

JUNE 2009 | ISSUE 6

**NEXT MEETING: JUNE 16 AT THE CLUBHOUSE. MEETING STARTS AT 8:00PM. FOOD & SOCIALIZING FUN STARTS IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. CU THERE!**



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

# KiloWatt Harmonics

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

## Dayton 2009: It's now history!!

Well, another Hamvention has come & gone! While the flea-market was down considerably from last year, I kinda thought the crowd was the same. The weather cooperated reasonably well too; a nice sunny day on Friday, with a few rain showers on Saturday. A few missing vendors inside too, but considering how the economy is self-destructing, I think it's safe to say that this was another successful Hamvention. Lots of pictures and random ramblings by Ye Olde Editor are inside among other important tidbits going on locally and nationally, so be sure & check it out.

Thanks for reading!! 73 de NB3C!!

## Don't forget about SCARC Field Day!

Make plans to participate in our annual Field Day soiree. This year, it'll be on June 27 & 28 at the clubhouse. Come on out and support the club as we try to sharpen our operating skills. You'll never know when they'll be needed. Besides that, it's a lot of fun!! If you're a new member, or new to the hobby, come on out and try your hand at CW, phone and the digital modes. A good time is guaranteed for all! Hope to see you there sometime over that weekend! 73 de NB3C et al!



Dave, WQ3T is looking for a few good men/women. CW ops that is. He sez he needs assistance with CW operating so we have full coverage during Field Day. Interested? E-Mail him at the SCARC members list.

## Club & Officer Info/Table Of Contents

### Officers of The Steel City Amateur Radio Club:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In The World Of DX: Page 3  
May Meeting Minutes: Page 4  
ARRL WPA Section News:  
Page 5  
On The National Front: Page 6  
Hamvention Random  
Ramblings: Various Pages  
Throughout The Newsletter  
The Prez Sez: Page 9  
ARRL Call For Legislative  
Action: Page 12  
The Luso Tower: Page 18  
W3SVJ's Dayton  
Adventure: Page 22  
Hamvention FCC Forum  
Report: Page 26  
Riley Speaks: Page 30  
ARRL Atlantic Division News:  
Page 35  
Is Navy MARS going QRT?:  
Page 36  
June Calendar: Page 37  
July Calendar: Page 38  
NHARC Hamfest Flyer:  
Page 39  
Local News/Events: Scattered  
throughout the Newsletter

KiloWatt Harmonics,  
June 2009

© 2009, The Steel City  
Amateur Radio Club

Edited by Greg Babin, NB3C

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

All contributions are  
welcome at:

<KQ3DX@hotmail.com>

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

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

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

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

AND I COULDN'T HAVE PRODUCED  
THIS NEWSLETTER WITHOUT THE  
HELP OF THESE FINE PEOPLE:  
ARRL, W3SVJ, WA3BKD, N3MSE,  
N3LLR, WQ3T, W3TOM, WB3HDI,  
WA3TTS. THANKS ALL, FOR YOUR  
EFFORTS. 73 DE NB3C ET AL!

## In The World Of DX.....

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

- ⇒ **ETHIOPIA, ET.** Peter, DM2BBN, is active as ET3BN. Activity will be on CW and SSB on 80, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. He is not active on 160 and 40 meters right now. QSL direct to: Dr. Peter Haferkorn, PO Box 150194, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- ⇒ **NIUE, ZK2.** Chris, ZL1CT, (GM3WOJ), will be active as ZK2V May 17 through June 20. Activity will be mainly on 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters using CW and SSB, with some 30, 17 and 12 meter activity and RTTY. QSL via N3SL.
- ⇒ **JAPAN, 8J.** Ten special calls from 8J04OM to 8J94OM will be on from each of Japan's 10 call districts from May 16 to July 20. They are celebrating the 40 meter band expansion in Japan. QSL all via the JARL bureau.
- ⇒ **ALGERIA, 7X.** 7X2DD will be a special call sign for the International Algerian Sahara HAM Meeting June 15 to 21. Hosted by members of the Algerian Radio Amateurs Association, ARA and the Djelfa Radio Club (7X2VFK), this one will be all bands and modes and there will be a special diploma instead of a standard QSL card.
- ⇒ **OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: J20SE, Djibouti, 2009 Operation and A52DT, Bhutan, 2009 Operation.
- ⇒ **TOGO, 5V.** Werner, DL9MBI is QRV as 5V7PM and has been active on 20 meters using RTTY after 1400z. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **TURKEY, TA.** Karl, WA2KBZ is QRV as TA0/home call from Buyukada Island until June 17. Activity is on 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters using QRP CW only.
- ⇒ **GLORIOSO 2009.** 3 (maybe 4) military amateur radio operators will be in Glorioso between July 9 to 28. They will be active from 160 to 6m with a maximum of modes. The callsign is not known at the moment. They will take 3 stations. Most of the equipment is provided by F6KOP and F4AJQ. The operators will be F5PRU, F5IRO, F5TLN and may be F4EGS or F5RQQ. Leader and QSL manager is Didier F5OGL. Web master: Rafik F5CQ. They are waiting for the sponsors. The on line logs will updated each day by Rafik F5CQ.
- ⇒ **MALDIVES, 8Q.** Nobby, G0VJG will be QRV as 8Q7CQ from Kurudu Island, IOTA AS-013, from June 1 to 15. He will be active holiday style on all HF bands and 6 meters. QSL via G4DFI.
- ⇒ **BAHAMAS, C6.** Operators NA6M, N5RNA, W5TSN, K2CK and K9OWQ will be QRV as C6AMS from Nassau, IOTA NA-001, from June 1 to 14. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct via NA6M.
- ⇒ **OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Saudi Arabia, 7Z1CQ, current operation.
- ⇒ **MALDIVES, 8Q.** Tom, PF4T will be QRV as 8Q7TB Embudu Island, IOTA AS-013, from June 8 to 24. Activity will be on 40 and 20 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **ANGOLA, D2.** Vasiliy is QRV as D2QMN and has been active using RTTY on 20 meters around 2000z. QSL via RZ3EC.
- ⇒ **SVALBARD, JW.** Jan, OK1JK, Jiri, OK1JST, Pavel, OK1IPS and Jiri, OK1IEC are QRV as JW/ homecalls from Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026, until June 15. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home calls.
- ⇒ **FERNANDO de NORONHA, PY0F.** A group of operators will be QRV as ZY0F from June 10 to 15. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via PY2WAS.
- ⇒ **DODECANESE ISLANDS, SV5.** A group of operators will be QRV as SX5LA from Levitha Island, IOTA EU-001, from June 8 to 14. QSL via SV1GRM.

## Business Meeting Minutes: May 2009

The meeting was called to order by Club President Bob, WB3HDI @ 8:05PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence for the silent keys.

23 members, 3 guests, & 1 dis-membered member answered the roll call. The April meeting minutes were accepted as published in the May newsletter.

Treasurer Walt, KA3YNO gave the Treasurer's report which was accepted by the membership. Walt reports that 66 members are paid up as of 19 May 2009.

### ⇒ Committee Reports

**Clubhouse:** Carl, WA3VXJ and sons cut the grass on the property and cleaned up the clubhouse for tonight's meeting. The road update was given by Art, WA3BKD. Stone to complete the driveway project will be delivered and placed when the contractor becomes available. ETA is 2 to 3 weeks as of 19 May 2009.

**Technical:** Repairs to various equipment is ongoing, no major equipment is down/inoperative. A new antenna for the repeater has been ordered. A new dual band 2M/440MHz antenna will come soon.

**Contest:** Discussions on upcoming contests. Field Day operations will be discussed at the June 2009 Business Meeting.

**Membership:** Art gave the final reading for Gary Craig, KB3SVF, who was voted into the club by the membership. Welcome aboard, Gary!!

**New Business:** W3BC will be holding upgrade classes for all license classes starting Thursday, 4 June 2009, from 1930-2100 at the clubhouse. No pre-registration is necessary. Bob, NU3Q will be holding a traffic handling class on 20 May 2009 at the clubhouse. An ARRL Rep (N3MSE) will be in attendance.

**VE Exams:** The next VE session will be at the clubhouse on 15 June 2009.

**Old Business:** Stew, AK3J gave an update on the Cell Tower lease renewal. Talks are progressing. John, N3EQP gave an update on the club library. He reports a few new books have been added.

**Good Of The Order:** Best wishes and prayers go out to brother Rich, WB3CRF who is in ill health.

Nancy, XYL of Kurt, KA3LNG (SK) was injured in an accident and is now recouping. Please keep both of these friends of SCARC in your thoughts & prayers. Two certificates/awards were presented at the meeting. One was for 7th place, nationwide rover in the 2008 ARRL June VHF QSO Party, and the other was for the October 2008 432MHz Sprint, 2nd place, nationwide rover. Congratulations go out to Joe, W3BC, Bob, KB3NZX and Karl WA3VXJ, who participated in these contests and were awarded these certificates.

**Newsletter:** Greg, NB3C asked for articles, and for comments/thoughts/pictures pertaining to the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. Also requested was any info pertaining to local Amateur Radio events, so they can be placed in the newsletter.

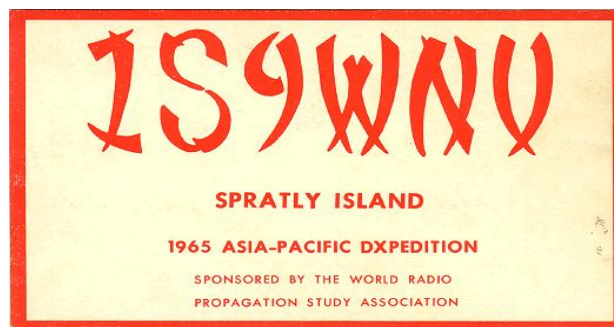
**Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.**

50-50 winner was Scott Sayne KB3SVV

Breezeshooters Hamfest tickets were raffled off after the meeting. The winners:

Art WA3BKD  
Mel WA3RVD  
Karl WA3VXJ  
Lloyd KA3MSE  
Bob NU3Q

Meeting minutes submitted by Art, WA3BKD.



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

## ARRL WPA Section News

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

#### CHIEF ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER: Bruce E Watson,

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

#### ASM MEDIA LIASON:

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

#### AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR:

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

#### OFFICIAL OBSERVER COORDINATOR:

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

#### SECTION EMERGENCY COORDI- NATOR: John S Szwarc, N3SPW

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

#### SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER

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

On May 2 I attended the Atlantic Division cabinet meeting in Gettysburg along with the other six section managers from the division. This was our yearly meeting to discuss issue and gather information for us to help the amateurs we represent in the individual sections. This year we were fortunate enough to have Laura Smith the new chief enforcement person for the FCC. Laura shared her views with us on enforcement and her approach to it. It was a pleasure to meet her and to understand her support for this great hobby.

Harry Bloomberg and Dave Kleber presented an informative demonstration of the NIBEMS program that we are using in emergency services in this section. The demo was met with great enthusiasm and interest. An article by these two men has been accepted for an upcoming issue of QST. With this in mind I want to extend the following invitation to all. There will be a demonstration of the NIBEMS digital mode on Saturday May 30th. The demonstration will be presented by Harry Bloomberg W3YJ, the Western Pennsylvania Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. This digital mode is easy to install on any computer or laptop and the software is free. It performs exceptionally in high-noise conditions and is a reliable communications mode which is perfectly suited for emergency communications work. In fact, the WPA section has adopted NIBEMS as the standard digital mode for the section. The demonstration will be held on the Altoona campus of Penn State University and will start at 11 AM. All ARES Emergency Coordinators and all local ARES members are invited to attend. If you have a laptop and HT, bring them along. You will have the opportunity to install the software and try it out on the spot. A laptop and HT is all that is required to get started in the mode. The meeting room we have reserved accommodates up to 70 people. If you would like to attend, please e-mail Drew McGhee KA3EJV at <[drm6@psu.edu](mailto:drm6@psu.edu)>. This will allow Drew to keep a head count of how many people will be there. If you are an EC, please forward this message to all local ARES members. We'd like to see as many people as possible attend, and it should be a lot of fun too. This invitation is also extended to amateurs in other sections of the division. Also any group that would like to have Harry attend a meeting to demonstrate this should contact him to arrange a schedule.

At the recent Two Rivers hamfest I had the privilege of presenting Bill Guthrie, W3LDB, a certificate of merit as he celebrates 75 years as an amateur radio operator. Congratulations Bill and enjoy the hobby for many years to come. For those of you into contesting you may be interested in a group known as Allegheny Valley Contest Group. Here is a brief statement about that group: Allegheny Valley Radio Association has been formed to promote contest activity in Western Pennsylvania. Membership is free for licensed hams with an interest in radio sport. Even if you already have membership in a local club, you may find weekend contesting to be an enjoyable addition to your hobby. Our primary method of communication is the internet. If you are **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)**

Courtesy of the ARRL Bulletin

## And On The National Front.....

### ⇒ FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$13.40 for 10 years, an increase of \$1.10.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$201,000 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal three years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available

to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers. There is additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms.

The links to the above-mentioned websites can be found at, <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1>>.

### ⇒ Scientists Predict Solar Cycle 24 to Peak in 2013

Scientists predict that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado last month, an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since Solar Cycle 16

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

## Hamvention Random Ramblings.....



One of the things that was in abundance this year was lots & lots of boat-anchors, REASONABLY priced. I guess in past years, the bidding frenzy common on E-Bay caught up to the flea-market guys and that reflected in their prices. Not this year though; even the Collins stuff (at least I thought) was priced to move.

**Don't forget about Field Day 2009. We'll be putting forth a serious contest effort. Come on out and help participate!! We need your help to be successful. June 27-28 at the Clubhouse. CU there!!**

Not only was the stuff priced right, there was a lot of variety to choose from. CLEAN stuff too; not the usual junk you often see on the table priced out of sight.

These pictures are from the flea market on Friday. (You can tell because the sun was shining.) On Saturday everything was covered with tarps to protect them from the showers.

Collins, Heathkit, Hallicrafters, Kenwood: these guys had a lot of stuff on their table in pretty good shape. >>>>>>



VP Mike, WA3TTS sez to come on out to the clubhouse and help us put forth a good effort for the upcoming ARRL June VHF QSO Party the weekend of the 13th/14th. This one should be especially good conditions-wise because of the DTV transition. "This is the first time in 20+ years we will be able to hear well on 50 MHz and 222 MHz due to the DTV transition moving the 1 MegaWatt ERP TV signals away from the close proximity of these ham bands." Ops are needed!! Come on out and try your hand at VHF Contesting. June 13 & 14 at the clubhouse. CU there!

## Hamvention Random Ramblings.....



The crowd was there in the flea-market on Friday, but a lot of spaces in the lot went unfilled.

As a matter of fact, I was alarmed at the empty number of spaces. I hope it's due to the economy and not an indication of a downturn in attendance at Dayton.

Lots of test equipment was up for grabs too this year, as seen in the picture below. That's some clean-looking Hallicrafters gear up for sale to the right. What that bottom unit is, I have no idea. Looks like a home-brew amp of some sort.



## The Prez Sez.....

May/June is here and seems like the year is flying by. Spring has sprung, everything is looking greener and the fun of yard work begins. 'Tis my favorite time of the year. Spring that is, not the yard work! What else is around the corner is Field Day. Perhaps if you are one of those that made the trip to the Dayton Hamfest and got some new toys, FD is a good time to break 'em. IN, that is. A warm body is needed to oversee the FD stuff. You know. Someone to make sure logs get logged, troops get some sustenance to keep 'em goin, keep a record of who participated, get some pictures..etc... You know...one of them thar VOLUNTEERS! Who is up for this easy task? I foresee things running quite smoothly and a lot of busy little bees buzzing about making things happen but we still need a Boss/Queen bee to keep the workers in line. HINT HINT! I printed a copy of the FD Pack from the ARRL and left it at the club house for everyone to read.

The busy "road crew" bees have done doing quite a job on McMichael Road and it looks pretty good! Now we can start on our own road/stone work. Our target date of approximately the end of May will be pushed back a bit due to the length of time the McMichael Road project took. Then we can move on to other road projects of our own. I am hopeful we can have this finished before the June meeting. Thanks to Chuck N3UUZ and any other helpers for cutting some of the brush in the ditch.

Guess what else is coming up soon? Our annual corn roast! I've suggested moving this back to August and to a weekend day. Once again we will need a Head Corn Roaster to oversee this activity. Hey, any suggestions as to a date? Which weekend? Which day? Speak up! Give some opinions. How about a head count from our merry little group of those that would like to attend. Don't forget to include your family as they are always welcome! Our CR has always been a good time, good eats and best of all, good folks! On the bulletin board are informal sign up sheets for Field Day and the Corn Roast. This is just to get an idea of participation so get yourself up there and scribble your name on the sheets.

And now for something completely different.

Some members have brought up the subject of our club QSL card. What we currently have is effective in cost and conveying the needed info but is rather bland. Generic that is. I suppose if you make a generic QSO then this is appropriate. However, we as a group work hard to keep our little slice of radio heaven going and pride in our organization's card should reflect this. Be it a new picture of the building or something of the surrounding area or ??? I happen to have some of the QSL cards depicting the Point of the 3 rivers in Dahn Tahn PGH. This picture was taken by one of our own, Jack W3UUH. Some of us are old enough to remember these cards from I think the late 1970's to mid 1980's or so. No matter how old the shot is, it is still a great one. With the coming of more sophisticated computer stuff, making changes or fixes to old pictures or QSL cards is easier than what we had to do years ago. I scanned one of these old cards, washed it through the color correcting software, massaged it with other software features, added some text and came up with something not half bad in my humble opinion! Well, anyway, I like it. I've always liked that shot that Jack made so many years ago and I think bringing it back would be a neat trip down memory lane. Yeah I know. It is not a current picture. So what? It is still a good one from one of our own. So here it is for those of you that did not get to see it at the club. I am not sure how it will reproduce because of being inserted into this document. The size may not track with the real thing. This is really just a sample of what can be done. The colors of the text should be Black n' Gold but this is as close as I could get and still have something readable and not bled out. The text font is fitting. It's Teletype. I did nothing with the back page as I said this is just a sample. How about some opinions, comments, questions from "all yours" as Art 'BKD would say. **(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

## The Prez Sez.....(con't)



### For Sale:

RG-58 a/u Mil Spec swept coax (Good stuff). I am selling off some of this coax that is surplus to my needs @ .20 cents/foot for SCARC members. Get yours before it's all gone. See Bob WB3HDI for details.

Bob NU3Q held his traffic handling class the Wednesday AFTER the May business meeting. I've not heard anything about the activities of the evening as Bob has been kept busy with his home duties. I am not sure if he will hold another class this year and I am sure we will get the skinny this next meeting. Due to unavoidable circumstances I missed his last class but I look forward to participating in any future activity.

If you have not received your membership card, see Nat W3SVJ. Be gentle.

On the Tech front: we have our new repeater antenna and it will be installed when I get my butt up the tower and it's not raining! New turnbuckles and other hardware have started to be installed on the ATV tower. More fun to come. Mike WA3TTS and Joe W3BC have dug into the 6m amp and are bringing it back to life. This is something of a painful process. For the amp that is. Dr Frankenstein would be proud! **(YE OLDE EDITOR'S NOTE: I'll have more on this next month.)**

Joe W3BC is also holding an upgrade class starting June 4, 2009 and running for 4 weeks. By the time this goes to print, he will have had at least one class, maybe two completed. Depending upon Joe and what he has on his plate, he may do this again later on this year. Even making it to one of Joes' sessions would be a treat to learn from a teacher of his caliber.

If I have not said this enough..... THANK YOU to all who keep our little slice of heaven in order and for participating at our monthly meetings. We couldn't do it without your support!

That's all I have to say for this month. I hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as I have enjoyed typing it. I hope all who went to Dayton had a safe and fun trip and found some goodies they could not live without! I am sure stories will abound on the hill of hamfest adventures from our fellow club members.



**W3KWH**  
**The Steel City Amateur**  
**Radio Club**

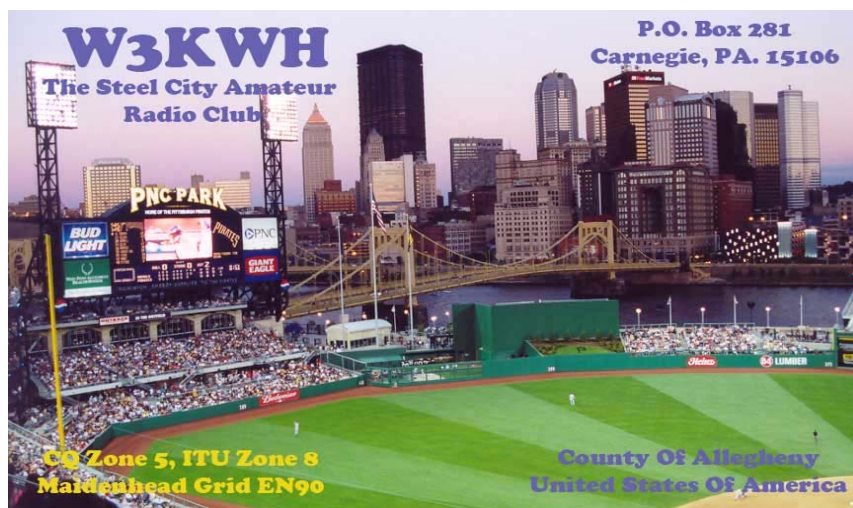
**County Of Allegheny**  
**United States Of America**

**CQ Zone 5**  
**ITU Zone 8**  
**Maidenhead Grid EN90**

**P.O.Box 281**  
**Carnegie, PA. 15106**

[illegible]

These are pictures of various city scenes your editor took a few years back. I simply added all the text using Adobe Photoshop and turned them into 'home-made' QSL cards. You be the judge: Let Bob, WB3HDI know which one of the 4 (previous page too) you like the best. Of course, the possibilities are endless when home-brewing your own cards, so we are not limited to just these samples. Maybe you have a picture that can be used for a club QSL card, yes?? ('Adobe' and 'Photoshop' are registered trademarks of the Adobe Corp.)



The picture above is from the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix about 10 years ago from corner 18 in Schenley Park.  
BTW: If you wanna volunteer as a radio operator and get a front-row seat like this one, see the blurb on [page 32](#).

That picture to the left is in PNC Park during a Pirates game a few years back.

KEEP IN MIND I REDUCED THE PICS TO FIT HERE.



## ARRL Call for Legislative Action

Dear ARRL Member:

I am contacting you as part of the ARRL Legislative Action “Grassroots” Program and asking you to get involved by writing to your Congressman/woman.

One of the biggest challenges that amateurs face is antenna restrictions - those implemented by local governments and those originating from deed restrictions and building development covenants. As you may know, the FCC’s PRB-1 limited preemption order offers amateurs some relief when facing zoning and building restrictions. However, PRB-1 does not extend to include covenants, conditions and restrictions (known as CC&Rs). These deed and property use restrictions strongly and negatively affect the ability of Amateur Radio service licensees to perform valuable emergency and disaster communications. Finding a method to extend the PRB-1 protections is a key component of the ARRL Legislative Action Program.

Recently Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced House Bill HR 2160 - the “Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009”. If enacted into law, HR 2160 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:

- Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
- Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).
- Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

While the bill does not automatically extend PRB-1 to include CC&Rs, it takes a first big step in that direction by determining the extent that things such as CC&Rs impede the Amateur Service in performing public and emergency service communications.

HR2160 has been assigned to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Getting the bill out of committee is the first major hurdle to overcome – and that is where you play an essential role. Your Congressperson is a member of that committee. **We need you to let them hear your voice of support for HR2160.**

Please take the time to write a letter and send to your Congressman/woman. **After that, I ask that you send the letter to Chwat & Co, our representation in Washington. To facilitate the process, you may either email the letter directly to them at [arrrl@chwatco.com](mailto:arrrl@chwatco.com) or fax the letter to their office at 703-684-7594.** Their staff will be hand delivering your letter (along with the letters of others) directly to the various Congressional offices. If you choose to send your letter directly to your member of Congress, please also email or fax a copy to Chwat & Co. This will allow Chwat’s staff to most effectively represent the ARRL in this process.

HR 2160 can go a long way towards assisting thousands of amateurs who are restrained unreasonably by CC&Rs. However, it is going to take a concerted effort by all amateurs for this effort to be successful. Time can become critical – so please act quickly in contacting your Representative. Together our voices can be heard and make a difference. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, or the ARRL Regulatory Information office at [reginfo@arrrl.org](mailto:reginfo@arrrl.org)

Thanks and 73, Dave Prestel, W8AJR  
Atlantic Division  
Legislative Action Chairman  
<[w8ajr@arrrl.net](mailto:w8ajr@arrrl.net)>

Dale, WB3CRC reports Rich, WB3CRF is in ill health. Please keep Rich & his family in your thoughts & prayers during this time.

## ARRL WPA Section News (from pg 5)

interested in learning more, please visit our reflector at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AlleghenyValleyRadio/>, where membership may be requested. You can also send us an e-mail at [w3wpa@arrl.net](mailto:w3wpa@arrl.net).

Don't forget that on June 7 the Breezeshooters annual hamfest will be held at the Butler Farm show grounds. This is the largest hamfest in our section and a fun time for all who attend. Additional information is available at <http://www.breezeshooters.net/> I hope to see everyone in attendance.

Remember that Field Day is just about 6 weeks from now and many groups have been working hard on plans for the big event. A locator is available at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> to help you find a location near you.

73  
John Rodgers N3MSE  
W. Pa. Section Manager



---

## National News (from page 6)

which peaked with 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles -- the solar minimum -- occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If December's prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

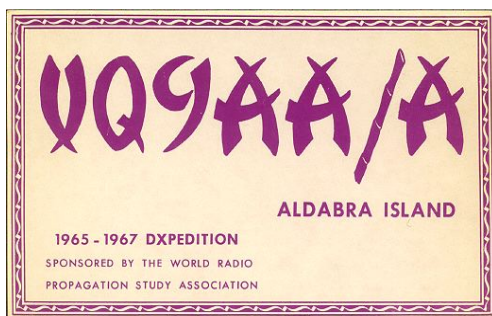
An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet Sun also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will be what they called "moderately weak."

Although the peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928. Despite the prediction, the scientists said that Earth is still vulnerable to a severe solar storm. Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that escape from the Sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS. A single strong blast of "solar wind" can threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other essential functions.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 AS 'SUNSPOTS') (MORE NATIONAL NEWS ON PAGE 15)

# Hamvention Random Ramblings.....

Like I said earlier, a lot of empty spaces in the flea market. Here's a shot from Friday. I'd say that they only filled 1/2 of the lot total .

[illegible]

**Last year I reported to you about the guy with the Enigma code cipher machines.**

Well, he was back this year, although I have to admit he had different machines available this time. This is a picture of a WWII German Enigma machine he had for sale. Price: 99 grand!!

[illegible]

**I was surprised to see this sign taped to his display case. I guess there is a market for these after all.**

I figure about 20000 made the trip over the three days this year. I pegged the crowd about the same as last year. Not bad, considering the crummy economy.

## On The National Front.....(from page 13)

### ⇒ ARRL SEEKS MEMBER SUPPORT FOR HR 2160

To support HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- the ARRL is asking its membership to contact their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to become co-sponsors of this significant piece of legislation <[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bill\\_s&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bill_s&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf)>.

"Getting a bill successfully through Congress is a formidable task -- one that is going to require the involvement of every ARRL member," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Working with our Washington consulting firm Chwat & Co, we are laying a dynamic approach that will allow us to make our case most effectively. We have developed a strategy to maximize our impact when dealing with each member of Congress."

Since the anthrax scare that followed the 9/11 attacks, all incoming mail to Congress is delayed anywhere from four to six weeks while it is screened. This means using normal US Mail is no longer an effective method of letting Congress hear your voice. While e-mail is convenient, it is also not effective, due to the large volume of e-mail that each Congressional office receives.

"To ensure that ARRL members' letters are quickly and expediently received by Congress, our strategy is to ask ARRL members send their letters directly to Chwat & Co," said Henderson. "Chwat's staff will sort the letters by Congressional district and hand-deliver them to the appropriate House offices, providing a direct point of contact with the Congressman and their staff. This personal contact gives us the chance to provide not only

letters from constituents, but information from the ARRL on why this legislation is important."

The ARRL has provided a sample letter for League members to personalize and send to their Congressional representative <<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DearMemberOfCongressHR2160.doc>>.

"Personalized letters make a better impression than a standard form letter or petition," Henderson explained. You can find the name and address for your member of Congress on the ARRL Members Only Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/>>.

Once it has been personalized, ARRL members should send their letter to Chwat & Co using one of three methods:

- \* As a signed attachment to an e-mail <[arrl@chwatco.com](mailto:arrl@chwatco.com)>
- \* As a signed fax to 703-684-7594
- \* As a regular letter to John Chwat, Chwat & Co, 625 Slaters Ln, Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314

If you choose to e-mail your letter, please send it as an attachment to the e-mail instead of having it be the text of the e-mail. This allows the letter to be easily printed and delivered. Should you decide to draft your own letter supporting HR 2160 instead of editing the sample, Henderson asked that you please remember a couple of things:

- \* Identify the bill by number and title: HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009
- \* Keep the letter brief and on topic -- one page at the most
- \* Ask your congressional representative to consider becoming a cosponsor
- \* Thank them for their consideration

"Simple is better when making this kind of request to a representative," said Henderson. "They and their staff are looking to gauge interest and support for the bill. A lengthy letter that strays off-topic can detract from the focus of asking for support for the legislation."

Should you decide not to send your letter to Chwat & Co but directly to your Representative, it is still important to send a copy of your correspondence to Chwat & Co. This allows Chwat to discuss accurately with the Congressman and their staff the amount of support for the bill in each individual district. "There is strength in numbers," Henderson added. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 AS 'HR 2160')

## A large indoor exhibition hall, likely a trade show or conference, filled with people and booths. The hall has a high ceiling with many lights and yellow seats visible in the background. A sign for "MFJ ENTERPRISES, INC." is visible on a booth. The floor is crowded with attendees, and various displays and equipment are set up throughout the space.

[illegible]

## Hamvention Random Ramblings.....



The classic Collins van made the trek again this year; this time it was parked in the ARRL Booth. Still looking good after 40+ years of service. These are pictures of both inside & outside the van.

I saw a lot of Collins gear for sale at a reasonable price. Although it wasn't the pristine stuff you normally see for an astronomical sum, it was still pretty clean and priced right.



I'd settle for just ONE of these rigs gracing my shack.

# The Luso Tower

Probably the most interesting display I saw at Dayton this year was the introduction of the Luso 145' crank-up tower. By any account, this tower is an absolute monster. Any bigger than this, and you'd be putting a broadcast stick in your back yard.

The one on display in Dayton was a 145' model, although they do offer a 168' tower also. I was amazed when I saw this there. It consists of 5 sections, the biggest section being about 5' wide on each side; the smallest section is about the same size as the outer section of the Hy-Gain crank-up towers located at the club.

**You'd better be prepared to run 220V service capable of 30 amps out to the tower to run the motor. It's a 4.5KW motor pulling on a 1/2" cable to raise & lower the tower. According to the literature, it takes about 29 seconds to raise or lower the tower fully. It has a chain-drive motor to do the job along with grooves in the drum to wind the cable uniformly. That's a good idea; I wouldn't want to have these cables getting frayed too much. Big bucks to replace.**

The nice thing about this monster is that it has a ladder and platform on it, so you can climb the tower to work on it. No climbing belt necessary (although its probably a good idea for safety's sake). The base unit that goes in the concrete is 9 feet, tall and weighs 1400 lbs. I guess that's necessary, since the tower itself weighs almost 30000 Lbs. You can hang an antenna weighing up to 660 lbs; good for those of you who are looking to put up 3 elements on 160M. Wind load at 50 MPH is 140sq ft. That's an awful lot of antenna you can put up there; I don't even think stacking mono-banders on 10-15-20M would begin to stress this tower out. You'll also need to purchase an antenna mast; figure on one that is 4.5" in diameter and weighs about 300 lbs.

**The website lists towers all the way up to**



**A picture of the base section that goes into your concrete foundation. Not all that big, considering it's holding up a 145' tower weighing almost 30,000 lbs.**

(Pictures on this page are courtesy & ©2009, The Luso Corporation)

**Congratulations goes out to Scott Button, KF3CP, of Farmington, PA. Scott is one of the recipients of the DARA Scholarships awarded at Hamvention. He belongs to the Uniontown ARC and is currently enrolled at WVU where he maintains a 4.0 GPA in Chemistry and Biology. Local boy makes good!! Congratulations Scott, from SCARC!!**

**That's a 4.5" mast, with antennas stretching endlessly into the sky.**

300' or so, but the link is not enabled; I guess they are still works in progress. If you absolutely must have one of these in your back yard, check out their website: [www.luso.us](http://www.luso.us). Check out the specs on each one; they are quite impressive. Lots of setup pictures are there too.

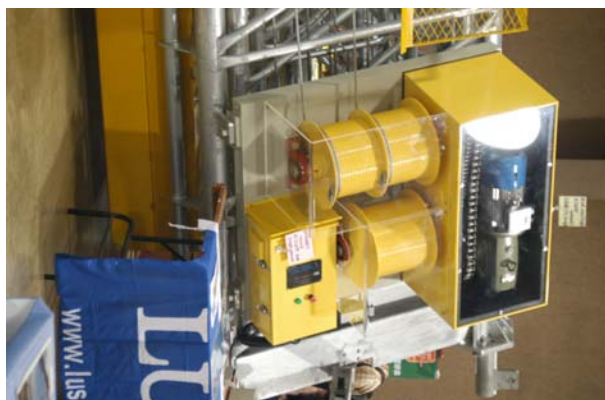
**I bet you're wondering how much this behemoth is: Well, Luso has it listed on their website with a price of \$52,000.00. The Dayton show price was \$41,000.00, and that price included assistance with set-up. You supply the truck. (The base price is \$36,000.00.) The 168' model base price is \$52,000.00. This would probably be the only tower you would need in your back yard to hang any Yagi imaginable. That's good, because you'd probably be paying for it for the rest of your life!**

Check out the price breakdown and the pictures on **page 19**.  
Thanks for reading!! 73 de NB3C!!

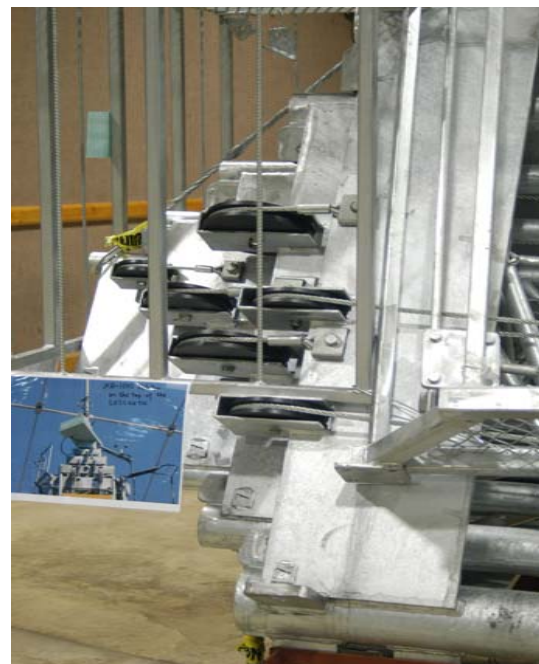
## The Luso Tower (from page 18)

| Item    | Product name                                                                                   | Unit | Quantity | Unit price  | Amount      |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Product | The 21st Century Super Model <b>LUSO44TN</b>                                                   | set  | 1        | 36,000      | 36,000      |
| Option  | Steps                                                                                          | set  | 1        | 1,095       | 1,095       |
|         | Service platform                                                                               |      | 1        | 650         | 650         |
|         | Antenna Mast 4.5inch/φ114×30ft./9m Weight 330lbs/150kg                                         |      | 1        | 980         | 980         |
|         | Antenna Mast Step φ4.5inch / φ114                                                              |      | 12       | 69          | 828         |
|         | Antenna Mast Clamp<br>Mast Diameter φ4.5inch/φ114<br>Boom Diameter φ3inch/φ76                  |      | 3        | 172         | 516         |
|         | XTC- II (Computer Control)                                                                     |      | 1        | 2,100       | 2,100       |
|         | Change of loaded weight 770lbs/350 kg                                                          |      | 1        | 1,000       | 1,000       |
|         | Mast Bearing XMB-115                                                                           |      | 1        | 430         | 430         |
|         | Ground Plate 3m <sup>2</sup>                                                                   |      | 1        | 125         | 125         |
|         |                                                                                                |      |          | subtotal1   | US\$ 43,724 |
| Others  | Transportation                                                                                 |      | 1        |             | 4,800       |
|         | Installation Work<br>At least two assistants who can climb the tower to work there are needed. |      | 1        |             | 3,500       |
|         |                                                                                                |      |          | subtotal2   | US\$ 8,300  |
|         |                                                                                                |      |          | TOTAL       | US\$ 52,024 |
|         | Special discount on the support on public relation                                             |      | 1        |             | -11,024     |
|         |                                                                                                |      |          | Grand Total | US\$ 41,000 |

Here's the price breakdown on the 145' model. That's the Dayton discount price shown here. Better take out a second mortgage on your house to pay for it. While you're at it, you'd better divorce the XYL/OM too, so you can avoid all the inevitable nagging/complaining.



Close-ups of the top and bottom of the tower. You'll need single-phase 220V/30A to run it. That's 1/2" cable used to raise and lower it.



## Sunspots (con't)      HR 2160 (from page 15)

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots -- Earth-sized blotches on the Sun marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause huge problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chaired the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during another below-average cycle." The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe and sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring, as well as produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light, he said.

Biesecker cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that found if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause \$1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to 10 years for recovery, compared to the \$80-125 billion of damage that resulted from Hurricane Katrina.

The Space Weather Prediction Center is part of the National Weather Service and is one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction. It is the nation's official source of space weather alerts, watches and warnings. SWPC provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events that impact satellites, power grids, communications, navigation and many other technological systems.

Aside from bill sponsor Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), the ARRL is fortunate to already have six additional members of Congress who have signed on as co-sponsors of HR 2160 -- Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Brett Guthrie (KY-2), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer, (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-2).

"We congratulate ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and his grassroots legislative action team in Kentucky for securing the support of Representative Guthrie -- the first new co-sponsor of the bill," Henderson said. "It shows that our grassroots effort can work!"

You may be asking yourself "What should I do if my Representative has already signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2160?" The answer is simple: Thank them for their support. If your Congressman is one of those listed as a co-sponsor, please send them a letter thanking them for their support. Use the same contact information for Chwat & Co. "It is important to convey your appreciation to your Representative when they sign on as a co-sponsor or support the bill," Henderson explained. "That simple 'thank you' may help open the door the next time their help is needed." Once you have prepared and sent your letter supporting HR 2160, your job is not over: Feedback is an important part of the process. "What your Congressman has to say in regards to your contact can provide the ARRL with important information as we try to push our bill forward," Henderson noted. "This feedback can possibly help us identify potential new support for the bill or a weakness in the legislation we may need to address."

When you receive a response from your Congressman, please forward a copy to the Regulatory Information Office at ARRL Headquarters via e-mail <[reginfo@arrrl.org](mailto:reginfo@arrrl.org)> or hard copy to Regulatory Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity -- but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard," Henderson summarized. "HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and covenants <[http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1\\_Pkg/prb-1.pdf](http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf)>. To be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away. But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters and other emergencies."

## A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a light-colored shirt is looking at a trade show booth. The booth has a white wall with horizontal slats. On the wall, there are several electronic devices, including a small screen, a PDA, and a mobile phone. A sign on the wall says "Available 2010". There is also a black box on a table in front of the booth.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Hara Arena is showing its age. Every year it gets more & more run down. Maybe it's time to start shopping for a new venue, yes?? It's starting to look pretty ratty.

## W3SVJ's Dayton Adventure.....

More than four decades at least 30 trips to the famous Dayton Hamvention, it's still an interesting and enjoyable visit. From some of those early, spur of the moment trips, with a car full of pals when we started in the morning (@ OHdark30) and came back the same day to the "ain't life great" trips where we have been leaving on Wednesday and returning on Sunday. In retrospect they were all fun, some more than others ... but still fun.

The '09 tour was a bit different in that we had a car-full, something I haven't done in a long time. We departed Heidelberg about 11 am with the Somerset gang. Stew, AK3J, his great nephew Nick, KB3RHQ and a SCARC (Somerset County Amateur Radio Club) pal Dennis, W3DCW. It's been a long time since I've had three people in the back seat and a trunk full of luggage. That's a lot of weight over or behind the rear axle. The Mercury Marquis was in a bit of a "nose high" attitude and the steering took a little of adjustment on my part. It went well. Our "DAY'S INN" rooms awaited us and we got settled nicely Wednesday. We even got to watch the Penguins beat. . ?

Thursday was the ritual trip to the wonderful AIR FORCE museum. I haven't been there nearly as many times as the hamfest but it's ALWAYS a treat. It's pretty hard to beat really, REALLY big airplanes, really, REALLY big engines of all sorts and be in the same city where, conventional wisdom says, it all started. We hooked up with Al, NU3S and Mark, AI3J at the museum. These hardy souls came to Dayton on their motorcycles in what seems to be a yearly routine ride for these guys! The seven of us took up some space at some restaurant and had, as usual, a most enjoyable evening.

Friday morning starts off with a "group" breakfast and then off to the HAMVENTION. We dropped the Somerset guys off at the front door of HARA. Walt and I continued to the shuttle bus parking lot for a ride back to the arena. It's a nice arrangement for the few bucks involved. Once back at the arena and checked in with tickets in the raffle cage we sort of split up and went our own way. Walt and I opted for the flea market seeing as how the WX prognosticators suggested rain for Saturday. It was quite pleasant outside and we would visit the inside vendors etc on Saturday . . . just in case it did get nasty.

Walt and I shared a few sticks of "aluminum" solder that we got from an outside vendor. We got involved with his sales shtick and ended up buying 12 dollars worth of the stuff. Actually, it's pretty good. I can add it to the other sticks and rolls of "miracle" aluminum solder that I've accumulated over the years. I can't break enough aluminum to use up all this stuff. If anyone needs some "aluminum" repair solder, let me know! There were all those other little "trinkets" that one just "has to have." I'm sure I spent more than a few foolish dollars in the lot on Friday, so what!

I think we pretty much closed the joint on Friday. On my way back from the shuttle bus station we picked up the other SCARC group in front of the arena and headed back to the Days Inn. Again, we were off to our "reserved for seven" dinner gathering. I think it's quite nice to be surrounded by strangers . . . who aren't!

If they weren't wearing ham badges they were talking ham talk and most everyone was open to exchange some conversation and humor with people they had never met before. Whadda a great hobby.

Saturday morning was just an extension of the day before. A table for seven and breakfast and then over to the arena. The big vendors such as MFJ, Yaesu, Kenwood and ?? occupied familiar places in the main arena. All those premium spaces were filled and the folks seemed to be doing a brisk business. Bob Heil occupied a familiar space in one of the other buildings. Almost everybody looked familiar to me and in the same place as they have been in previous years. Judging from the food court (hmmm, I focus on that a lot!) attendance was good. Yeah, I bought a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

## W3SVJ's Dayton Adventure..... (con't)

radio, a VX-8R. Just think, the radio and I are submersible for 15 minutes down to three feet under water. Guess who's not going to care much about those specs after the first gasp! If I do, it will be next year at Dayton before I get the darned thing programmed out anyway. Why do I do this? Does anybody have the software and interconnect to program this thing via a pc? I'll rent it off you. I digress. As in past years MMM the 3<sup>rd</sup>, aka W3MAC honked us up on somebody's cell phone to let us know he was on the scene. We shared some quality time with him inside the big arena. We closed out our stay at the arena and headed for dinner. Again, friendly faces in a friendly atmosphere. Mentioning Bob Heil above, we ended up sitting near him and his XYL in the restaurant where chatty Mac involved him in conversation, very nice. Mac left us to travel back to Columbus where was bunked in with his daughter and family. Now that's a nice arrangement . . kids, grand kids and a hamfest. We crossed paths and chatted with some of the Pittsburgh folks others we could just wave to across a crowded room. A lot of smiling faces and a lot of remembered faces from years gone by. Good times in either case.

jumpin' nicely with folks pushing in on the vendors. It looked pretty good. 'Lots of greenbacks trading hands, the real thing and plastic.

Yeah, life IS good in the almost fast lane. 73 de W3SVJ and his underwater radio.



Again back to the Days Inn facility for idle chatter and checking out the new stuff that people bought. Oh, lest I forget. A ritual has developed in the last few year that involves an 11 pm visit to the local "Tim Horton's" for coffee and donuts and what ever else is on the late night menu. That event is the direct responsibility of "Big Al our motorcycle pal", NU3S. It was like I was back in high school a hundred years ago and drove to Greensburg for a frosty mugged root beer float.

And as per the editor's request: I did notice more than a few empty spaces in the flea market area. The attendance appeared to me to be pretty decent though considering all the gloom and doom that the "talking heads" give us. The inside crowd on Friday (we did take an occasional detour inside) was



## Hamvention Random Ramblings.....



Elecraft was also present this year. This is their K2 model. I always hear guys raving about how good their stuff is. It looks like quality gear to me too.

=====

Below left: Yaesu had their big booth too. This is the FT-950 on display.

Below right: Icom is building some pretty impressive stuff too. This is a picture of the IC-7800, and its little sister, the IC-7600.

These rigs with the external display capability are really something else. Impressive eye-candy.



No new equipment from the manufacturers this year. Ten-Tec, Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood & Elecraft had the same stuff this year as last. Not surprising, nor was it unexpected since Chrysler is bankrupt, GM just went down the tubes, and the rest of the economy is in the tank.

[illegible]

Seen at the Dayton scene this year: N3SBF, N3UUZ, N3EQP, KB3GMN, NU3S, N3DXE, WA3RVD, W3SVJ, W3MAC, and Ye Olde Editor. Did anybody else from the club make it??

[illegible]

## The Hamvention FCC Forum Report

Courtesy of the  
ARRL Bulletin

Bill Cross, W3TN, a staff member in the FCC's Mobility Division <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/index.htm?job=md>>, and Laura Smith, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement, spoke at the FCC Forum on Saturday, May 16 at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. Cross opened by explaining just where Amateur Radio falls in the FCC's bureaucracy: "In the Mobility Division [part of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/>>], we handle the day-to-day administration of the Amateur Service and some of the rulemaking activities that affect Amateur Radio. The Division also has staff members in our Gettysburg, Pennsylvania office. Our Gettysburg staff handles most of your applications and the licensing matters and deals with the Universal Licensing System, or ULS" <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>>.

Cross offered some general comments on the Commission and its priorities, then went on to discuss topics that he said "keep coming up in questions we receive in articles that appear on Web sites and in columns in newsletters and the like. I'm not going to spend a lot of time talking about Commission decisions that have been issued, because most of these have been reported on the ARRL or other Web sites."

Cross went on to say that he does hear from Riley Hollingsworth, who retired as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division in July 2008; Smith replaced Hollingsworth earlier this year. Saying he received an e-mail from Hollingsworth that asked his opinion whether he should get an amplifier or 260 feet of hardline, Cross said that was an easy question to answer: "Get both! Two hundred and sixty feet of hardline. Okay. Thirty feet through the house, 30 feet out to the tower and 200 feet straight up. That sounded pretty reasonable. But then I found out that what he was thinking about was 230 feet across the back yard and 30 feet up. So, I've still got some work to do there."

As for the FCC Administration, Cross said that "the relationships between the Commissioners are very collegial." Cross pointed out that earlier this year, President Obama nominated two people to fill Commissioner vacancies: Julius Genachowski for Chairman <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/03/10684/?nc=1>> and Mignon Clyburn <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10795/>> to fill the seat held by Jonathan Adelstein. Adelstein

has been nominated to head up the Rural Utilities Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/23/10716/?nc=1>>. "The last I read was that their confirmation hearings would be held after Memorial Day, and beyond that, we really don't know what's planned," Cross told the crowd. "So maybe by the end of the summer, sometime during the summer, the Commission will be back up to its complement of five Commissioners and we will have a new Chairman, too."

### ⇒ RACES

Cross said that he has been getting questions concerning RACES <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RACES>>, asking what plans the FCC has to rejuvenate the organization. "The questions have been from a couple of FEMA guys who also happen to be hams," he said. "Now, in RACES, stations are certified by a civil defense organization and persons who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Radio operators license are certified by that civil defense organization as enrolled in it. I know that the term 'civil defense organization' is way out-of-date -- 'emergency management agencies' is probably a more current term. But the terminology used in the rules reflects that RACES was created in the Cold War era when there was a concern that everyone would be ordered off the air."

Cross pointed out that RACES "seems to be used for local, state and regional events and it is administered by FEMA. The rules require that communications transmitted in RACES be approved by the organization that certified people and that they're enrolled with. Fundamentally, RACES is there to serve whatever purpose that the emergency management agency

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

## Hamvention FCC Forum Report (con't)

has for it. Because the emergency management agency decides whether it has a use for a RACES group, the rejuvenation, if it is even necessary, will have to come from the local or state organizations. They will have to get people interested in joining their groups if they have a use for them. Some of the people I have talked to in different government agencies wonder why we still have this service, given the way that emergency communications are run and managed today."

### ⇒ Amateur Radio and Pecuniary Interests

A topic that keeps popping up, Cross said, is business use of Amateur Radio, specifically transmitting messages on behalf of an employer. "Section 97.113 <[http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.113.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.113.pdf)> answers this question straight on: 'No amateur station shall transmit communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules.' There are two exceptions. There are exceptions for teachers who are using Amateur Radio as the control operator of a station in an educational institution as part of a classroom thing and control operators of club stations in certain cases. A station is also not allowed to transmit communication in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. There is an exception to that rule that allows you to transmit communications that are commonly referred to as "swap nets," but eBay seems to have reduced the need for these nets. And you're not allowed to transmit communications on a regular basis which could reasonably be furnished through other radio services."

Cross said that Section 97.113 is in the rules for two reasons: It meets a statutory requirement and it is there to protect your frequencies from becoming the business radio alternative voice overflow, or "'BRAVO Service.' Because your spectrum is so valuable, if you let users such as businesses, TV stations, the National Weather Service or other users -- be they for-profit or non-profit -- use your frequencies to meet their communications needs, your frequencies will become their frequencies. All

it takes is an allocation proceeding with the FCC, and your spectrum is gone. And you will be left whining about it in Internet chat rooms."

Cross pointed out the ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, "had an editorial on this on April 1, 2009 [on the ARRL Web site and in the April 2009 edition of QST] ["It Seems to Us: Keeping the 'Amateur' in Amateur Radio," page 9]. That's probably not the best day to date something, but you should read it. And I have plagiarized from that greatly because it is very elegant and spot on" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/04/01/10668/>>.

The bottom line, Cross said, is "that when any of us are on the air as amateurs in the ham bands, we are not pursuing financial gain for ourselves or our employers. The 'no pecuniary principle' has been reflected in the FCC regulations since 1928. It distinguishes us from commercial services. In 1993, the Commission, at your request, dropped the 'no business communications' language and simply prohibited communications on behalf of an amateur's employer or in which the amateur has a pecuniary interest. The Commission stated that any amateur-to-amateur communications is permitted unless specifically prohibited or unless transmitted for compensation or done for the pecuniary benefit for the station control operator or his or her employer."

Cross said that it does not matter what type of technology -- be it SSB, digital, slow scan TV or CW -- is used to transmit that communications: "It boils down to a simple four part test that you, as the control operator of the station, must ask yourself before you cause the station to transmit a message. One, is the communications expressly prohibited in the rules? For instance, is it music, is it obscenity, something like that. Two, is the communications transmitted for compensation? Whether it's paid or compensation in some other way, such as, 'If you get this message to a friend of mine who's on a sailboat in the middle of nowhere, I'll pay your light bill.' Or, 'Get this message to someplace and I'll buy you a new radio.' That's

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

## Hamvention FCC Forum Report (con't)

indirect compensation. Three, does the control operator have a pecuniary interest in the communications? That is, could he or she benefit financially? Stock trades on ham radio benefit you financially. And four, does the control operator's employer have an interest in the communications? If the answer to each of these questions is 'no,' then the communications is acceptable with the caveat that it is not on a regular basis, one which could be furnished alternatively through other radio services."

There are limits to what an amateur can do on behalf of his or her employer, Cross said, as well as limits to the extent that Amateur Radio can be used for the purpose for which other radio services were created. "'No communications on behalf of an employer' means just that," he said. "There's no exception for the 15 minutes you're on break. There's no exception for 'Gee, it's the weekend,' or there's no exception because you want to do it. If it's your employer, you cannot transmit communications on their behalf. That is a commercial communications."

### ⇒ Public Service Communications

The last topic Cross addressed concerned public service communications. "There's no rule about public service communications as such in Part 97, because most of the messages you transmit that you think of as public service communications are allowed by Section 97.111

<[http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2002/oct\\_qtr/pdf/47cfr97.111.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/oct_qtr/pdf/47cfr97.111.pdf)>. Paragraph (a) authorizes an amateur station to transmit two-way communications including, among other things, exchanging messages with other stations in the Amateur Service and communications necessary to meet essential communications needs and to facilitate relief actions." Cross noted that most of these transmissions -- the essential communications needs and facilitating relief actions -- are two-way exchanges with messages with other amateur stations. "The rule also authorizes you to transmit one-way communications, such as transmissions necessary to make adjustments to the station -- these are your tests, your tones, tossing the carrier to see what the SWR is, that sort of thing -- and brief transmissions necessary to establish two-way communications with other stations."

Cross said that the rules cover everything we do as Amateur Radio operators: "Ragchewing, DX, contests, DXpeditions, county hunting, tuning up, everything. Ninety-nine percent of our communications fall under the rules that are there."

Emergency communications, by their nature, involve an element of immediacy, immediate safety of property and life. "Reporting where damage is, what happened after a tornado goes through or where power lines are down, is certainly public service communications and it's allowed under

97.111, but it may not involve an immediate safety of life and property," Cross explained. "A bridge washed out, for example, may need a more immediate response than downed trees, and reporting that is already allowed as just two-way communications between stations. A car with occupants floating down a river is clearly an emergency situation. In cases like that, the rules already provide that at all times and on all frequencies, each control operator must give priority to stations providing emergency communications. I have never heard of a case where a ham station has come on a repeater or a frequency and said, 'I have an emergency message,' and someone said, 'Wait your turn.' That's not your style ."

### ⇒ Laura Smith

The Dayton Hamvention was one of the first events Smith has attended in her role as Special Counsel. Cross introduced Smith, explaining that he used to work for her and that she was "one of the best people that we possibly could get for this job, because before she came to the Wireless Bureau, she had worked in mass media. After she had been in the Wireless Bureau, Laura had been the president of a trade association in Washington. Many of the issues that come up with other entities using amateur spectrum are entities that are either in mass media services or in land-mobile services and they are  
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

## Hamvention FCC Forum Report (con't)

basically lusting after your bands. So we are fortunate now that when someone calls up, Laura has this breadth of knowledge of not only what the amateur stuff is, but where [land-mobile and mass media services] actually really should belong. And she can counsel them very gently that they need to get licensed here and not, you know, where they think they are. This is something you don't see. Believe it or not, this is a tremendous help to you."

He mentioned that Smith plans to stay in this position for the long haul: "So if you have any ideas about a short-timer or think you're going to get away with it, plan on about 15 years down the road. In the meantime, behave yourselves!"

Smith explained that when she took over the amateur enforcement position earlier this year, the job had changed a bit from when Hollingsworth was in the office. "This job used to be in the Spectrum Enforcement Division down in DC; it was a remote position in a DC office," she explained. "It is no longer in that Division. I am actually a Field Agent. I'm attached to the FCC Field Office, I'm in the Northeast Region and my supervisor is the Regional Director for the Northeast Region." She told the crowd that she has spent a large portion of her time going through all the files that had accumulated, about 430 cases, while the position was vacant.

She explained the different types of complaints her office receives, such as complaints dealing with criminal investigations, technical violations, harassment and language complaints, malicious interference complaints and unlicensed users.

Smith also handles RFI complaints. Saying that these complaints are "ultimately going to be the most troublesome," she explained that there are two kinds of RFI complaints. "The first type of RFI complaint I get are the ones where your neighbors are complaining about you. You guys are causing interference to their television or to their radios or their telephone. The Commission generally tells them if you are a licensed amateur operator operating in the parameters of your license, then the Part 15 device that you are causing interference to is subject to that interference, and the rules state that very clearly. We suggest that they either work with you or they get a filter; those are the two suggestions."

Smith, in cooperation with the ARRL Lab, also handles utility line interference complaints. "This one, you would think, would be easy to resolve -- the power line is causing interference, the utility will come out and fix it and everything will be fine. Not quite so easy," she explained. "Those of you that have been experiencing it for 3, 4, 5, 10, 12 years know that in fact, that is not what happens. What I am discovering is that the utilities quite simply don't know how to fix the problem. They can't identify the noise. What they will do is they will go out and will find 15 sources of noise. They will fix these 15 sources of noise and then they will come back to me with this detailed list of these 15 sources of noise that they have fixed. Yea! We're all done. No -- they haven't fixed your noise. So they don't quite understand the concept of 'Don't just run out and fix everything you see, that's irrelevant to the amateur.' The amateur wants you to fix their noise."

Smith described that the first step the utilities need to do is to go to the amateur's house and listen to the noise and determine exactly what they're hearing. "This way, when they fix it, you can ultimately figure out if you have in fact fixed their noise. I'm trying to figure out a way with the Lab as to how we can best tell the utilities that they really need to think about how their processes work and what we can do to educate them so they can get out and fix this."

Smith has also given utility companies time limits to fix the noise complaints. "I am telling them, 'If you go out and you can't fix it, every two weeks you have to report back to me in writing why you can't fix it.' Utilities are, generally speaking publicly traded companies, so what happens is that they have a Board of Directors that they answer to. Those people are not going to want them to waste time and energy writing this crazy woman in Gettysburg every two weeks a detailed report. And believe you me, if they miss their deadline, I call them and tell them 'You've missed your deadline. I need your report.' I have spoken to more

**(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

## Hamvention FCC Forum Report (con't)

heads of utilities in the last three weeks than I ever care to speak to again. They have no qualms about calling me, saying 'We can't meet the deadline.' And I explain to them that's fine, I'll just write up this nice little letter [saying] you can write your check to the federal government."

Smith suggested to the amateur community "that we as a collective -- you guys and me -- we can have a great relationship, we can do this the easy way. You guys can, in fact, follow the rules and remember that when you signed up to become an amateur, you actually committed to adhere to the Commission's rules. I'm going to strongly suggest that you hold to that. If you don't we can do this the difficult way, and I am more than willing to do that if it comes down to it."

### ⇒ Questions and Answers

Cross and Smith then took questions from the audience. They concerned grandfathering Advanced class license holders to Extra class, enforcing Amateur Radio rules on stations originating outside the US, what type of internal review is required before a Notice of Apparent Liability is issued, keeping undesired hams off a repeater system, issues with D-STAR repeaters allowing Internet content to be carried on amateur frequencies and establishments that sell 10 meter radios disguised as 11 meter radios.

Smith also told the crowd why she has not yet become a licensed Amateur Radio operator: "My father-in-law is Richard Smith. He is the former Chief of the Field Operations Bureau. The Field Operations Bureau was the precursor to the Enforcement Bureau. When Dick started his career at the FCC, he worked in the LA Field Office as an engineer; one of the duties that he had while he was out there was to administer the Amateur Radio tests. His expertise just so happened to be in the Code. He is an incredible operator. And so when I decided to take this job, I did not want to run out and get my license before I took the job for a lot of reasons. Not the least of which is I felt it would be a sham -- I wasn't an amateur before I took the job, I didn't want you to think that I was selling you so short that I was going to run out and get my license to try and validate myself for this industry. Instead, I said that I would wait and take the exam later and become an amateur as I got to know the

community. When I told the story to Dick and I said I was thinking about getting my license, he said to me, 'You will not get your license until you can pass the code part of the test.' Unfortunately, he followed that up with a caveat, which was 'I will be there to oversee the administration of the test to determine whether or not you are competent and qualified to be an amateur.' So I have to learn code -- I obviously do not know it." Smith said she plans on learning CW this summer, along with her six year old daughter.

Cross closed the forum, quipping, "For those of you who are concerned, I made sure she went by the Vibroplex booth, and we also stopped by the Begali booth. So she got to see what the minimum requirements are for proper CW."

## Riley Speaks @ Lehigh U.....

The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club (DLARC), Nazareth, PA, will present "An Evening with Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, on July 9, 2009, at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.

Lehigh University - Packard Laboratory Building  
July 9, 2009 7:30 pm.  
Tickets - Advance sale \$3.00  
At the Door \$5.00

Note: Riley's speeches usually sell out.  
Advance Tickets are available by mail.  
Send Check and Self Addressed #10 (4" X 9") envelope to:

DLARC  
P.O. Box 3026  
Easton, PA. 18043-3026

Talk in Frequency - 146.700 (-) PL 151.4  
Information & Maps at: [www.dlarc.org](http://www.dlarc.org)

Any additional Information contact:  
[ke3aw@arrl.net](mailto:ke3aw@arrl.net)  
610-432-8286



[illegible]

**Don't forget about the NHARC Hamfest! It'll be held at the Northland Public Library on July 12. See [page 39](#) for more info. Not only that but the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix race weekend is July 18-19. Contact Corky, N3MJP at 724-626-0873 or 724-217-5458 if you wanna volunteer.**



I didn't see the vintage WWII Communications truck in the flea market this year. I hope it's still around somewhere.

**VE Testing on June 15th @ the Clubhouse. Contact Mark Strayer, AI3J at <AI3J@W3KWH.com> for details. You can also ring him on: 412-833-6049**

# Hamvention Random Ramblings.....



Another view of the flea market. I think this is from Saturday, after the rain.

[illegible]

Seems to me that Dayton did better attendance-wise when they still had it in April. Its been a steady decline in my opinion ever since.

**Below: I stand corrected. Icom DID have a new rig on display: The ID-880H, the successor to the ID-800 D-STAR Dual Band radio.**

**Below: The FlexRadio Systems booth always had a big crowd around it. I think they DID have show specials, in contrast with the big dealers.**

That's it for the Hamvention 2009 report. Hope to see you there next year. It's the place to see & be seen!!! 73 de NB3C!! Thanks for reading!!!



## ARRL Atlantic Division News

The Atlantic Division Awards Committee is pleased to announce that following awards have been named.

### AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year is awarded to George Brechmann N3HBT. George was the moving force behind Pennsylvania becoming the 27th state having a PRB-1 law on the books. The PRB-1 antenna legislation was presented by George's state senator, Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf. Several people played very key parts in this effort besides George: Eric Pauley, Senator Greenleaf's Assistant, Dave Eckman WA3YVR, Eric Olena WB3FPL, EPA-Section Manager, John Rodgers N3MSE, WPA-Section Manager and Chris Imlay W3KD, ARRL General Counsel. And last, but certainly not least were the number of amateur radio operators in Pennsylvania who took the time to contact their state senator and state representative.

### TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Technical Achievement Award this year was shared by two individuals working together on making digital emergency communication easier and more reliable. They have been active in making presentations across the Atlantic Division. The awardees for this category are Dave Kleber KB3FXI and Harry Bloomberg W3YJ.

### KEITH FREEBERG N2BEL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

This award is named after Keith Freeberg N2BEL who was very involved in amateur radio and amateur radio training in the Western New York Section. Keith had a unique ability to teach amateur radio to people of all ages. He had an affinity for working with young people and was very involved with one of the few Radio Coaches programs. It is very fitting that this award is dedicated to his memory and that the successful candidate demonstrate an ability to successfully train people in amateur radio. The emphasis is on quality of training and not pure number of people trained. This is the first year for this award and the first recipient is Pete Fournia W2SKY. Pete had worked very closely with Keith over the years in developing,

organizing and teaching amateur radio topics to scores of people.

Please join us in congratulating these Atlantic Division Award winners for this year!

### ATLANTIC DIVISION CONVENTION

-----  
This year's Atlantic Division Convention and the Rochester Hamfest 75th anniversary held this past Saturday was nothing short of awesome. This club's membership changed the hamfest format and venue successfully. They used 16 acres for flea market vendors - Traffic was stacked up from attendees waiting to get into the hamfest/convention grounds and attendance was up from last year. Dan Henderson N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist attended the convention from ARRL HQ and was well received. Positive comments from attendees were heard all day long.

### Atlantic Division Cabinet Meeting

-----  
The Atlantic Division leadership held the Cabinet Meeting in Gettysburg on May 2nd. Some very good discussion on club affiliation, membership issues and EmComm issues were discussed.

The keynote speaker was Laura Smith, FCC's Special Counsel. Laura talked about amateur enforcement and what she is working with. After her talk attendees were glad to hear that Amateur enforcement remains in good hands.

We also had ARRL's General Counsel, Chris Imlay W3KD do a live presentation and webinar from Gettysburg to give information to clubs about issues that amateur radio clubs need to keep in mind from a legal standpoint.

### New Division Working Committee Formed

-----  
The Atlantic Division has formed a new working committee with Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH as its Chairman. This committee has been tasked  
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

## Is Navy MARS going QRT??

1. COMMANDER, NAVAL NETWORK WARFARE COMMAND (NNWC) HAS DECIDED TO 'SUNSET' THE MARS MISSION WITHIN NAVY AS OF 30 SEP 2009. NNWC HAS REQUESTED ALL MILITARY BILLETS AND MY CIVILIAN POSITION BE DELETED AND UNFUNDED AFTER THAT DATE. OPNAV HAS NOT YET APPROVED THIS REQUEST.

2. ALL THREE MARS SERVICES HAVE OPERATED UNDER THE MANDATE OF REF A, WHICH IS STILL VALID. REF B IS A PROPOSED UPDATE TO REF A AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING COORDINATED BETWEEN DOD AND THE THREE SERVICES. REF B INCREASES THE SERVICES REQUIREMENT TO SUPPORT THE MARS PROGRAMS WITHIN THEIR SERVICE. ARMY AND AIR FORCE HAVE AGREED TO THE CHANGES BUT NAVY (OPNAV) HAS ASKED TO BE LET OUT OF THIS REQUIREMENT. THIS NEGOTIATION IS STILL IN PROCESS AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN IT WILL BE RESOLVED.

3. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF NNWC DECISION TO 'SUNSET' THE MARS MISSION, I AM FORCED TO INITIATE ACTION TO CLOSE DOWN NAVY-MARINE CORPS OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES BY 30 SEP 2009. ACCORDINGLY:

⇒ A. AREA DIRECTORS WILL TRANSFER ALL MEMBERSHIP RECORDS TO HQ NLT THAN 31 JUL 2009. WHEN RECORDS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED, STATE DIRECTORS WILL SEND ALL MEMBERSHIP RELATED MATTERS DIRECTLY TO CHNAVMARCORMARS VICE THE AREA DIRECTOR.

⇒ B. AREA DIRECTORS WILL CLOSE DOWN THEIR OFFICES AND TURN IN

ALL EQUIPMENT TO DRMO NOT LATER THAN 30 SEP 2009.

⇒ C. NONE OF THE EQUIPMENT AT THE AREA DIRECTORS STATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ANY MEMBERS. THE EQUIPMENT MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER OFFICIAL NAVY ORGANIZATIONS (LIKE MWR OR SPECIAL SERVICES) TO HELP EQUIP OR START UP MILITARY RECREATION STATIONS. THESE TRANSFERS WILL BE APPROVED BY HQ ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

4. IF NAVY'S REQUEST TO BE DELETED FROM REF B IS NOT APPROVED, THERE WILL BE A NAVY-MARINE CORPS MARS PROGRAM BUT IT WILL NOT HAVE AREA DIRECTORS (THEY WILL HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED). ALL MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE HANDLED BETWEEN THE STATE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF, NAVMARCORMARS DIRECTLY. AREA DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND AREA STAFF POSITIONS WILL BE RETAINED TO COORDINATE FREQUENCY MATTERS, TRAINING, ETC. ALL OPERATIONAL MATTERS WILL BE HANDLED BY STATE AND REGION DIRECTORS.

5. I WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS I FIND OUT THE FINAL RESOLUTION OF NAVY'S REQUEST TO 'SUNSET' NAVY-MARINE CORPS MARS.

(This is a letter from the Chief of Navy MARS to all Navy MARS members. Many thanks to Nate, W3SVJ for passing it on to me. Makes you wonder if Air Force and Army MARS will hang on much longer. Let's hope the Navy decides to rescind this order.)

## ARRL Atlantic Division News (con't)

with identifying prospective new amateur radio operators and then developing ways we can reach these prospective hams.

This committee is looking for some good committee members who are willing to be working members. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please send an email with your name, call sign and a brief statement with your qualifications for this committee to <[n3llr@arrl.org](mailto:n3llr@arrl.org)>.

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

May 2009

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

# June 2009

July 2009

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

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                | Monday                          | Tuesday                                                                               | Wednesday                                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                         | Friday                                          | Saturday                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                       | 1<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i>  | 2<br><i>WACOM 2M Net<br/>WACOM 10M Net<br/>ARS Spartan Sprint<br/>Skyview Meeting</i> | 3<br><i>SCARC Social Nite<br/>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>                                                          | 4<br><i>10 meter NRAU<br/>Activity Test<br/>SkyView 2M Net<br/>WACOM Meeting</i> | 5<br><i>Digital Pentathlon<br/>NCCC Sprint</i>  | 6<br><i>DigiFest Contest<br/>Wake-Up! QRP<br/>Sprint<br/>SEANET Contest<br/>IARU Region 1<br/>Fieldday<br/>Alabama QSO Party</i>                      |
| 7<br><i>Breezeshooters<br/>Hamfest<br/>SEANET Contest<br/>IARU Region 1<br/>Fieldday<br/>Alabama QSO Party<br/>DigiFest Contest<br/>WASH Sun. Net</i> | 8<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i>  | 9<br><i>WACOM 2M Net<br/>WACOM 10M Net</i>                                            | 10<br><i>SCARC Social Nite<br/>NHARC Meeting<br/>NAQCC Straight<br/>Key/Bug Sprint<br/>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> | 11<br><i>SkyView 2M Net<br/>WASH Meeting<br/>NAC 50 MHz<br/>(Aktivitestest)</i>  | 12<br><i>NCCC Sprint<br/>Digital Pentathlon</i> | 13<br><i>ARRL June VHF<br/>QSO Party<br/>ANARTS WW<br/>RTTY Test<br/>Asia-Pacific Sprint<br/>GACW WWSA CW<br/>DX Test<br/>DDFM 50 MHz<br/>Contest</i> |
| 14<br><i>ARRL June VHF<br/>QSO Party<br/>WASH Sun. Net<br/>ANARTS WW<br/>RTTY Test<br/>GACW WWSA CW<br/>DX Test<br/>DDFM 50 MHz<br/>Contest</i>       | 15<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i> | 16<br><i>SCARC Business<br/>Meeting<br/>WACOM 2M Net<br/>WACOM 10M Net</i>            | 17<br><i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>                                                                               | 18<br><i>SkyView 2M Net</i>                                                      | 19<br><i>NCCC Sprint<br/>Digital Pentathlon</i> | 20<br><i>All Asian DX Test<br/>CW<br/>SMIRK Contest<br/>Feld-Hell Club<br/>Sprint<br/>WVA QSO Party<br/>Kid's Day</i>                                 |
| 21<br><i>WASH Sun. Net<br/>All Asian DX Test<br/>CW<br/>SMIRK Contest<br/>WVA QSO Party</i>                                                           | 22<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i> | 23<br><i>WACOM 2M Net<br/>WACOM 10M Net</i>                                           | 24<br><i>SCARC Social Nite<br/>SKCC Straight Key<br/>Sprint<br/>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>                        | 25<br><i>SkyView 2M Net</i>                                                      | 26<br><i>NCCC Sprint<br/>Digital Pentathlon</i> | 27<br><i>ARRL Field Day<br/>WASH Breakfast<br/>MARCONI<br/>Memorial Test HF<br/>CW<br/>Ukrainian DX DIGI<br/>Test</i>                                 |
| 28<br><i>ARRL Field Day<br/>WASH Sun. Net<br/>MARCONI<br/>Memorial Test HF<br/>CW<br/>Ukrainian DX DIGI<br/>Test<br/>SARL Digital<br/>Contest</i>     | 29<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i> | 30<br><i>WACOM 2M Net<br/>WACOM 10M Net</i>                                           |                                                                                                               |                                                                                  |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                       |

June 2009

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

# July 2009

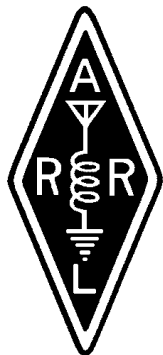
August 2009

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

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                               | Monday                                                           | Tuesday                                                                                                 | Wednesday                                                                                      | Thursday                                                            | Friday                         | Saturday                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                  |                                                                                                         | 1<br><i>SCARC Social Nite</i><br><i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i><br><i>RAC Canada Day Test</i>       | 2<br><i>SkyView 2M Net</i><br><i>WACOM Meeting</i>                  | 3<br><i>Digital Pentathlon</i> | 4<br><i>MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint</i>                                                                                                                            |
| 5<br><i>WASH Sun. Net</i><br><i>YV Independence Day Test</i><br><i>WLOTA Test</i><br><i>DL-DX RTTY Test</i><br><i>Original QRP Test</i><br><i>DARC 10M Digi Test</i> | 6<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i><br><i>RSGB 80M Club Champ. CW</i> | 7<br><i>WACOM 2M Net</i><br><i>WACOM 10M Net</i><br><i>ARS Spartan Sprint</i><br><i>Skyview Meeting</i> | 8<br><i>SCARC Social Nite</i><br><i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i><br><i>NHARC Meeting</i>             | 9<br><i>SkyView 2M Net</i><br><i>WASH Meeting</i>                   | 10<br><i>NCCC Sprint</i>       | 11<br><i>IARU HF Championship</i><br><i>FISTS Summer Sprint</i><br><i>Feld-Hell Sprint</i>                                                                       |
| 12<br><i>NHARC Hamfest</i><br><i>IARU HF Championship</i><br><i>WASH Sun. Net</i><br><i>SKCC Weekend Sprint</i><br><i>ARCI Homebrew Sprint</i>                       | 13<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i>                                  | 14<br><i>WACOM 2M Net</i><br><i>WACOM 10M Net</i>                                                       | 15<br><i>SCARC Social Nite</i><br><i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i><br><i>RSGB 80M Club Champ. SSB</i> | 16<br><i>SkyView 2M Net</i><br><i>NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint</i> | 17<br><i>NCCC Sprint</i>       | 18<br><i>Pgh Vintage Grand Prix Race Weekend</i><br><i>CQWW VHF Test</i><br><i>Russian Radio Team Champ.</i><br><i>DMC RTTY Test</i><br><i>NA QSO Party RTTY</i> |
| 19<br><i>Pgh Vintage Grand Prix Race Weekend</i><br><i>CQWW VHF Test</i><br><i>WASH Sun. Net</i><br><i>DMC RTTY Test</i><br><i>NA QSO Party RTTY</i>                 | 20<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i>                                  | 21<br><i>SCARC Business Meeting</i><br><i>WACOM 2M Net</i><br><i>WACOM 10M Net</i>                      | 22<br><i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i><br><i>SKCC Sprint</i>                                          | 23<br><i>SkyView 2M Net</i><br><i>RSGB 80M Club Champ. Data</i>     | 24<br><i>NCCC Sprint</i>       | 25<br><i>RSGB IOTA Test</i><br><i>WASH Breakfast</i>                                                                                                             |
| 26<br><i>RSGB IOTA Test</i><br><i>WASH Sun. Net</i>                                                                                                                  | 27<br><i>Breezeshooters Net</i>                                  | 28<br><i>WACOM 2M Net</i><br><i>WACOM 10M Net</i>                                                       | 29<br><i>SCARC Social Nite</i><br><i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>                                    | 30<br><i>SkyView 2M Net</i>                                         | 31<br><i>NCCC Sprint</i>       |                                                                                                                                                                  |

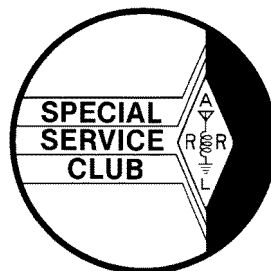
# NORTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## 24<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Hamfest



July 12, 2009 8 am until 2 pm  
Northland Public Library  
300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Talk-in on 147.09 W3EXW  
North Hills Amateur Radio Club Repeater



**Free Admission - Free Parking**  
**Paved Tailgating (1<sup>st</sup> space free; additional \$5 each)**

A Real Old Fashioned Hamfest!

Handicapped Accessible

**No Firearm Sales Permitted**

**Concessions by K3NHC, The North Hills High School Amateur Radio and Electronics Club**

### Main Prizes

All prizes subject to availability

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Icom IC-7200  
HF/50MHz Transceiver**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Yaesu VX-7R**

**Plus Hourly Prizes - must be present to win**

### Mystery Box

**Main Prize Tickets:** \$2 each, three for \$5, or seven for \$10. Main prize ticket entitles bearer to hourly prizes. Winner need not be present for main prize or mystery box drawing at 2 pm; must be present for hourly prize drawings. Also 50/50 tickets, \$1 each; **2 pm drawing; winner need not be present.**

**Mystery Box Tickets:** \$5 each only 100 tickets sold! Prize value \$250.

**Directions:** Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Rd.; Approximately 10 miles north of Pittsburgh on Rt. 19 North. From Pittsburgh take Exit 18 on Rt. 279 to McKnight Rd. north to left on Cumberland Rd. From I-79 Exit 22 take Rt. 910 east to Rt. 19, south to Cumberland Rd. From PA Turnpike Exit 3 take Rt. 19 south through Wexford on Rt. 19, turn left onto Cumberland Rd. at the Sunoco.

**Hamfest Chairmen:** Cathy Heiles KB3OYS, 412-486-2785, Al Smochko K3YUB,  
e-mail: hamfest@nharc.org Additional information: **www.nharc.org**

---

### Advance Ticket Sales -- deadline is July 1, 2009

Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with this coupon and your check made payable to the **North Hills Amateur Radio Club** to:

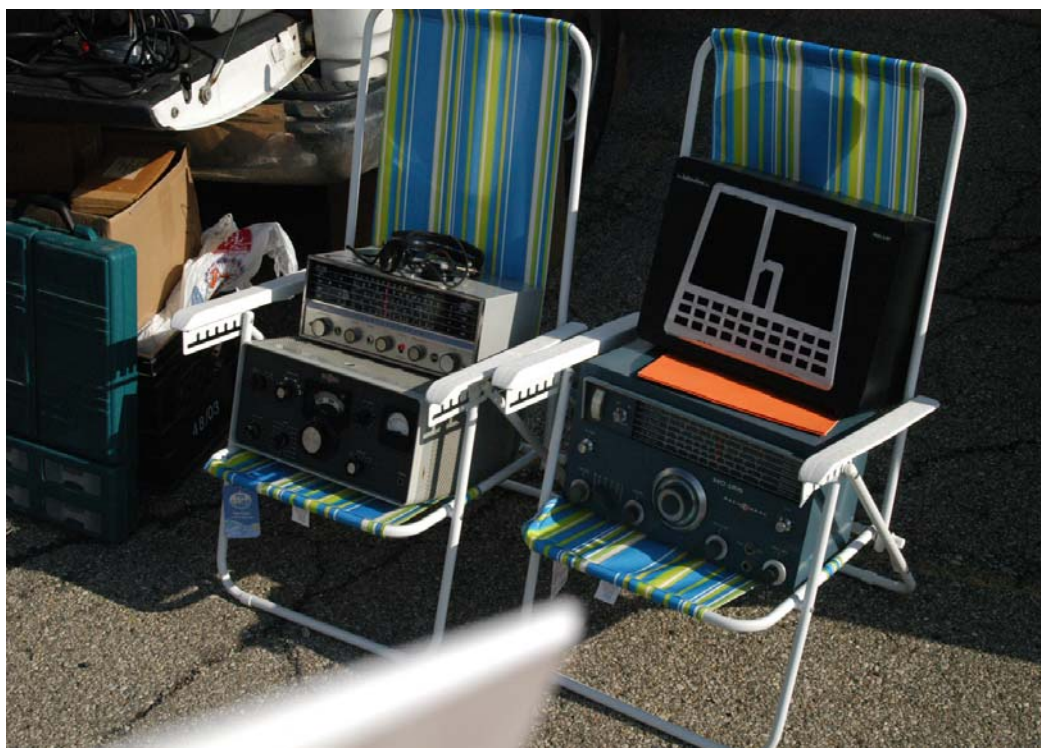
Cathy Heiles KB3OYS  
134 Easley Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ main prize tickets for the July 12, 2009 NHARC Hamfest.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

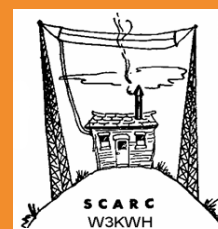


**NEXT  
MEETING:  
8PM  
16JUNE2009**



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

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



**Inside: The annual Dayton Hamvention wrap-up. If you didn't make it this year, see what you missed! Plus, some legislative stuff that needs your attention. It's all inside this issue!**

**Steel City Amateur Radio Club**  
P.O. Box 281  
Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106  
Phone 412-787-0777  
Editor: Greg Babin, NB3C  
<[KO3DX@hotmail.com](mailto:KO3DX@hotmail.com)>

