

APRIL | 2009 | ISSUE 4

**NEXT MEETING: APRIL 21 @
THE CLUBHOUSE. MEETING STARTS
AT 8:00PM. FOOD & SOCIALIZING
FUN STARTS IMMEDIATELY
THEREAFTER. CU THERE!**



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

► YOU CAN NOW SEE THE
NEW AND IMPROVED INFO
PAGE, ALONG WITH CLUB
OFFICER INFORMATION AND
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► SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN
THE MONTHS OF APRIL &
MAY: **PAGE 22** FOR APRIL,
PAGE 23 FOR MAY.

KiloWatt Harmonics

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

The Prez Sez

April is almost over and Old Man Winter gave us one last blast. Let's hope that's all we will get! Then there is the blast some of may get from tax time! What joy! Veins popping, the endless flow of coffee or whatever. Hemlock perhaps? Nah. Let us forget all this nasty tax stuff, and go where most everybody knows your call. The April meeting is almost here and just HAS to be a better time than doing taxes!

Spring is almost sprung and, like most boys and girls, we all get that itch. Ah, that itch to venture out see just where we can hang another antenna! Oooppss, better get after some of those weeds before they get out of control. Well we are also itching to do the same at KWH. This year we will be needing some weeding and some new antennas. What does weeding have to do with antenna work? Excellent question! If we get the weeds under control, that will make the job of antenna work go that much smoother. See me, or Karl VXJ to help with the 'Easy Weeding'. Looks like we are in need of a new repeater antenna and the KLM is not looking to good either. Some new wire antenna ideas are being kicked about, hence the weeding thing. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)**



More competition on the 440 band??

On March 20, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM [<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf>](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf)), proposing to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)**

Club & Officer Info/Table Of Contents

Officers of The Steel City Amateur Radio Club:

**President: Robert
Lenfestey, WB3HDI
(412)-276-5106
<WB3HDI@w3kwh.com>**

**VP: Michael Sapp,
WA3TTS
(412) 364-2740**

**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**

**Ye Olde Editor:
Greg Babin, NB3C
<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>**

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**KiloWatt Harmonics,
April 2009**

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Amateur Radio Club**

Edited by Greg Babin, NB3C

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**All contributions are
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<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>**

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

**The Steel City Amateur Radio Club (412) 787-0777
2M Repeater: 147.030/147.630MHz (PL 123.0)
70cm Repeater: 444.450/449.450MHz (PL 103.5)
WA3TTS Beacon: 144.300MHz (CW)
WA3TTS Beacon: 50.070MHz (CW) 1/2 w ERP
ATV Repeater: 426.250MHz (Currently off-line.
Contact AA3EE for more info.)
1296MHz Beacon: 1296.269MHz (CW) 1W**

**AND I COULDN'T HAVE PRODUCED
THIS NEWSLETTER WITHOUT THE
HELP OF THESE FINE PEOPLE:
N3VEF, N3DOK, WA3FWA, K3VX ,
N3MSE, W3SVJ & ARRL. THANKS
ALL, FOR YOUR EFFORTS. 73 DE
NB3C ET AL!**

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

In The World Of DX.....

⇒ **UGANDA, 5X.** Nick, G3RWF is QRV as 5X1NH for two months. He is active generally on 80 and 40 meters during his early mornings and evenings using mostly CW. If propagation permits, he may be active using SSB, RTTY and PSK31 as well. QSL to home call.

⇒ **ZAMBIA, 9J.** Gabriel, YO4HEK is QRV as 9J2YO and is here for one year. He is active on all bands using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via YO4ATW.

⇒ **OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Desecheo Island, K5D, 2009 operation

⇒ **NIGERIA, 5N.** Bodo, DL3OCH is QRV as 5N0OCH from Abuja. Activity is mostly during his evenings and weekends on all HF bands. He will try to be active on 160 meters as well. He is using CW, SSB, RTTY and EME. QSL to home call.

⇒ **CROATIA, 9A.** Special event station 9A09P is active until December 31 in celebration of the city of Djurdjevac. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

⇒ **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TL.** Christian, TL0A has been active on

80, 20 and 17 meters at various times. QSL direct.

⇒ MIDWAY ISLAND 2009

A multi national team of 19 operators will activate Midway Island in October 2009. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has authorized amateur operation from this rare US entity for only a 10 day period, its first radio activity in almost 10 years

Midway Island ranks number 24 worldwide and number 13 in Europe on the DX Magazine's "Most Wanted List". Activity will be on 6 meters to 160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country. Major efforts will be made to meet the demand to the most needed geographical areas, the low bands and RTTY.

Team members are AA4NN, EA1IR, DJ9ZB, KH7U, KI6TVS, KL2A, N1DG, N4PN, N4XP, N6GQ, N7CQQ, WB4JTT, W6KK, W6OSP, WA7NB, W8CAA, W8GEX, WA8NJR and OK1KT. Off site support is being provided by AA1V, W5DNT and W6XA.

Travel to Midway is only allowed by chartered aircraft. Because of the size of the aircraft, the team is presented with unique challenges. As such, the aircraft will only be able to carry the team requiring the equipment to be shipped by boat some months ahead. Adding to the high cost of transportation, daily fees and other charges established by the USF&WLS makes this operation very expensive.

A web site has been established and can be found at

<www.midway2009.com>.

Please support this endeavor by sending a donation. To make it easy to donate you can contribute electronically using the web site or if you choose regular means you may do so. Instructions are given on the web site for either method. Updates will be published on the web site as they become available.

⇒ **EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA.** Special event station R150A is QRV from the Central Museum of Communications in St. Petersburg until the end of April in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of A.S. Popov. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via RK1A.

⇒ **AUSTRIA, OE.** In commemoration of the establishment of the Radio Club of America in 1909, members of the Amateur Radio Section of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation will be QRV as OE100M from April 1 to 30. This is also the callsign of the official International Marconi Day station. QSL via OE1WHC.

⇒ **CROATIA, 9A.** Members of the Radio Club Varazdin are QRV as 9A800VZ until the end of the year to celebrate the 800th anniversary of King Andrija II, including an entry in the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL via 9A7A.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

Business Meeting Minutes: March 2009

Meeting conducted by WB3HDI, Bob at 8 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for our Silent Keys. The roll call revealed 30 members and 5 guests in attendance. Minutes of the Feb. meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. Treasurer's report was accepted as given by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt. He stated that about 60 members have paid their dues to date.

Committee Reports

Clubhouse WA3VXJ, Karl cleaned the clubhouse and is preparing the after meeting treats. He also suggests that we have a work party to clean up the outside grounds around the clubhouse.

Technical WA3TTS, Mike is working on the K9AY antenna control box and wires.

Contest Breeze Shooters ground wave contest this Saturday evening. CQ WPX phone contest the last weekend of March.

Membership WA3BKD, Art gave the 1st reading for Gary Craig, no call yet.

Newsletter Editor NB3C, Greg thanked all who sent info for the article about KA3LNG, Kurt (SK). He is always looking for pictures, articles and local news for the newsletter, and hope all like the new format.

Public Service N3EQP, John ran a

recent Skywarn net for a FEMA exercise. KA3JKS, Sue will send a club donation to the ARRL in memory of KA3LNG. NU3Q, Bob said that more volunteers are needed for the Pittsburgh Marathon. He will run a class on Traffic Handling at the clubhouse on a Wed. night after a meeting.

Ways and Means WA3FWA, Joe will run the 50/50 raffle and auction the 2008 CB-CD after the meeting and collect any outgoing QSL cards for the ARRL bureau. A new tablecloth for the buffet table has been put in place.

PC/Web Site Any email changes for the SCARC members list should be emailed to W3WTW, Tim (N3EQP). Unpaid members will be dropped from the SCARC members list (WB3HDI). Paid up members will be issued a card bearing the new door code, changed annually (W3SVJ).

Volunteer Exams AI3J, Mark had one applicant who successfully passed the Extra exam. Next session will be held at the clubhouse Mon. June 15.

Old Business Art reported that the club's scholarship offer is still in effect but no takers. He has a pole for displaying the club's street address at the beginning of the road. Art detailed at contractor's bid to clear and fill in the roadside ditch along the 300 ft. concrete section with 80 ton of stone. The proposal was passed by the membership and Art will get a contract for the job. We have not yet been given a map from the vendor of the club's property survey. N3DQ, Della displayed the AED module

recently purchased by the club and she will run instructional classes for 6 members each time on Wednesdays Apr. 1 and 8 at 7 PM.

New Business NU3S, Al expressed an interest in having a D-Star operation at the club. The ensuing discussion brought to light that this operation requires the use of a 440 repeater which would cause problems to the existing 444.5 repeater function. N3EQP and NU3S will gather the pros and cons involved in order to get a solution for D-Star in operation at the club.

Good of the Order WA3RVD, Mel thought we could offer ham radio service communications to local communities such as police depts. The consensus of opinions was that they know little or nothing about ham radio and do not welcome our solicitation unless they ask for us. Walt reported that W3SRS, Stu is working on the new cell site contract along with the aid of an attorney.

Motion to adjourn By Art. **50/50 Raffle** won by WA8NLY, Rick.

CB-CD auction won by N3SAF, Lee.

Art had an after meeting demo of his home brew j-pole antenna and ladder line feed through creations.

Minutes by WA3FWA, Joe.

Next Business Meeting:
April 21st, 8:00PM

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 COORDI- NATOR: 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>

ARRL WPA Section News

The past few weeks have been busy with several very successful hamfests. I was glad to see the events were well attended. Our next hamfest will be on April 26 in Boston, Pa. sponsored by the Two Rivers ARC. All the area hamfests are listed at the league web site <www.arrl.org/hamfests.html> Keep checking the web site periodically as new hamfests are approved as they are submitted. I will be present at all the ARRL approved hamfests either at the league table or walking around the event.

During the past few weeks we have been hit with a few damaging wind storms. One of these storms did some major damage at the Skyview ARC club house and grounds. Many antennas were ruined and towers also destroyed. The club members are continuing to work at clean up and replacing the antennas and other equipment. Anyone interested in helping out with manpower or possible donations of material can contact the club at k3mjw@arrl.net Remember that spring is just a week away and severe thunderstorms will be happening so keep the batteries charged and this is also a good time to check your grounding materials for good connection and safety.

Many of you have expressed concern that House Bill 538 which will restrict the use of cellular communications while driving. This issue is being addressed by both myself and EPA section Manager Eric Olena. I have been told by several members of the house that there is a provision in the existing bill that amateur radio would be excluded under provisions of a two way radio device. Efforts will be continuing to insure that this issue is clarified in the proposed bill.

Sign up now to help work the 2009 Pittsburgh Marathon! We need around 150 Amateur Radio operators to help make this huge event a success. On-line registration makes it easy to volunteer. Even if you are new to Amateur Radio you can always help. You will simply be paired up with a more experienced operator. We need people at mile posts, aid stations, shadows, on buses, bicycles and more. Plan now on working the Pittsburgh Marathon on May 3rd, 2009. You'll be glad you did. For more details and to sign up simply go to: <<http://www.pittsburghmarathon.com/>> Contact: Jeff Hutzelman N3NHS <jhutz@cmu.edu>, 412-401-8348. Thanks in advance for your support!

Several clubs will be conducting traffic handling training programs. One already scheduled will be on May 12 at the Skyview ARC club house. More information is available at <<http://www.skyviewradio.net/>> Join one of the traffic nets in the area. A listing of nets is available at <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/client/>> this will allow you to search for the type of net that may interest you and provide an opportunity for you to participate.

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

SWODXA Dayton Hamvention Dinner Bash

The SouthWest Ohio DX Association is pleased to sponsor the 24th annual DX Dinner to be held in conjunction with the 2009 Dayton HamVention. The dinner will be Friday evening, 15 May, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located in Dayton city center. This is the same venue as in previous years.

The program details are not yet complete and will be released as soon as they are finalized. As in the past, there will be some nice door prizes. Last year the main prize was an Icom IC-756 Pro III, but this year ICOM has promised us one of the first IC-7600's to be brought in to the United States!

Attendees will have their choice of either a steak dinner or a vegetarian dinner. We must be informed when the tickets are ordered if you want the vegetarian option. Tickets are \$39.00 per meal, payable in US funds to SWODXA. (Sorry, we do not process PayPal or Credit Card payments.) Please advise if you want a vegetarian meal when you order. You may order from Pete Meyer, N0FW, at his CBA. SASE is requested. We attempt to honor group seating requests when tickets are ordered together. There is not a bad seat in the house, but seating is definitely limited. Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Up-to-date information may be found on the club's website: www.swodxa.com. Pete's email address is n0fw@live.com. Last year Yaesu joined us in sponsoring the DX forum during HamVention. They have agreed to partner with us again for 2009. There will be a FT-2000 with PEP raffled off at the end of the DX forum. The winner does not have to be present. Tickets for a chance on the FT-2000 are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. For your convenience, they may be ordered at the same time you purchase your DX dinner tickets. All proceeds from this raffle are used by SWODXA to assist in providing DXpedition grants. We look forward to helping make HamVention a more enjoyable experience for all DXers. C U there!

From Larry Comden, K3VX, comes the following:

My wife Tippi has posted an edited copy of a 1973 FD film (transferred from Super 8 to VHS to digital) on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqidiBDa9bc>

1. This FD was in South Park at the site I hope WASH can use this year,

2. A few of the participants from the South Hills BrassPounders and Modulators are still active hams - you'll see much younger versions of Andy WA3PBD, Joe WA3WNT, Bill W3LDB, Bob WA3MWO, too much of me (consider the film makers' names!) and others whose names and calls I've forgotten.

3. Many silent keys are here, too. Howard W3MML, Frank W3QNI, Ed Lips (call?)

4. Lots of silent equipment, too. Like the Swan, Heathkit stuff and the 300W CW rig I'm using.

Gone is the generator, tent, and those concession sheds we used.

Anyway, some of the fun of FD and some of the dangerous practices (tower stuff especially) are captured here. I noticed that the 1/4 keg of beer never made it into the film, although it certainly made it into the operators.

Enjoy and 73.

Traffic handling class on Wednesday, May 20th (the day after our May business meeting). Your presenters will be NU3Q and N3MSE. C U at the SCARC clubhouse - all are welcome!

Sorry about the format on this one guys & gals, but I wasn't about to re-type this into lower and upper case. Although you probably won't go to the Pentagon to operate, I thought you might be interested in participating anyway.

Armed Forces Day

SITUATION: MARS WILL TAKE PART IN THE ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY COMMEMORATION WEEKEND OF 09-10 MAY 2009. ON-AIR OPERATIONS CONSIST OF SIMPLE CROSSBAND CONTACTS BETWEEN DESIGNATED MARS STATIONS AND THE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY. ADDITIONALLY SEVERAL MARS STATIONS WILL BROADCAST A SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MESSAGE TO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS. EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT WILL APPEAR IN VARIOUS AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS. THIS MESSAGE REQUESTS VOLUNTEER OPERATORS AT THE PENTAGON STATION. THIS HAS TYPICALLY BEEN A SPIRITED AND HIGH PARTICIPATION EVENT. W-A-R ALONE CONTACTED OVER 300 AMATEUR STATIONS IN THE 2008 AFDCBT.

MISSION: REF A CONFIRMS AAN3PNT AT THE PENTAGON WILL FUNCTION AS STATION W-A-R DURING ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY MILITARY/AMATEUR CROSSBAND COMMUNICATIONS TEST SATURDAY 09 MAY 2009. W-A-R WILL BE ONE OF APPROXIMATELY 14 STATIONS ACROSS ALL SERVICES.

VOLUNTEER OPERATORS. STATION SEEKS VOLUNTEER MARS OPERATORS FROM ANY MARS SERVICE TO OPERATE FROM PENTAGON AS W-A-R. THEY WILL AUGMENT REGULAR PENTAGON OPERATORS. AS A JOINT-SERVICE MARS STATION, AAN3PNT WILL EMPLOY ALL-SERVICE MARS OPERATORS, PRIMARILY FROM REGION 3 BUT WILL CONSIDER OPERATORS FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION.

THOSE MARS OPERATORS WITHOUT REGULAR PENTAGON ACCESS WILL REQUIRE ESCORT FROM THE PENTAGON ENTRANCE TO STATION AND BACK. HOST STATION K4AF/AAN3PNT WILL ACCEPT A LIMITED NUMBER OF NON-BADGED VISITORS.

VOLUNTEER GUEST OPERATORS WILL OPERATE UNDER SUPERVISION OF NORMAL STATION OPERATORS.

PRESENT PLANS ARE FOR THREE SHIFTS OF FOUR HOURS EACH, DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER OPERATORS AND AVAILABLE PENTAGON ESCORTS. WE WILL ADJUST THE OPERATING HOURS TO BALANCE OPERATOR RESOURCES. EXECUTION: STATION AAN3PNT AT PENTAGON PLANS CROSSBAND OPERATIONS WITH TRANSMIT FREQUENCIES AS PUBLISHED IN AFDCBT ANNOUNCEMENT. PRIMARY PERIOD OF OPERATIONS IS 091200-092400Z MAY 2009 (TWELVE HOURS).

AAN3PNT AS W-A-R WILL BROADCAST THE 2009 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SECDEF) ARMED FORCES DAY MESSAGE TO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS DURING A DAYTIME AND NIGHTTIME BROADCAST SLOT.

SERVICE SUPPORT: FOR AAA3RD, REQUEST REGION 3 DISTRIBUTION. THIS MESSAGE WILL ALSO GO TO AIR FORCE AND NAVY-MARINE CORPS MARS RGN 3.

COMMAND AND SIGNAL: AAN3PNT WILL CONTACT ALL VOLUNTEERS WITH APPROVALS AND DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS/LOGISTICS AFTER ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE KNOWN---PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME, MARS AND AMATEUR CALLSIGNS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS AND OPERATING TIME AVAILABILITY TO POINT OF CONTACT (POC): R I C K L O W A A T 3 P G : <AAT3PG@WINLINK.ORG> OR <RICK.LOW@NSS.PENTAGON.MIL>

(Thanks to Billy, N3VEF for this article. 73 de NB3C)

News from the national front.....

Courtesy of the
ARRL Bulletin

⇒ AGENDA FOR WRC-11 POSES OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGES FOR HAMS

The next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11) <<http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/index.asp?category=conferences&link=wrc-11&lang=en>> is scheduled for fall 2011. These periodic conferences of the Member States of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) consider allocations to the various radio services -- including the Amateur Radio Service -- and evaluate what new technologies and applications should be addressed by future conferences.

The agenda for WRC-11, developed by the delegates at the last WRC in Geneva in 2007 (WRC-07), was formally adopted by the ITU Council in 2008. There are 25 agenda items addressing potential new or revised spectrum allocations to existing services. Of most interest to amateurs is agenda item 1.23, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services."

"This agenda item is the highest item on my long term priority list," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX. "We are fortunate that WRC-11 presents an opportunity for a new secondary allocation in the medium waves. While the outcome in 2011 is far from certain, our experience in other bands -- most notably 30 meters -- indicates Amateur Radio's compatibility with certain other services as a secondary user."

Price said that some WRCs have posed great challenges for Amateur Radio, with blocks of spectrum potentially at risk.

"This was the case at WRC-03 and WRC-07, which posed a very real potential reallocation of portions of the 40 meter band in Region 2 to HF broadcasting," he said.

"The agenda for WRC-11 does not pose any threats to Amateur Radio as clear or as overt as those faced in prior years." Price and ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, are monitoring developments on a number of other agenda items that could affect Amateur Radio if they take unanticipated turns, including:

- * Agenda item 1.14, considering requirements for and implementation of the radiolocation service (radar) between 30-300 MHz.
- * Agenda item 1.15, considering possible allocations between 3-50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
- * Agenda item 1.19, considering regulatory measures to enable software-defined and cognitive radio systems.
- * Agenda item 1.22, examining the effect of emissions from short-range devices.

"Oceanographic radar is perhaps our biggest defensive issue," Price said. "Fortunately, its proponents, at least domestically and at least at this time, are acknowledging that sharing with Amateur Radio would be problematic."

WRC-11 is tentatively scheduled for October 24-November 18, 2011, in Geneva.

⇒ US COAST GUARD TO DISCONTINUE LORAN STATIONS

Last month, the US Coast Guard <<http://www.uscg.mil/>> announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 LORAN-C (Long Range Aid to Navigation) <<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm>> stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska.

LORAN-A stations were developed beginning in World War II, and signals were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. LORAN-A was responsible for reduced amateur radio operations, including frequency and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

Website Of The Month.....

A frequent feature where I try to highlight websites I hope you will find interesting. **YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER:** I have no interest either pecuniary or monetary in the websites listed herein. Just trying to add a little zip to the newsletter. Thanks for reading!!

This month's pick: Paul Thurrott's Super-Site for Windows

⇒ <http://www.winsupersite.com/>

Yeah, yeah, I know, I know; this is not an Amateur Radio related website. But, since I figured that 99.97% of us are probably running some form of MS Windows on our shack computer, this would be a good site to highlight, especially since Microsoft is getting ready to launch its latest and greatest OS, known officially as 'Windows 7' in the 3rd quarter of this year.

If you are even thinking of upgrading from XP or Vista to Windows 7, give this site a lookie. It has all kinds of useful info and screenshots. Updated on an almost daily basis, it is full of all kinds of news & info on Win 7 AND on Vista. Interested in seeing what the new build will look like? Many screenshots are available for your viewing pleasure here. You can also read about all the changes that will be in the new version vs. Vista.

Not only that, but you will also find it an informative site for Vista news. Here, you can get caught up on the upcoming Service Pack 2 release, and also on Internet Explorer 8, which was just released.

Interested in what's going on at Apple? Check out the tab labeled 'Alt.Windows' on the menu bar. Here, you'll get all kinds of reviews on what is going on at Microsoft's competitors. Same thing for 'XBox 360', 'Office' and other Microsoft products. Lots of good info and reviews are available here for all these products.

Bottom line: If you want to keep current on the latest and greatest news from Microsoft for Win 7 and Win Vista, bookmark this site. I think you will enjoy it, and find it interesting too.

That's all folks!! Thanks for reading!! 73 de NB3C!!

('Microsoft', 'Windows', 'Vista', 'Office', 'Xbox 360' and 'Windows 7' are all registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation)

Unique opportunity to own one of the world's finest all-band receivers. 500 kc to 32 mc!



Limited quantity of famous R-350A/URR radio receivers . . . brand new. Original manufacture, 1968 production . . . fully tested to meet U.S. Government specifications. Range 500 kc to 32 mc, 30 1-mc bands, digital readouts. Original pack, includes two instruction books, complete set running spares. New low price \$1,700* . . . fully guaranteed.

*A few new, but shelf-worn, units available at lower prices.
WRITE OR CALL FOR DETAILS

EAG Industries, Inc., 20 Bridge Avenue, Red Bank, N.J. / 201/747-5100, Ext. 51.



Burghardt exits the Amateur Radio market

On March 16, Jim Smith, W0MJY, owner of [Burghardt Amateur Center](#) in Watertown, South Dakota, announced that the company will no longer sell Amateur Radio transceivers and accessories. The company, now called Burghardt Radio Repair, has canceled all backorders. In an e-mail, Smith blamed the current economic conditions for the change that forced the company "to re-evaluate our goals and direction. We will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business. Our technicians are very experienced and parts inventories are good. Thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to continuing our relationships through our servicing facility." Jim Smith's son, Mike Smith, KC0FTM, told the ARRL that even though the company has had to lay off employees in the past couple of months, "Burghardt will concentrate on service, just like we have been doing since 1973." Burghardt was founded in 1937 by Stan Burghardt, W0IT (SK), as Burghardt Radio Supply. He sold the company to Smith in 1982, remaining active in the company until January 2002. Burghardt passed away in 2004 at the age of 93.

The Beginner's Help Desk

YE OLDE EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the August 2007 issue of 'KiloWatt Harmonics'. I figure what with the discussion going on at the monthly meetings about adding D-STAR capability to the club repeater system, that this would be a good time to re-run it.

⇒ **Our topic this month: D-STAR. What is it all about??**

D-STAR. You may have seen the ads in the candy-store catalogs, in the monthly magazines, or on the Internet, but what exactly is it? What can it be used for?? Simply put, D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) is a digital voice and data system utilizing repeaters (or simplex ops) which can be used for local communication, as well as being interfaced with other repeater systems around the world linked via an Internet Gateway.

The D-STAR standard which was published in 2001, resulted from 3 years of research funded by the Japanese government and administered by the JARL (the Japan Amateur Radio League, the ARRL's sister society in Japan) to investigate digital technologies for Amateur Radio. D-STAR is an open protocol, meaning it can be implemented by anybody. Systems can be built using commercial equipment, or it can be home-brewed. While at this time, Icom is the only commercial manufacturer of D-STAR, any manufacturer can start it's own D-STAR line of equipment at any time.

In a D-STAR system, D-STAR-equipped radios can

communicate directly to each other, with or without the aid of a repeater system. The repeater can operate just like the FM repeaters you are used to using (I.E. for local communications), or they can be connected via an Internet Gateway for communicating across the country/world. The difference between FM and D-STAR is that D-STAR converts a voice transmission to a digital data stream, known as a "codec". The D-STAR codec is known as an AMBE® (Advanced Multiband Excitation). The voice signal is sent at a rate of 3600 bits/second (3.6kbps).

While voice communications are possible on 144, 440 and 1296MHz, data-only transmissions are limited to the 1296MHz band at this time. The digital data stream is sent with a bit rate of 128kbps. Connection from a computer to Icoms ID-1 1296MHz voice/data radio can be accomplished via an RS-232 interface or a USB 1.0 connection. Theoretically, you could connect your computer to the radio and surf the internet while operating mobile. It would be treated just like a wireless modem. Ordinary terminal emulation software (for digital voice), or a web browser (for digital data) would work fine for exchanging data.

⇒ **So, what's the big deal with D-STAR??**

Well, for one thing, it takes up MUCH less bandwidth than an ordinary analog FM signal. D-STAR requires only 6KHz of bandwidth compared to

20-30KHz for a FM signal. As mentioned earlier, repeaters can be linked via the Internet to form a nationwide system, and beyond.

⇒ **So, what can D-STAR be used for?**

Emergency communications come to mind, for one thing. Status reports, damage assessments, request for resources take nothing more than a few keystrokes. D-STAR has the capability to combine voice and data into one single channel simultaneously. No longer is there a need for a separate TNC and radio. All you need is to connect your PDA or laptop, and you're ready to go. Also, you can send pictures of damage, weather images back to the command post. E-Mail, file transfer, Internet access are all possible. Currently D-STAR is available in handheld and mobile sized radios, so portability is not a problem.

What does it sound like? Ever hear a computer generated repeater I.D. voice? It sounds just like that but at a MUCH higher fidelity. It sounds just like your voice, but digitized. It's pretty neat!!

⇒ **Truesies & Falsies about D-STAR:**

D-STAR requires an upgrade to new equipment: True. However, D-STAR radios are backwards-compatible with existing FM equipment. In other words, if nothing is shaking on D-STAR, simply dial in your favorite FM

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

News from the national front (from page 8)

power limitations, on 160 meters in the United States. In 1979, the Coast Guard phased out the LORAN-A stations; they were replaced by LORAN-C stations. The newer stations operated on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on the 160 meter amateur band due to LORAN functions, to be dropped.

According to the Coast Guard, the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service will continue to operate the current LORAN-C system through the end of fiscal year 2009; it is in the process of preparing detailed plans for implementing the fiscal year 2010 budget. According to USCG Vice Commandant and Chief Operating Officer Vice Admiral V. S. Crea, further details of the LORAN-C termination plan will be available upon the submission of the President's full budget. -- Some information provided by Cliff Appel, W7CGA

⇒ HAMS TO ACTIVATE MIDWAY ATOLL AS K4M IN OCTOBER 2009

Earlier this year, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that they would open Midway Atoll <<http://www.fws.gov/midway/>> to Amateur Radio operations for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009 <<http://www.arri.org/news/stories/2009/01/27/10596/>>. Tom Harrell, N4XP, of Monroe, Georgia, and Dave Johnson, WB4JTT, of Aitkin, Minnesota, have put together a team of 19 operators from all over the world to activate Midway Atoll for a 10 day period as K4M <<http://www.midway2009.com/>>.

This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002.

"Midway ranks as Number 24 worldwide and Number 13 in Europe on DX Magazine's Most Wanted List <<http://www.dxpub.com/>>," Harrell and Johnson

said. "Activity will be on 6-160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country. Major efforts will be made to meet the demand to the most needed geographical areas, the low bands and RTTY."

The team has posted a list of planned frequencies on their Web site <<http://www.midway2009.com/kh4freqs.html>>.

The co-leaders said that travel to the atoll is only allowed by chartered aircraft: "Because of the size of the aircraft, the team is presented with unique challenges. As such, the aircraft will only be able to carry the team, requiring the equipment to be shipped by boat some months ahead."

In January, the USFWS started a program to encourage visitors to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as non-wildlife-dependent activities -- including Amateur Radio. To ensure the safety of the wildlife on the Refuge, Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown said that Amateur Radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, and only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island. Brown also said that while portable generators will not be permitted, there is 120 V power available at the operation site; any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance and be paid for entirely by the radio operators.

Brown said that the K4M team will also be required to attend a refuge orientation shortly after their arrival designed to enhance visitor safety, wildlife protection and overall enjoyment of the wildlife refuge. "Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity," Brown said, "this [Amateur Radio] opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis." Brown has the authority to discontinue the activity at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals.

Midway is located in the North Pacific Ocean (near the northwestern end of the Hawaiian archipelago) -- approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu -- about one-third of the way between Honolulu and Tokyo. At less than 150 miles east of the International Dateline, Midway Atoll is truly "midway" around the world from the Greenwich meridian. The atoll is an unincorporated territory of the United States and is the only atoll/island in the Hawaiian archipelago not part of the State of Hawaii. Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is owned and administered by the USFWS on behalf of the American people and has international significance for both its historic and natural resources. (MORE ON PAGE 21)

Amateur Radio exempt from proposed cell-phone use-while-driving ban

MIKE TURZAI
REPUBLICAN WHIP

ROOM 428 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202028
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2028
PHONE: 717-772-9943



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

125 HILLVUE LANE
FIRST FLOOR
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237
PHONE: 412-369-2230

February 25, 2009

Mr. Robert V. Ferrey, Jr.

Dear Robert:

Thank you for writing me about House Bill 538, which would prohibit drivers from using interactive wireless communications.

According to our House Transportation research staff, licensed armature radio operators would already be exempt under the current version of HB 538 under a two-way radio communication device. Therefore there would be no need for such an amendment.

I am not a member of the House Transportation Committee, however, I will keep your concerns in mind should this bill reach the House floor for a vote.

Please call or write anytime.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Turzai".

Mike Turzai
Republican Whip
Member, 28th Legislative District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

This is a copy of a letter sent to Bob, N3DOK from State Rep Mike Turzai. As you can see, it appears that we will be exempt from not being able to use our mobile rigs, whether for fun or for emergencies. Many thanks to Bob Ferrey, N3DOK for allowing me to reprint it here.

Make It Fun

Hands on demonstrations have always been fun ways to teach new things. It is not uncommon for folks to get set in a routine and after a while they begin to lose touch with current technology. Allowing people experience things like new logging software, digital applications or Logbook of The World is a great way to broaden horizons and expose your club members to all the cool stuff that is out there today.

(From The ARRL Club News Bulletin)

Software of the month.....

A new frequent feature where I will try to feature software I hope you will find interesting and useful. **YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER:** I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in the software/website described here. Once again, my ultimate goal is to make the newsletter just a wee bit more interesting to read. 73 de NB3C!!

For my first software article, I present to you 'VOAProp', a useful & easy-to-understand propagation prediction program. You can take a look at it and download the FREE program here:

[<http://www.g4ilo.com/voaprop.html>](http://www.g4ilo.com/voaprop.html)

Are you frustrated by the impressive-looking-but-hard-to-understand propagation prediction software that is currently available? Then take a look at G4ILO's program "VOAProp". This is a nice, easy-to-understand program that will give you a general overview of current propagation conditions displayed on a world map.

Broken down by band, it shows you via color-coded lines the signal strength you can expect to/from different parts of the world. Red represents S9 signal strengths, while green represents S1 signal strengths. Personally I would have done it the other way around (you know, like green is good, red is bad), but nevertheless it is an excellent program, easy to read, with very little learning curve involved. Also displayed on the map is the day/night terminator which also shows the grayline propagation curve.

It is also possible to personalize the map to your home QTH. By right-clicking on the map, you can enter your name/call, and map coordinates or your Maidenhead Grid location. Your home QTH will be displayed on the map as a red dot.

The program is set up to download actual sunspot numbers via a Internet connection. By taking into account the current SSN, Solar Flux, & A/K values, it can process this data, and display it on a map that is easy to understand. You can set the program up to download this data automatically, too. The one thing I did notice about the program is that the SSN number doesn't seem to update automatically, but that's not a fatal flaw; you can simply click on the G4ILO.com link on the bottom right of the screen & retrieve it there. Once you retrieve the number, you simply plug it in manually, and the program will update itself automatically.

Another nice thing about this program is that it will show you on the map which call areas can be worked given the present propagation conditions.

While the program is designed to run on Windows XP machines, it should work just fine on a Vista machine. The website also sez it'll run on Windows 98, but it has not been tested on this OS.

If you are running Linux, you're in luck too; a version has been written and is available for download here also.

You will also have to download the program 'VOACap'. This is the program that implements the actual propagation model. It's a separate download that you can retrieve from the following website:

[<http://elbert.its.blrdoc.gov/pc_hf/hfwin32.html>](http://elbert.its.blrdoc.gov/pc_hf/hfwin32.html).

The first time you run VOAProp, it'll ask you to install VOACap. Once you install VOACap, you will have to tell VOAProp where it is located. After that, you are good to go.

Quite a nice little program. The website has lots of useful info too, to help get you going.

Both of these programs are FREE-BIES! So, if you need a good simple propagation prediction program to use, this may just be what you're looking for.

Download it & give a try. Hope you find it useful. As always, thanks for reading!! 73 de NB3C!!

(Check out an actual screenshot of the program running on one of my shack computers on page 18)

Beginner's Help Desk (from page 10)

repeater frequency and chat like you've always done in the past. However, new D-STAR-only repeaters would be required for use in a D-STAR system. Today's FM repeaters cannot be made compatible. So if you're in the market for a dual-band FM rig, consider spending a little more and get the digital D-STAR capability and be ready when it is deployed here fully in the area.

There's no difference between D-STAR and Echolink: False. Echolink does not support data transmissions. Also D-STAR is 100% digital from the time your voice enters the microphone until it comes out the other guys speaker. Also, only D-STAR can target calls to a SPECIFIC user. Echolink can't.

D-STAR is nothing more than fancy packet: False. VHF Packet is usually 1200BPS or so. D-STAR simultaneous data and voice is sent at 4800BPS. Data-only on the 1296MHz band is sent at 128KBPS.

D-STAR data will work only on the 1296MHz band: False. Low-speed data will work AOK on the 144 and 440MHz bands. 1296MHz affords the bandwidth (128KBPS) that high-speed data requires.

Remember; it is not my intention to plug Icom's equipment here; I'm not a salesman for them. I'm just trying to explain and promote a promising new technology here. It seems to be catching on and growing rapidly in other parts of the country.

Interested in learning more?: Check out the Icom D-STAR forum at: www.icomamerica.com/support/forums (It's free to join!) Also check out these D-STAR websites: www.d-starradio.org and www.d-starusers.org/dstar.php

Editor's note: I have D-STAR equipment, and I am interested in corresponding with anybody who is interested in this technology. Shoot me an E-Mail at: KQ3DX@hotmail.com if you are too! Thanks/73 de KQ3DX.

Information for this article was gleaned from ICOM's D-STAR website: www.icomamerica.com/amateur/dstar/default.asp

UPDATE: APRIL 2009: Lots has been going on locally & around the world in D-STAR. For one thing, a new way to get started on this mode has been made available. It's called 'DV Dongle'. Funny name, but for around 200 bucks or so, it'll get you started. You simply plug it in to your computer via a USB connection, load the software, and you are on the air. About the size of a credit card, you can access any repeater in the world that is linked to the Internet Gateway. So if you don't wanna shell out the bucks for a new rig, consider one of these.

FREE software is available on-line to get you going, too. Ye olde editor has a DV Dongle, and they are becoming very popular as a cheap way to get active in D-STAR.

New repeaters are popping up all over the country and all over the world, for that matter. The North Hills Amateur Radio Club (NHARC) has made the investment, and activity is starting to pick up locally. Works as advertised too; I was mobile one day a Coraopolis a month ago and was chatting to a JA7 via the NHARC machine and the Internet Gateway.

One of the neat things on D-STAR is sort of a 'chat room'. There are about a dozen or so 'reflectors' available. Designated as 'REF001', 'REF002', etc., you can access one of these and have a country or world-wide chat room going. You can also gain access to these chat rooms via a radio/repeater link. 'REF001' module 'C' is the most popular one in use in the US. (Repeaters are designated with a letter to denote their operating frequency. Module 'A' is a 1296MHz repeater, module 'B' is a 440MHz repeater, and module 'C' is a 144MHz repeater.)

If you are going to Dayton this year, be sure and check out the D-STAR forum if one is scheduled. I went to it last year and it was SRO. Lots of good info if you are getting started. If I remember correctly, last year they said there was a 300% increase in activity year-over-year as of Hamvention 2008. The mode is definitely catching on.

Remember, I'm here to help. E-Mail with any questions or thoughts: KQ3DX@hotmail.com Thanks for reading!! 73 de NB3C!!

440 Reallocation (from page 1)

the Commission, these devices, called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

The FCC said that several proponents claim that this technology "could revolutionize medical treatment and therapy for millions of people living with brain and spinal cord injuries and neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, polio, cerebral palsy and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as 'Lou Gehrig's Disease'), as well as numerous other neurological disorders. It could be used in conjunction with next-generation prosthetic limbs to provide wireless sensation and control to the prostheses. Of particular note, this technology can provide an important tool in the medical treatment and care of numerous US soldiers who suffered spinal cord, brain and other serious injuries in Iraq, Afghanistan and other missions abroad."

Last month, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with officials of the Alfred Mann Foundation, developers of the implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, to discuss ARRL concerns with the NPRM. Imlay and Price both came away satisfied that the project should have little, if any, impact on Amateur Radio operators. "There are redundant layers of interference rejection mechanisms built into the product that should protect its users from being impacted by strong Amateur Radio signals," Price said. "The very low power output of these devices should have no impact on the Amateur Radio Service. The ARRL Executive Committee will monitor this filing and take action as appropriate."

The FCC is seeking comments on the feasibility of allowing up to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 413-457 MHz band to be used under the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service (MedRadio Service, formerly the Medical Implant Communications Service [MICS <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=service_home&id=medical_implant>]) in Part 95 of the Commission's rules, and seeks comments on the allocation of four specific segments for this purpose: 413-419 MHz, 426-432 MHz, 438-444 MHz and 451-457 MHz. The Commission also seeks comments on the prospective service and technical rules that would govern MMN operations, such as transmitter power, emission bandwidth, duty cycle, contention protocols, and other operating specifications that generally comport with the framework of the existing MedRadio Service.

Don't forget about these local events

Two Rivers ARC Hamfest, April 26
The Spectrum in Boston, PA
info: 412-664-1683 /
<hamfest@tworiversarc.com> /
<www.tworiversarc.com>

**2009 Pittsburgh Marathon Needs
Your Help!!**

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

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

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

**Also:
<www.pittsburghmarathon.com>
Contact: Jeff Hutzelman N3NHS
<jhutz@cmu.edu>
412-401-8348**

Thanks in advance for your support!

W3SVJ's Goodies.....

WHAT IS THIS?

No, it's not the battery room of the "REQUIN."
It is, though, the "battery room" of the SCARC

We have had battery backup for our repeaters for years. But years do take their toll on lead acid batteries and during a recent outage the limited capability of the old batts faded quickly.

These batteries are conservatively rated at 80 plus ampere-hours. Note that there are presently 4 of these arrays on line able to supply more than 320-ampere hours. I can't imagine what the **ampere-second** short circuit rating would be.

Too, there is another rack under the batteries, out of view here that would allow for another similar stack of cells.

That's a LOT of juice Bruce. Don't test it!

The safety conscious reader might (and rightly so) question the exposed buss bars on the wall above the fused switches. A closer look should reveal the clear plastic barrier.

That shield should successfully deflect a "flying" screwdriver or other metallic object from coming across those high current buss bars.

And, not in place at the time of the photo to allow for a better rendition, is a removable deck that covers the exposed terminals of the batteries for the same reason as above.

The best guess of those consulted is that we could run more than a few days on with exiting setup and present usage and maybe a bit less than week with another set of batteries added underneath.

Below, in the rack, are the 2-meter repeater, controller and amplifier. On the rack is the "echo link" connection PC and accessories.

On the wall above this equipment (not visible) is an automatic switcher/current director that allows the batteries to be charged from the common use Astron power supply but transfers to the battery supply on line failure.

Many thanks to the good-hearted souls in the other SCARC (Somerset County Amateur Radio Club) and the kindness of Stew, AK3J, who hauled them up to our SCARC.

A lot of work and a lot of time by some very generous and dedicated people assembled all of this gear and keeps it all working for the rest of us to enjoy.

Thank you all es 73 de
W3SVJ



In The World Of DX (from page 3)

⇒ **MAURITIUS, 3B8.** Mart, DL6UAA is QRV as 3B8MM until April 15. He is generally active on 20 meters around 1400z. QSL to home call.

⇒ **BARBADOS, 8P.** Richard, G3RWL is QRV as 8P6DR until April 24. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW and digital modes. QSL via operator's instructions.

⇒ **ANGOLA, D2.** Vasil is QRV as D2QMN and has been active using RTTY on 20 meters between 1800 and 1900z. QSL via RZ3EC.

⇒ **ANTARCTICA.** Felix, DL5XL is a member of German team over-wintering from Neumayer III and is active as DP1POL until early 2010. He is active mostly on 40 and 20 meters using CW. QSL via DL1ZBO.

⇒ **SEYCHELLES, S7.** Bernd, DL7UCX will be QRV as S79UCX from April 6 to 16. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

⇒ **CAMBODIA, XU.** Nob, JA1FMZ will be QRV as XU7FMZ beginning April 6 for about six weeks. QSL to home call.

⇒ **CANADA, VE.** In celebration of the 50 years since the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, Canadian amateurs can use special callsign prefixes XL, XM, XN, and XO until May 31.

⇒ **HUNGARY, HA.** In commemoration of the 1848 attack on Hungary that prompted their independence, special event station HG160FNY is active until July 31. QSL via HA0DX.

⇒ **IRAN, EP.** Sadegh, EP3HF has been QRV on 17 meters SSB around 0930Z. QSL direct.

Happy Birthday to those of our members celebrating birthdays in April:

Dan, A3AEB, 1st
Chuck, N3UUZ, 11th
Joyce, KB3ORO 15th
STAN, W3MHY, 15th
Lee, N3SAF 23rd

**Congratulations ALL!
73 de W3SVJ & NB3C!**

⇒ **TUNISIA, 3V.** A group of SWL operators will be QRV with special event station TS1LYMC from April 12 to 30. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK. QSL direct via operators' instructions.

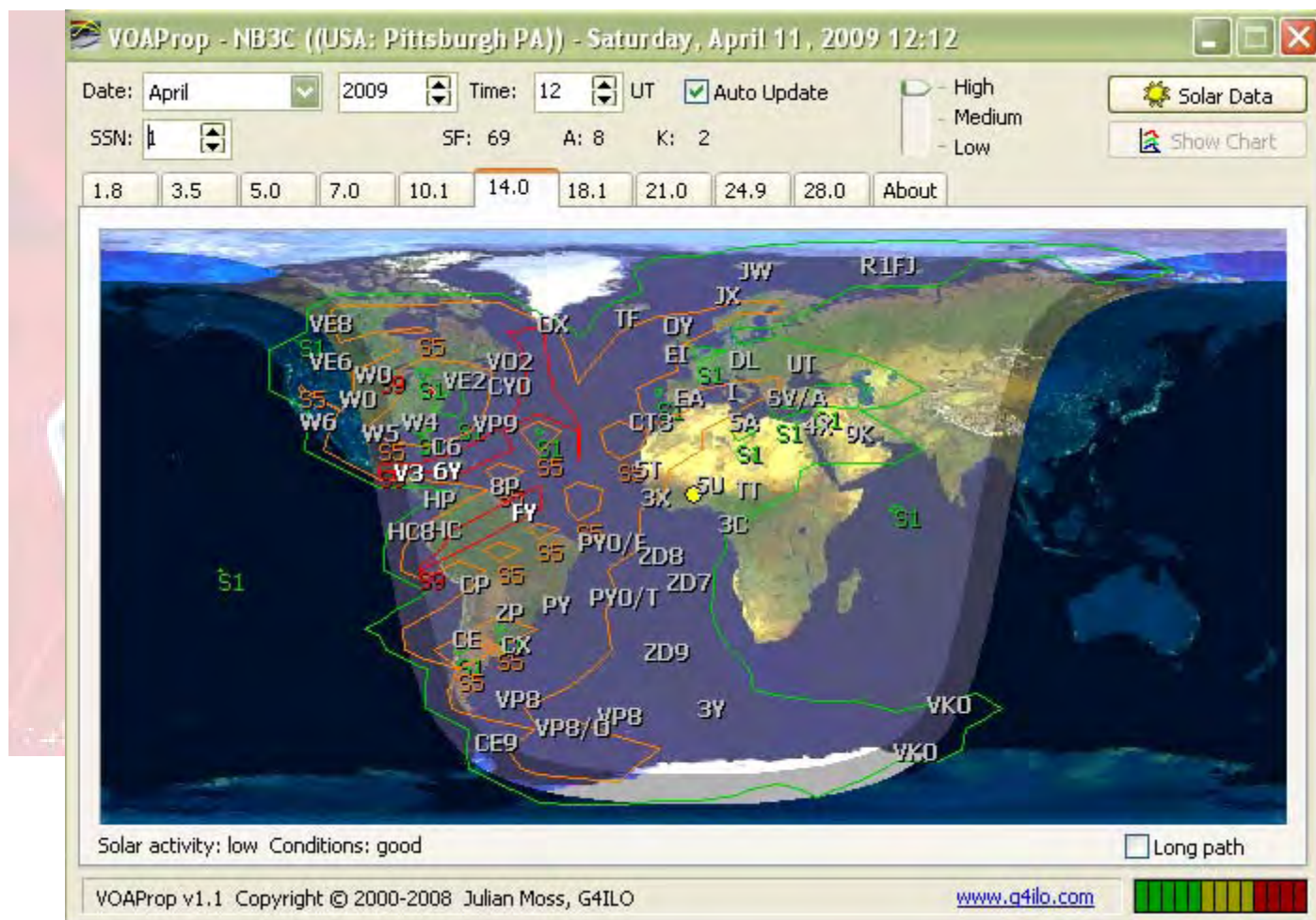
⇒ **MALTA, 9H.** Augusto, I2JJR is QRV as 9H3JR until April 23 while on Easter holiday. Activity is on the HF bands, using mainly SSB on 40 and 17 meters. QSL to home call.

⇒ **CAMBODIA, XU.** Retu, OH4MDY is QRV as XU7MDY from Sihanoukville until April 21. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and some digital modes. QSL to home call.

⇒ **MACEDONIA, Z3.** Members of the Macedonia Telegraphic Group are QRV with special event callsign Z30MCWG until December 31. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW. QSL direct via Z35M.

⇒ **PHILIPPINES, DU.** Max, M0GHQ is QRV as DU9/ homecall until the end of April. During his stay, he plans to activate Cebu Island, IOTA OC-129, Mindanao Island, IOTA OC-130, Samal Island, IOTA OC-235 and Leyet Island, IOTA OC-129. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including possibly 6 meters, using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

Here's that screenshot of VOAProp I promised



This is just a really cool, easy-to-understand program. With just one screen, it gives you an overview of propagation conditions, broken down by band. It'll also show you the locations of the HF propagation beacons spread all over the world, too. If you are an SWL, you can also set the program up to display conditions there too. Simply right-click on the map for these options as explained above. Best of all, it's free! I think you contesters in the club will find it useful during those big DX contests; just park it on your screen, out of the way, and you will have an overview of expected signal strengths around the world. You'll still have room for your logging software and your DXCluster program of choice. Give it a try; I think you'll find it quite useful. 73 de NB3C.



Last call for dues! Dues are due by the end of this month! If you have yet to pay, drop a check in the mail today. An application form is located on the last page for your convenience. Thanks for continuing to support the club! 73 de NB3C

SCARC Swap 'n Shop....

From Jack, W3UUH comes the following items for sale:

- ⇒ 5 Volt, 3 Amp power supply with remote sensing. Comes with complete instructions and wiring diagrams: \$10.00
- ⇒ KLM 140 Watt 2 Meter FM amplifier. Comes with complete instructions. Originally \$159.00; yours for \$25.00
- ⇒ Auttek Research QF-1A SSB/CW/AM Filter, with complete instructions: \$10.00
- ⇒ Swan SWR Power Meter, with complete instructions: \$10.00
- ⇒ Palomar VLF Converter, with complete instructions: \$10.00

If interested in any of the goodies listed above, give Jack a ring at: 412-279-5448

Interested in what forums will be held at Dayton Hamvention 2009? Then check out the following link:

[<http://hamvention.org/files/2009Forums.pdf>](http://hamvention.org/files/2009Forums.pdf)

It's starting to come together for Hamvention! Hope you're able to attend. Hope to see you there! (That is, if Ye Olde Editor can get the time off!)

Sunspot Report

Courtesy of the ARRL
Bulletin

Recently, the 45 day forecast for daily solar flux and planetary A index has consistently predicted a solar flux at 70 for every day into the future. The last of these was on March 24. Then on March 25, the prediction was for the solar flux to be at 72 for March 28-31. That changed on March 26, showing solar flux at 72 on March 28-April 2. On March 27, the solar

flux rose to 72 (actually 71.6) and the forecast was the same, but extended the 72 number through April 3.

Solar flux has not reached 72 since then, but the March 28 forecast extends the reading of 72 through April 4. On March 29, it extends to April 5, and on March 30, to April 6. On March 31, it extends 72 until April 9 -- three additional days -- but it also shows a new period with a flux of 72, April 23-May 6. April 1 is the same, but April 2 the flux is dropped to 71 for April 3-9. The April 3 prediction gives up on the slightly higher flux values for the near term, but still predicts 72 for April 23-May 6. The forecast remains the same until April 7, when the 72 flux for April 23-May 6 is shortened to April 23-29. So it appears that even these near term predictions for a very small increase in activity are continually revised downward. In the April 8 forecast, it shows the planetary A index for April 9-10 at 15 and 8, then dropping to 5 until April 21. Early on April 9, we are experiencing the effects of a solar wind stream, and planetary K index rose from 3 to 4 at 0300 UTC. Sunspot numbers for April 2-8 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.6, 70.4, 70.1, 70.4, 68.8, 70.2 and 70 with a mean of 70.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 2, 4, 3, 2 and 5 with a mean of 3. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 2 and 4 with a mean of 1.9. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions April 10, quiet April 11-14, quiet to unsettled April 15 and unsettled April 16. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page [<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html).

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

Well our AED has been mounted, by Nat W3SVJ, to the wall in the back hall. You may look but don't touch. Unless it is needed.

Along the lines of AED/CPR type stuff. Della N3DQ has completed 2 training sessions the first on April 1, and the second on April 8, 09. I did not query Della on how the sessions went. She was looking a wee bit tired afterwards and can fill us in on the details. I will say from what I observed, it was pretty intense and Della threw herself into it hip deep. Congrats to those who attended, partook of this good to know stuff, and passed. I hope none of us needs such help. I am glad we have a few more members trained just in case!

Progress of the sewer line project on McMichael Rd seems to be moving along at a good clip and access to the club was always available. Our own road progress will be moving along at a good clip as well. Just as soon as the sewer line boys are out of the way. More on this topic as it develops.

Bob NU3Q, will be holding a traffic handling class at SCARC on May 20, 09. This is the Wednesday after the May meeting. According to Bob, "I will run it on May 20th (the THIRD Wednesday), the day after the business meeting, so as not to conflict with our regular social night, at 7:30PM (so I have time to prep at the clubhouse). John Rodgers N3MSE, agreed to come down and help me with the class." So, if you are not familiar with or need a refresher on traffic handling, get in touch with Bob NU3Q and ask about his class. So far, I think he has the "5 warm body minimum" but I am sure he and John can handle several more.

Now it is time to gaze into...or is that graze? Nope, it's gaze into the future. The not to distant future in fact. Oh what the heck is he talking about now? Well it is about our Annual Corn roast! Time to move it back to a warmer part of the season. Back to a time when the evenings are still warm and before school is back in session (for those that have young-uns) and a bit earlier in the day! I am thinking the 3rd or 4th week of August.

So what do y'all think? We got time to plan so let's get a plannin'...
Thanks for reading along and see you ALL on the hill.



News from the National front (from page 11)

⇒ GERMAN AMSAT TEAM TRANSMITS, RECEIVES SIGNALS FROM VENUS

On March 25, a group from AMSAT-DL bounced radio signals off the surface of Venus, marking the first time Amateur Radio operators have bounced radio signals off another planet http://www.amsat-dl.org/pic/gallery2/m_a_i_n_p_h_p/?g2_view=core.DownloadItem&g2_itemId=7561. According to AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, the Earth-Venus-Earth (EVE) transmission is another step in preparing for a mission to Mars. According to an AMSAT-DL press release, the team's transmitter was generating about 6 kW CW on 2.4 GHz.

Guelzow said that signals were sent from a ground control station at the IUZ Sternwarte observatory in Bochum: "After traveling almost 100 million kilometers and a round trip delay of about 5 minutes, they were clearly received as echoes from the surface of Venus. This was the first German success to receive echoes of other planets. In addition, this is the farthest distance crossed by radio amateurs, over 100 times further than echoes from the moon (EME reflections)."

The EVE experiment was repeated on March 26 for several hours with "good echoes" from Venus, Guelzow said. "Morse code was used to transmit the well-known 'HI' signature known from the AMSAT OSCAR satellites."

For receiving the EVE reflections, Guelzow said that the team used a fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis with an integration time of 5 minutes. "After integrating for 2 minutes only, the reflected signals were clearly visible in the display," he said. "Despite the bad weather, signals from Venus could be detected from 1038 UTC on until the planet reached the local horizon."

Guelzow explained that with the EVE reflections, the high power amplifier "has therefore passed this crucial test as a final key component for the planned P5-A Mars mission. By receiving generated echoes from Venus, the ground and command station for the Mars probe has been cleared for operational use and the AMSAT-DL team is now gearing up for building the P5-A space probe. AMSAT-DL wants to show that low-budget interplanetary exploration is possible with its approach."

Development, design and construction of this first German Mars mission have been achieved by AMSAT-DL and its partner organizations, Guelzow explained. "Already a third of the total project costs were performed."

More work shall follow during the mission. AMSAT-DL would like to demonstrate that their approaches to low-cost space missions are feasible." -- Information provided by AMSAT-DL

⇒ FCC, INDIANAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDRESS UNLICENSED OPERATIONS

In response to an investigation by the FCC, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/IMPD/Pages/home.aspx> has taken action to prevent further use of Amateur Radio frequencies by unlicensed officers. Any Amateur Radio equipment in the cruisers of unlicensed officers was removed by order of IMPD Chief of Police Michael T. Spears.

According to the FCC, some IMPD officers were using the radios to supplement their normal communications channels, including using amateur frequencies for tactical communications during drug surveillance. As part of its inquiry, the FCC reminded the IMPD of the large number of tactical channels available on a secondary basis to police departments from the public safety pool of frequency allocations.

"We are pleased that IMPD has put a stop to this unlicensed activity," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The investigation by the FCC, coupled with the expedient cooperation and correction of the problem by the IMPD, eliminates a situation that had raised serious concerns in the amateur community." The FCC stated they would monitor the situation and follow-up if needed. _____

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>April Fool's Day</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	2 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM Business Meeting</i>	3 <i>NCCC Sprint Ladder</i>	4 <i>MT QSO Party</i> <i>ARCI Spring Q Party</i> <i>SP DX Contest</i> <i>EA RTTY Contest</i> <i>QCWA Spring Q Party (also Sun 4/5)</i>
5 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>WASH Sun. Net</i> <i>MT QSO Party</i> <i>ARCI Spring Q Party</i> <i>SP DX Contest</i> <i>EA RTTY Contest</i>	6 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> <i>RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW</i> <i>144 MHz Spring Sprint</i>	7 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>Skyview Business Meeting</i> <i>ARS Spartan Sprint</i>	8 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>NHARC Business Meeting</i>	9 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i> <i>WASH Business Meeting</i>	10 <i>Good Friday</i> <i>NCCC Sprint Ladder</i>	11 <i>JIDX CW Contest</i> <i>Radio Maritime Day</i> <i>EU Spring Sprint, CW</i> <i>GA QSO Party</i> <i>PODXS 070 Club</i> <i>PSK 31 Flavors Test</i>
12 <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>WASH Sun. Net</i> <i>JIDX CW Contest</i> <i>Radio Maritime Day</i> <i>GA QSO Party</i> <i>UBA Spring Test, SSB</i>	13 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> <i>Low Power Spring Sprint</i>	14 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>222 MHz Spring Sprint</i>	15 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint</i> <i>RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB</i>	16 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i>	17 <i>NCCC Sprint Ladder</i>	18 <i>Holyland DX Contest</i> <i>ES Open HF Championship</i> <i>Feld Hell Sprint</i> <i>MI QSO Party</i> <i>EU Spring Sprint, SSB</i>
19 <i>WASH Sun. Net</i> <i>Ontario QSO Party</i> <i>YU DX Test (also Sat 4/18)</i> <i>EA-QRP CW Test (also Sat 4/18)</i>	20 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> <i>Run for the Bacon QRP Contest</i>	21 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i>	22 <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>432 MHz Spring Sprint</i>	23 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i> <i>RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data</i>	24 <i>NCCC Sprint Ladder</i>	25 <i>WASH Breakfast</i> <i>SP DX RTTY Test</i> <i>FL QSO Party</i> <i>NE QSO Party</i> <i>Helvetia Contest</i>
26 <i>2 Rivers ARC Hamfest</i> <i>WASH Sun. Net</i> <i>SP DX RTTY Test</i> <i>FL QSO Party</i> <i>NE QSO Party</i> <i>Helvetia Contest</i>	27 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	28 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i>	29 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	30 <i>SkyView 2M Net</i>		

March 2009						
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31						

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 NCCC Sprint Ladder AGCW QRP/QRP Party	2 MARAC CW/SSB Q Party Indiana QSO Party 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW/Digi
3 WASH Sun. Net New England QSO Indiana QSO Party 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW/Digi MARAC CW/SSB Q Party	4 Breezeshooters Net RSGB 80m Club Championship SSB	5 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Meeting ARS Spartan Sprint	6 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net	7 SkyView 2M Net WACOM Meeting	8 NCCC Sprint Ladder	9 FISTS Spring Sprint VOLTA WW RTTY Test CQ-M Int'l DX Test (also 5/10) VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone
10 Mother's Day WASH Sun. Net SKCC Sprint 50 MHz Spring Sprint VOLTA WW RTTY Test	11 Breezeshooters Net	12 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	13 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net NHARC Meeting RSGB 80m Club Championship Data	14 SkyView 2M Net WASH Meeting	15 DAYTON HAMVENTION NCCC Sprint	16 DAYTON HAMVENTION Feld Hell Sprint
17 DAYTON HAMVENTION WASH Sun. Net His Maj. King of Spain Contest CW EU PSK DX Contest	18 Breezeshooters Net Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	19 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	20 Alleg Co. ARES Net	21 SkyView 2M Net QRP Minimal Art Session RSGB 80m Club Championship CW NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	22 NCCC Sprint	23 Baltic Contest
24 WASH Sun. Net Baltic Contest	25 Memorial Day Breezeshooters Net MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	26 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	27 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net SKCC Sprint	28 SkyView 2M Net	29	30 CQ WW WPX Contest CW Kids Roundup
31 CQ WW WPX Contest CW WASH Sun. Net Kids Roundup ARCI Hootowl Sprint						

April 2009						
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May 2009						
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June 2009						
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SCARC DUES RENEWAL FORM FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2009

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBERS:

Day _____ Evening _____

BIRTHDATE _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ Exp _____

EMAIL: _____

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

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

ARRL information is requested to keep our ARRL affiliation current

Membership rates for 2009:

Regular Member : \$50.00

Retired member (Over 65) \$50.00

Additional Family Member \$15.00

DX Member \$15.00

**Per SCARC Constitution Article VII, section & By-Laws,
dues must be paid by the regular meeting in April.**

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

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

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

Kilo Watt Harmonics

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



**NEXT
MEETING:
8PM
21 APRIL 2009**



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<www.w3kwh.com>



Steel City Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 281
Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106
Phone 412-787-0777
Editor: Greg Babin, NB3C
<K03DX@hotmail.com>

