

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

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

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to read it.)

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**OUR NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY SEPT 16. COME
FOR THE MEETING, STAY FOR THE CORN-
ROAST. MEETING STARTS @ 8:00PM. C U AT
THE CLUBHOUSE.**



KiloWatt Harmonics

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

September 2008

Your **STEEL CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S**
ANNUAL CORN ROAST WILL BE HELD
ON THE MEETING (abbreviated) NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 16 @ 8 pm.

The CLUB will furnish the corn (it's a corn roast, right?), CHICKEN 'N
FIXINS', DOGS, BURGERS & BUNS, condiments and the usual
liquid refreshments . . . almost . . . **EVERYTHING!**

Bring along your favorite dish, some "SWEETS" or?

Any dish, any QUANTITY, to share with the folks would be GREAT!

**GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FOOD, GOOD
TIME!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SEPT 16, 2008, 8PM

SCARC VE Test Session This Month

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Exam will be held at the Steel City Amateur Radio Club's
clubhouse.

Testing starts promptly at 7:00 PM !

Please arrive by 6:45PM to complete all necessary paperwork.

For directions to the testing facilities and other information regarding
the VE tests, please contact:

Mark Strayer [**AI3J**] -- 412.833.6049 or send email to:
<ai3j@w3kwh.com>

Pre-register to guarantee your session.

Walk-ins are limited and any type of disability must be
pre-registered.

DX News & Views

From various issues of the ARRL DX Bulletin.
Thanks to them for their permission to reprint

- ♦ **MALAWI, 7Q.** Joe, 7Q7BP has been active on 160 meters around 0330z.
- ♦ **CHINA, BY.** Special event stations BT1OB, BT1OH, BT1OJ, BT1ON and BT1OY active during the 2008 Beijing Olympics are QRV until September 17. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They are also active using SSTV, PSK, EME and on various satellites. QSL all calls via BA4EG.
- ♦ **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, E7.** Slaven, E77AA has been active on 20 meters CW.
- ♦ **IRAN, EP.** Pooyan, EP3PK has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 1800z. QSL via IK2DUW.
- ♦ **JAN MAYEN, JX.** Svein is QRV as JX9JKA and has been active on 20 meters from around 2000 to 0000z. QSL via LA9JKA.
- ♦ **KALININGRAD, UA2.** Alex, UA2FFW has been active using RTTY on 20 meters just after 2100z.
- ♦ **US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2.** Jaime, WP3A is QRV as KP2B from St. Croix, IOTA NA-106. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via EA7FTR.
- ♦ **CHAD, TT.** Francisco is QRV as TT8FC and has been active on 20 meters around 1500z. QSL via EA4AHK.
- ♦ **ANTARCTICA.** Vasily, RA9LI/9 is QRV from a meteorological station on Belyy Island, IOTA AS-083. His length of stay is unknown. Activity has been on 20 meters around 1530 to 1830z. QSL via UA9LP.
- ♦ **UZBEKISTAN, UK.** Victor, UK8AKK has been active on 20 meters using RTTY around 1600z.
- ♦ **UK SOVEREIGN BASE CYPRUS, ZC4.** Tom, ZC4TS has been active on 20 meters around 1800z.
- ♦ **LAOS, XW.** Bruce, XW1B has been active on 20 meters around 0000z and also around 1430z. QSL via E21EIC.
- ♦ **SOUTH AFRICA, ZS.** Franz, HB9EHQ will be QRV as ZS6/DL3PS from Johannesburg from August 25 to September 12 while on a business trip. He will be active on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes in his spare time. QSL to home call.
- ♦ **MALDIVES, 8Q.** Andrew, G7COD, will be active from the Island of Embudu in the Kaafu Atoll, (AS-013), using the call sign 8Q7AK from October 12 to 25. Activity will be on 40 through 12 meters using CW and SSB. He plans to be operational every day from approximately 0730-0830z, 0900-1030z, 1300-1500z and 1730-1745z. Suggested frequencies are (+/- QRM): SSB - 7063, 14147, 18133, 21253 and 24953 kHz, and CW - 7003, 10103, 14003, 18073, 21003 and 24893 kHz.
- ♦ **ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8.** Bob, VP8LP is QRV as ZD8LP until August 16, and again on September 14. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters. QSL direct.
- ♦ **KENYA, 5Z.** Valery, RW1AU is QRV as 5Z4/RW1AU for the next several months while on work assignment in Nairobi. He is active mostly on SSB, but may be on CW soon. QSL via K5XK. In addition, Antonio, IK8VRH and Enrico, 5Z4ES are QRV as 5Z4/IK8VRH from the Coast Province North Group, IOTA AF-040, until August 17 and the Coast Province South Group, IOTA AF-067, from August 20 to 22. Activity is on 40, 20 and 17 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via operators' instructions
- ♦ **ALGERIA, 7X.** Mirek, VK6DXI is QRV as 7X0DX until September 11 in his spare time while on business here. Mirek, is currently on a business trip in Algeria until September 11th. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via DL4DBR.
- ♦ **IRAN, EP.** Mohammed, EP4MRG has been active on 20 meters around 0500 and then 1645z.
- ♦ **BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2.** Viaceslav, LY4F is QRV as PJ2/LY4F from Curacao, IOTA SA-006, until September 18. QSL via LY1FF.
- ♦ **TOKELAU ISLANDS, ZK3.** Willi, DJ7RJ and Ulrich, DL2AH are QRV as ZK3MW and ZK3AH, respectively, for at least three weeks. QSL to home calls.

(More DX News & Views on page 8)

KiloWatt Harmonics,
September 2008

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Amateur Radio Club

Edited by Greg Babin,
NB3C

'KiloWatt Harmonics' is
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FCC/ARRL News & Views

From various issues of the ARRL Bulletin. Thanks to the ARRL for their permission to reprint.

♦ STATION MANAGER EXPLAINS NN3SI'S SILENCE

ARRL has received numerous e-mails asking for information on why NN3SI <<http://americanhistory.si.edu/events/programdetail.cfm?newskey=48>>, the Amateur Radio station at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History (NMAH) was closed after more than 32 years of operation <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/30/10231/?nc=1>>. According to Hal Wallace, NN3SI Station Manager and Associate Curator for the Museum's electricity collections, there will be no appropriate place to house the station once the Museum reopens this fall after undergoing an extensive renovation.

"NN3SI ceased operating from the National Museum of American History on July 31," Wallace told the ARRL. "As you may know, NMAH has been undergoing a renovation of the building's infrastructure and interior for some time. The renovation forced us to remove the Information Age exhibition -- the station's home since 1990. We placed the station in a temporary location for the duration of the renovation but it cannot remain there when we reopen to the public later this year. The Information Age exhibit will not be reinstalled, and since we have no other appropriate exhibition areas within the Museum, the station had to cease operations at NMAH. Various alternate locations throughout the Smithsonian have been considered but none are viable at this time."

Wallace said that the station's license is valid until 2013 and its equipment will go into storage: "John Johnston, W3BE -- NN3SI's trustee -- assures me that a renewal of the license would not be an issue if we need one. Should a suitable exhibition area elsewhere in the [Smithsonian] Institution be found, we will be able to reactivate the NN3SI activity."

♦ FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH COMING IN SEPTEMBER

The US Department of Homeland Security announced in July that more than 1200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations --including several Amateur Radio groups -- have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition <<http://www.ready.gov/america/npm08/intro.html>>. Sponsored by the department's "Ready" campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses and communities on emergency preparedness.

"As we approach our fifth National Preparedness Month, I want to thank the hundreds of coalition members who are

making a difference in their communities by helping raise the basic level of preparedness in our country," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Individual preparedness is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. Experience shows that if Americans take steps ahead of time, they stand a much better chance of coming through an emergency unharmed and recovering more quickly."

"The 'Ready' campaign and Citizen Corps <<http://www.citizencorps.gov>> are specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps," said ARRL Public Relations and Media Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "These steps include getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts."

National Preparedness Month Coalition members have agreed to distribute emergency preparedness information and sponsor activities across the country that will promote emergency preparedness. Membership is open to all public and private sector organizations. Sign up your club or ARES group now! Groups and individuals can register to become members by visiting the Ready Web site <<http://www.ready.gov>> and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner.

For more information on the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month, please visit <<http://www.ready.gov>> or <<http://www.listo.gov>> for information in Spanish. Information is also available by phone at 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO (in Spanish).

According to Pitts, linking up with the Ready.gov people and participating in September's National Preparedness Month is "an easy win. The federal people are already doing all the hard work. All you really have to do is sign up. Most clubs and ARES groups are already doing activities which fit into their structure, so why not get credit for your actions? Of course, if you do something more with this opportunity, so much the better! But you have to sign your group in and no one can do that for you. There are hundreds of ARES groups and clubs in the country. Wouldn't it be fun to have even 70 percent of them sign up and get noticed?"

(More FCC/ARRL News on page 13)



August 2008 Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Steel City ARC Meeting Tues. August 19, 2008

The President WA3TTS, Mike at 8 PM, called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and was followed by a Moment of Silence for our Silent Keys. 25 members and 1 visitor answered the Roll Call. Minutes of the July meeting were accepted as published in the Aug. newsletter. The Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt who revealed that there was a rent increase gained from Cricket for their lease on the cell tower, gave the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports

Clubhouse WA3VXJ, Karl reported that he cut the grass, tidied the clubhouse for the meeting and has sent out the lawn cutting mowers for maintenance. He also mentioned that there have been complaints from our neighbors about members speeding on the recently paved club road. Mike reminded us that we would have to watch the fluctuating oil prices before filling up our furnace fuel tanks. We will get WB3CRF, Rich to contact his friend from Kem Oil to fill us up at the proper time.

Technical N3EQP, John said that the TS-140 needs a power supply. The membership voted to buy a 35 amp PS for that radio. The TS-940 and TS-950 radios need fixed and serviced. Mike said that the TS-140 would not be modified until there are operators who will utilize the MARS frequencies on a regular basis. Mike has a 6-meter beacon up and running on 0.75 watt.

Ways and Means WA3FWA, Joe will have the 50/50 raffle after the meeting and forward any QSL to the ARRL outgoing bureau. We have received a QSL card for working Clipperton Island on 160 meters CW. The club now has 27 confirmed of 59 countries worked on 160 M.

Contest Mike listed the ARRL Sept. VHF QSO Party for the weekend of the 13th and the ARRL 10 GHz and up Contest for the 20th.

Public Service KA3MSE, Lloyd ran the net last month and 2 weeks ago and KB3NUQ, Bob ran it last week. The Skyview Hamfest will be this Sunday, Aug. 24th.

Web Site The web cam on and off times is controlled by W3WTW, Tim. KB3NUQ, Bob has some Pentium III PC's available.

Volunteer Exams AI3J, Mark will hold the next session on Monday, Sept. 15.

Old Business W3SVJ, Nate said that we worked 300 QSO's on the Pittsburgh 250 Anniversary event using the N3FJP logging program. He heard that Skyview did 1300 Q's! Mike said the UHF contest ran at the same time and 82 Q's were worked with Hartford CT contacted on the 903 MHz band.

New Business The annual corn roast will be held after the Sept. meeting. N3SBF, Ritchie and XYL KB3GMN, Carol will be running and preparing food for this event. WB3CRC, Dale received an email from DL4ZAA, Ralf who sends his greeting and says that he will be visiting us next year. Ralf worked for a US company here in Pittsburgh until an opening in Germany for his line of work allowed him to return home.

Good of the Order KB3NUQ, Bob described his trip to the west coast which included a visit to W6RO on the Queen Mary and other notable places. He had run a VE exam last week, which resulted in one applicant passing his exam. Nate reported that KOBUD, Mike will have a kidney transplant with his son being the donor. The best of luck Mike. Walt requested and received the OK to add the TS-940 and TS-950 to the equipment insurance plan.

Motion to Adjourn by KB3GMN, Carol.

50/50 winner WB3HDI, Bob.

Minutes Submitted by Recording Secretary WA3FWA, Joe.



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The ARRL WPA Section Page

On September 7th the Butler County Amateur Radio Association will hold its first swap fest at the Unionville fire hall just off route 8. Additional information is available at <http://w3udx.org/>. I plan on being in attendance at this event. As always I am looking forward to seeing old friends and talking to the many hams that will be in attendance.

Looking at the calendar the Pennsylvania QSO party is only two months away. It is not too early to be making plans to activate your county for the contest. This is one of the most enjoyable and friendly contests that I participate in each year. This years QSO Party is held on October 11 and 12. Rules and additional information can be found at the Nittany Amateur Radio website at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/>. Please check out the QSO party section and plan to operate.

I want to again encourage each of you to contact your State Senator and Representative and ask them to support these bills. Here is the data from last month to remind all of how to do this. The Senate voted SB 884 out of committee on June 25 and laid on the table the same day. The House Bill, 1777 remains in committee and has not moved from the Local Government Committee since August 2007. The Legislature is in summer recess until Sept 15 when it reconvenes for a short pre-election session, then a brief "lame duck" session. If it does not pass this session the process must begin anew. Time to contact your Senators and urge the bill be moved to the floor for a vote. Remember, the House must do the same so there is a long way to go. Be a squeaky wheel and write, phone visit your State Reps. You can find them easily by going to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>. Go to the house and senate tabs and enter your zip code. (Note, you can also find the bill(s) from this webpage.) Be sure to ask them to contact their colleagues to move these bills forward before they die with the session. If you have friends in other clubs in the state, it would be a good idea to ask them to do likewise.

Join us nightly on the WPA Phone and Traffic net at 3983hz at 6 PM local time and help us to get messages delivered throughout our section. Thanks to the many dedicated traffic handlers on various nets who provide this message service. We are still looking for individuals to participate in leadership roles in the ARES program. Interested individuals can contact John Szwarc at n3spw@arrl.net or myself at n3mse@arrl.org to volunteer.

73 for this month and hope to see you at the hamfests, John, N3MSE



A Visit To The Queen Mary

Dateline: Long Beach, CA 7-29-08

It was a typical Los Angeles summer day – the dawn started out cloudy and the sun broke through around 10:30 in the morning. The temperature was in the mid 80's with low humidity.

We arrived at the Queen Mary parking lot around 11 AM and proceeded toward the Queen Mary ticket office. On the way over, we stopped at the marina to snap the picture on the left. We felt a weird rumble, like walking on rotating rolling pins and attributed it to the water hitting the marina. Upon arrival at the gift shop, the TV was tuned to one of the local news stations. It was at that point we learned there was an earthquake! The quake measured 5.7 on the Richter scale and was centered northeast of downtown Los Angeles. Nothing was damaged where we were (because we were farther south of the quake's epicenter). The "Queen" herself was undamaged and operational; as was our hotel room (when we returned later that evening). Our hotel room was three miles away. Being from Pennsylvania, we never experienced an earthquake before!

My immediate task once we boarded her was to locate the radio room and W6RO's, (The Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach) ham shack (being a good ham – hi hi!). Once I located the extensive array of antennas and traced back the coax, lo and behold, I found her shack (see right). Unfortunately, there was no one manning the ham shack at the time – rats! They have volunteers that man the shack, and being that they are strictly volunteers with other personal commitments, it is hard to say when someone will be there. I was hoping to work some real exotic DX! Oh well, at least I got pictures of



her shack through the window. W6RO uses the original radio room that the "Queen" used when she was a seagoing vessel. Her shack also includes an emergency power source as well. Now she is a tourist attraction complete with hotel rooms and various gift shops on board. (continued on next page)

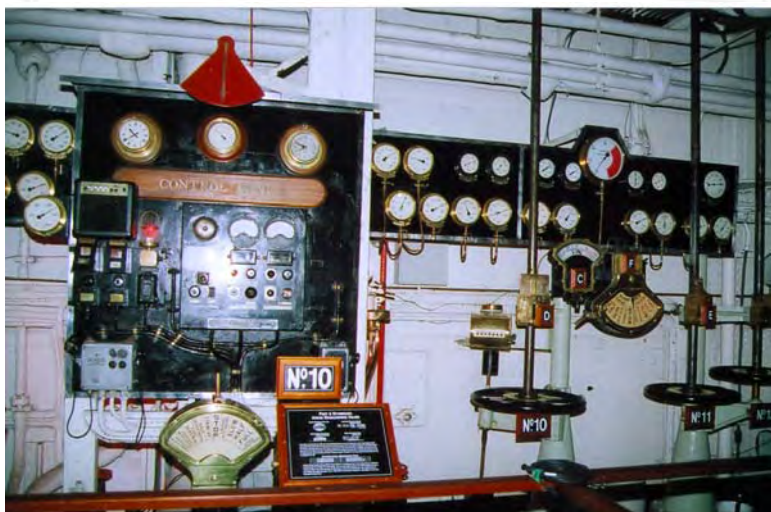


A Visit To The Queen Mary (continued from pg 6)

The W6RO shack has a complete antenna farm, complete with HF, UHF, and VHF antennas:



For a tourist attraction that both hams and non-hams alike would enjoy, this is an attraction I would highly recommend you visit! It is worth every penny of admission and is guaranteed not to disappoint! You are able to see the whole ship, including the engine room and the bridge:



For more information about the Queen Mary and W6RO, I would recommend you visit the following websites:

Queen Mary: <http://www.queenmary.com/>

Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach (W6RO):
<http://www.aralb.org/>

73,

Bob Mente, KB3NUQ

[<kb3nug@comcast.net>](mailto:kb3nug@comcast.net)



DX News & Views (con't from page 2)

♦ ZS8T PRESS RELEASE #3, 21ST AUGUST, 2008

In April, Petrus ZS6GCM arrived on Marion Island to begin a year of work. Sometime in May he erected the SteppIR vertical he took along and ran into a few difficulties. He did make one contact during the month but efforts to resolve these difficulties were unsuccessful and Petrus' work commitments impeded our efforts to communicate via other methods with Petrus.

It has been over two months since we have heard from Petrus and are as much in the dark as the DX Community as to his plans. At this point we are at a loss why he has not been able to find time to put ZS8T on the air, he certainly made the efforts to obtain permissions and training before leaving for the Island. We must assume his job as administrator to the scientific community was much more than he contemplated. Petrus is on Marion Island for 7 more months.

If and when Petrus surfaces we will inform the DX Community. We are as disappointed as you.

73, Rhynhardt Louw ZS6DXB

ZS8T Press Officer, Logistical Support

<http://zs8t.net/>

E-Mail: zs6dxb@kats.za.net

♦ DXCC RULE REMOVAL

Aug 18, 2008 13:39 ET, Bill Moore, NC1L

From the July 2008 ARRL Board of Directors Meeting:

"The Board also acted on the Programs and Services Committee report, voting to eliminate Rule 5 from Section III of the DXCC Rules. The Committee realized that while publishing log data can have a detrimental effect on operating awards, it was not possible to control such actions and the rule cannot be enforced. As part of an effort to maintain the integrity of operating awards programs, the Board called on staff to create resources and guidelines for QSLing and for QSL managers. These guidelines will help people who QSL to understand the "best practices" and help to support the work of the QSL manager so that access to log data won't degrade Amateur Radio's long tradition of the "honor system."

The rule reads:

5. The presentation in any public forum of logs or other representations of station operation showing details of station activity or other information from which all essential QSO elements (time, date, band, mode and callsign) for individ-

ual contacts can be derived creates a question as to the integrity of the claimed QSOs with that station during the period encompassed by the log. Presentation of such information in any public forum by the station operator, operators or associated parties is not allowed and may be considered sufficient reason to deny ARRL award credit for contacts with any station for which such presentations have been made. Persistent violation of this provision may result in disqualification from the DXCC program.

"This rule cannot be enforced. In its place staff will create resources and guidelines for QSLing and for QSL managers in order to maintain the integrity of operating awards programs."

♦ AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS & LICENSING RETURN TO BANGLADESH

Since 2004, Amateur Radio operators in Bangladesh have not been able to get an Amateur Radio license or sit for an examination. But thanks to the efforts of the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League (BARL) <http://www.barl.org/> -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- the Bangladeshi government will once again issue ham licenses; exams will also be given on a monthly basis beginning August 13, 2008. On July 21, representatives from BARL -- Belayet Robin, S21RB; Zahid Shipon, S21VA, and Saiful Huda, S21SH -- met with members of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in what Robin called "a very fruitful meeting <http://www.btrc.gov.bd/>". BARL had finally been able to make the concerned authorities understand the significance of ham operators in a country with frequent natural disasters like floods and cyclones." The Bangladeshi government has only allowed ham radio operations since 1991, though amateurs have received special permission on a case-by-case basis to set up Emergency Communications infrastructures during natural disasters such as cyclones, tidal waves and flooding. BARL was formed in 1979 as a way to promote Amateur Radio, but on-air operations were banned due to the political climate of the region. BARL will offer a class to prepare for the exam. Exams will be computer based with 35 multiple choice questions. In order to receive an Amateur Radio license, examinees must achieve 18 correct answers. Examinees are given one hour to complete the test. (More DX News on page 15)

Propagation Report

We're still looking at a quiet sun, but currently a solar wind is disturbing the Earth's magnetic field. Six meter operators -- after enjoying a fine season of sporadic E (Continued on page 10)

Nate, W3SVJ logging QSO's in the HF Shack.



Our Special Event station event took place the weekend of August 2-3. Just about every club in the area had a special event station going also.



Joe, WB3AGB also having a turn at the mic in the HF Studio.



**I understand we made about
300 Q's in the process.**

**(More Pittsburgh 250 Special
Event Station pics on page 11)**



Local News

♦ KA3GBT SILENT KEY

John Kuback, KA3GBT, became a Silent Key yesterday, August 22 at age 90. John was a regular fixture at Steel City for many years. He was born in Newark, New Jersey on July 28, 1918 to John and Anna Kuback. John was a member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, the Steel City Amateur Radio Club, and the VFW Hopewell Chapter. He proudly served his country in WWII as a salvage diver for the U.S. Navy in the Pacific. He retired from Dixmont State Hospital where he was a maintenance supervisor. Since 2004, he was a resident of the Beaver Meadows Assisted Living Facility where he made many dear friends.

John was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife Mary Gregic Kuback to whom he was united in marriage for 55 years; an infant daughter; three brothers, Fred, Pete, and Mike; and two sisters, Olga and Mary. He is survived by two nieces; Marlene Garrison and Madge Hoyer and two nephews; Bill and Mark Kubick and their families. He was godfather to Judy Matakovich of Hopewell Twp.

John will be sadly missed by his many friends and family.

A Mass of Intention will be held in John's memory at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Hopewell Township on September 9, 2008, at 9:00 A.M. (Thanks to N3EQF for the submission)

From Nate, W3SVJ comes the following: 'Sorry to hear about our loss.

I really enjoyed listening to him, in the kitchen, as he would tell stories of his tour of duty in the Navy. He talked about going to the Navy Divers School in New Jersey, it was enough to bring out beads of sweat even if you weren't claustrophobic and I'm not!

He told of some of his adventures during underwater salvage and demolition work cleaning up Pear Harbor as well as other diving work throughout the Pacific.

John had some real close calls but he just chuckled them off as he described them to us. A nice, gentle guy who did some really extraordinary things when needed.

"Big" John Kuback, KA3GBT, was the guy that John Wayne would have wanted to be in real life!

♦ LOCAL HAM MAKES GOOD

As some of you know, the Aug 18 Wall Street Journal had a feature story on "amateur tinkerers" working on nuclear fusion. Featured prominently as the story lead, complete with drawing (the WSJ still doesn't believe in photography?) was our own Frank N3XI. I understand that the arti-

cle is available online at <http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121901740078248225.html?mod=blog>, but I haven't personally verified this as yet. Congratulations Frank!

♦ IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE COMING MONTHS

* SEPTEMBER *

**9 Two Rivers ARC Amateur Radio Exams, McKeesport Area High School-South Hall-Room
112-Eden Park Blvd - McKeesport, PA
630 PM-48 Hour Pre-Registration Requested-More Info:
412 664 1683/412 678 1206**

email: veteam@tworiversarc.com

27 South West Pa Packet Group Meeting-10 AM-Blue Flame Restaurant, Route 51 South-Pleasant Hills, PA

* OCTOBER *

**19 Western Pa Repeater Council Meeting-130 PM
Annual Meeting & Election of Officers
Tentative: Clarion, PA**

* NOVEMBER *

**2 WACOM Hamfest-Washington County Fairgrounds
Washington PA. More Info:**

Phone: 724-986-9271 E-Mail: n3zni@arrl.net

Internet: <http://wacomarc.org>

29 South West Pa Packet Group Meeting-10 AM-Blue Flame Restaurant, Route 51 South-Pleasant Hills, PA More Info:

412-384-8012 or Internet: <http://swppg.zelie.com>

Email: geno570@verizon.net

Propagation (con't)



propagation this summer -- may see some added excitement from auroral propagation. The planetary A index was 33 on Thursday, September 4, the highest daily number in over a year. I don't know when it was last that high, but the closest recent numbers were 32 on April 23, and 31 on March 27. Planetary A index for September 5-10 is predicted to be 20, 15, 8, 5, 5 and 5. It is expected to rise to 20 on September 14. Sunspot numbers for August 28-September 3 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.1, 66.8, 67.1, 66.7, 65.8, 66 and 66.2 with a mean of 66.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 3 and 7 with a mean of 3.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2 and 7 with a mean of 2.7. There has been some news about the current solar minimum regarding continuous days without spots.

(Continued on page 14)

**Our Recording Secretary Sue,
KA3JKS at the mic adding to the
300 QSO count.**

>>>>>>>>>>>>>

I understand we had a great showing for our little event. Many thanks to all who showed up.



Dale, WB3CRC listening intently to a weak one, as Doug, K3LAB does the logging for him.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

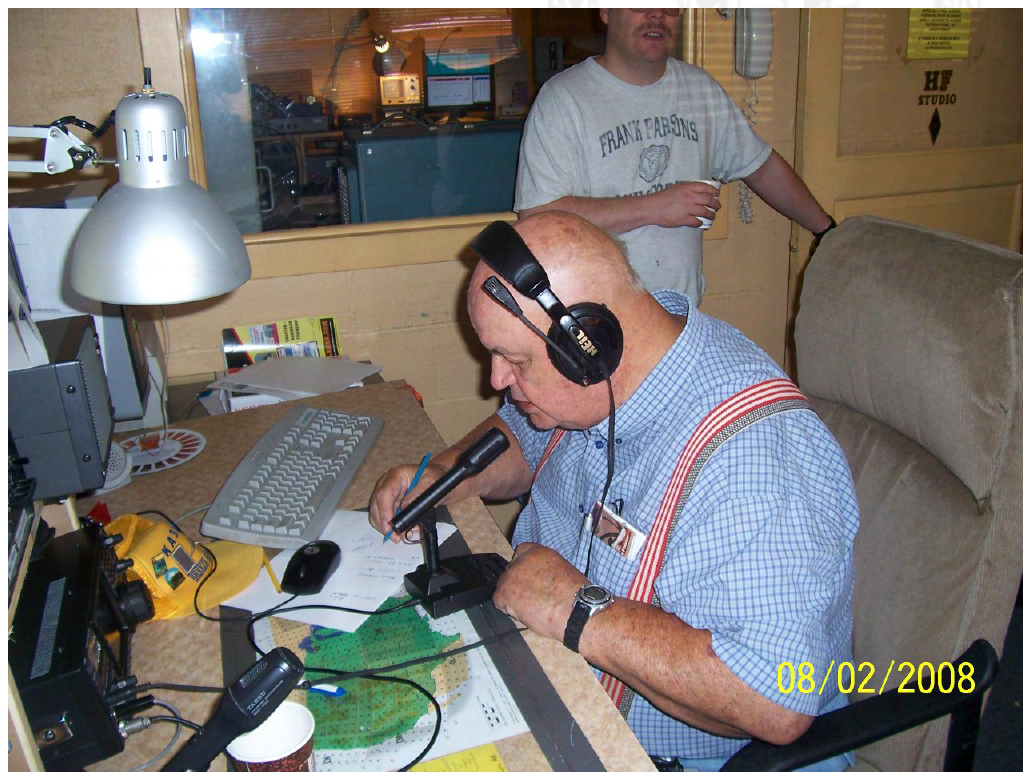
Ye Olde Editor had plans on coming up on Saturday. However I got called into work at the last minute, so that plan got all shot up.

(Continued on page 12)



>>>>>>>>>>

It was a nice two day exercise. I was pleasantly surprised by the folks that wanted to talk about the city. More than few mentioned they had been



Kurt, KA3LNG taking his turn at the new Icom IC-756 PRO III in the HF Studio.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<

**Many thanks to Chuck, N3UUZ
for sending in the photos.**



FCC/ARRL News (con't from page 3)

♦ FCC TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES

On August 11, the Federal Communications Commission announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 25, 2008.

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 10 year term.

The notice in the August 26, 2008 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008," includes regulatory fees expected to recover a total of \$312,000,000 during FY2008, encompassing all the services the FCC regulates.

More information is available at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/08/11/10257/?nc=1>.

♦ ARISS TEAM LOOKING FOR GROUND STATIONS

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operations? ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS Amateur Radio sessions with schools and also serve as back-up communications relays should they be needed. Locations all over the world will be considered, but the greatest need for stations is in Central America, South America, Falkland Islands, Western Australia, Canada and Alaska.

The following are guidelines for stations wanting to be considered: Third Party agreement with United States or waiver from their telecom agency; ability to speak and understand English; minimal horizon obstructions; 24/7 access and availability of station; operator(s) willing to support scheduled contacts at various times; phone patch; AZ/EL tracking satellite system, preferably an auto tracking system with the capability for manual override; multi-element Yagis for 2 meters and 70 cm (circular polarization preferred); pre-amps and transmit output greater than 70 W. If you can specify your station's EIRP and receive sensitivity (thereby taking into account cable losses, pre-amps and antenna gain), it would be greatly appreciated.

Stations that can support the following will be given special consideration, but these items are not required: Auto

Doppler adjustment of frequencies; ability to speak and understand languages other than English; 1.2 and 2.4 GHz satellite hardware; Packet; SSTV; Digital ATV; redundant power system, and high-speed Internet.

If you or your club would like to be considered for selection as one of the new ARISS ground stations, send an e-mail to ARISS with details about your station and contact information ARISS-telebridge@amsat.org. -- Information provided by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman

♦ PENTAGON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TO HOST SPECIAL EVENT STATION COMMEMORATING 9/11

On Thursday, September 11, the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) will operate a Special Event station commemorating the 7th anniversary of the attacks that occurred on the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and over Pennsylvania in 2001 <http://www.k4af.org/>.

This special event will be held in conjunction with President Bush's visit to the Pentagon to dedicate the new Pentagon Memorial http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2008/0708_memorial/index.html, honoring the 184 people, both at the Pentagon and on American Airlines flight 77, who lost their lives in the attacks. Operators will be on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters -- both phone and CW - with plans to operate on a 12 hour basis (1200-2400 UTC). There will be a special QSL card available for stations that work K4AF.

For more information, please contact Gary Sessums, KC5QCN kc5qcn@arrl.net. QSL via PARC, PO Box 2322, Arlington, VA 22202



The Sept. Birthday Bunch

Happy Birthday to our club members celebrating birthdays this month:

JOEL, KB3FBE 10th

MAC, W3MAC 12th

JACK, W3UUH 14th

MARK, AI3J 29th

Many happy returns to all. 73 de W3SVJ and NB3C



KOBUD Update

"Danny is the donor and the surgery is the 25th of August. Doctor said I should get going on the surgery or go on dialysis and that was not a good solution so we are going to get it done. Anxious to get it over with. I will be on meds the rest of my life after that. No problem in telling some of the guys. I am not sure how many of them I know. Joe (FWA) knows as we traded a few msgs lately. But feel free. I am telling folks here freely. Right now I feel fine. But the blood tests don't show that great so its time I guess to get it over."

"Recovery from the surgery will be in the hospital for four days and a few weeks at home. But constant visits to the doctor to check things for several days a week for many week and then many months.

Biggest part of the project is finding a kidney and the work afterwards! And boy are people interested in the process. I just keep telling myself that the success rate is better than 90%."

A follow up to, Mike's transplant: He was to come home today (Friday Aug 27th) only a few days after a successful surgery.

Keep a good thought for the dear Mike.

Oh yes, Danny the donor? Mike's son, he too is doing well.

de svj



SCARC Swap 'n Shop

The following is for sale by Art, WA3BKD:

- ♦ Johnson Viking II, very clean: \$50.00
- ♦ Hallicrafters SX-41, very clean: \$50.00
- ♦ HP Audio Oscillator Model 2398 with manual: \$15.00
- ♦ RCA High Sensitivity VTVM Model 76A: \$5.00
- ♦ RL Drake Low Pass Filter: \$5.00
- ♦ Heathkit SWR Meter Model AM2: \$5.00

If interested you can call Art at: 724-356-7387



Credits/Thanks

Many thanks to all my contributors for the month of September:

W3SVJ, KB3NUQ, N3DOK, N3UUZ, ARRL, W3UR, WA3FWA, N3MSE, W3WN, N3EQF & WA3BKD

Thank you all for your fine efforts and submissions. That's all for now. CUL with more news, features, minutiae from the Amateur Radio world.

73 de NB3C et al



Propagation (con't) Courtesy: ARRL

August was the first calendar month with no sunspots since 1913. Of course, there have been periods longer than 30 days, but generally over a two calendar-month period in which there were some sunspots in each month. As of Thursday, September 4, there have been 46 continuous days with no spots. That is the seventh longest period of no spots, looking back over 150 years to the mid-19th century. If there are no sunspots through this Sunday, at 49 days this will be the fourth longest spot-free period. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.



More DX News (continued from page 8)

2007 DXCC Yearbook

Bill Moore, NC1L

The 2007 DXCC yearbooks have arrived from the printer. The ARRL mail room will prepare them for shipping and they should start going out the middle of next week. **You will receive the free copy if:**

- ♦ A submission was received during the 2007 calendar year
- ♦ If you did not make a submission during the calendar year, but you were "current" on the DXCC Honor Roll for this period.

ARRL Membership is also required for the free edition

Copies are available for purchase as follows:

USA - \$7.00

Non-USA - \$8.00

Price includes postage

73 es DX!

Bill Moore NC1L

ARRL Awards Branch Manager

♦ PARTICIPATE IN THE MOST WANTED SURVEY

The DX Magazine 2008 Most Wanted Survey is now up and running on the web site www.dxpub.com/dx_survey2008.html. I would like to stress the need for everyone to submit your needed countries lists to N4AA, Carl, at The DX Magazine, because this is what DXpeditioners use to decide where to go.

Check each block as necessary to indicate your needs on the various modes and click SUBMIT at the bottom. There is also a box at the bottom for comments. Results will be published in the January/February issue of The DX Magazine. Oh and please pass this along to your DX club and DX friends.

Thank you



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

September 2008

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Labor Day</i> Breezeshooter's Net MI-QRP Club Labor Day CW Sprint	2 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net MI-QRP Club Labor Day CW Sprint ARS Spartan Sprint CW Skyview ARC Business Meeting	3 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net	4 Skyview 2M Net WACOM Business Meeting	5	6 All Asian DX Contest SSB Russian Radio RTTY WW Contest RSGB SSB Field Day
7 <i>Butler County ARC SwapFest</i> WASH Sun. Net All Asian DX Contest SSB RSGB SSB Field Day Tennessee QSO Party	8 Breezeshooter's Net Tennessee QSO Party	9 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	10 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net NHARC Business Meeting	11 Skyview 2M Net WASH Business Meeting	12 G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	13 * <i>WAE DX SSB Contest</i> Arkansas QSO Party ARRL September VHF QSO Party South Carolina QSO Party
FISTS Straight Key Week - CW						
14 <i>WAE DX SSB Contest</i> WASH Sun. Net Arkansas QSO Party ARRL September VHF QSO Party South Carolina QSO Party G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	15 Breezeshooter's Net ARRL September VHF QSO Party	16 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Social Nite	17 Alleg Co. ARES Net MOON Contest - CW/Digi/SSB	18 Skyview 2M Net YLRL Howdy Days NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	19 YLRL Howdy Days	20 YLRL Howdy Days Colorado QSO Party QCWA QSO Party Feld-Hell Club Sprint 50th Scandinavian Activity Contest CW
21 WASH Sun. Net Colorado QSO Party QCWA QSO Party 50th Scandinavian Activity Contest CW	22 <i>Autumn Begins</i> Breezeshooter's Net Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint	23 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	24 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> Alleg Co. ARES Net SKCC Sprint - CW	25 Skyview 2M Net BCC QSO Party - CW/SSB	26	27 <i>CQ WW RTTY DX Contest</i> WASH Club Breakfast Texas QSO Party
28 <i>CQ WW RTTY DX Contest</i> WASH Sun. Net Texas QSO Party Classic Exchange (CX) - Phone	29 Breezeshooter's Net Classic Exchange (CX) - Phone	30 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net				

September 2008

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

October 2008

November 2008

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	2 <i>Skyview 2M Net</i> <i>10 meter NAC - CW/SSB/FM/Digi</i> <i>SARL 80 m QSO Party - SSB</i> <i>WACOM Business Meeting</i>	3 <i>German Telegraphy Contest - CW</i> <i>YL Anniversary Party (YL-AP) CW</i>	4 <i>OCEANIA DX Contest - Phone</i> <i>YL Anniversary Party (YL-AP)-CW</i> <i>PSK31 Rumble - PSK</i> <i>California QSO Party (CQP)-CW/Phone</i>
5 <i>WASH Sun. Net</i> <i>OCEANIA DX Contest - Phone</i> <i>YL Anniversary Party (YL-AP)-CW</i> <i>California QSO Party (CQP)-CW/Phone</i>	6 <i>Breezeshooter's Net</i>	7 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>Skyview Business Meeting</i>	8 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>ARS Spartan Sprint - CW</i> <i>NHARC Business Meeting</i>	9 <i>Skyview 2M Net</i> <i>WASH Business Meeting</i>	10 <i>10-10 International Day Sprint</i> <i>YL Anniversary Party (YL-AP)-SSB</i>	11 <i>PA QSO Party</i> <i>YL Anniversary Party (YL-AP)-SSB</i> <i>OCEANIA DX Contest - CW</i> <i>EU Autumn Sprint-CW</i>
12 <i>PA QSO Party</i> <i>WASH Sun. Net</i> <i>YL Anniversary Party (YL-AP)-SSB</i> <i>OCEANIA DX Contest - CW</i> <i>NA Sprint Contest-RTTY</i>	13 <i>Columbus Day</i> <i>Breezeshooter's Net</i>	14 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i>	15 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint-CW</i> <i>MOON Contest - CW/Digi/SSB</i>	16 <i>Skyview 2M Net</i>	17	18 <i>JARTS WW RTTY Contest-RTTY</i> <i>Worked All</i> <i>Germany Contest-CW/SSB</i> <i>W/VE Islands QSO Party</i> <i>50 MHz Fall Sprint</i>
19 <i>WASH Sun. Net</i> <i>JARTS WW RTTY Contest-RTTY</i> <i>Worked All</i> <i>Germany Contest-CW/SSB</i> <i>W/VE Islands QSO Party</i> <i>50 MHz Fall Sprint</i> <i>Illinois QSO Party</i>	20 <i>Breezeshooter's Net</i> <i>Illinois QSO Party</i>	21 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i> <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i> <i>Skyview Social Nite</i> <i>2 Rivers ARC Business Meeting</i>	22 <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i> <i>SKCC Sprint-CW</i>	23 <i>Skyview 2M Net</i>	24	25 <i>CQ WW DX Contest - SSB</i> <i>ARRL International EME Competition</i> <i>10-10 Intern. Fall QSO Party-CW/Digi</i>
26 <i>CQ WW DX Contest - SSB</i> <i>WASH Sun. Net</i> <i>ARRL International EME Competition</i> <i>10-10 Intern. Fall QSO Party-CW/Digi</i>	27 <i>Breezeshooter's Net</i>	28 <i>WACOM 2M Net</i> <i>WACOM 10M Net</i>	29 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	30 <i>Skyview 2M Net</i>	31 <i>Halloween</i> <i>WASH Club Breakfast</i>	

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

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

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

WA3TTS Beacon: 144.300MHz
(CW)

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

1296MHz Beacon: 1296.269MHz
(CW) 1W

We're on the web!

www.w3kwh.com

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



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

W3KWH

RADIO W8LOF 100 WTS:
Ur CW Fone Sigs XMTR MILLER 24021-824 B
Q 5 R 9 S 9 T 1 RCVR 636-1522-06129X
On Sept. 28 1954 Band 2 meters
Time 2330 EST Ant 16 Horizontal
PSE QSL TXN FOR QSO 73 OPR (RED) D. Kase - W3R27
W3KWH (car mess. doesn't sound good)
W3KWH PRINT

**DON'T FORGET: SEPTEMBER IS CORN-ROAST
MONTH!! IT'LL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE BUSINESS MEETING ON THE
16TH. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**

**DON'T FORGET! OUR
ANNUAL CORNROAST IS
THIS MONTH: TUESDAY
SEPT. 16TH RIGHT AFTER
THE MONTHLY BUSINESS
MEETING. COME FOR THE
MEETING, STAY FOR THE
CORNROAST. MEETING
STARTS @8:00PM.
C U THERE!!**

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