

Dayton Hamvention! The big daddy! Location: Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road. [<http://www.hamvention.org>](http://www.hamvention.org)

May 30th to 31st 2008

Rochester Hamfest. Location: Monroe County Fairgrounds Rt. 15A Rochester NY. Talk-in: ? Contact: [<info@rochesterhamfest.org>](mailto:info@rochesterhamfest.org) ARRL Atlantic Division Convention! [<http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/>](http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/>)

June 1st 2008

52nd Annual Breeze Shooters Hamfest & Computer Show This is the biggest area hamfest! Location: Butler Farm Show Grounds. Route 68 East of Butler. Talk-in 147.300+, Contact: Robert W. Benna, N3LWP at [<n3lwp@verizon.net>](mailto:n3lwp@verizon.net) [<http://www.breezeshooters.net>](http://www.breezeshooters.net) Breakfast and lunch served, VE testing.

July 13th 2008

North Hills ARC hamfest. Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road. McCandless Township 15237. Talk-in 147.090+. Contact: Gorman, N3RQD [<n3rqd@earthlink.net>](mailto:n3rqd@earthlink.net) [<http://www.nharc.org>](http://www.nharc.org) Breakfast and lunch served. (continued on page 13)



Website Of The Month

A monthly feature where I try to highlight a website that I hope you, the reader will find informative and useful. **Ye Olde Editor's disclaimer: I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in the websites listed herein.** Once again, my goal is to make the newsletter an interesting and informative read. CUL/73 de KQ3DX

This month's pick: VA3RJ Amateur Radio Resources
<<http://webhome.idirect.com/~va3rj/>>

This is a pretty nice site with lots of different links. No matter what your particular interest is, I'm sure you'll find something here of use to you. I found a nice software download link, that has lots of free logging software available for you to try out. There is also a link to take you to many different radio-related links such as QCWA, Antique Wireless Association, RSGB, plus a whole bunch'a personal websites.

You DX'ers in the club will appreciate the DXPedition website link. This is a listing, complete with hyperlinks to some of the current DXPeditions up and running. Not only that, but you can also check for your call in one of the 8300 logs available on-line. Of particular interest was the link where you can check and see if any E-QSL cards are waiting for you. To my surprise I found about 300 waiting for me!! You'll also find a link here to quick-and-dirty propagation info, along with an easy to understand explanation of what those numbers mean.

Looking for parts or tubes to finish that boat-anchor project? There is quite an extensive list of suppliers here to help you with your needs. Also for you homebrewers is a nice list of website links you'll find of interest.

There are also links to contest calendars, and what is referred to as the 'ICPO' calendar. This is a listing of 'Islands, Castles and Portable Operations. Here, you'll find a list of past, current and even future DXPeditions; this currently lists operations scheduled thru November 2008.

In addition to the many different links available, each page offers a simple, easy-to-understand explanation of the different modes and topics you are looking at, such as 'Handi-Ham', county hunting, contesting and many others. I think the beginner in the hobby will find these of particular interest.

It'll answer your questions without all of the confusing technical jargon.

So, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned operator, I think you'll find this site informative and useful. Be sure to check it out.

That's it for this month. Thanks for reading!!! CUL/73 de KQ3DX.

If you have a website that you think would be of interest to our members, send it to me. Shoot an E-Mail to: <KQ3DX@hotmail.com>. I am constantly on the lookout for interesting websites to list and describe here. Thanks!! 73 de KQ3DX.



The E-Bay Report

A monthly feature where I try to highlight some of the more interesting auctions on E-Bay. **Ye Olde Editor's disclaimer: I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in any of the auctions listed herein.** My goal here is to make for some interesting reading. CUL/73 de KQ3DX

Our topic for this month: Complete Ten-Tec stations.

This first one up is for a complete Ten-Tec Model 563 Omni VI. By complete, I mean that the rig has the matching power supply for the rig, PLUS a Hercules II Linear Amp, along with it's matching power supply. Also included were all of the interface cables, and a model 705 desk mic. From the pictures I saw, it looked very clean and well kept, no scratches or blemishes of any kind. The seller listed it as being purchased new by an elderly radio operator who used it very infrequently. Also included were all of the original manuals. If purchased separately, total cost new would have been over \$4600.00. A total of 10 bids were received for this auction. Final price: \$1825.00. Somebody walked away with a complete turnkey station for a cheap price. Ten Tec has a reputation for building quality gear. That's why their stuff will always sell on E-Bay, unless it has an outrageous starting bid or reserve price on it. I have an Omni VI, and I use it a lot; it is one of my favorite radios of all time. I've had it for about 13 years and I plan on holding on to it for at least another 13 years. (continued on next page)

The E-Bay Report (con't from page 9)



The complete Ten-Tec Omni VI station as auctioned on E-Bay. That's a Hercules Solid-State amp between the rig and power supply.



The Ten Tec Corsair auction as seen on E-Bay. This one has the more powerful Centurion amp with it.

This next one I found is for a Ten Tec Corsair station. The Corsair is a little older vintage than the Omni VI; I believe it is from the early to mid 80's, whereas the Omni VI is from the mid 90's. This particular auction came complete with the matching power supply, matching external VFO, (the Corsair and the Corsair II had only one internal VFO. To use it in split frequency operation, you had to purchase the external VFO), and a Centurion Linear Amp. The Hercules amp described in the listing above is a solid-state amp with 500 watts out, and the Centurion in this auction is a tube amp capable of 1300 watts output. This particular Corsair rig had all of the internal SSB/CW optional filters installed, too. To complete the set, all of the original manuals were included in this auction, along with the original mic. Although not as clean as the Omni VI station listed here (the seller listed some scratches and blemishes on it), it still seemed to be in very good condition. 10 bids were also received on this one, with a final price of \$1620.00. Once again someone got a complete turnkey station for a nice price. All you need do is to add an antenna and you're on the air! The Centurion by itself is worth the total cost of this auction.

That's it for this month. Thanks for reading!!
CUL/73 de KQ3DX



More ARRL WPA Section News (con't from pg. 5)

As I look at the calendar, spring is just around the corner. Antenna projects and activities will be in the making as well as plans for Field Day. Any club that would like to arrange for me to stop by their field day site should send me an invite along with directions or an address that I can put into the GPS. I will be traveling to as many field day locations as possible this June. As I mentioned last month we finally have gotten the four districts filled with district emergency coordinator appointments. Don Cripe KE3MM moved from North 1 to South 1 where he lives. Vic Pears KX8V is the DEC for North 1. Jason Bange KB3PJF is the new DEC for North 2 and Drew McGhee KA3EJV is the DEC for South 2. John Szwarc N3SPW is the section emergency coordinator. We still have a need for emergency coordinators in several counties of the section. The following counties currently have vacancies: Butler, Lawrence, Westmoreland, Warren, Somerset, Bedford, Fulton, Cambria, Elk, Cameron and Potter. Anyone interested in applying for these positions should contact John Szwarc at [<n3spw@arrl.net>](mailto:n3spw@arrl.net) and he will forward your information to the DEC for the correct region. The DEC will send his recommendation to John who in turn will forward to me for appointment. Beaver county has a new emergency coordinator in Frank Cole N3TN. There were several candidates and Frank was selected from the individuals that submitted an application. At the last board of directors meeting two new positions were created in an assistant DEC and SEC. If you are interested in those positions you should again contact John for his consideration. Recently two hamfests were held in our section. I am sorry that I was unable to make either event but a sudden death in the family prohibited my attending those events. Anyone that was looking to talk with me can do so at the next hamfest in April sponsored the Two Rivers ARC. Our first webinar was a great success with the discussion on ways to help clubs build memberships and find topics for club presentations. There will be another webinar on April 19 and one in May. One will be on emergency issues and the other on public relations. If you would like more information on these webinars go to [<http://www.atldiv.org>](http://www.atldiv.org) and click on the training tab. You will find details on registering for the webinars. Please go to the division website and register under the training tab to participate in the upcoming conferences. Don't forget to download the field day information package

at the league web site. Also take a look at the pins and other items they have available. Join us nightly for the WPA Phone and Traffic net at 3983 Khz at 6 PM local time.

73 John Rodgers N3MSE W. Pa. Section Manager
[<n3mse@arrl.org>](mailto:n3mse@arrl.org)



SCARC's newest member. Welcome, Colin Humphries to our humble abode. Colin, KB3PNE, lives in the Castle Shannon area and is a "brave soul" QRP operator. We are most happy to have you among our membership, welcome aboard.

Although not listed on our SCARC April birthday list, we wish Colin a "Happy Birthday" on the 8th of April.



Report From Honduras, de NN4KW

♦ The following is a letter to Nat W3SVJ, from ex-SCARC member Ken Wood, NN4KW, ex W3RUZ

Well, I am back from the jungles of Honduras. Made it OK and unlike Hilary when I stepped off that bush plane on that grass strip in that jungle I didn't have to duck to miss the poison darts and arrows.... Just had to walk a half mile toting about 40 pounds of radio gear and my personal gear. It was real exciting to say the least. One thing I will say up front, those poor missionaries deserve a lot of credit for what they have to put up with and endure. We slept on air mattresses in mosquito tents at night.

Got off that Cessna late in the afternoon and when we got to the church we stayed at we got the natives to climb the church steeple and a big cashew tree and hang a G5RV Jr. antenna. Also had them put up a 2 meter antenna but that didn't work too well. We used WinLink 2000 to communicate via internet thru a connection via N5TW in Texas. We had solid comms all the time we were there. The next day we had the natives reposition the 2 meter antenna and we had comms 24/7 with the field hospital about 30 miles across the lagoon.

I have about 700 pix. I am going to put about 50 or so together for a power point presentation. I can send you a few discs when I get them done.

I didn't catch any nasty diseases that I know of yet but I sure got my feet and ankles chewed up with some real vampire bugs that left welts about an eight of an inch wide and a half inch long. Itched like crazy and pussied up. We had a really great team and you'd never dream how close and bonded a small group could get.

We are coming up to Pittsburgh the middle of May for my 75th birthday at my sister Penny's place. I sure hope you're around. I want to see you before we meet way up yonder. I am sure the Good Lord will not put us in separate places... My kid says I am just an old man trying to earn my way into heaven.

Well maybe I am.... Oh well....



Hope you guys are doing well and see ya soon, I hope. I trust you're still in good health. You are a good clean living guy, aren't you.... 73 for now and best to the remaining old dudes at the club.

Ken Wood NN4KW ex W3RUZ Marion NC



Joe Mielnicki, WA3FWA. No, he's NOT one of the newer members. Joe's QTH is perched in Greentree overlooking the Parkway.

With his tri-band beam and a few wire antennas he has done very nicely in the DX department. Aside from being the club's elected recording secretary, Joe has been the reliable person who stocks the pop machine and runs the 50/50 meeting activity for more years than he would care to remember. Thank you Bro Joe.



More Misc. News (con't)

July 20th 2008

Somerset County Amateur Radio Club. Location: Somerset County Vo-Tech School. Talk-in: 147.195 123.0pl. Contact: Stewart Saylor, AK3J <ak3j@arrl.net> <<http://www.k3smt.org/>>

August 24th 2008 The best little hamfest in the world!

ARRL Section Convention!

Skyview Radio Society 48th annual Swap N Shop! Location: Skyview Radio Society clubhouse grounds. 2335 Turkey Ridge Road. New Kensington, PA 15068. Talk-in: 146.640-131.8pl. Contact: Robert Boehmer, KG3F at <SkyviewHamfest2008@verizon.net>. Map and directions at <www.skyviewradio.net>. Breakfast and lunch served.

August 30th 2008

Uniontown ARC Gabfest. Location: Uniontown ARC club grounds, on Old Pittsburgh Road just off of Rt. 51 and Rt. 119. Talk-in 147.045+ 131.8pl. Contact: Tony Alviar, KA3VOR (724) 430-1277 (M-F 8-4); <newsletter@w3pie.org> <www.w3pie.org>. Breakfast and lunch served, free admission.



The April Birthday Bunch

Happy Birthday, and many happy returns to all our club members celebrating birthdays this month!!

Chuck, N3UUZ 14th

Stan, W3MHY 15th

Lee, N3SAF 23rd

No April Fools in this bunch!! Happy Birthday all!!



Propagation

Courtesy of the
ARRL Letter.

Tad Cook, K7RA ARRL Propagation Editor, this week reports: It is exciting to see heightened solar activity one week into spring. Currently, three sunspots are visible: 987, 988 and 989. The consensus says that all seem to be old Solar Cycle 23 spots. But with the three sunspot groups so close to the Sun's equator, it is hard to tell for certain. We know that Cycle 24 spots should have magnetic polarity opposing the magnetic signature of Cycle 23 sunspots, but this is also true for sunspots below the equator relative to sunspots above. Average sunspot numbers for the reporting week (Thursday through Wednesday) rose more than 18 points from the previous week, to 23.4. The average daily solar flux was up nearly six points to 75.4. The average geomagnetic indicators were unchanged, but this is because they fell from the start of last week and rose this week. Sunspot numbers for March 20 through 26 were 0, 0, 0, 14, 35, 52 and 63 with a mean of 23.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.4, 68.2, 69.6, 72, 79.4, 88.6, and 81.6 with a mean of 75.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 5, 5, 8, 4, 4 and 27 with a mean of 8.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 4, 4, 7, 2, 3 and 16 with a mean of 6.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>.



Credits/Thanks

Thanks to those who contributed to this month's newsletter. Your efforts are appreciated by Ye Olde Editor. It makes my job a whole lot easier, plus it makes for interesting reading. (At least, I hope it does.):

WA3FWA, W3SVJ, ARRL, N3MSE, N3LLR, KB3NUQ,
N3DOK, NN4KW, OPDX/BARF80/KB8NW
and CQ Magazine.

That's it for this month. CU next month with more news and features. Thanks for reading!!

CUL/73 de KQ3DX et al.



March 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2008

May 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net SkyView Business Meeting	2 Alleg Co. ARES Net SCARC Social Nite	3 SkyView 2M Net WACOM Meeting	4 Montana QSO Party	5 EA RTTY Contest Missouri QSO Party Montana QSO Party QCWA QSO Party SP DX Contest
6 WASH Net EA RTTY Contest Missouri QSO Party QCWA QSO Party SP DX Contest	7 Breezeshooters Net RSGB 80M Club Champ. CW	8 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Foothills ARC Business Meeting	9 Alleg Co. ARES Net NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint SCARC Social Nite NHARC Business Meeting	10 SkyView 2M Net WASH Meeting	11	12 Yuri Gagarin DX Contest Georgia QSO Party JIDX CW Contest EU Spring CW Sprint
13 WASH Net Georgia QSO Party UBA Spring Contest SSB Yuri Gagarin DX Contest JIDX CW Contest	14 Breezeshooters Net	15 INCOME TAXES DUE TODAY!! WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net SCARC Business Meeting SkyView Social Nite 2 Rivers ARC Business Meeting	16 Alleg Co. ARES Net RSGB 80M Club Champ. SSB	17 SkyView 2M Net	18	19 Ontario QSO Party Michigan QSO Party Holy Land DX Contest YU DX Contest EU SSB Spring Sprint
20 Tri-State Radio Fest WASH Net Ontario QSO Party Michigan QSO Party YU DX Contest	21 Breezeshooters Net Run For The Bacon QRP Test	22 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	23 Alleg Co. ARES Net SCARC Social Nite SKCC Sprint	24 SkyView 2M Net	25	26 Florida QSO Party WASH Breakfast SP DX RTTY Contest
27 WASH Net Florida QSO Party Two Rivers ARC Hamfest SP DX RTTY Contest	28 Breezeshooters Net	29 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	30 Alleg Co. ARES Net SCARC Social Nite			

April 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2008

June 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM Business Meeting</i>	2	3 <i>10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW</i> <i>7th Call Area QSO Party</i> <i>Indiana QSO Party</i> <i>New England QSO Party</i>
4 <i>WASH Net</i> <i>10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW</i> <i>7th Call Area QSO Party</i> <i>Indiana QSO Party</i> <i>New England QSO Party</i>	5 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	6 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>Skyview Business Meeting</i>	7 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	8 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i> <i>WASH Business Meeting</i>	9	10 <i>FISTS Spring Sprint</i>
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>WASH Net</i>	12 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	13 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>Foothills ARC Meeting</i>	14 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>NHARC Business Meeting</i>	15 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i>	16 <i>DAYTON HAMVENTION</i>	17 <i>DAYTON HAMVENTION</i> <i>Armed Forces Day</i> <i>MARAC SSB QSO Party</i> <i>His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW</i>
18 <i>DAYTON HAMVENTION</i> <i>WASH Net</i> <i>MARAC SSB QSO Party</i> <i>His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW</i>	19 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> <i>Run for the Bacon QRP Contest</i>	20 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>Skyview Social Nite</i> <i>2 Rivers ARC Business Meeting</i>	21 <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	22 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i>	23	24 <i>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</i>
25 <i>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</i> <i>MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint</i> <i>WASH Net</i>	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> <i>MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint</i>	27 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i>	28 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	29 <i>Skyview 2M Net</i>	30 <i>Rochester (NY) Hamfest</i>	31 <i>WASH Club Breakfast</i> <i>Rochester (NY) Hamfest</i>

The Steel City Amateur Radio Club
(412) 787-0777

2M Repeater:
147.030/147.630MHz (PL 123.0)

70cm Repeater:
444.450/449.450MHz (PL 103.5)

WA3TTS Beacon: 144.300MHz
(CW)

ATV Repeater: 426.250MHz
(Currently off-line. Contact AA3EE
for more info.)

1296MHz Beacon: 1296.269MHz
(CW) 1W

Check us out online:
www.w3kwh.com

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



STEEL CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
RD 5 McMICHAEL RD. PITTSBURGH 5, PA.

W3KWH

RADIO W8LOF 100 WTS: 100 WTS: 100 WTS
Ur CW Fone Sigs 100 WTS: 100 WTS
Q 5 R S T 1 100 WTS: 100 WTS
On Sept. 28 1954 100 WTS: 100 WTS
Time 2330 EST 100 WTS: 100 WTS
DOE QSL 100 WTS: 100 WTS TNX FOR QSO 100 WTS: 100 WTS
73 OPR 100 WTS: 100 WTS 100 WTS: 100 WTS
W3KWH 100 WTS: 100 WTS
W3KWH PRINT

Tuesday April 15th: That's an important date for 2 reasons. 1: Business meeting at the Clubhouse @ 8:00PM. 2: Federal/State income taxes are due that day. Don't forget to mail them in!!



Steel City Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 281
Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106
Phone 412-787-0777
Editor: Greg Babin, KQ3DX
KQ3DX@hotmail.com
Internet: www.w3kwh.com

SCARC Constitution Article VII, section & By-Laws

“Dues must be paid by the regular meeting in April

STEEL CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

Membership Renewal and Information Update Form

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: Day _____ Evening _____

BIRTHDATE _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ Exp _____

EMAIL: _____

Would you like the newsletter E-mailed to you ? YES NO

Please indicate if you are also an ARRL Member. YES NO

ARRL information is requested to keep our ARRL affiliation current

Membership rates for 2007:

Regular Member : \$50.00

Retired member (Over 65) \$50.00

Additional Family Member \$15.00

DX Member \$15.00

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

Walt Adkins KA3YNO
476 First Street
Heildeberg, PA 15106

OR

Steel City Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 281
Carnegie, PA 15106

Of course payment will be accepted on Wednesday evenings and on the meeting nights

Your early renewal assures your continued access to the clubhouse and permits better planning of club activities