

Kilo Watt Harmonics

April 2011
Issue #4
Price: FREE!



THE OFFICIAL HOUSE ORGAN OF THE STEEL CITY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, PITTSBURGH, PA.

WA3TTS

<www.w3kwh.com>

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Our next meeting date: April 19th, 8PM. Come for the meeting, stay for the fine dining and friendly socializing afterwards.

Find my April Fools gag in this issue and win a prize!
(My respect & admiration for being so sharp-eyed.)

Officers of The Steel City Amateur Radio Club:

President: Robert Lenfestey,
WB3HDI
(412)-276-5106
<wb3hdi@w3kwh.com>

VP: Joe Fenn,
WB3AGB
(412) 429-9328
<wb3agb@arrl.net>

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

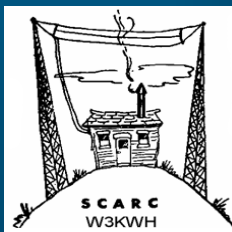
Recording Secretary:
Joe Mielnicki, WA3FWA
(412) 922-6340

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

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

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April 2011

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Amateur Radio Club (SCARC)

Editor: Greg Babin, NB3C.

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SCARC is an ARRL-affiliated
organization.

Membership is open to all
licensed amateurs in
the Pittsburgh area.

THE BUSINESS MEETING IS
EVERY THIRD TUESDAY OF THE
MONTH @8PM. A SOCIAL NIGHT
IS HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY
NIGHT, EXCEPT FOR THE
WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING THE
BUSINESS MEETING. ALL
AMATEURS ARE WELCOME
TO ATTEND BOTH.
COME JOIN THE CLUB! E-MAIL AN
OFFICER FOR DETAILS.

NEXT ARTICLE DEADLINE: FRI. MAY 6. PUBLICATION DATE: SUN. MAY 8

The Steel City Amateur Radio Club (412) 787-0777
2M Repeater: 147.030/147.630MHz (123.0)
70cm Repeater: 444.450/449.450MHz (103.5)
ATV Repeater: 426.250MHz (Currently off-line.)
WA3TTS Beacon: 144.300MHz (CW)
WA3TTS Beacon: 50.070MHz (CW)
WA3TTS Beacon: 1296.269MHz (CW) (SEE PAGE 8)

ON THE COVER: The PROPER way to work a 10GHz contest.
WA3TTS' setup on the shores of Lake Erie in Ohio.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS THIS MONTH:

WB3HDI, ARRL, N3MSE, N3NHS,
N3LLR, W3TOM, 425DX News,
OPDX Bulletin, WA3FWA,
N3VEF, NU3Q, W3SVJ, KC9BQA

Business Meeting minutes: March 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Bob, WB3HDI at 8:00PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for our SKs, and especially for Mary Grace Engle, wife of Jack Engel, W3UUH, who passed away on March 10, at the age of 80. 18 members & 1 guest (KJ3D) attended. The minutes of the February business meeting were accepted as printed in the March newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ⇒ **TREASURERS REPORT:** Walt, KA3YNO presented the treasurers report & reported the number of members current on dues at: 54. The report was accepted by the membership. He also reports that when balancing JAN-FEB-MAR together it balances OK, but when balanced separately, it comes out with a surplus. Walt reports Stu, AK3J is aware of the problem and will investigate. The treasurers report is accurate & proper as per Walt & Stu.
- ⇒ **CLUBHOUSE:** Karl, WA3VXJ cleaned the clubhouse tonight, and is preparing the after-meeting goodies, along with John, K3GHT. Bob, WB3HDI picked up the food. Work party: Art, WA3BKD wants to set up a work party to work outside and clean up the property. Billy, N3VEF volunteered to clean up and cut up the scrap metal to sell and get rid of. Art is looking for a date in April once the weather breaks to do so. He also wants to rent a dumpster to aid in the cleaning of the property. Volunteers wanted! The VHF studio remodel is on-going. Ductwork is installed and working, and conduit has also been run.
- ⇒ **TECHNICAL:** John, N3EQP reports a desire to move the 6 meter beam closer to the club house, without the lossy cable run associated with the current location. He has volunteered to set up a sub-committee to investigate. Bob, WB3HDI discussed the difficulty with digging a hole for a tower due to the bedrock located just a few feet under the ground. Different ideas were pitched by N3EQP et al, to address this problem.
- ⇒ **CONTEST:** Breezeshooters Ground Wave SSB contest this weekend, March 19. Art, WA3BKD is looking for help to operate the contest. CQ WPX SSB is the last FULL weekend of the month.
- ⇒ **MEMBERSHIP:** Art, WA3BKD introduced Jim, KJ3D, who was presented with his first reading.
- ⇒ **NEWSLETTER:** Public service articles needed. Editor Greg, NB3C thanked everybody for reading the newsletter.
- ⇒ **PUBLIC SERVICE:** Lloyd, KA3MSE reports we will have the net 4/20. ARRL Western Pa. SEC Larry, AB3ER was contacted by Lloyd for ARES cards which will be delivered soon. Carol, KB3GMN pitched for volunteers for the Pittsburgh Marathon. She also left pamphlets on the table for anyone interested. 50-60 volunteers so far, the target is for 150. Mike, WA3PYU was praised for the St. Patrick's day parade and organizing ops for this event. Next month at the business meeting he will speak on ARES and RACES.
- ⇒ **WAYS & MEANS:** Art, WA3BKD, will run the 50/50 raffle after the meeting. Joe, WA3FWA is able to handle cards for the ARRL QSL bureau. Arrangements will be made to get the cards to him.
- ⇒ **PC/WEB:** Nothing to report, no difficulties. One DSL filter was missing and was replaced, due to noise on the phone in the HF studio. Tim, W3WTW has security cameras in his possession and will be installed in the near future.
- ⇒ **VOLUNTEER EXAMS:** Mark, AI3J reports 1 person showed and passed the license for Technician, from Washington County. (March 14 session.) AI3J will be resigning as coordinator and a new one will need to volunteer to fill this position. June 20 is the next VE session. ARRL membership blanks were left on the table for new members/ops to join.
- ⇒ **OLD BUSINESS:** : Nate, W3SVJ talked about the tin shed and restoring it by painting, re-flooring, & repairing the existing man-door. A barn-type hinged door can be cut from the existing wall to make room for the lawn tractor. Nate also suggested making room just dedicated to the tractor. Karl, WA3VXJ reports the roof leaks and needs repair. Nate got an estimate for work not including the roof work. Motion was made to allocate funds for repairs to the shed minus the roof and was accepted by the membership.
- ⇒ **NEW BUSINESS:** Art, WA3BKD reports that Della, N3DQ will come up and do CPR/AED training on March 30 at 7:00PM. Certification is available to all members. No pre-registration necessary. Just show up. Nathan, W3SVJ discussed the goings-on with the North Hills ARC repeater group. They own many important repeaters in the area, and a suggestion was made to donate money to assist in the operation and maintenance of these machines. The money would be kept separate from the NHARC club itself. A motion was made to donate to the NHARC repeater group, and the motion carried with 2 opposed.
- ⇒ **GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Joe WA3FWA is reported as recuperating nicely at his own home. Bill, K3RYA is currently in rehab and is expected to be home on Wednesday, 16 March. Rennerdale EMT donation will be made by Walt, KA3YNO, on behalf of the club. Books: John, N3EQP reports that the ON4UN Low-Band DXing book showed up. He also is looking for suggestions to add to the library. Cards to access the clubhouse were passed out to all paid members in attendance in good standing. The remaining cards, along with a printed roster will be mailed to all those paid but not in attendance.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: by Carol, KB3GMN. Meeting adjourned at 2105.

50/50 run by Art, WA3BKD and won by: Mike, WA3PYU

Minutes submitted by Greg, NB3C (filling in for Joe, WA3FWA)

**MEETING SCHEDULE: NEXT MEETING APRIL 19th, 8PM
MAY MEETING: MAY 17th, 8PM. CU THERE!**



The online ARES registration has seen a large number of individuals signing up via the online form. There has been some difficulty at HQ with the database and the IT folks are working to resolve the issues so I ask everyone to be patient and we will get updated rosters out as soon as the problems are resolved. Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding. This is frustrating for Larry and I as well.

On Saturday March 19 the Atlantic Division will be conducting their annual cabinet meeting. This is an opportunity for section and division officials to get together and discuss issues that we share and suggestions for ways to resolve these problems. I will be attending as well as Larry Keller. This is for me also a great opportunity to discuss issues with my friend Eric Olena the EPA section manager regarding common goals.

During the weekend of March 13-14 we turned the clocks ahead an hour for the beginning of daylight savings time. This will give us an additional hour of daylight into the evening and will also be a change in DX propagation. Be sure to check the bands for new stations to add to your contacts. Last weekend there was a great band opening during the DX contest and I heard several saying they worked DXCC in one weekend. Get on the air and work some new countries during this time. Don't forget to go to <www.arrl.org> and sign up for the logbook of the world program as an aid to tracking your contacts.

Looking at the calendar we are only a short three months away from Field Day. Field Day 2011 will take place the weekend of June 25-26. You can download a complete Field Day package with rules and forms at <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2011/2011_FD_Packet.pdf> Download the information and print it for reference. While you are at it be sure to register your field day location so others can find you and stop by for a visit. Let me know your location as well and I will try to stop for a visit while I travel around the sections. Be sure to check the ARRL store and order your field day pins early as these are always a sellout.

I encourage you to join one of the various traffic nets and help deliver messages to individuals in your community and throughout the country as operators struggle to keep this activity running strong. The section net is on 3983 every evening at 6 PM now that the time change has taken place. The CW net is at 3585 at 7 PM local time. Also please check in on the Saturday morning ARES net. This net is conducted at 9 AM local on 3983 KHz. On Tuesday evening a PANBEMS net is conducted at 6 pm also on 3583.5 USB, using 8/500 Olivia. Another net is held Sunday mornings at 10 AM. Please check in for valuable information. Additional information on various NBEMS nets is available at <<http://panbems.org/>>. There are also several nets on various VHF-UHF repeaters. Join the nets and lets all get Radio Active.

73, John V. Rodgers, N3MSE, ARRL Western Pa. Section Manager

1941 to 2011 is 70 years. 70 years marked off the calendar. 'So what', you say? Well, this also marks the 70th anniversary of Steel City A.R.C.

Hard to imagine for most of us, but not for a few of our members who are still with us and have continuous service with SCARC for almost as long! Without them and those here before, we would not have what we do today. A heartfelt "Thank you" for everything you have done, given and for being here for all these years!

We have been kicking around the idea of a 70th Anniversary Celebration Certificate/QSL, awarded for any contacts made, especially from the re-vamped VHF studio, centering as much activity on VHF/UHF as we can muster and as the bands will allow. More info to come.

This year also marks the need for a new VE coordinator, as Mark A13J has stepped down from this position. Mark's work and other commitments made doing the VE sessions tough, though he managed to pull it all together every time. I would like to thank Mark for the MANY years of VE service for the club and for those who were able to get their "ticket".

On a completely different note....a word of caution. Well, more like a "keep your eyes peeled" kind of a thing. Safety is something we usually strive for, however, we can be bit when we least expect. We take for granted that most items manufactured are safe and most are, and going that extra step on OUR parts may save us some grief. Not long ago one of our members had an event where a 12 VDC power connector failed on a piece of equipment. The 'wall wart' providing power, was not fused (as most are not) and the wire got hot, smoked and melted the plastic insulation. This was NOT a common thing to have happened but nonetheless could have had a tragic outcome had he not been present in the shack. How many of these things do we have around our homes, running bunches of appliances, never giving a second thought to them? At least in the shack we can have a fused distribution box feeding our 12 VDC accessories from one main supply. Something we will be incorporating into new operating tables at SCARC.

That's all folks, short & sweet. Thanks for reading along and C U on the hill.

73
Bob
WB3HDI

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 LIAISON:
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:
Larry Keller, AB3ER
3907 Bridgewood Circle
Murrysville, PA. 15668-9478
(724) 325-2220 <ab3er@arrl.net>

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER:
Walter Bashaw, W3ZEH
16 Highview Drive
Donegal, PA 15628-4000
(412) 952-1245
<w3zehbob@yahoo.com>

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:
David R Heim, KA3SMF
1032 Nimick Ave, Monaca, PA.
15061-1333
(724) 774-3733
<ka3smf@arrl.net>



HR 607: NPSTC SAYS HR 607 "NEEDS TO BE AMENDED"

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) -- a federation of more than a dozen public safety communications organizations -- has gone on record as sharing the ARRL's concerns regarding HR 607, the *Broadband for First Responders' Act of 2011*. The ARRL is actively opposing the legislation in its current form because Section 207(d) of the bill -- introduced in the US House of Representatives by Representative Peter King (R-NY-3) -- calls for the reallocation of 420-440 MHz for commercial auction. The ARRL, which is a member of the NPSTC Governing Board, has assured NPSTC members that its opposition is limited to Section 207(d) and that it supports the underlying objective of the legislation, which is to provide spectrum near 700 MHz for a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network.

Writing to ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, on March 8, NPSTC Chair Ralph Haller said: "We want to let you know that NPSTC's Governing Board understands your serious concerns about Section 207 of this Act, and we share those concerns." While reiterating NPSTC's support for the remainder of the Act, Haller said: "NPSTC is very concerned about Section 207(d) of the Act and believes that the section needs to be amended to address the concerns of public safety and the Amateur Radio users." See a copy of the letter below.

Commenting on Haller's letter, Sumner said that "it is gratifying to have the support of the NPSTC Governing Board in our effort to remove this provision from Rep King's bill. Once our concerns have been satisfied, we hope Congress will proceed quickly to complete work on providing our First Responders with this important facility."

FCC ADOPTS SPREAD SPECTRUM RULES CHANGES

In a *Report and Order* adopted February 22 and released March 4, 2011, the FCC eliminated the requirement that amateur stations transmitting Spread Spectrum use Automatic Power Control (APC) to reduce transmitter power. At the same time, the Commission has reduced the maximum power of a Spread Spectrum emission from 100 to 10 W PEP.

The *R&O* explains the Commission's actions this way: "We believe that these rules changes will (1) encourage individuals who can contribute to the advancement of the radio art to more fully utilize SS technologies in experimentation, and (2) balance the interests of all users in mixed-mode and bands until sharing protocols are sufficiently developed to avoid interference."

The ARRL filed a Petition for Rulemaking back in March 2006 asking that the APC requirement be eliminated. Since it was first imposed in 1999, the ARRL's Petition observed, the APC requirement has "been impractical of compliance; unnecessary in order to protect other Amateur Radio operations or the operation of any licensed radio service sharing certain Amateur Radio allocations; and it has served as an unintended, but effective deterrent to Spread Spectrum experimentation in the Amateur Service." While it did not propose the power reduction in its petition, in later comments the ARRL conceded that it has not been demonstrated that the proposed power limit would pose a substantial obstacle to SS experimentation, and stated that "it is willing to accept the restriction presently, subject to revisiting the matter after some reasonable experience is gained."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, commented: "We are pleased that this relatively minor matter finally has been resolved. We hope that as soon as the amended rules become effective, amateur experimenters will take advantage of the greater flexibility that has been afforded to them."

The changes to Sections 97.311 and 97.313 of the Commission's Rules will be effective 30 days after the R&O is published in the Federal Register.

FCC ISSUES CALIFORNIA MAN \$7000 FORFEITURE ORDER FOR REFUSING FCC INSPECTION

After a Merced, California man refused to let FCC investigators inspect his Citizens Band (CB) radio station, the FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)* for \$7000. The Commission found that Ira Jones "apparently willfully and repeatedly" violated Section 303(n) of the *Communications Act of 1934, as amended*, and Section 95.426(a) of the Commission's rules by failing to permit the inspection.

On March 26, 2010 and August 27, 2010, agents from the FCC's San Francisco Office responded to a complaint regarding radio frequency interference within the radio communication system equipment of the Merced County Fire Department. On each of these dates -- in an effort to determine the cause of the reported interference created within the Merced County Fire Department radio communication equipment and to resolve it -- the agents requested an inspection of Jones' CB radio station. Jones denied both requests, despite the fact that at both inspections, the agents explained the violations to Jones, and provided him with repeated verbal and written on-scene warnings of the consequences of refusing to allow an inspection of a radio station.

Jones must pay the \$7000 forfeiture by April 9, 2011 or file a written statement by that date, seeking a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.

AFTER DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE, JAPAN'S RADIO AMATEURS PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

After the 8.9 earthquake that struck near Sendai, Japan at 2:46 PM JST (0546 UTC) on Friday, March 11, the island nation is trying to recover. Soon after the earthquake -- which the US Geological Survey is calling the largest to hit the island nation in 140 years -- Japan has been rocked by tsunamis and power outages caused by trouble at a nuclear power station. Reports from Japan tell of phone and Internet service still up in most parts of the country. Even so, the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- has asked that 7.030 MHz be kept clear for emergency use. Other reports are asking that these additional frequencies be kept clear: 3.525, 7.030, 7.077, 7.087, 7.097, 14.100, 21.200 and 28.200 MHz.

JA1RL, the JARL HQ station -- along with other amateurs throughout the island nation -- is maintaining the effort to support the disaster relief operation, according to IARU

Region 3 Secretary Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP. "In less damaged areas, the electric power supply is being restored gradually and local amateurs have started to establish stations at shelters," he said. Yamamoto said that JA1RL continues to operate as an emergency traffic center on 7.030 MHz, as well as 2

meters and 70 cm. It is receiving and reporting news from Japanese amateurs who are in the affected area. Using battery power or small generators, Japanese stations are active and are using various frequencies to exchange rescue and disaster relief operation information with JA1RL and others.

"While 3.525, 7.030, 7.043 and 7.075 MHz have been mentioned as in use, it's wise to keep those -- and all of the Center of Emergency frequencies -- clear of normal and non-urgent traffic," said IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC, who added that there is no call for additional foreign radio amateurs in Japan.

ARRL FILES PETITION, REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY WAIVER WITH FCC REGARDING VHF VOICE AND DATA EMISSIONS

On Tuesday, March 15, the ARRL filed a *Petition for Rulemaking* and a *Request for Temporary Waiver* to authorize the use of single-time-slot Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the amateur bands at and above 50 MHz, wherever multiple-time-slot TDMA is authorized. The *Petition* asks the FCC to allow those amateurs who are presently using a Motorola narrowband (12.5 kHz) digital land mobile system -- commercially marketed as MotoTRBO -- to be used legally. Because of some restrictions in the Part 97 rules, the TDMA repeaters (which are multiple-time-slot devices) are legal, but the mobiles and portables are not because the emissions used (single-time-slot TDMA) are not authorized anywhere, due to the emission designator.

(MORE NATIONAL NEWS ON PAGE 15)



- ⇒ **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HI.** John, KL7JR and Claire, WL7MY are QRV as HI3/KL7JR and HI3/WL7MY, respectively, from Hispaniola Island, IOTA NA-096, until June. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL both calls via KL7JR.
- ⇒ **NAMIBIA. V5.** Special event callsign V521NAM is QRV in celebration of the 21st anniversary of the independence of the country and the beginning of the Namibian Amateur Radio League. QSL via V51NAM.
- ⇒ **VIET NAM. XV.** Yannick, XV4Y is QRV from the Mekong Delta in the south of Vietnam. Activity is mainly on 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters from 0700 to 0900z and then 1300 to 1500z. QSL direct via OK1DOT.
- ⇒ **CORSICA. TK.** Chris, F8DZY will be QRV as TK/F8DZY from Ajaccio from March 23 to April 17 while doing mission work. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY in his spare time. QSL to home call.



'News from the DX world' is gleaned from various issues of the ARRL DX Bulletin and is ©2011, ARRL.

- ⇒ **LIBERIA. EL.** A group of operators are QRV as 5M2TT until April 13. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with three stations active simultaneously. QSL direct via I2YSB.
- ⇒ **BULGARIA. LZ.** Some members of the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs are QRV as LZ85R until December 31 to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the first radio club of Bulgaria. QSL via LZ1BJ.
- ⇒ **ARUBA. P4.** Dee, W1HEO will be QRV as P4/W1HEO from April 3 to 16. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB with an emphasis on 30 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. TL.** Christian, TL0A is QRV from Bakouma for the next five weeks. QSL direct.
- ⇒ **MACQUARIE ISLAND. VK0.** Kevin, VK0KEV is usually QRV in his spare time between 0530 to 0645z and again from 0745 to 0845z. QSL via JE1LET.
- ⇒ **VIET NAM. XV.** Retu, OH4MDY will be QRV as XV2RZ from April 4 to 17. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct via XU7MDY.
- ⇒ **ALBANIA. ZA.** Franck, F4DTO will be QRV as ZA/F4DTO from Elbasan from April 2 to 16. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using mostly SSB. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **TRISTAN DA CUNHA AND GOUGH ISLANDS. ZD9.** John, ZD9GI has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 1700z. QSL via ZS1A.
- ⇒ **CROATIA. 9A.** Operators HA5AUC, HA5BWW and HA7PC will be QRV as 9A/home calls from Rab Island, IOTA EU-136, from April 11 to 18. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL to home calls. In addition, special event station 9A11P is QRV throughout 2011 in celebration of the city of Djurdjevac. Activity is on all HF bands. QSL via bureau.
- ⇒ **SIERRA LEONE. 9L.** Operators PA3A, PA3AN, PA8AD, PD0CAV and EL2DT are active as 9L5MS until April 18. Activity is with three stations on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct via PA3AWW.
- ⇒ **MOROCCO. CN.** Special event station 5F6SIA is QRV until the end of June during the 6th International Exhibition of Agriculture here. QSL via G5XW.
- ⇒ **REUNION ISLAND. FR.** Olivier, F4FLF will be QRV as TO2Z from April 9 to 22. Activity is holiday style during his local evening hours on all HF bands using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **SVALBARD. JW.** Frank, LA1RSA will be QRV as JW1RSA from the club station in Longyearbyen from April 9 to 15. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **AMERICAN SAMOA. KH8.** Rick, AI5P is QRV as AI5P/KH8 from Tutuila Island, IOTA OC-045, until April 18. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **PUERTO RICO. KP4.** Special event station N4S will be QRV on April 12 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the flight into space of Yuri Gagarin and the 30th anniversary of the maiden flight of the space shuttle Columbia, both of which took place on April 12. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and PSK1000 on 145.950 MHz. QSL via WP3GW.
- ⇒ **PAPUA NEW GUINEA. P2.** Tim, KD5SSF is QRV as P29ZL from Ukarumpa for the next two years while working as an aid worker. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using mostly SSB with PSK31 during his evenings and weekends. QSL via operator's instructions.
- ⇒ **VIET NAM. XV.** Mal, VK6LC will be QRV as XV2LC from Ho Chi Minh city from April 10 to 25. Afterwards, he will be QRV as XV4LC from the Mekong Delta from April 20 to 25. Activity is on 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **SIERRA LEONE. 9L.** Operators PA3A, PA3AN, PA8AD, PD0CAV and EL2DT plan to be QRV as 9L5MS from March 29 to April 18. Activity will be with three stations on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct via PA3AWW.
- ⇒ **TAIWAN. BV.** Members of the Centenary Foundation are QRV as BV100 from Shaio-Liu-Chiu Island, IOTA AS-155, until the end of 2011. This includes an entry in the CQ WW WPX SSB contest. QSL via BV2KI.
- ⇒ **ANGOLA. D2.** Laci, OM5AM is QRV as D2AM from Luanda until April 14. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **UNITED KINGDOM. M & ITALY. I.** Greg, NB3C will be active from the UK & Italy while on work assignment. He'll be active in the UK for two weeks as M0RON, and will then travel to Italy where he'll be QRV as ID1OT for an additional two weeks. Both operations will be holiday-style, as time permits. A trip to Bora Bora in French Polynesia for vacation is planned for later this year, and he has already received the call FO0L. QSL for all these operations is via the home call.
- ⇒ **UGANDA. 5X.** Sergei, UV5EVJ is QRV as 5X1VJ from Entebbe until June 8. Activity is on all HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **TAJIKISTAN. EY.** Rakkim, EY7AD has been active on 17 meters using SSB around 1400z. QSL direct.

ARRL Atlantic Division news

LETTERS TO YOUR US REPRESENTATIVE REQUESTED

Your prompt help to defend one of our amateur bands is urgently requested. Please read and follow through on the requested action.

You may have already heard that our 440 MHz band is being attacked by a bill introduced into the US House of Representatives. In its current form, HR 607 would take away the 420-440 MHz segment that is presently allocated to Amateur Radio on a secondary basis as our 70 cm band. Along with certain other segments not allocated to Amateur Radio, the 420-440 MHz segment would become part of a spectrum "give back" involved in allocating 758-763 and 788-793 MHz for a Public Safety broadband network.

The concept of this network has merit. Everyone wants first responders to have the radio systems they need in order to protect themselves and us. However, there is absolutely no need to take our 440 MHz band in making it happen. We need to let our US Representatives know we oppose the current form of HR 607.

To let your US Representative know you oppose the present bill, go to <<http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm>>. Insert your call sign where indicated and follow the simple instructions. The name and address of your US Representative will automatically be put into the letter, as will your name and address. It will be ready to be printed and signed.

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to observe the following once you have printed your letter:

Be sure to sign it. Letters without a handwritten signature are not effective.

Signed letters can be sent by fax or postal mail. They can also be scanned into PDF format and e-mailed as a file attachment. Postal mail: John Chwat, Chwat & Co., Suite 103, 625 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail: <john.chwat@chwatco.com>. Fax number: (703) 684-7594.

DO NOT SEND THIS LETTER OR ANY LETTER ABOUT HR 607 TO YOUR US SENATORS AT THIS TIME. THE BILL IS ONLY IN THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. LETTERS SENT ON HR 607 TO US SENATORS WILL MERELY WASTE THEIR TIME AND DEMONSTRATE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF HOW OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WORKS.

WHY SHOULD the letter be mailed to John Chwat? There are two reasons. First, all postal mail to members of the US House (and other government bodies) is delayed 6 to 8 weeks in being searched for hazardous materials that may be included in them. Second, Mr. Chwat will increase the value of your individual letter by combining it with others and delivering the stack of letters directly to your Representative's office. This manner of delivery makes a particular impact on our Congressmen.

If you feel it necessary to mail your letter directly to your Representative, do it. However, please also send a signed copy of it to Mr. Chwat for the reasons outlined above.

THIRD CALL BUREAU CHANGES

There is a group of amateur radio volunteers that provide an excellent service to the amateur community and that service is in the incoming call bureaus. The Atlantic Division has two call bureaus serving members of our division. These volunteers receive incoming QSL cards for amateur radio operators within their respective call district and pass them out to sorters who sort them down and then mail them out to the amateur radio operators who the cards are being sent to.

To receive QSL cards through the bureau, it is important to send self addressed envelopes with stamps so that the call bureau can mail your cards to you. And it is also important to make sure that you keep enough envelopes and enough postage on file with your call bureau so they can send your incoming cards to you.

The Third Call Bureau manager, Fred Laun K3ZO, announced that the 'P' sorter, Brian Gaffney K3PU had to step down due to some family commitments and that a new 'P' sorter has been appointed. So while materials are being transferred and the new 'P' sorter is brought up to speed, there may a little delay in the 'P' QSL cards being distributed. If anyone has any questions, please send an email to Fred at <hs0zar@gmail.com>.

73,

Bill Edgar N3LLR, Atlantic Division Director, & Tom Abernethy W3TOM, Atlantic Division Vice Director

Ops needed for Pittsburgh Marathon

The Pittsburgh marathon is back for another run this spring! May 15, 2011 will be the date of the marathon's 22nd running, and with registration already exceeding last year's participation of over 15,000 runners, it will be the largest in the history of the event. Once again, amateur radio has been asked to help make this event a success.

We will be providing communications vital to ensuring the safety of both the athletes running in the marathon and of the many spectators. There are many positions around the 26.2 mile course that need to be covered, including mile markers, aid stations, buses and sweep vehicles, shadows for race officials, and others. To fully cover all of these positions, we will need over 150 volunteer amateur radio operators, including you!

If you're new to the hobby or have never participated in a public service event, please don't let that stop you from joining us. We have a variety of positions for new and experienced hams alike, and will provide you with the information and support you need. This is an excellent opportunity to gain the experience needed to help out during an emergency, all while having fun and doing a service to our community.

Online registration is quick and easy. Just visit <marathon.central.org>, click "Volunteer Now!", and fill out the form. You will receive your assignment and detailed instructions in early May, 2011. There will also be a pre-race meeting the day before the marathon, at which we'll review what to expect on race day, answer any questions you have, and provide your T-shirt, hat, and marathon credentials.

I'm trying to recruit around 150 hams to help with this year's Pittsburgh Marathon, which will run on May 15, 2011, and would appreciate your assistance.

Jeffrey Hutzelman N3NHS <jhutz@cmu.edu>, Amateur Radio Coordinator,

Pittsburgh Marathon



AA3EE DAVE
AA3TK TOM
AB3KD JAY
AE3JM JASON
AI3J MARK
AK3J STEW
DC3RJ JUERGEN
DL4ZAA RALF
K3GJS HARRY
K3JHT JOHN
K3LAB DOUG
K3RYA BILL
KA3JKS SUE
KA3LIW DEAN
KA3MSE LLOYD
KA3MXQ ALAN
KA3YNO WALT
KB3BZR JERRY
KB3CWE GARY
KB3GMN CAROL
KB3LED MARK
KB3LY ELLIOT
KB3NZX BOB
KB3ORO JOYCE
KB3PNE COLIN
KB3RUK JIM
KB3SVF GARY
KB3UEE MIKE
KB3VHT JOHN
KD7HR GREGER
KR8Q MARK
KT3L DOC
N3DQ DELLA
N3DXE BILL
N3EKL JOHN
N3EQP JOHN
N3EVM BOB
N3GHI BRUCE
N3GHO GLORIA
N3SAF LEE
N3SBF RITCHIE
N3UUZ CHUCK
N3VEF BILLY
NB3C GREG
NU3Q BOB
NU3S AL
W3BC JOE
W3HH DOUG
W3JQJ MATT
W3LA LEN
W3MAC MAC
W3MHY STAN
W3SVJ NATE
W3UUH JACK
W3WTW TIM
W6LAC BOB
WA3BKD ART
WA3CYU BOB
WA3FWA JOE
WA3PYU MIKE
WA3RVD MEL
WA3TTS MIKE
WA3VXJ KARL
WA8NLX RICK
WB3AGB JOE
WB3CRC DALE
WB3HDI BOB
WQ3T DAVID

ATTENTION ALL AMATEURS:

Interested in becoming a member of SCARC? We have a business meeting every third Tuesday of the month, starting @ 8:00PM at the clubhouse. We also have a social night every Wednesday of the month except for the Wednesday immediately after the Tuesday business meeting. Shoot an E-Mail to any one of the Officers or me, your friendly Editor, and we'll set you up with instructions on how to join and get to the clubhouse. All amateurs are welcome to join! Hope to see you at a meeting/social night soon! (You'll find our E-Mail addresses on [page 2.](#))

The Ed sez...

Well, it looks like that filthy little rodent from Punxsutawney really missed it this year....."Spring is coming early." HAH! Anyway, by the time you read this, spring really will be here, and as you know, Dayton won't be very far behind! The grand-daddy of all hamfests, it's nice to be looking forward to it, and being able to attend kinda makes you feel that all is right in the world. Hope you're able to go, as it makes for a nice weekend getaway from the family/job/life.

Now that the warmer weather is here, (or will be soon; I'm writing this on March 11, and we have a few inches of snow on the ground) projects at the club should be ramping up to a feverish pace. We still have to finish up with Ten-Hut, our new repeater shed, and of course the VHF Studio remodel project is on-going too. Consider stepping up to the plate and volunteering to help out at the clubhouse with these important upgrades. Remember, when you start to get tired, sit down in front of the radio and take a little break! Bet'cha can't do that at home without the old lady (or man) yellin' at yez....PLEASE VOLUNTEER & HELP MAKE YOUR CLUB A BETTER ONE!

Remember to keep Joe, WA3FWA in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to recover from his surgery/mild stroke. Remember to keep Bill K3RYA there too. He's also back in rehab as of this writing. Remember to keep Jack, W3UUH in your thoughts/prayers, as his wife just passed away recently. Remember that **INCOME TAXES ARE DUE ON APRIL 15!** Remember that club dues are due this month too. They should be paid no later than this month's business meeting. Fill out the enclosed form and send it in. That's all I can remember! 73 de NB3C.....Thanks for reading along!

Library books want list

Hey.....Guess what? We've just added ON4UNS guide to low-band DX'ing in the last few weeks or so, and we're always on the hunt for new books to be added. All of our books are available for check-out by club members. John, N3EQP, our club librarian, is always on the lookout for new additions. So, if you have a book you'd like to donate, see John at any business meeting or social night. Not only that, but he can order and add any book to the library. If you would like to see a book added to our list, you can talk to John about that too. We have quite an extensive list available, and it's growing all the time. One great advantage of being a member of SCARC.....Use it! BTW: See last month's issue for a complete list of books currently available for use.

⇒ Pittsburgh Marathon, May 15.

<www.pittsburghmarathon.com>

<marathon.central.org>

Contact: Jeffrey Hutzelman N3NHS <jhutz@cmu.edu>

⇒ Breezeshooters Hamfest, June 5. Butler Farm Show Grounds, Route 68, Butler.

⇒ Pgh Vintage GP: July 23/24 (Schenley Park race weekend). Corky, N3MJP is the contact man for this detail and you can reach him at 724-217-5458.

⇒ NHARC Hamfest, July 10. NEW VENUE: West View VFW, 386 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh 15201.

⇒ Somerset County ARC Hamfest, July 17 @ the Somerset Technology Center.
<www.k3smt.org>

⇒ Skyview Hamfest, August 28. ARRL WPA Section convention @ the clubhouse grounds.
<www.skyviewradio.net>

⇒ Uniontown ARC GabFest, September 3rd, @ the Uniontown ARC clubhouse grounds.
<www.w3pie.org>

⇒ Butler County ARC HamFest, September 11 @ Unionville Fire Hall on Route 8 north of Butler. <www.w3udx.org>

⇒ Monessen Amateur Radio Club HamFest, October. (EXACT DATE UNAVAILABLE AT TIME OF PUBLICATION. I'll update when available.) Blaine Hill VFD, 409 Oxford Avenue Elizabeth, PA. <<http://w3csl.org/>>

⇒ WACOM hamfest, November 6. Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main St. Washington, PA. <www.wacomarc.org>

⇒ ARRL Western PA. SET, October 29??

I'll confirm dates as we get closer to each event. Send any corrections & additions you know of to me:
<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>

Local events requiring our participation

Mike, WA3TTS is currently accepting E-Mail requests for his 1296MHz beacon.

If you're interested in listening for it, send Mike an E-Mail with your grid square locator:

<WA3TTS@verizon.net>

Write your reps!

<<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>>

<http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm>

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

A (semi) frequent feature where I try to highlight topics I hope the newer ops/members will find useful and informative. And, who knows; maybe some of you highly experienced ops will learn a little something too. **YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER:** I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in any of the sites and services listed/described here. You should know the rest of my diatribe by now; if not, give yourself 2 demerits....73 de NB3C.

My topic of discussion for today, class:

The art of the QSL.

Ahhhh, the QSL card; the final courtesy of the QSO. Put of bunch of them there trophies in a binder, and you have a nice little conversation piece for your coffee table. Once your guests find out about all the countries you've chatted with on the radio, they'll be intrigued. Who knows, maybe they'll even take up amateur radio themselves.

Question is: Just how do you get them precious little pasteboards to show up in your mailbox regularly?

I'm glad you asked that question.

The QSL really is the final courtesy of the QSO. It's a way for you to add a personal touch to it; you know, a little something about yourself, your setup, maybe a nice picture, etc. QSL'ing has been around pretty much since the beginning of amateur radio itself. For years and years, it was THE premier way of providing proof of eligibility for all those operating awards, such as WAS, DXCC, WAZ, among many others. Now that Logbook of The World (LoTW) has come along, it's not as important as it once was, but the popularity of the QSL card is as strong as ever. And let's face it: Who DOESN'T want a QSL card from those ultra-rare countries gracing their collection?

Getting them really isn't that hard. You just need a little savvy when doing it. Now, there are many ways to do it, and I'll show you how, so your mailbox can start filling up with cards from all over the world ASAP.

First off, the direct way: This is the process of sending your card directly to the station, via US mail. Unfortunately, it's also the most expensive. But if you really want/need it, it's the way to go. You'll need a supply of security envelopes, letter-sized and postcard-sized. Security envelopes are those that have a blue (usually) pattern on the INSIDE of the envelope to hide the contents. Why? Because when you go direct, you will need to provide return postage in either the form of a green stamp (US money), or an IRC (International Reply Coupon), available at your favorite postal facility. The blue pattern will hide the contents of the envelope, and keep prying eyes away from your enclosed monetary funds.

The best way to send direct is via air-mail. Expensive! For a 1/2 ounce, it'll be about 98 cents or so. Not only that, but you're gonna put in about 2 or possibly 3 US dollars, or the above mentioned IRCs (or even a combination). The trick is to keep the weight down, but provide the security to keep the contents safe. Usually, white security envelopes will work just fine. If you wanna ramp it up a notch, then go with manila envelopes. Remember, I'm talking about sending overseas. If you go direct to the states, just 1st class w/SASE would be required.

KEEP YOUR (AND THEIR) CALLSIGN OFF OF THE ENVELOPES. NOTHING SCREAMS "HEY! I'VE GOT MONEY INSIDE ME!" LOUDER THAN A HAM RADIO CALLSIGN ON THE ENVELOPE! Just use your return address and the DX stations address and stop there. Same goes for your return envelope back to you: Just the address and no call please.

Remember; some of your cards are going to countries that have a postal service that is, well, not as honest as ours. When it comes to pilfering the contents, they know what to look for, believe me. Don't forget that you will need to put a return envelope with your address on it so the DX station can mail it back to you. Remember KISS: "Keep It Simple & Stupid." Make it as easy as you possibly can for the DX station to reply. Make sure you have enough postage to cover the return trip back to the states.



- TO SUM IT UP, THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO GO DIRECT:**
- ⇒ Security envelopes (letter-sized and postcard sized for the return trip).
 - ⇒ Air-Mail via US Mail (unless domestic, then surface is OK)
 - ⇒ Enclose return postage (green-stamps or IRCs) for the return trip.
 - ⇒ NO CALLSIGNS ON THE ENVELOPES, ANYWHERE!

The trick is to make the envelope look as indiscreet as possible. Try not to draw attention to the fact that there is a small fortune inside.

The second (and best) way to go is via a QSL manager. What's a QSL manager, you ask? This is an op who has volunteered to handle all of the QSL chores for a rare (or not) DX station. Usually the DX station will send his logs to his manager, and the manager will take care of the printing and mailing of QSL cards on the DX stations behalf. Call it a labor of love, most managers lose money on the deal. It really works out well when a QSL manager is here in the states. All you have to do is send your card, with an SASE for reply; no need for green stamps or IRCs. If you wanna send a little donation to help the QSL manager defray his costs, I'm sure they wouldn't object. (BTW: No need for Air-Mail to USA.)

If you go to Canada or Europe (or that matter, anywhere else), then follow the rules for direct mailing. Send a green stamp or IRC. US postage won't work in Canada.

So what's the advantage of having a QSL manager if you still need to send green stamps/IRC's? It's a lot easier to get a card from Afghanistan or Iraq if the manager is in the US or Europe. Going direct to countries like these just about guarantees that you'll be throwing your money away.

The third way is via "The Buro". In the US the outgoing QSL bureau is run by the ARRL. You simply sort your cards according to prefix, bundle them up, include the required funds and send them off to the ARRL in Newington, CT. They will then sort them, and send them out to the appropriate country. **YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE ARRL TO AVAIL YOURSELF OF THIS SERVICE.** (Another good reason to join the ARRL.) This is the cheapest, but also the slowest way to get a card; it could take anywhere from a few weeks to A FEW YEARS to get a reply. But it is an economical, and popular way to send/receive cards. **(Back in the days when Russia was the USSR, I remember it once took 5 years to get a card to me. Hey, you experienced ops: Do you remember the "good old days" when the Russian ops said "QSL to Box 88, Moscow"?)**

How do you get cards FROM the buro? In each of the ten call areas of the US, a group of volunteers man the incoming bureau. These individuals will sort all incoming cards according to call, and when a pile is amassed, they will send them out to you. **IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP A SUPPLY OF ENVELOPES WITH YOUR RETURN ADDRESS ON THEM ON HAND AT THE INCOMING BUREAU SO YOU CAN GET YOUR INCOMING 'BURO' CARDS SENT TO YOU AT REGULAR INTERVALS.**

The 3rd call area incoming bureau address is: (Send your empty envelopes here, pre-addressed, with loose postage. Use like a 6x9 or 9x12 envelope, or 2, or more.)

All third-area call signs:
National Capitol DX Association (NCDXA)
PO Box 1149
Clinton, MD 20735-5149
<NC3DX@arrrl.net>.

♦ **OK, now I need to know where to send my cards.**

A good source of QSL Manager info can be had in the following publications: The Daily DX (E-Mailed to you, must subscribe), The 425 DX News (free on-line), The Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin (free on-line), The DX Newsletter (free on-line), QRZ DX (must subscribe), the INDEXA net on 14236KHz nightly at 2330z (International DX Association) and lastly the GOLIST. (Hey: I almost forgot that fine publication....it's on the tip of my tongue.....oh yeah: "KiloWatt Harmonics". FREE!)

The GOLIST is a database containing THOUSANDS of QSL Managers. Run by John Shelton, K1XN, you subscribe to it, download a small program to your computer, and then receive monthly updates via the web. I use it and I can recommend it. It is named for the original owner, Jon O'Brien, W6GO (who produced it with his wife Jan, K6HHD).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

The Beginner's Help Desk (from page 9)

Good sources of direct info include QRZ.com, which is an on-line FREE callsign address website. Simply type in the call, and you'll see the address displayed. Also a good source is the Radio Amateur Callbook (RAC), available on CD 2 times a year. I believe that there are somewhere around 1.6 MILLION calls on the Callbook CD. It was previously published in book form; one was for US/Canada calls, and the other was for International calls. Both were each about the size of a phonebook, & they stopped publishing them in 1997. Buckmaster also makes a CD call book program. The nice thing about it is the availability to download updates free until the next version comes out. Both the Buckmaster and RAC will set you back about 50 bucks each. Either one will do; no need to purchase both, unless you want to.

♦ OK, now what about MY QSL card?? How/where do I get them?

There are probably as many QSL card printers as there are hams in the world. OK, not really, but they are quite plentiful, and you can shop at home right on the web and find the card you like at the right price. For your convenience, I've included a list of just SOME below. Another thing: If you're comfortable with computers and graphics programs, there's really no reason you can't design your own. Pick out a favorite picture, add your call and address and PRESTO: A home-brewed QSL card. Now THAT really is the final courtesy of the QSO with a one-of-a-kind personal touch added. I've included pics of my home-made cards, to inspire you. Yeah, it might be more expensive and cumbersome to produce your own, rather than order them, but a home-brew card can't be beat. All you need is a computer and some sort of photo-editing program, along with a photo printer, and you're in business! Just print them as you need them to save a little money.....

♦ OOH.....I forgot.....What's an IRC?

IRC stands for "International Reply Coupon". IRCs can be exchanged for airmail postage in any country that is a member of the Universal Postal Union, an arm of the UN. Think of the UPU as the post office version of the IARU or the ITU. An IRC is designed to take the place of sending currency, and all of its inherent disadvantages. Any post office in the US can sell you IRCs. The current cost is about \$2.10 for a single IRC, and it'll be good for about 20 grams of weight back to you. Some countries may require 2 IRCs for return postage; it's not uncommon. They're a lot safer than green-stamps, but be careful; some managers/stations won't accept them. Most will though. A lot of managers will re-cycle them and sell them to amateurs, usually at a discount so they can recoup at least some of their costs associated with being a manager.

Y' know, an interesting side hobby to collecting QSL cards is the collecting of postage stamps that come with 'em. I personally have a binder full of stamps from all over the world. Another cool conversation piece for your coffee table! So, before you throw those envelopes away, consider cutting the stamps off and saving them.

♦ HELPFUL WEBSITES TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR QSL DOLLAR:

QRZ: <www.qrz.com>
GoList: <www.golist.net>
WinQSL: <www.winqsl.de>
EQSL: <www.eqsl.cc/qslcard/Index.cfm>
425 DX News: <www.425dxn.org/>
OPDX Bulletin: <<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>>

♦ QSL CARD SITES:

GG Graphics: <www.ggraphicsstore.com>
W4MPY, the QSL man: <www.w4mpy.com>
Rusprint: <www.rusprint.com>
UX5UO: <www.ux5uoqsl.com>
QSLWorks: <www.qslworks.com>
KAMKO QSL Cards: <www.artscipub.com/kamko/>
K5LAD QSL Cards: <[www.hayseed.net/~jpk5lad/QSL % 20Cards /K5LAD % 20QSL % 20Card % 20History.htm](http://www.hayseed.net/~jpk5lad/QSL%20Cards/K5LAD%20QSL%20Card%20History.htm)>
W1WC QSL Printer link: <www.w1wc.com/qsl_cards>
Cheap QSLs: <<http://www.cheapqsls.com/>>
YOUR BEST BET: SIMPLY GOOGLE 'QSL PRINTER'. THERE'S TONS OF 'EM!

William J Plum DX Supplies
<A excellent source for envelopes, QSL albums, stamps>
12 Glenn Road
Flemington, NJ. 08822-3322
Ph. #: 908-788-1020
Fax #: 908-782-2612
<plumdx@msn.com>



Pictured here are 2 cards that I threw together in just a few minutes for use here. Really; it only took about 5 minutes each to do these. Using a program such as Adobe Photoshop, or Corel Photo-Paint, or even Microsoft Paint, it's really easy to do so. Just find a nice picture of the city, your shack, antenna, etc., add some text, and you've got yourself a nice home-made card. BTW: Microsoft Paint comes FREE with every version of Windows. (Actually, any good quality photo-editing program should work just fine, like Photoshop Elements by Adobe or Corel Paint Shop Pro.)

Now Karl, WA3VXJ has turned me on to a really cool QSL card program. It's called "QSL Maker", and as its name implies, it's a program where you can create your own QSL card. Granted, it's not as elaborate as Photoshop or Photo-Paint, but you can create a nice, simple QSL card, and it includes some simple clip-art that you can use for a background. Karl and I had the opportunity to play with it a few weeks back, and we found it to be pretty easy to use. No, you won't be able to use a background on your card like you see here with this program, but nevertheless, you'll still be able to create a decent card. (We tried to use a photo background and found the image to be a low-quality rendition. Probably 256-colors.) Best of all, the price is right: FREE! You know how Ye Olde Editor actively seeks out things in life that are free. Check it out. You can download the file at this link:

<www.iw5edi.com/ham-radio/?qsl-maker,63>

This is a real nice, economical program to use. Simply create 'em & print 'em as you need 'em.

Well, I hope I've inspired you to start chasing QSLs. I also hope I've inspired you to do some creative thinking & some creative creating with your cards. Whichever way you decide to go, whether purchasing cards ready-made or creating your own, once you start QSLing, it's like eating potato chips: You can't have just one! 73 de NB3C. Thanks for reading!

The hottie in the pottie

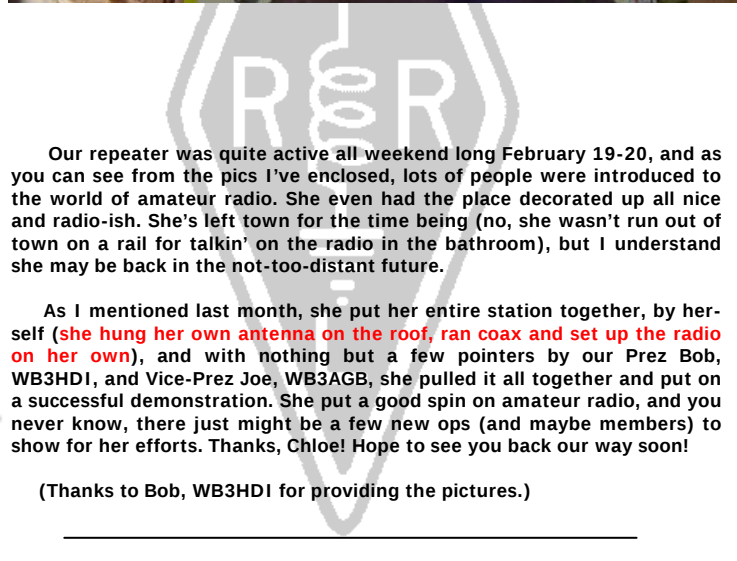
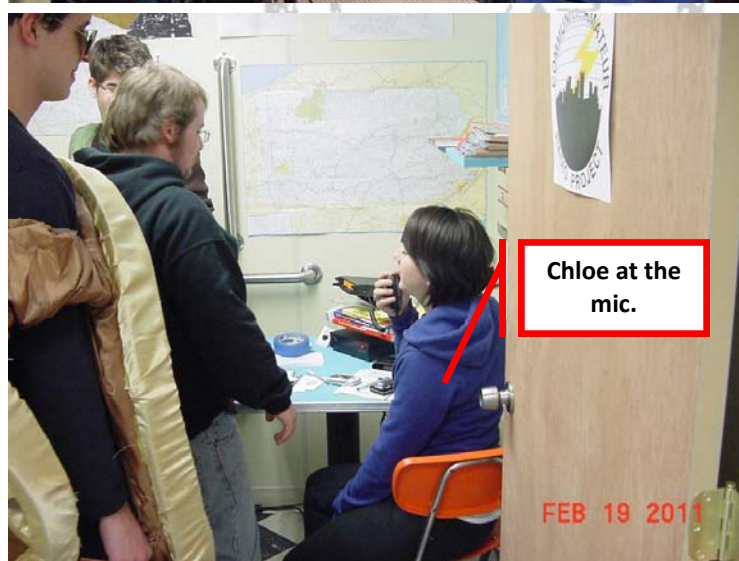


In last months 'The Ed sez' column I mentioned how Chloe, KF7NSE was on a quest to bring amateur radio to the masses. She was here for about a week, and had her station set up in the bathroom at the Waffle House in East Liberty

I'll pause here for a moment while you finish your chortling/chuckling.

<PAUSE>

Yeah, you read it right: She had her setup in the bathroom at the Waffle House. I know, I know; the bathroom?? Well, there's an old saying: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." That's just exactly what she did. While I'll agree that the bathroom is a less-than-ideal location, you work with what you're given. She did it, and quite successfully, I might add. Me personally, anything we can do to expose amateur radio to young people, I'm all for it.....



Our repeater was quite active all weekend long February 19-20, and as you can see from the pics I've enclosed, lots of people were introduced to the world of amateur radio. She even had the place decorated up all nice and radio-ish. She's left town for the time being (no, she wasn't run out of town on a rail for talkin' on the radio in the bathroom), but I understand she may be back in the not-too-distant future.

As I mentioned last month, she put her entire station together, by herself (she hung her own antenna on the roof, ran coax and set up the radio on her own), and with nothing but a few pointers by our Prez Bob, WB3HDI, and Vice-Prez Joe, WB3AGB, she pulled it all together and put on a successful demonstration. She put a good spin on amateur radio, and you never know, there just might be a few new ops (and maybe members) to show for her efforts. Thanks, Chloe! Hope to see you back our way soon!

(Thanks to Bob, WB3HDI for providing the pictures.)

Ye Olde Editor's Op-Ed



**I WANT YOU
ELECTED REPS
TO LEAVE
440MHZ ALONE**

www.says.it.com/unclesam

OUR SYSTEM WON'T. We are completely independent of other systems.

- ⇒ Our ability to communicate, if worse comes to worse, by doing nothing more than tapping 2 wires together and sending code to the other end of the circuit. IE: The ability to communicate under the worst of conditions.
- ⇒ The support we offer to disaster agencies, like the Salvation Army & Red Cross, not to mention all of our local government agencies. Don't forget SkyWarn, and our weather-spotting capabilities.
- ⇒ Tell them about the disaster in Japan, and how our fellow hams are providing emergency communications, while other communications networks are in a shambles. We can't do that here if our frequencies are gone.

Let them know that we DO use our frequencies in the public interest, and to allow us to continue doing so. Remember; the WORST thing you can say is: "Ahhh, I'm sure somebody else will write a letter." If everybody else says that, and you're the only one that DOES write a thoughtful letter, it might make the difference. It could be what changes your reps mind. Otherwise, we have nobody to blame but ourselves when our hand-helds and expensive VHF/UHF rigs are illegal to own.

Remember: Educate and enlighten. Don't go all spastic and crazy and criticize his/her ancestry. A well thought-out letter educating them on your position, and why will go a long way. Our future is in OUR hands; let's leave something for future generations to use & enjoy. Just like those that came before us did.

For your convenience, I've enclosed contact info for your reps on [page 8](#). I'm stepping off the soapbox now. 73 de NB3C. Thanks for your attention & reading!

If you read last months newsletter, (and I hope you did; that's why I write it) you're probably thinking that it's open season on us amateur-types. We've got our pals in Harrisburg that want to take away our mobile operating, and our reps inside the beltway that want to take away the frequencies that we operate mobile on. All of a sudden, everybody seems to be picking on us. What can we do?

Simple: Sit down & write a letter to your representatives in Harrisburg and Washington. Educate them. Enlighten them. Tell them why & what we do.

Unfortunately, one needn't look very far to see that our services can be valuable in times of emergencies or natural disasters. Heck, our services can come in handy just about anytime. For instance: How about the upcoming Pittsburgh Marathon, or the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix? As I write this, the flood waters are slowly receding here in our area, but things aren't going so well for our friends in Japan. Just hit by a 8.9 magnitude earthquake, and the ensuing tsunami, the entire country is suffering from terrible damage, a high injury & death toll, and nuclear reactors that are approaching meltdown. Our colleagues in Japan certainly aren't sitting around, waiting for the cell phones to start working again. We need to educate our elected representatives as to just what we are capable of in case the big one DOES hit HERE, and how we can provide reliable communications in and out of a disaster area, NO MATTER WHAT MOTHER NATURE THROWS OUR WAY. While I'm relatively certain that a tsunami probably won't be rolling down the Ohio river any time soon, who knows for sure what'll happen in the future here in our little slice of heaven?

Writing a letter to your elected rep is one of the most effective ways to communicate with them. It is a way of putting on record your opinion. Your opinion is important to them; it's their job to represent their constituents interests as best they can. Sending a letter on matters important to you gives them an idea of what matters to people in their area.

You don't need to be a Pulitzer-Prize-winning author to write. Look at me: I write this rag every month, and people seem to like it, and I'm certainly no Woodward & Bernstein. A short simple letter THAT YOU WROTE is fine. A well thought out letter will go farther than a mass-mailed form letter, at least I think so. (BTW: I've seen some form letters on this matter, and the writing and wording is, well, let's just say unsatisfactory, and leave it at that.) Sit down, THINK about what to write beforehand, then sit down at the computer and write it out. Accentuate the positive things we do, and are capable of doing. You know, like driving up to a disaster and being able to provide instant communications.

Write a letter expressing YOUR stance on these important issues facing us, as amateur radio operators, not somebody else's. It'll get noticed, believe me.

Here are some (I hope) helpful ideas that you can expand upon:

- ⇒ Our ability to drive to a disaster and provide INSTANT, RELIABLE communications, when all else fails. When the cell phones go down, (just like they did when the Galaxy IV satellite failed years back)



NOW GO WRITE THOSE LETTERS!

Worked all counties (well, at least in Pa.)



Congratulations goes out to fellow SCARC club members Richie (N3SBF) and Carol (KB3GMN) on their clean sweep in the PA QSO Party in October 2010. Yep, you heard it right; they worked all 67 counties, and they got the plaque to prove it! Like I said before, it doesn't sound very hard to work all 67 counties in the party during the weekend, but more people miss it than get it. So kudos to the both of you for "gettin' it"! That's the lovely couple above at the March 15 business meeting. (Tnx to WB3HDI for the picture.)

Wanted: New VE Coordinator

After many years of setting up and coordinating the clubs VE sessions, Mark, AI3J Has decided it's time to hang up his spurs. So, if you're a VE and would like to step up and fill his shoes, let him or one of the club officers know. His E-Mail: [<AI3J@w3kwh.com>](mailto:AI3J@w3kwh.com). You can also find officers' E-Mail addresses on [page 2](#). On behalf of the club, thank you Mark, for all your years of service on this detail.

(Info obtained from the 425 DX News and the OPDX Bulletin. Many thanks to them for permission to use here.)

QSL via.....

CALL	MANAGER	CALL	MANAGER	CALL	MANAGER
3D2A	VK4AN	C06RD	8P9NX	NP2/N2TTA	W3HNK
3D2DX	OZ1IKY	C06WD	8P9NX	OH0R	OH2PM
4J9M	DL7EDH	C08LY	EA7ADH	OL60DG	OK1DG
4K7Z	UA5DX	CP6XE	IK6SNR	OX3XR	OZ3PZ
4L6DL	LZ10T	CT8/SJ6A	SM6JSM	P40YL	AI6YL
4S7DXG	UR9IDX	CT8/SM6C	SM6CTQ	P49MR	VE3MR
5B4AJC	UA3DX	DU1/JJ5GMJ	JH5RSX	P49V	AI6V
5B8AD	W3HNK	DU1IST	JA1HGY	PJ2W	NA6YL
5K3W	HK3W	DX2DP	VE7DP	PJ4/W9NJY	WD9DZV
5L2RL	EL2BA	DZ1P	VE7DP	PV7M	PT7ZT
5N7M	OM3CGN	EI4VXX	UA10MX	PY4ZUN	LX1NJ
5P5K	DL7AOS	EK3GM	IK2QPR	S21YZ	JH1AJT
5Q2J	OZ2JBC	EL2GB	I20EGA	S79UFT	F6AXX
5R8XB	ON8XB	EM0K	US0KW	SP0BOCIEK	SP3PJW
5W1SA	JH7OHF	EM2G	UR7GO	SU1SK	SM5AQD
5X1NH	G3RWF	EP3MJ	IK2DUW	SV0XCA/5	LZ1WL
5X1VJ	UV5EVJ	EP3PK	IK2DUW	SV0XCC/9	LZ1YE
6V7D	UA0SE	FG4NN	N15DX	T6AF	EB7DX
6W2SC	HA3AUI	FM5BH	W3HNK	TC18M	TA1HZ
6W7RV	F8CMT	FM5FJ	KU9C	TG7WW	KD4POJ
7P8CF	K5LBU	FM5WD	W3HNK	TJ3FC	F5LGE
7P8KDJ	W5KDJ	F08RZ/p	F8BPN	TO11A	F6HMQ
7Z1TT	NI5DX	FR/TU5KG	F4EFI	TO1N	IW1GGN
8P3A	VE3DZ	FR5DZ	F6CXV	UN5J	W3HNK
8P6DR	G3RWL	FY5LH	F5KDR	UN7JOT	IW7EHC
8P9AA	VE3DZ	GB0BB	M0HFC	UN7QX	W7BO
9A/VE3ZIK	DK8ZZ	GB0SP	M0DOL	UN8GV	RD3AY
9G5XA	G3SWH	GB0SPD	G10BJH	UP0L	DL8KAC
9L1BTB	SP7BTB	GJ5XW	G5XW	UP2L	UA9AB
9M8Z	M0URX	GX4KPT/p	M0DOL	V31GB	KD2JA
9N7AN	DL4SVA	H44MS	DL2GAC	V31MM	WB2REM
9Q/DK3MO	DF9TA	HB10K	EA7FTR	V31PM	W4PGM
A51A	JH1AJT	HG20MAT	HA30D	V31YI	SP9BZM
A52J	JA1TRC	HH2/PY1ZV	PY1NB	V44KAI	W5TFW
A61AS	Y03FRI	HH8/N3BNA	KA2AEV	V44KJ	WB2TSL
A61E	EB7DX	HP1XX	DJ0LZ	V47G1W	W4GIW
A61LL	EA5ZD	HP3AK	W4J3	V47JA	W5JON
A65BP	UA6MF	HR2DMR	OK1DOT	VK0KEV	JE1LET
A65BR	UA9AB	HR5/F2JD	FA6JA	VK4LXD/p	VK8PDX
A65CA	RV6AJJ	HZ1ZH	EA7FTR	VK9CF	K8NA
A71BU	NI5DX	II2LOM	IQ2LZ	VU4PB	W3HNK
A71BX	EA7FTR	II7CL	IQ7MU	W1E1/KH2	JR1GSE
A71CT	EA7FTR	II7UI	IK7SLT	W2FJ/KH2	JA1SVP
A71EM	EA7FTR	IO2UDI	IQ2LZ	XE1RK	EA5ZD
AP2NK	W3HNK	IR1ITA	IK1SPR	XE3MAYA	EA5KB
BM100	BM2JCC	J3/PE1IGM	PA3C	XL3A	VE3AT
BN100	BM2JCC	J45PO	ON4PO	XT2AEF	JH3AEF
BP100	BX4AQ	J73CCM	SM0CCM	XT2VVO	J03VVO
BW100	BM2JCC	J79M	SM3PHM	XU7FZM	OK1FZM
BX100	BM2JCC	JT5DX	JT1CO	XU7KOH	ON7PP
C4N	W3HNK	JW7QIA	LA7QIA	XU7WZM	OK1WZM
C6AMM	K1CN	JW7XM	LA7XM	XV1X	OK1DOT
C6ANM	WA2IYO	JY4CI	K2AX	XV2W	W6NWS
CE9XX	F5PFP	JY4NE	K3IRV	XV4Y	OK1DOT
CM2XT	EB7DX	JY5MM	IK2DUW	YI9NS	W3HNK
CM3RPN	EB7DX	K4J	KP4JRS	YS3CW	I2JIN
CN2DP	CT1CDP	KH2RU/KP4	NP30	Z22CW	DK7PE
CN2MR	MJ0ASP	KP4BD	EA7FTR	Z22CN	J99WH
CN2PV	W3PV	LW6DG	EA5KB	ZD9GI	ZS1A
CN2R	W7EJ	LY21A	LY5A	ZF2GO	WB90TX
CN8KD	EA5XX	MC0SHL	M0URX	ZL50VK	ZL1VK
CN8QN	EA7FTR	MJ0CFW	M0CFW	ZP5KO	PY4KL
CN8SG	EA7FTR	NN1X/KH6	JG3JLC	ZP9MCE	EA5ZD

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX
(dated March 25th)

4J9M via DL7EDH (direct only)
EI6DX via RX3RC
PJ2/DK50N via DK50N
4L4ZA via DJ1CW
GJ5XW via G5XW (direct)
PJ2/VA7AM via VA7AM
4S7DXG via UR9IDX
(direct only)
GJ/PD1RP via PD1RP
PJ2/WX7P via WX7P
5P1M via OZ2MA
II2MM via IK2AQZ
R5RQQ via RN3RQ
5P3WW via DL1YAW
J3/PE1IGM via PA3C
S79UFT via F6AXX
5P5K via DL7AOS
JY5MM via IK2DUW
SP0BOCIEK via SP3PJW
A52J via JA1TRC
LY21A via LY5A
UR5GDH via UW7LL
CT9/DF7ZS via DF7ZS
MC0SHL via M0URX
V47GIW via W4GIW (LoTW only)
CV5D via CX2ABC
M30JZE via LoTW and EQSL only
XE3MAYA via EA5KB
DK150RB via DL1SBF
MJ/K3PLV via K3PLV
XU7FZM via OK1FZM
EA8/G1INK/P via G1INK
MJ/PD1RP via PD1RP

⇒ **D2CQ LOG.** The Algarve STAR DX Team reports that the D2CQ log online has been updated through March 22nd, at:
<<http://algarvedx.com>>

⇒ **N08DX/20 QSL STATUS.** QSLs have been ordered and cards should be going out in early April. QSL via KB8NW.

⇒ **VK0KEV LOGS.** Kevin, VK0KEV, who is active from Macquarie Island, reports on QRZ.com: "Due to the sheer volume of requests received, I am unable to respond to E-mails. If you would like to check your entry in my log please go to:
<<http://www.hrdlog.net/ViewLogbook.aspx?user=vk0kev>>
QSL via JE1LET (direct only)."

⇒ **QSL RECEIVED VIA LoTW:** 9M6/V01ASU, EW7KF, FP/W6HGF, HA5AQ, HR5/F2JD, KG4KL, KP2DX, LA6YEA, OH6CT, P40A, V250P, V25WY, VP2V/G3PHO, VP8NO, XE83IARU and Z21BB

⇒ **QSLs RECEIVED VIA MAIL:** 3C0CW, 4Z5AD, 5R8X, 9J2B0, A35AY, AH0J, AP2ARS, C6AGN, CP6XE, CY0X, D44AC, HC2/SM0COP, HL5NLQ, J39BS, KH2L, OD5NJ, OH3JR/VP9, PJ4D, PJ4W, ST2AR, T300U, T6MB, V73QO, V73TM, WA2USA/4, ZB2FK, ZD9T and ZL8X

DK7PE: Rudolf Klos, Ulrichstrasse 26, 55128 Mainz, Germany

DL4SVA: Georg Tretow, P.O. Box 1114, 23932 Grevesmuhlen, Germany

JH1AJT: Y. Zorro Miyazawa, P.O. Box 8, Oiso-machi, Naka-Gun, Kanagawa-ken, 259-0111, Japan

K2AX: Mark J O'Brien, RD 2 324 Whitehorse Pike, Hamonton NJ 08037, USA

K5LBU: Charles F. Frost, 3311 Hilton Head Ct, Missouri City TX 77459, USA

NA6YL YL DXpeditions: 2104 Poplar Rd., Oceanside CA 92058, USA

ON8XB: Marco S. Botta, Avenue du Congo 14/27, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

PY2ZA: Jose Armando de Macedo Soares Jr., P.O. Box 53061, Sao Paulo - SP, 08220-971, Brazil

UV5EVJ: Sergiy Shpak, P.O. Box 2378, Dnepropetrovsk, Dnepropetrovskaya obl., 49040, Ukraine

W3HNK: Joe Arcure, 115 Buck Run Road, Lincoln University PA 19352, USA

W5KDJ: Wayne M. Rogers, 9877 Trailway Drive, Montgomery TX 77316, USA



RADIO AMATEURS IN JAPAN STILL PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

Amateur Radio operators became involved in the rescue effort soon after the March 11 8.9 earthquake and devastating tsunami that hit northern Japan, and that effort continues nearly two weeks later. "In the early stage following the earthquake and tsunami, several radio amateurs were able to activate their stations with car batteries or small engine generators, despite the electric power outages," IARU Region 3 Secretary Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP, told the ARRL. "They transmitted rescue requests and information on the disaster situation -- including refugee centers and their needs -- and the availability of basic infrastructures, such as electricity, water and gas supplies." After the earthquake and tsunami, there was no electricity, water or gas service in many of the affected areas.

In his report to the ARRL, Yamamoto said that the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) activated JA1RL -- its headquarters station in Tokyo -- soon after the earthquake. With the help of many other amateurs, it also activated its regional headquarters station JA3RL in Osaka to communicate with the amateurs in the damaged areas, including its Tohoku headquarters station JA7RL in Sendai. "The communications were mostly on the 7 MHz band in daytime and the 3.5 MHz band at night," Yamamoto explained. "Short range communications were also made on the 144 and 430 MHz bands. The information gathered through Amateur Radio communications was reported to the rescue and disaster relief organizations for their appropriate deployment. Some other amateurs accepted health-and-welfare inquiries from the [impacted] areas and they posted the information on the Internet."

Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications -- that country's equivalent of the FCC -- approved the use of an additional 300 UHF/VHF transceivers in the affected areas.

With gasoline and natural gas in short supply, Yamamoto said that the fuel shortage was "a very serious problem in the cold climate. Calls for fuel were received over radio from many disaster areas, but delivery remained very difficult at least for the first week as the access roads were hacked up everywhere. Several days later, some Amateur Radio clubs reached the affected areas with their radio equipment and established communications for supporting disaster relief."

Yamamoto told the ARRL that several radio equipment manufacturers offered "hundreds of VHF/UHF transceivers to JARL for the use at refugee centers and local disaster relief centers. These transceivers should help to establish mutual communications between refugee and disaster relief centers, and to facilitate smooth and appropriate delivery of disaster relief goods."

AMATEURS ASSIST WITH OCEAN RESCUE

At 10:04 AM PDT on March 21, Rex Weinheimer, KC5AGO, of Stonewall, Texas -- a member of the Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) -- heard and responded to a "weak and broken MAYDAY call." The call was from the sailing vessel *Gloria Jean*, a 30 foot sailboat that was in the Pacific Ocean about 120 miles west of Ensenada, Mexico. Weinheimer heard the distress call on 14.300 MHz, a frequency monitored by the MMSN.

MMSN Net Controller Lee Langford, KG4DZN, told the ARRL that through the combined efforts of several net stations, the net was able to ascertain the situation and the position of the stricken vessel. MMSN operators contacted both the US and Mexican Coast Guards and both services deployed assets to the scene. The US Coast Guard dispatched an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from San Diego and a C-130 Hercules plane from Sacramento. According to the USCG, the *Gloria Jean* had no propulsion, food, water or safety equipment.

"The sailing vessel Estarma -- an MMSN net participant -- changed course to assist the crippled *Gloria Jean* and provided information on scene," Langford told the ARRL. A USCG rescue swimmer was lowered from the helicopter as it hovered near the disabled sailboat. The 77 year old sailor and his dog were hoisted aboard the helicopter at 2:50 (PDT) that afternoon.

"It was about 15- to 18-foot seas, with the boat dead in the water," Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician Mike Linehan told San Diego television station KGTV. "The waves were pushing it away from me as I was trying to get to it. It was challenging swimming to the boat. It was really hard to talk to him at first. We found out later that he didn't have his hearing aids in."

The sailor told USCG personnel that he had been stranded for days and that he was on his way to Tahiti. He was running low on food, water and safety supplies. "The boat was unable to sail," said USCG Lieutenant Commander Chip Lewin. "The sails were ripped and the master and his dog were sitting inside."

Langford offered his thanks to all the Amateur Radio operators "who assisted with relays and patiently provided a clear frequency. Without them, this rescue would not have been possible."

"It's truly is a wonderful thing to be able to help anyone in need. Amateur Radio is based on service," Weinheimer said.

The Maritime Mobile Service Net mission is handling traffic from maritime mobiles and deployed service personnel overseas. MMSN operates on 14.300 MHz USB, a recognized Center of Activity frequency, with its sister nets Intercontinental Traffic Net and Pacific Seafarer's Net. -- Thanks to KGTV San Diego for additional information.

NIST TO CONDUCT TIME AND FREQUENCY USER SURVEY

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Time and Frequency Division is conducting a survey to learn more about its users, seeking to determine how the agency can make its services more useful in the future. NIST services include WWV, WWVH and WWVB, which provide reference time and frequency signals via radio. The NIST also provides the Internet Time Service -- which provides accurate time synchronization to computer systems -- and several other services to offer accurate time information via telephone or web pages. Radio amateurs are encouraged to complete the survey.

"If you use any of these services, we want to hear from you," said WWVH Electronic Technician Dean Takamatsu. "The survey should take just a few minutes to complete and your input will be greatly appreciated."

WWV and WWVB in Fort Collins, Colorado, along with WWVH on Kauai, Hawaii, broadcast continuous time and frequency information to millions of listeners worldwide. Information broadcast includes time announcements, standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a BCD time code, geophysical alerts, marine storm warnings and Global Positioning System status reports.

FCC SEEKING COMMENTS ON ARRL PETITION REGARDING TDMA

Earlier this month, the ARRL filed a Petition for Rulemaking and a Request for Temporary Waiver with the FCC, seeking authorization of the use of single-time-slot Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the amateur bands at and above 50 MHz, wherever multiple-time-slot TDMA is authorized. The FCC has designated the Petition as RM-11625 and is soliciting comments on it. Comments may be filed electronically and will be accepted until April 22

Through this rulemaking, the ARRL seeks to facilitate the use of and experimentation by radio amateurs with existing narrowband spectrum-efficient digital voice and data technology. "Such technology is now in regular and increasing use in the private land mobile radio services, but its use in the Amateur Radio Service is now apparently unintentionally precluded by two specific Commission rules," the ARRL's Petition stated. The Petition asks the FCC to allow those amateurs who are presently using a Motorola narrowband (12.5 kHz) digital land mobile system -- commercially marketed as MotoTRBO -- to be used legally. Because of some restrictions in the Part 97 rules, the TDMA repeaters (which are multiple-time-slot devices) are legal, but the mobiles and portables are not because the emissions used (single-time-slot TDMA) are not authorized anywhere, due to the emission designator.



Public Service: Western Pennsylvania Hams Respond as Tornado Sweeps Through Area

Radio station at the NWS office in Pittsburgh -- 15 minutes before it was reported on the local TV stations," ARRL Westmoreland County Emergency Coordinator Chuck Mills, W3YNI, told the ARRL. "The storm continued to move east toward Latrobe, where additional large sized hail was reported."

Ralph Ofchinick, W3ZPI, and Jay Schall, KB3NSJ, activated the ham station at the Greensburg Emergency Operations Center, and continued to provide communications support. At 5:30 PM, a second, but not quite as strong storm, moved through the area, producing additional heavy rain and hail. Rick Varnise, K3EPV, deployed to a shelter in Hempfield Township that had been set up for victims of the tornado.

Mills said that the NWS classified the tornado as an F2 in strength, with winds topping 120 MPH. Many homes in the area were destroyed or damaged as the tornado continued along its seven mile path. Westmoreland County Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Dan Stevens said that the tornado destroyed at least 30 homes and damaged at least 90. There were no reports of serious injuries.

By Joe Moell, K0OV
ARRL ARDF Coordinator

When nurses and other caregivers picked up their phones at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) in California in the early morning on March 21, there was no dial tone. A power surge caused the central processor in the hospital's phone switch to fail. Following established procedures, the Lead Operator at the CHOC switchboard immediately activated the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), using an off-switch tie-line to reach April Moell, WA6OPS, head of this ARES® group that specializes in helping hospitals when their communications fail.

Moell established a 2 meter net and initiated a call-out of HDSCS members via telephone and pager. Ken Simpson, W6KOS, and Clay Stearns, KE6TZR, soon arrived at the hospital to help establish a link with the outside world. Soon, more operators were at the hospital to communicate for its most important units, including the emergency department, neonatal intensive care, pediatric intensive care and the pharmacy.

She then contacted the supervisor at Orange County Communications to report the outage and to provide her telephone number for incoming calls to CHOC. This resulted in Moell receiving several urgent messages for the hospital, including one regarding the transport of a young patient coming in for an appendectomy. Message handling continued through the morning, with some of the first-to-arrive operators being relieved by other HDSCS members when they had to leave for work or other commitments.

By 10:45 AM, some phones were working, but spare parts were on their way from a supplier. HDSCS continued to provide unit-to-unit and hospital-to-community messaging as needed, including coordination of patient treatments and a request for blood. At 1:02 PM, the repair crew announced that the phone system was back to normal, except for some voicemail functions. HDSCS members remained on station for 30 more minutes, as they always do to insure that phone systems are stable before securing.

This is the 31st year of HDSCS service to medical facilities in Orange County and the 114th activation to provide communications support when telephones have failed or overloaded. The reasons for HDSCS involvement have ranged from equipment failure, to cut cables, to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and wildfires. Each member has their own go-kit that is ready to take to any of the 36 supported hospitals to establish communications. The HDSCS is familiar with CHOC because the group has participated in drills and communications emergencies there before, including a external phone outage that lasted 22 hours in August 2006 when a construction accident severed fiber optic cables.

The following HDSCS members also participated in this activation: Paul Broden, K6MHD; Tom Hall, N6DGK; Bill Hegardt, K6WIL; Rebecca Katzen, KI6OEM; Joe Moell, K0OV; Dale Petes, KI6ANS; Sam Stratton, W5AGX, and Fred Wagner, KQ6Q.

From the ARRL Bulletin. ©2011, ARRL.



Website of the month



ETHICS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR:

At its June 2008 meeting the IARU Administrative Council, noting that "poor operating behavior adversely affects the enjoyment of all radio amateurs and does not enhance the reputation of the Amateur Radio Services", endorsed and recommended the principles set out by John Devoldere, ON4UN and Marc Demeuleneere, ON4WW in their booklet "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur". The booklet is currently available in 28 languages, and can be downloaded for free from quite a number of websites. The entire collection can be found at:

<www.ham-operating-ethics.org>

(FROM THE ARRL CONTEST UPDATE, MARCH 30 EDITION.
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144MHz Wednesdays are alive & well!

WB9LYH is on 144.240 from EN54cl at 0000Z or 7pm central/8pm eastern.
K8TQK is on 144.250 from EM89je at 0030Z or 7:30pm central/8:30pm eastern.
KA0KYZ is on 144.230 from EN33qw at 0200Z or 9pm central/10pm eastern.

If you desire more info about these nets, click here:

<<http://kc9bqa.com/?p=4275>>

For those near EL99 and EM13, there are also nets on
144.250 every Wednesday evening, at 0000Z-0100Z for EL99, and at 0200Z, for EM13.

Enjoy the widespread activity on 2m SSB/CW. Do what you can to help keep our band allocations alive. Help spread the word. Many hams will give weak-signal work a try if they know where and when the action is.

73, Todd KC9BQA EN63ao 40 N of Milwaukee
<www.kc9bqa.com> For Frequent VHF/UHF Updates
<www.wivuch.com> WI VHF/UHF County Hunters Award

A (semi) frequent feature where I try to highlight websites I hope you'll find useful and informative. YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER: I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in the website described here. You know the rest.....

My website pick this month:

Pathfinder Online: <<http://www.dxlabsuite.com/pathfinder/WebClient/index.htm?TargetCallsign>>

Since I was chatting about QSL cards and such earlier in the newsletter, I thought I'd take the time and highlight this website chock full of QSL info.

I think you'll find this site to be of great assistance in helping you get that elusive QSL card you need to complete your DXCC chase. Lots of links are available here concerning QSLing and DXing, like for instance, the link that'll take you to announced DXpeditions for the year. Not only that, but there are links to take you to maps containing grayline and MUF info, not to mention current propagation info. 'DXSummit', which is an on-line DX Cluster is also available here for your use. A good way to keep abreast of what's happening on the bands when you're not in the shack.

One of the cool things about this website is the option for you to search OTHER countries callbooks. When you type in a callsign, Pathfinder will recognize the prefix. If a callbook is available for that particular prefix/country, the prefix will appear next to the 'CBA' button. Clicking on that button will take you to that country's callbook. As of this writing, 76 country-specific callbooks are available for your use, and those that are available are listed by country prefix.

Remember how I was talking about IRCs in the 'Beginners Help Desk' article in this issue? Well, there is a list of countries and how many IRCs it'll take to get your card back, as well as how many greenstamps it'll take to get a card. Clicking on the 'IRC & \$' button will take you to this site. You can also find out the postage required to mail a letter to a particular country. Click on the 'Postage' button to check it out.

Up at the top of the screen is about a dozen buttons that'll take you to different QSL info sites. It's a great all-in-one site for cleaning up your QSL chores.

Now, Pathfinder Online is just part of the DXLabSuite website. The website itself has a whole lot of cool FREE software that you can download and use in the shack. Logging, propagation, DXCluster, PSK31/RTTY software, it's all available here for you to download and try. Just the QSL info available here is awesome, but the addition of the software makes it a site that is worth your while checking out. Bookmark it and check it out. I think you'll be accessing it a lot once you see what it has to offer.

That's my pick for this month. Hope you found something you can use here. 73 de NB3C. Thanks for reading!

Wanted: Race for the cure ops....

I am coordinating the Race for the Cure again this year. It will be held in Schenley Park on May 8th, Mother's Day. I will need volunteers for fixed points along the course and shadows for the race officials. If you are interested, please drop me an e-mail to <nu3n@verizon.net> or by phone at (412) 279-9016.

73, Bob, NU3Q

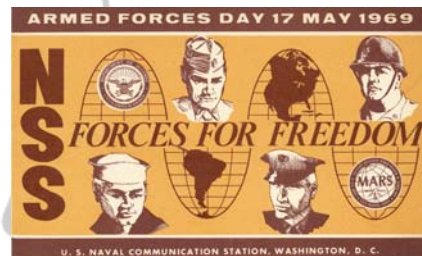
SCARC Swap 'n shop

Ed, ex WB3DSN wants to sell off the ham gear that he no longer uses. He can be reached at 412-343-4969 in Green Tree boro. All include manuals and are in good condition. \$200.00 for the lot.

- ⇒ HW 101 transceiver
- ⇒ HM 102 power meter
- ⇒ HP 23B power supply
- ⇒ HD 1410 keyer
- ⇒ Cantenna dummy load
- ⇒ Astatic Mic
- ⇒ DSI Frequency Counter
- ⇒ Heath monitor
- ⇒ Mini quad antenna (must take down from roof)

N3VEF is now AAM3IPA

Fellow SCARC'er Billy Joe, N3VEF/AAT3OY has been appointed the State Interoperability (that's a mouthful.....) Officer in the PA MARS organization. He was acting State Training Officer until someone could be found to fill that position. Mel, W3SQ has stepped forward and is now the new PA MARS State Training Officer. On behalf of the club, congrats Billy on your new assignment, and a big THANK YOU for your service to our armed forces personnel!



ARISSAT-1 ON THE AIR FOR GAGARIN ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first human spaceflight by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the ARISSat-1 satellite aboard the International Space Station will be on the air using the station's external antenna. **Transmissions will begin on Monday, April 11, at 14:30 UTC and continue until 10:30 UTC on April 13.**

To preserve the satellite's battery, transmissions will cycle on and off. ARISSat-1 will transmit for 40 to 60 seconds, and then remain silent for 2 minutes.

The FM transmissions on 145.950 MHz will alternate between a voice ID, telemetry values, SSTV images and audio greetings in 15 different languages. One of the transmissions will contain audio of a conversation between Gagarin and ground controllers that was recorded during the historic flight.

A CW beacon will be heard on 145.919 MHz cycling between the ARISSat-1 call sign, telemetry and call signs of individuals involved in the ARISS program.

BPSK-1000 telemetry transmissions will also take place on 145.920MHz SSB using the new 1kBPSC protocol developed by Phil Karn, KA9Q.

AMSAT will issue commemorative certificates to listeners who receive the ARISSat-1 transmissions. Reports can be e-mailed to <Gagarin@arissat1.org> or <yuri@arissat1.org>. Include your name, call sign, a description of what you heard and the UTC time you heard it. Recording the battery voltage telemetry values and the UTC time you received them will be especially helpful.

You can determine when the International Space Station will be passing overhead by using the AMSAT-NA online pass prediction tool at, <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/>>

(COURTESY OF & ©2011, ARRL)

Southern Sudan Update

By Antonio Gonzalez EA5RM

After a long way, a lot of hard work and several successful meetings with Southern Sudan Government officials of various Ministries, just today, the first amateur radio license has been issued by the new government. (18 March)

Southern Sudan Government officials now understand amateur radio and they are ready to change the actual rules and regulations as soon as possible, looking to simplify the process of obtaining a license, so that everyone can enjoy amateur radio in this new country.

We have the cooperation of both Ministries to update our license if there is a new prefix that will be assigned by ITU and we'll be in permanent contact with the proper department helping in the development of amateur radio in Southern Sudan.

Our DXpedition will start on July 9th from Juba so please stay tuned.

I want to thank the Government of Southern Sudan officials for their cooperation and my whole teams support.





The Steel City Amateur Radio Club wishes to extend its deepest sympathies to SCARC member Jack Engel, W3UUH and his family. Jack's wife, Mary Grace passed away on March 10, 2011, at the age of 80. Jack, our thoughts and prayers are with you & your family during this sad time.

The family requests that any donation you wish to make on behalf on Mary Grace be made to :

**National Parkinsons Foundation, Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 5018, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5018.**

Mary was laid to rest at the Calvary Cemetery
in Hazelwood.

You can send a note of condolence to the family at:
<<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?n=mary-grace-engel&pid=149218061&fhid=4269>>

Mary Grace Engel: March 9, 1931-March 10, 2011

one point each. Since these smoothed values are averaged over a year, perhaps this slight increase is because of higher recent solar activity.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at, <<http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <<http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <<http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>>. Find more good information and tutorials on propagation at <<http://mysite.ncnetwork.net/k9la/index.html>>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <<http://arrl.org/propagation>>.

Sunspot numbers for March 31 through April 6 were 76, 62, 66, 70, 83, 65, and 56, with a mean of 68.3. 10.7 cm flux was 113.3, 108.9, 107.5, 114, 112.7, 109.2, and 117.1, with a mean of 111.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 13, 20, 16, 8, 7, and 26, with a mean of 13.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 9, 13, 11, 6, 4, and 16, with a mean of 8.7.

Breezeshooters Ground Wave SSB Contest Results

Thanks to the efforts of Art, WA3BKD, Doc, KT3L, and Karl WA3VXJ, the club call made its way into 87 different logbooks on 10M for a total of 159 points in the Breezeshooters G/W SSB Test held on March 19. Gents, many thanks for coming out and activating W3KWH for the contest this year! Remember, Bill, K3RYA is our club contest coordinator. If you wanna put the club on the air for a contest that interests you, let him know. You can send him a message via the club reflector, or you can use that good old standby: US Mail. You can get his address off of the QRZ.com website. Contesters and non-contesters alike are always welcome at club operating events. Remember, nobody's gonna yell or make fun of you if you ain't the contesting type. Come on out, tweak your operating skills, and most of all, have fun doing it. That's why we do it in the first place. Hope to see you at a club operating event soon! We have them all year long!

Propagation Report

Our Sun is still quite active, but sunspot numbers are down this week when compared with the week before. Average daily sunspot numbers were down nearly 34 points to 68.3, and average daily solar flux declined nearly 3 points to 111.8. Geomagnetic activity was quite strong this week, with planetary A index on April 2 at 20, and 26 on April 6.

The latest forecast from USAF and NOAA is for lower activity than the forecast from Wednesday, reported in the ARRL Letter. The latest from Thursday, April 7 has solar flux of 110, 100, 95 and 100 for April 8-11, 105 on April 12-15, then 90, 100, and 115 on April 16-18, and 125 on April 19-27. Predicted planetary A index is 5, 5, 10 and 10 on April 8-11, and 5 on April 12-17, and 7 on April 18-20.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions on April 8, quiet to unsettled April 9, unsettled to active April 10, active April 11, unsettled April 12, quiet to unsettled April 13, and back to quiet on April 14.

On April 4 NASA released a new solar cycle prediction, and they say Cycle 24 may be the smallest sunspot cycle in 200 years. Read about this prediction at <<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>>.

NOAA/SWPC Boulder has their own updated prediction, which you can see on page 14 of the April 5 Preliminary Report and Forecast at <<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1857.pdf>>. This has hardly changed from last month's version, at <<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1853.pdf>>, but notice that the predicted smoothed sunspot values for April, May and August 2011 are each slightly higher on the new one, by

March 2011
 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 2011

The Steel City ARC April Contest/Event Planner

May 2011
 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	2 ARCI Spring QSO Party SP DX Contest MO QSO Party
3 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest WASH 2M Net ARCI Spring QSO Party SP DX Contest MO QSO Party	4 Breezeshooters Net GPVHF Business Meeting RSGB 80m Club Champ CW	5 WACOM 2M Net Skyview Business Meeting WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	6 SCARC Social Nite NHARC Business Meeting Alleg Co ARES Net 144 Wednesday	7 WACOM Business Meeting SARL 80m QSO Party	8	9 MT QSO Party JIDX CW Contest NM QSO Party EU Spring Sprint CW GA QSO Party
10 WASH 2M Net MT QSO Party JIDX CW Contest NM QSO Party GA QSO Party Hungarian Straight Key Test	11 Breezeshooters Net	12 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	13 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co ARES Net 144 Wednesday NAQCC Straight Key/Bug NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint RSGB 80m Club Champ SSB	14 WASH Business Meeting	15 TAXES DUE TODAY	16 Holyland DX Contest TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Test ES Open HF Championship EU Spring Sprint MI QSO Party Ontario QSO Party
17 WASH 2M Net Michigan QSO Party Ontario QSO Party ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB	18 Breezeshooters Net	19 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	20 Alleg Co ARES Net 144 Wednesday	21 RSGB 80m Club Championship Data	22	23 10-10 Intl Spring Contest Digi SP DX RTTY Contest Helvetia Contest NE QSO Party
24 WASH 2M Net 10-10 Intl Spring Contest Digi SP DX RTTY Contest Helvetia Contest NE QSO Party	25 Breezeshooters Net	26 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	27 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co ARES Net 144 Wednesday	28	29	30 WASH Breakfast QRP To The Field FL QSO Party BARTG Sprint 75

Complete contests list: <www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>
 & <www.sk3bg.se/contest>

April 2011
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 2011

The Steel City ARC May Contest/Event Planner

June 2011
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 WASH 2M Net AGCW QRP/QRP Party FL QSO Party QRP To The Field	2 Breezeshooters Net GPVHF Business Meeting RSGB 80m Club Champ. SSB	3 WACOM 2M Net Skyview Business Meeting WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	4 SCARC Social Nite NHARC Business Meeting Alleg Co ARES Net 144 Wednesday MIE 33 Contest	5 WACOM Business Meeting MIE 33 Contest	6	7 Araucaria VHF Test 10-10 Int. Spring Test CW CQ-M International DX Test 7th Call Area QSO Party IN QSO Party New England QSO Party ARI Int'l DX Test
8 Araucaria VHF Test 10-10 Int. Spring Test CW CQ-M International DX Test 7th Call Area QSO Party IN QSO Party New England QSO Party ARI Int'l DX Test	9 Breezeshooters Net NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	10 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	11 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co ARES Net 144 Wednesday RSGB 80m Club Champ. Data	12 WASH Business Meeting	13	14 FOC QSO Party EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party VOLTA WW RTTY Contest FISTS Spring Sprint
15 PITTSBURGH MARATHON WASH 2M Net EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party VOLTA WW RTTY Contest WAB LF Phone	16 Breezeshooters Net	17 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	18 Alleg Co ARES Net 144 Wednesday	19 NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint RSGB 80m Club Champ. CW	20 Dayton Hamvention	21 Dayton Hamvention His Maj. King of Spain Test CW Baltic Contest Manchester Mineira All America CW Test
22 Dayton Hamvention WASH 2M Net His Maj. King of Spain Test CW Baltic Contest Manchester Mineira All America CW Test	23 Breezeshooters Net	24 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday	25 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co ARES Net 144 Wednesday	26	27	28 CQ WW WPX Test CW WASH Breakfast
29 CQ WW WPX Test CW WASH 2M Net ARCI Hootowl Sprint	30 Memorial Day Breezeshooters Net MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	31 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 222 Tuesday				

Complete contests list: <www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>
& <www.sk3bg.se/contest>



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

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

NEXT
MEETING:
April 19th,
8PM

*Kilo Watt
Harmonics*

W3KWH



**Don't forget to send in your dues
for calendar year 2011. They're
due this month! Use the dues
form on the other side to do so.**

**The Steel City Amateur
Radio Club**

W3KWH

**P.O.Box 281
Carnegie, PA. 15106
U.S.A.**

**County Of Allegheny
CQ Zone 5, ITU Zone 8
Maidenhead Grid EN90**

SCARC DUES RENEWAL FORM FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2011

NAME: _____ **CALL:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE NUMBERS:

Day _____ **Evening** _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ **LICENSE CLASS:** _____ **EXPIRES:** _____

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:

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.**