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SEPTEMBER | 2009 | ISSUE 9

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15 @THE CLUBHOUSE. MEETING STARTS AT 8:00PM. FOOD & SOCIALIZING FUN STARTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING. CU THERE!



<www.w3kwh.com>

KiloWatt Harmonics

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

I Just Can't Believe It: Fall Is Coming!

Where does the time go? Here I am writing the SEPTEMBER newsletter already! Our Church just had it's annual sidewalk festival, CornRoast 2009 is here & gone, the kids are going back to school & Labor Day will be here by the time you read this! On the plus side, with the cooler/colder weather comes a nice benefit: CONTEST SEASON! Some big ones are on the horizon too: **WAE DX SSB** is on Sept 12, along with another **ARRL VHF QSO Party**, also on the 12th, **CQ WW RTTY** is on the last weekend of the month, **PA QSO Party** on Oct 10 & 11, the **CQWW SSB** Contest the last weekend of October, and the **CQWW CW** Contest the last weekend of November. The moral of this story? Start getting your antennas tuned up, and all the equipment checked out for the contesting season before it gets nasty outside. Those sunspot numbers can't possibly go any lower! (Or can they? Let's not go there!) CU on the bands! 73 de NB3C!



NBEMS: Coming to a location near you

To lessen any confusion about the NBEMS posts in SCARCMember emails, the posts refer to:
Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System

This is a system that is pretty simple, looks very user friendly and is not radio specific. You can follow the links

below to get more info about this system if you are not familiar with it.

<<http://www.pa-sitrep.com/NBEMS/index.html>> & <<http://wedothatradio.wordpress.com/2008/04/14/nbems/>>

There are more sites out there to get info but these are short, to-the-point articles.

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KiloWatt Harmonics

September 2009

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Amateur Radio Club

Edited by Greg Babin,
NB3C

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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.)
1296MHz Beacon: 1296.269MHz (CW) 1W

AND I COULDN'T HAVE PRODUCED
THIS NEWSLETTER WITHOUT THE
HELP OF THESE FINE PEOPLE:
WA3FWA, W3SVJ, WB3HDI, N3UUZ,
W3JQJ, WA3TTS, N3MSE, NU3Q,
N3LLR & ARRL. THANKS ALL, FOR
YOUR EFFORTS. 73 DE NB3C!

In The World Of DX.....

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

- ⇒ **TIMOR-LESTE, 4W.** Chris, VK4FR is QRV as 4W6FR from Dili until mid October while on work assignment. Activity is mainly on 30, 20 and 17 meters using PSK31 and Olivia. In addition, AI, 4W6AL is QRV until October 3. Activity is on 40 to 17 meters using mainly CW with some SSB and RTTY. QSL 4W6FR via VK4FW and 4W6AL via CT1GFK.
- ⇒ **KENYA, 5Z.** Steve, W8SMH is now QRV as 5Z4/home call and is active from Nairobi for the next three years while on work assignment. He is active as time permits. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO.** Phil, F5PHW is QRV as FO8RZ and is here for the next two years. He is active on 80 to 10 meters using CW. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **SAUDI ARABIA, HZ.** Abdul, 7Z1CQ has been active on 40 meters around 0300z. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **POLAND, SP.** Special event station SN120OSP is QRV until October 31 in celebration of the 120th anniversary of the city of Gorowo Ilaweckie auxiliary fire brigade. Activity is on all bands. QSL via SP4CUF.
- ⇒ **CRETE, SV9.** Ron, WB2GAI is QRV as SV9/WB2GAI/p until October 5. Activity is on 80 to 17 meters using CW. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9.** Larry, VQ9LA has been active on 80 meters using CW between 0000 and 0100z. QSL direct to home call.
- ⇒ **SOUTH AFRICA, ZS.** Peter, ZS1JX has been active using CW on 160 and CW and SSB on 80 meters between 0330 and 0445z. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operations are approved for DXCC credit: Prince Edward and Marion Island, ZS8T, recent operation conducted by ZS6GCM; Yemen, 7O1YGF, operation from April 16 to 26, 2000.
- ⇒ **MONGOLIA, JT.** Special event station JU85TTC is QRV until September 30 in celebration of the Technique Technology College of Mongolia's 85th anniversary. QSL via JT1DN.
- ⇒ **MALTA, 9H.** Members of the Dutch Society of Radio Amateurs will be QRV with special call sign 9H9PA from Qawra from September 5 to 28. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via PB9ZR.
- ⇒ **JAPAN, JA.** Special event station 8J7M will be QRV from Honshu Island, IOTA AS-007, from September 1 to December 31. QSL via bureau.
- ⇒ **FT5GA, GLORIOSO UPDATE.** The FT5GA team has in hand, the flight tickets from Paris CDG (Charles De Gaulle Airport) to the St Denis Réunion Island airport. The departure is scheduled on September 11th and the return on October 8th. The information about the French Forces Transall flight from Saint Denis to Grande Glorieuse will be published as soon as the FASZOI Hq will have confirmed them. (FASZOI = French Armed Forces for the South Indian Ocean Zone). The stay on Grand Glorieuse is considered having about three weeks length. All the gear has been picked up and is now ready packed on pallets, to be sent to the Reunion Island, in the next few days. Thanks especially for that to the Provins ARC, F6KOP members Serge, F6AML and Frank, F4AJQ. 73's de Didier, F5OGL - Gloriosos 2009 team leader.
- ⇒ **SWITZERLAND, HB.** Members of the Tera Radio Club will be QRV as HB9VELO during the month of September to mark the UCI Road World Championships taking place in Mendrisio. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via HB9OCR.

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Business Meeting Minutes: August 2009

The President WB3HDI, Bob at 8 PM, conducted the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a Moment of Silence for our Silent Keys and a Roll Call by 25 members and 5 guests. The Minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter. Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt and accepted by the membership.

Committee Reports

Clubhouse WA3VXJ, Karl cleaned the clubhouse for the meeting and cut the grass. Bob and Karl exterminated the bees that have been terrorizing the membership in and around the clubhouse.

Technical Echolink was down for a short period. WA3TTS, Mike still is working on the SB-220 for 6 meters.

Contest NB3C, Greg said that the ARRL VHF contest would be held on Sept. 12 & 13. The Skyview Hamfest will be next weekend.

Membership WA3BKD, Art gave the 3rd reading for KR8Q, Mark and the 2nd readings for K3JHT, John and KB3SVV, Scott. Mark was then voted in by the membership. Welcome Mark!

Newsletter Editor NB3C, Greg thanked all for reading his publication. (Ye Olde Editor's note: Send me material for use here in the newsletter!!)

Public Service KA3MSE, Lloyd will schedule a speaker to demonstrate Narrow Band Emergency Message System (NBEMS) used in emergency public service systems.

Ways and Means WA3FWA, Joe will collect any outgoing QSL cards and run the 50/50 raffle after the meeting. The prize for tonight will be winner's choice of either the cash or, a donation by N3SAF, Lee, of a 1.75 liter bottle of a well known brand of "spirits". We received our winter supply of #1 fuel oil (kerosene) for our furnace but will need a new locking filler cap as the present one was broken during the delivery.

PC/Web Site Prez Bob is collecting member's email addresses for sending club announcements. An updated list of current member call signs and first names has been published in the August newsletter.

Volunteer Exams AI3V, Mark will have the next session on Mon. Sept. 14, 7 PM at the clubhouse.

Old Business W3SVJ, Nate forwarded our membership list to renew our affiliation with the ARRL. He will update the mailing label list of the members. Art clarified that a former member who wishes to return to the fold must fill out a membership form even though he will not have the 3 monthly meeting readings required for new members.

New Business Art declared that we need new couches and other clubhouse improvements. He will form a committee that will determine long-term additions and improvements to the clubhouse depending on our financial resources. Lee said that the Skywarn weather station needed a repeater directory. N3EQP, John will supply a copy from the club's library.

Good of the Order Walt displayed a certificate verifying SCARC as a registered charitable organization although it has the incorrect number attached.

Guest Speaker AK3J, Stew summarized the negotiation committee's cell tower lease agreement with AT&T which will be in effect for 25 years; 5 year periods with 4 renewals. All parties will need to sign the agreement and it will go into effect Jan. 1, 2010. All communications among the committee members, AT&T and the attorneys, were conducted via email. There are also leases with Cricket and T-Mobile. Even though these are long-term leases, any one or all 3 can leave at any time due to changing fortunes and technologies. The final attorney's fee will have to be paid. The lease agreement was accepted by the membership. Stew mentioned that the Somerset Club would be a future bonus station in the PA QSO Party contest.

Motion to Adjourn by WA3BKD, Art.

50/50 raffle won by WB3HDI, Bob who selected the "spirits" in lieu of the cash.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary, WA3FWA, Joe.

Our next business meeting will be held
on September 15 at 8PM. CU @ the
Clubhouse!!

ARRL WPA Section News

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One of the main topics that I am asked about at area hamfests is how we can get more activity in our club. This past weekend I was invited to attend the Two Rivers ARC family picnic and corn roast. This was a truly enjoyable afternoon and I thank Vickie N3XBX for her kind invitation. I honestly believe that in an effort to get more involvement and members is to do more of these activities. The clubs that have member social functions seem to also have more members come out to help with other projects. I do not think any of us honestly enjoys sitting through long tedious business meetings. I know I for one do not enjoy it even when I attend a cabinet meeting. If you are a club officer and want to strengthen your clubs why not try to make an effort to shorten your business meetings and have more presentations or educational activities with the club. I have seen this in a few of the clubs like Two Rivers, WASH, Ellwood City, Skyview, Wacom, SCARC. I am not saying these clubs are alone but these are clubs that I receive newsletters or read their list serves to hear about activities. I would like to start to feature reports from the clubs on ways they have found to boost membership and involvement. Please send me a short article about your club and I will use them in this column and also post to the section website. Also how about some photos that we can post at the website. Send them as well so we can recognize these activities.

On August 23 the Skyview ARC will host their annual hamfest at the club grounds. This is also once again the WPA section convention. Additional information is available at <<http://www.skyviewradio.net>> for directions and details. Then on September 13 the Butler County ARA will have their swap and shop event at Unionville Fire hall. Additional information for this event is available at <<http://w3udx.net>> The ARES program has the following vacancies: North 1 District Emergency Coordinator, Cameron County Emergency Coordinator, Potter County Emergency Coordinator, Somerset County Emergency Coordinator. For more information please contact John Szwarc at <n3spw@arrl.net>. Another important item for the ARES program will be conducted on Saturday August 15th at 10 AM. There will be a section-wide breakfast meeting for all WPA Section Emergency Coordinators and District Emergency Coordinators. Assistant EC's are encouraged to attend as well. The breakfast will be held at Plyler's Pizza & Family Restaurant, 234 Allegheny Blvd in Brookville. Please RSVP to the Section Emergency Coordinator John N3SPW at <n3spw@arrl.net>. This will be a valuable source of information as well as networking for the participants. I am asking that every county show that they are interested in working within the ARES program by attending or having an assistant attend this meeting. Show your support and willingness to be a part of the team by participating in the meeting.

A meeting is currently being planned for September 26 in Harrisburg with PEMA discussing the revised plans for emergency
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MFJ purchases Cushcraft's Amateur product line.....

MFJ Enterprises, Inc., Starkville, Mississippi, has purchased Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas Product Line from Laird Technologies, St. Louis, Missouri effective July 31, 2009. Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna products will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire.

"We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas will bring over fifty new products to MFJ's impressive amateur radio product line. Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna products have long been a popular source for a wide range of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and yagi antennas for the amateur radio community. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas name long into the future.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product customers will appreciate continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue.

This announcement comes right during MFJ catalog time. The new MFJ 2010 Catalog will be a whopping 120 pages and will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line. A special customer support line is set up in Starkville, Mississippi by dialing 662-323-5803. This line will handle any Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product technical support, part requests, and customer services.

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. also owns Ameritron, Hy-gain, Mirage and Vectronics.

Scientific Solutions calls it quits.....

Scientific Solutions, publisher of the popular logging software 'DXBase', has decided to fold up shop & call it quits. From the DXBase website (which has been shut down), here is the official press release:

"Effective today, 31 July 2009, we have discontinued the sale of DXBase and we have taken steps to close Scientific Solutions, Inc. For many months, we have studied the prospects of further development work on DXBase. We have studied your answers to surveys, private emails, reflector posts, and telephone calls. It became clear to us that DXBase 2007 already provides nearly all of the capabilities that the vast majority of our customers want. Therefore it would be unlikely that we could improve enough on DXBase to warrant upgrades in the near future.

So after many many years, we have come to the end. We appreciate the loyalty that we have been given by so many of you and we wish you success in your ham activities. We've made a ton of friendships over the years and we are grateful to have been given that opportunity. We will of course remain active in ham radio and will no doubt see many of you again.

We have been accepting offers for the purchase of all rights associated with DXBase source code and will continue to accept offers for another ten days or so. If a deal is reached with anyone, you'll hear about it from them. Since our DXBase email address will be shut down shortly, we will be accepting offers at a temporary email address <aa4lu123@yahoo.com>."

Best wishes and thanks for your support,
Jack, AA4LU

NU3Q sez: I will be running special event station K3R again this year on October 3rd and 4th in Mt. Lebanon Park, as part of 'Art in the Park'. Please visit the information page at
<<http://www.mtlebanonsunriserotary.org>>

On The National Front.....

(From various issues of the ARRL Bulletin. Thanks to the ARRL for permission to reprint here.)

⇒ ARRL RESPONDS TO FCC'S PROPOSED ALLOCATION FOR MEDICAL DEVICES IN 70 CM BAND

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, on behalf of the ARRL, filed comments <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/MannFoundationDocket_09-36Comments08_11_09.pdf> on August 11 regarding a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 09-36, issued by the FCC in March 2009 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf>. In the NPRM, the FCC proposed to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices -- called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators -- would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). These devices would be used on the 70 cm band on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Data Radio-communication Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules. The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

Researchers with the Alfred Mann Foundation -- a leading medical research organization located in Santa Clarita, California <<http://www.aemf.org/>> -- have developed a wireless medical micro-power network to tie together tiny devices implanted in victims of paralysis, creating an artificial nervous system to restore sensation, mobility, and function to paralyzed limbs and organs. "The Mann Foundation argues that the frequency range just above 400 MHz is optimum for their application, which requires no more than 1 mW of RF spread across about 5 MHz of bandwidth," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote in "It Seems to Us," published in the June 2009 issue of QST <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/06/01/10784/>>. "However, recognizing the presence of a variety of incumbent radio services in that range, specifically including the amateur service, they have proposed four channels for flexibility in avoiding localized interference. Two of the four channels are 426-432 and 438-444 MHz; the other two are above and below the 420-450 MHz band."

In its comments to the FCC regarding the NPRM, the ARRL said it believes that the choice of frequency bands for MMNs as proposed is "unfortunate and unnecessary" and that "the

WMTS [Wireless Medical Telemetry Service] offers a far more suitable solution than does the 413-457 MHz band for MMNs."

Sumner, in his editorial, said that the FCC's proposed rules raise two concerns: "First and foremost, the devices would be required to accept interference only from stations authorized to operate on a primary basis. The Mann Foundation has assured us that amateur stations will not cause its system to malfunction, so we see no reason why this cannot be reflected in the rules, even though our allocation is on a secondary basis. Second, while the Mann Foundation researchers appear to have done their homework, others who try to take advantage of the new rules may not be as rigorous."

The ARRL asserts in its comments that due to redundant interference rejection design, the devices developed by the Alfred Mann Foundation "appear to have some reasonable prospect of avoiding the disastrous consequences of RF interference to implanted MMNs." The ARRL stressed, however, that the FCC should not permit the marketing of MMNs or any similar device in the 420-450 MHz band: "(1) unless and until thorough RF interference susceptibility testing is conducted on the AMF devices relative to high power Amateur Radio equipment; (2) at parameters other than those inherent in the Mann system, which incorporates notably redundant interference rejection design characteristics; and (3) without very specific patient notifications and labeling of the body-worn MCUs [Master Control Units] and other portable components which provide firm assurance that the devices will not malfunction in the presence of RF fields from

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

On the road with W3SVJ.....



Yes, one CAN smile when you have the opportunity to work the W1AW “plant.” Not necessarily a “once in a lifetime” opportunity (twice in my lifetime, so far!) but always a thrill. What a treat to be the “pile up” instead of trying to bust one. There are amplifiers available but with these kind of antennas and the famous **W1AW** call you hardly need to light one up! There are many wire antennas around the property for the lower bands.

This is one of the towers with a bunch of fixed arrays pointing all around the world. At the top is a tri-bander, I think, on a rotor. There are other towers with equally impressive antenna systems that one can only dream of. My limited photographic skills hardly do the site justice. The ARRL home page has much better photos of the whole facility up there in Newington.

I had a “one on one” tour with Dave Kaplan (whose call I’ve forgotten) and to say “Impressive” would be a gross understatement. Very friendly folks at HQ. If you have the chance . . . DO IT! 73 de W3SVJ



Martti Laine, OH2BH on the mend.....

It's me, Martti, OH2BH, your keynote speaker, holding the key but not the notes. Nevertheless, I treasure the fact that I am still holding the key - it did not look that way some days ago. I also appreciate the concern expressed by Scott, VE1QD, the gang at MDF and many of my fellow DXers during these weeks of my suffering. Thanks also to my pals Steve, VE7CT and Roger, G3SXW for their encouragement. I love you all.

It was exactly 23 days ago when I was transferred from Aland Islands back to mainland Finland, with a very high fever and an infection in my leg. It marked a sudden end to a splendid holiday spent together with my XYL Leena at our summer place in OH0.

Soon it was diagnosed as a severe streptococcal infection spreading to my entire blood circulation system. The high fever continued, with no help from antibiotics, and the matter got progressively more serious. The infected leg was swollen, turning dark red and finally dead black. An area the size of a QSL card had gone into a state of necrosis, pushing the fever and infection numbers even higher.

Ten days ago I underwent surgery, and all affected leg mass was removed. Plastic surgery was performed to place some new skin over the damaged surface

It was only the day before yesterday that the fever finally started to drop and the pain in the leg was gone for the most part. I am ready to return to life after many doubts along the way. I am grateful to God for saving me one more time.

Today, Thursday, is a magic day - I am out of bed for the first time, trying to take my first steps and re-learn to walk. Very difficult it is - but I am determined to get back on my feet and do more DX! Life is boring here at the hospital and there is no record in history of a one-legged DXpeditioner.

Let me share my disappointment at not being with you today. Roger, G3SXW has promised to emulate my accent and give you a run for your money, as they say.

Let me get my strength and mobility back and make sure we get all the spotlights on for next year so that I can give you the best show in town while standing tall - and the walkers are stories of the past.

My best personal regards to you all and enjoy the 2009 MDF.

Your keynote speaker with a key but no notes. Martti, OH2BH

(Ye Olde Editor's note: Martti was supposed to have been the keynote speaker at the Maritime DX Forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, but has been laid up in Helsinki Central Hospital.)

You know you're a hard-core ham when:
All the guys at work have Playboy®
calendars hanging inside their locker,
and you have CQ® Magazine's Boat
Anchor calendar hanging inside yours!
(With apologies to the YL's!)

For sale: Outback Outreach 80-10
Meter vertical antenna, rated at
500 watts. Comes with outpost
tripod mount. Asking \$250.00. For
more info, you can ring Mel,
WA3RVD on: 412-278-0305

ARRL now accepting 701YGF for DXCC/LotW

The logs for 701YGF have now been uploaded to LotW. Please follow this procedure if you want to claim credit:

As with paper applications if you submitted 701YGF in the past and had it rejected, we will accept an e-application via LotW and you will not be charged a submission fee for 701YGF only.

Make sure you have uploaded your QSOs. DXCC cannot open and search the logs for your QSO since doing this will not show the match that is required for a LotW confirmation.

- ⇒ Access your account and begin the application process;
- ⇒ If you select only the 701YGF QSOs you will not be assessed the fees that LotW will report back to you. If you choose other QSOs a regular submission fee will apply;
- ⇒ Complete the application (all 4 parts) and DXCC will place your e-application on the list for processing;

Special note for 701YGF applications ONLY: On Part 4 of the LotW application click "Payment by mail" This step is VERY important to assure proper handling. If you clicked on part one any QSOs other than 701YGF you must make proper payment.

Again: The above is ONLY for 701YGF submissions. Applications with other QSOs will be handled, and charged, as a regular submission.

DXCC will not acknowledge completion of the application. When finished, your numbers in LotW will reflect the completion of your e-application.

If you achieve Honor Roll or Top of the Honor Roll from this submission and you would like to order the wall plaque, you can send me an e-mail or fax your order or send the order form by regular mail.

73 es DX!
Bill Moore NC1L
Awards Branch Manager

More 701YGF news....

The following operation has been approved for DXCC:

701YGF – Yemen

Operation from April 16, 2000 through April 26, 2000

After reviewing recently-received information regarding the 701YGF operation, and after additional dialogue with a leader of the DXpedition, the DXCC desk has approved this operation.

Considering the length of time that has passed since this operation, we ask that DXCC participants who would like to claim credit for 701YGF follow the options below:

- Send the 701YGF card ONLY to DXCC with a SASE, or return postage if outside the US; DXCC will process the card and applicants will not be charged a submission fee. 701YGF cards included with other cards will be handled as part of a normal submission.

- Bring the card to a DXCC Card Checker. The card checker will forward the confirmation to the DXCC desk for processing. Again, there will be no submission fee if this is a single-card submission. You must fill out an application form, however.

In all other cases applicants can include their QSL card with their next submission, and it will be handled normally. We will work with the 701YGF team to use Logbook of the World if possible.

Remember, the cutoff date for the 2009 DXCC Annual listing and Honor Roll list is December 31, 2009. We encourage applicants to handle this sooner rather than wait until the last minute.

73 es DX!
Bill Moore NC1L
Awards Branch Manager

On The National Front.....(con't)

⇒ VANITY CALL SIGN FEES TO INCREASE ON SEPTEMBER 10

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009.

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 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees. These fees are expected to recover a total of \$341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" at, <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1>>.

(MORE NATIONAL NEWS ON PAGE 26)

ARRL Responds to FCC's proposal for medical device allocation in 70CM Band.....(con't)

authorized radio services in the same bands."

The ARRL did acknowledge that it thought the Commission to be correct when it stated in the NPRM that "[g]iven the low transmitter power and duty cycle limits that would typically be used by either the implanted MMN device or the external MCU, we expect that the risk of interference from MMNs to incumbent operations in these frequency bands would be negligibly small." The ARRL pointed out, however, that no testing has been done to verify this conclusion and "such testing should be concluded and the results analyzed before this anticipatory conclusion can be relied upon."

In its comments, the ARRL made note of the fact that there is Part 90 spectrum above 450 MHz available for low-power biomedical telemetry, but "the Alfred Mann Foundation argues that bands between 450 and 470 MHz are unsuitable due to the fact that the band is 'congested and populated with commercial, high-power transmitters that could preclude reliable operation of lower-power, wireless medical implant devices.' This, the ARRL said, "is a very worrisome contention, and not the argument that should be made by the proponent of a new service that is secondary to other incumbent licensees. ARRL contends that if the 450-470 MHz band hosts services that are incompatible with reliable operation of MMNs, then the 420-450 MHz band, and especially the segment proposed for MMNs at 438-444 MHz is equally incompatible with MMNs."

Pointing out that Amateur Radio television transmitters and repeaters and FM voice repeater input and outputs operate in this segment in particular, "the potential for interference to MMNs is on the same order, or worse, than would be the case if MMNs were to operate in the Part 90 biomedical telemetry band between 450 and 470 MHz," the ARRL told the FCC. "In the segment 426-432 MHz, amateur television

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 AS 'MEDICAL DEVICES')

The E-Bay Report...

A (semi) frequent feature where I highlight some of the more interesting auctions being held on E-Bay. **YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER:** I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in the auctions listed herein. I'm just lookin' fer ways to fill up space and make this here newsletter more interesting to read. 73 de NB3C.

It's been a while since I did one of these, so I thought I'd peruse E-Bay to see what's out there.

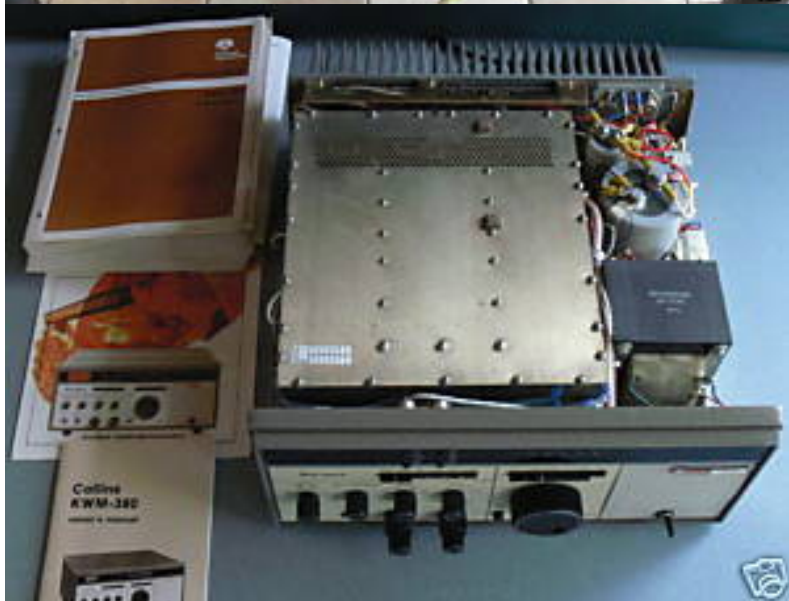
First one I came up with was a Rockwell-Collins KWM-380 ProMark HF Transceiver. When I was in high school in 1981, this was my dream rig. You can't even say this was State-Of-The-Art, it was far ahead of it. All HF bands including the WARC bands (which were new at the time) are included on this rig. This particular jewel comes with the remote tuning keypad, and options included the following: Low-pass filter board, Speech Processor, Pass-Band Tuning board, 140 & 360Hz CW Filters, 1.7KHz SSB/RTTY Filter, 6KHz AM Filter & 2.1KHz SSB Filter. All service bulletins have been incorporated into this beauty too. The original owners manual is also included, along with the service manual.

This rig, from the pictures, are as clean as the day it was made. Very well kept. I'd still like to own one of these. You just don't see that many on E-Bay. You hear even less on the air today.

This wasn't an auction, but rather a buy-it-now deal. Final price (and it DID sell): \$2800.00. Considering this rig sold for \$2995.00 new, the seller just about made back the MSRP. No way could I ask the old man to buy this for me when I was in high-school! I settled for a Heath HW-8 QRP rig to get me started (which I still have to this day).

Next up I found an Icom IC-775DSP All-Mode HF rig. This was being offered by the same seller as the KWM-380. This seller seems to have pretty darn clean stuff for sale. Another extremely clean specimen, this came with both
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

In these 3 pics: The Collins KWM-380 ProMark HF Transceiver from the late '70's/early 80's.



Software Of The Month.....

A frequent feature where I highlight software I hope our readers/members will find useful & fun to use. **YE OLDE EDITORS DISCLAIMER:** I have no interest, pecuniary or monetary in the software described herein. I'm just lookin' fer ways to liven up the newsletter. Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C!

My pick this month: 'FLDigi'

In my quest to promote the digital modes, I'm always on the lookout for quality software. If it's a freebie, that makes it even better! Such is the case with this month's pick 'FLDigi'.

Able to run in Vista, XP, Ubuntu Linux & Mac OS X, this is a really nice program that I've been playing with periodically. Supports just about any mode you can think of, including CW, RTTY, PSK, Feld-Hell, in addition to about 2 dozen others! All you need is a computer with a soundcard, a sound interface such as the Rigblaster or the TigerTronics units, and you're good to go.

The program can also be configured to computer-control your rig. 'XML' files are available for download for all the popular Kenwood, Icom & Yaesu rigs, in addition to the Elecraft K2 & K3 rigs. Ten-Tec rigs are also supported: The Model 563 Omni VI and the Model 516 & 535 will work just fine with the software. To download the needed CAT control file for your rig, simply locate your rig on the list, right-click on it, select 'save target as' and then save it to the folder of your choosing on your PC. If your rig model is not listed, it is not yet supported. It is still a work in progress though, so be sure and check back every once in a while to see if your rig

has been added.

I like what I see with this program. Although it requires a little bit of a learning curve when setting up the rig control, once you get it set up, it is a pretty neat program. In the waterfall portion of the program, all you do is simply drag your mouse over the signal you wish to decode, click on it, and you instantly start to see text appear on the screen. It also has a PSK tuning scope feature to help you tune in the PSK31 signals. Not only that, but there is also a logbook program enclosed, so you can log your digital QSOs instantly. As with all digital decoding programs, you need to tell it what mode you wanna decode. To do this, go to the 'OpMode' option on the menu bar, and select the desired mode. Then, simply click on the desired signal in the waterfall display to start decoding.

I've played with it a little, but I can highly recommend it; not only that, but it's another freebie available for download on the web.

To download it click on the following link:

[<http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html>](http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html)

Check out the screenshots I've enclosed of the program running on Ye Olde Editor's shack computer. Hope you find it to be a fun and useful program on the digital modes!

That's my pick for this month. Thanks again for reading! 73 de NB3C.

(Remember: If you know of any good software available on the Internet, by all means, please consider turning me on to it! I'll review it here for the benefit of all our members/readers. Thanks!)

(CHECK OUT THE SCREEN SHOTS I'VE ENCLOSED OF THE PROGRAM RUNNING ON YE OLDE EDITOR'S SHACK COMPUTER ON PAGE 21.)

**You know you're a hard-core ham when:
You hear the name 'Heath Ledger' and right
away you think of an Accountant's book in
Benton Harbor, and not a famous
Hollywood actor!**

The E-Bay Report (Con't)

SSB narrow filters, as well as the CW filter. Reported to have 200 watts output on all bands, it was listed (and looked) in pristine condition, with a late-production serial number.

This one was up for auction and also had the Buy-It-Now option. The highest bid was \$1601.00, and the Buy-It-Now price was \$2100.00. Nobody exercised the Buy-It-Now option and the reserve was not met, so it went unsold. Too bad; it woulda been a nice rig to get your feet wet on HF for some lucky newcomer to the ranks.

I love boatanchors. I know I've said that before, but I can't help myself; I LOVE 'EM!! Especially those old Zenith Trans-Oceanics. Very popular in the 1940's and 1950's, these were nice little portables you could take anywhere. As a matter of fact, that was one of their selling points; their portability.

This one was a fully restored Zenith H500 from the early 50's. Anyway this is a Trans-Oceanic receiver capable of receiving from the AM broadcast bands, up to above 21MHz short-wave. An absolutely professional restoration job from front to back, top to bottom, beginning to end. I have one like this in original condition, but this one looks perfect. This one even comes with the original owners manual. ORIGINAL, not a copy. You can always see these available on E-Bay, but the ones that are professionally restored always garner big bucks. Lots of activity on this one: 28 bids received, and the final selling price was \$290.00. A nice shortwave receiver; reception-wise, these are sensitive, hot little radios. Someday, when the stars and planets are aligned perfectly, I'll own one this clean. With my luck, it'll be the day the gravitational pull from all them planets and stars pulls the earth apart!

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

The Icom IC-775DSP HF Transceiver



In these 2 pics: The Zenith T/O H500



The E-Bay Report.....(con't)

Here's another Tran-Oceanic up for grabs; this time, the G500 from the late 1940's. Another professionally restored model, this one is just as clean as the other one I described. If you take the time to do these right, you can be handsomely rewarded for your hard work. 14 bids received. In the last moments of the auction, the bid went from \$490.00 to its final selling price of \$887.00!! Who sez the economy stinks?

That's it this time around. Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C (with apologies to WA3TTS, hi hi!)



In these 2 pics: The Zenith T/O G500

The Original Manual for the Trans-Oceanic H500 (below)



The SCARC Club Roster (as of July 2009)

AA3TK	KB3GMN	N3GHO	WA3BKD
AE3B	KB3LED	N3SAF	WA3FWA
AE3JM	KB3LY	N3SBF	WA3PYU
AI3J	KB3MDN	N3UUZ	WA3RVD
AK3J	KB3NZX	N3VEF	WA3SYB
DC3RJ	KB3ORO	NB3C	WA3TTS
DL4ZAA	KB3PJW	NU3Q	WA3VXJ
K0BUD	KB3PNE	NU3S	WA3YCU
K3GJS	KB3RUK	W3BC	WA8NLX
K3LAB	KB3SVF	W3HH	WB3AGB
K3RYA	KD3GM	W3JQJ	WB3CRC
KA3JKS	KD7HR	W3MAC	WB3HDI
KA3LIW	LX1UN	W3MHY	WQ3T
KA3MSE	N3DQ	W3SVJ	
KA3MXQ	N3DXE	W3UUH	
KA3YNO	N3EQP	W3WTW	
KB3BZR	N3GHI	W6LAC	

Medical Devices....(con't)

stations transmit on a wide bandwidth basis. Amateur Radio stations are permitted to operate at power levels up to 1500 W PEP output, and the RF environment at 420-450 MHz, with primary government radiolocation facilities and highpower amateur facilities is no more conducive to reliable MMN operation than would be the 450-470 MHz band."

The ARRL also voiced concerns that nowhere in the NPRM does it mention what the allocation status of MMNs would be relative to the Amateur Radio Service. Though the Alfred Mann Foundation has proposed that MMNs would be secondary to incumbent licensed operations in the subject bands, the Amateur Service is presently secondary to government radiolocation in this band; this represents a cooperative sharing arrangement that is satisfactory to both government agencies and the Amateur Service, the League contends.

"While it is presumed that the proposal is for MMNs to be secondary to both government radiolocation and to the Amateur Service (as opposed to Amateur stations and MMNs being co-secondary) this is not clear from the NPRM," the ARRL maintained. "Because the interference susceptibility of MMN devices generally is not known, it would be improper to create a co-secondary allocation for MMNs anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band at this time. The Amateur Service has a practical inability to protect patients wearing RF susceptible MMNs from interference from ongoing amateur operations in the 420-450 MHz band, and therefore all MMN operation is going to have to be conditioned on the ability to withstand and operate in the presence of such high-power signals, and thus subordinate in allocation status to the Amateur Service. Unless this interference rejection capability is demonstrated by MMN proponents in advance, the devices should not be allowed to operate anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band."

Imlay and ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with the Alfred Mann Foundation in February 2009, but Imlay said that so far, they have not responded to the ARRL's request to "cooperate in a firm statement that their devices would not malfunction in the presence of nearby RF signals from Amateur Radio stations. Failing that, these comments reflect our continuing concern about the effect on implant patients from unpredictably close Amateur Radio station operations.

Other radio services affected, both above and below the 430-450 MHz band, are taking similar positions."

(MORE NATIONAL NEWS ON PAGE 26)

NBEMS (con't)

Lloyd KA3MSE approached me about having this system demonstrated at the club and I thought this is a good idea and this past meeting we decided that October would give us enough time to set something up and get the word out to the membership.

From Lloyds' email:

Harry Bloomberg has agreed to do a training session on October 7th. The session will take about an hour with additional time for setup and teardown. More details to follow.

So it looks like we will get a demo at the SCARC club house on the above date. Lloyd works pretty fast!

Bob NU3Q also had some info on training provided by Harry :

Harry Bloomberg, W3YJ, will be conducting NBEMS training on Saturday Sept.12 from 9 AM to 11 AM in Room 407 at Thackeray Hall on Pitt Campus. If you have any questions, you may e-mail Harry at <w3yj@arrl.net>.

So as soon as we get the final details of this demo, notice will be posted on the mailing list and in the newsletter.

This is another tool to put in our bag of neat tricks and looks like, because of simplicity, it might become a standard thing to use at EOC's. Of course knowing how to pass traffic and messages in the traditional fashion is still good to know!

The most important tool of all is US. You, me, we, them, yinz guyz n galz....without we Hams, none of this matters. Do your part and recruit a new Ham Radio Op today!

73 ,Bob, WB3HDI

communications in Pennsylvania. WPA has been allotted two seats at this event as well as our digital "gurus" Harry Bloomberg, W3YJ and Dave Kleber, KB3FXI will be demonstrating NBEMS. If interested in additional information or wanting to participate please contact me with regard to this meeting.

Summer is drawing to a close and as Fall approaches start planning for the PA QSO Party being held this year on October 10-11. This is one of my personal favorite contests and I encourage everyone to participate. Information regarding the QSO party is available at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html> Lets get more activity from WPA and make sure all 33 counties show their presence in the contest. I would hate to miss working all 67 counties and miss a county here in my own section.

Finally I encourage you to join a traffic net. The section net is on 3983KHz every evening at 6 P.M. local time. Listen in and more importantly join us or one of the other local nets and deliver a message to someone in your community.

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

Not only that, but you can also view real-time signal displays of some of the stations involved. Simply click on 'The "Grabbers"' link to do so. Station operating status is available too, so you can see who is up and running and who isn't. A news archive is also available, so you can catch up on all the goings-on with the experiment. Clicking on the 'File Downloads' link will take you to a site that is chock-full of all kinds of informational files that you can view and download. You can even subscribe to a mailing list to be kept up-to-date on what's going on with the experiment.

The experiment is operating over the range of 495-510KHz, with a max ERP of 20 Watts, with the permitted emission modes of: CW, PSK/FSK/MSK 31. As of right now, a total of 45 stations are involved.

A (semi) frequent feature where I try to highlight websites that I hope you readers/members will find interesting and informative. **YE OLDE EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER:** I have no interest, either pecuniary or monetary in the websites described herein. I'm just a-tryin' to make our little newsletter more enjoyable & informative to read! 73 de NB3C!

If you're interested in VHF & UHF operating, check out Mike, WA3TTS' article on [page 18](#). But if you're interested in what goes on at the OPPOSITE end of the spectrum, check out this website:

<<http://www.500kc.com>>

[illegible]

So, if you're on the HF bands and nothin' is cookin', and you've got a longwire antenna hooked up to the rig, drop down below the AM broadcast band and check out 500KHz and see what you can hear. You can even participate by simply sending out a reception report; if you can hear 'em, let 'em know!

That's my pick for this month.
Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C.

(Remember: If you know of any websites that deserve mention, please E-Mail me and turn me on to them. I'll review them here for the benefit of all our readers/members. Thanks!)



WA3TTS & the ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest.....

Sunday Aug 16, 2009 WA3TTS/8 10GHZ CONTEST LOCATION EN91kt (#1 on Map) Mentor, Ohio:
On the Lake Erie shoreline off of I-90



EDST	Call	Exchange	RX	TX	Distance	Map #
9:06(A)	KD0AR	EN91kt	EN91kt	short		1
9:11	VE3NPB	EN92sn	EN91kt	62 mi		2
9:28	VE3FHM	EN92op	EN91kt	60mi		3
9:31	VE3SMA	EN92op	EN91kt	60mi		3
10:00	WA8VPD	EN81hv	EN91kt	116mi		4
10:03	K8JA	EN81hv	EN91kt	116mi		4
10:16	WA8RJF	EN91EM	EN91kt	33mi		5
10:29	VE3ZV	EN82SB	EN91kt	71mi		8
11:10	KB8VAO	EN91kt	EN91kt	short		1
11:28	VE3NPB	EN92op	EN91kt	60mi		3
11:40	VE3ZV	EN82ve	EN91kt	62mi		7
11:37	WA8RJF	EN91gq	EN91kt	19mi		9
12:14(P)	AA2LY	EN91uk	EN91kt	66mi		10
12:34	W8ISS	EN81hv	EN91kt	116mi		4
1:20	VE3ZV	EN92ci	EN91kt	51mi		6
2:35	VE3FHM	EN92lp	EN91kt	58mi		13

(CONTINUED
ON NEXT
PAGE)

WA3TTS & the ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest (con't)

EDST	Call	Exchange RX/TX		Distance	Map #
2:38	VE3SMA	EN92lp	EN91kt	58mi	13
3:28	VE3NPB	EN92fn	EN91kt	56mi	12
3:31	WA8RJF	EN91kt	EN91kt	short	1
4:10	VE3ZV	EN92fn	EN91kt	56mi	12

Stations heard but not worked

WW8M	EN72xf	152mi	SSB weak but audible	14
K2YAZ	EN74av	323mi	CW calling CQ	15

Worked VE3ZV in EN92ci on random CQ with slot antenna I obtained from NE8I

All other stations worked on 18 inch dish. QSOs before local noon I used a gutted factory LNB feed with an SMA monopole transition and 3ft SMA instrument cable. QSOs in afternoon I used a gutted factory LNB feed with a WR90 transition and 4ft of WR90 flex guide.

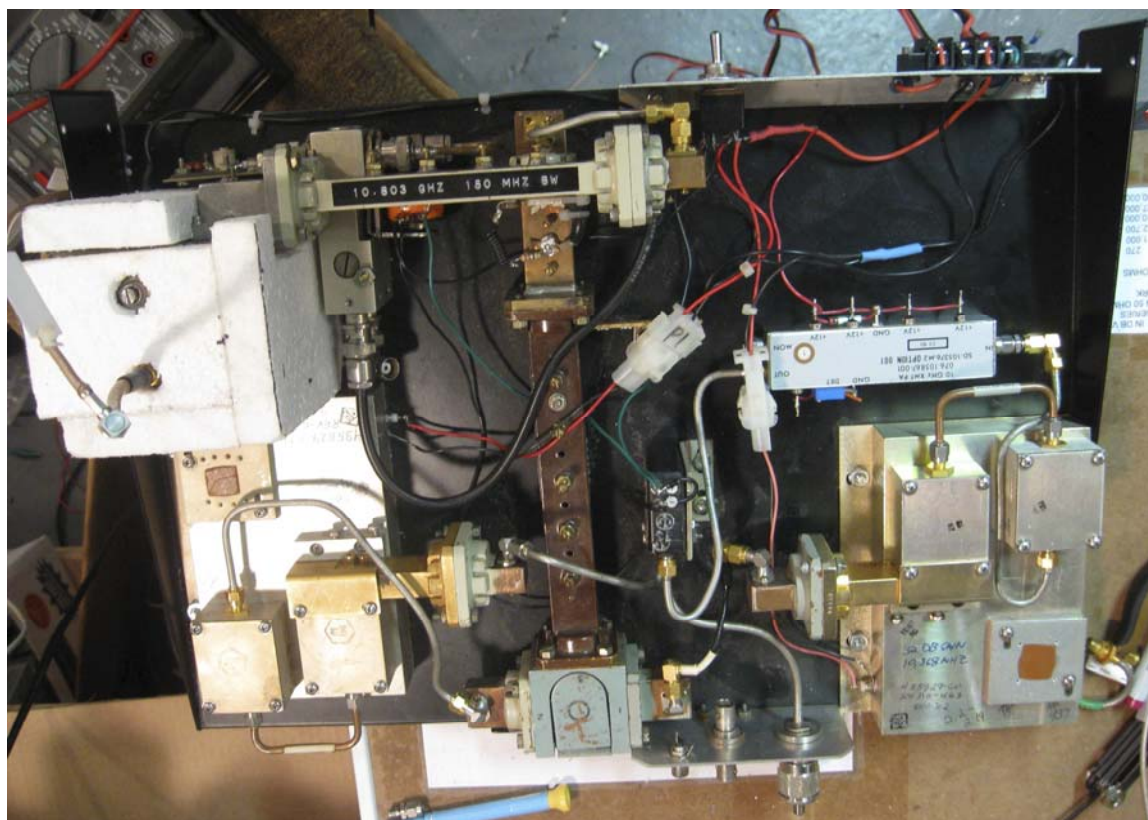
Sez Mike: "It was more fun than I've had in quite a while...."

Steve, KB8VAO in background 8W on 10GHz and 1.5W on 24GHz. Mike KD0AR in middle, 2W on 10GHz. WA3TTS 250mw station, front. Location: Perry Park, Perry, OH.



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

WA3TTS & the ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest (con't)



A picture of the 10GHz transverter used at WA3TTS/8 during the ARRL 10GHz & up contest.

<<<<<<<<<<

Upper left corner is an insulated Frequency West Local Oscillator (LO) feeding a 3 pole WR75 waveguide filter (made by K3ZCY .001" tolerances). The LO output feeds a home-brew 1N23G WR75 single diode mixer and outputs to a 10.368GHZ 5 pole bandpass filter (Also made by K3ZCY). Output of the 10.368GHZ bandpass filter linked to a circulator for RX/TX splitting. Input preamp is a surplus Harris unit with 40db gain (NF unknown but likely <2db). First TX amplifier also a Harris preamp with 32 db gain, which runs through a 10db attenuator before driving a Harris/Farrion amplifier to about 250mw output. A Transco SPDT relay and coax run from the final amplifier loses about 30mw of the 250mw at the antenna output. A Dow Key DPDT relay provides 434MHz IF switching. There is a simple L-network to improve the match to the 1N23G mixer diode and the diode is biased up slightly with a low value resistor to ground via an RF choke. A few FT43 beads on the I.F. cable to the mixer diode for shielding. The Frequency West LO operates on -20 volts from a pair of 12 volt 7ah gel cells. 1 single 12 volt gel cell powers the preamp and transmitting amplifiers. A single control switch on the front panel selects transmit and receive functions.

73, Mike WA3TTS 8-17-09

Wanna see the guys in action? Check out these Web links. Click on them and they'll take you there:

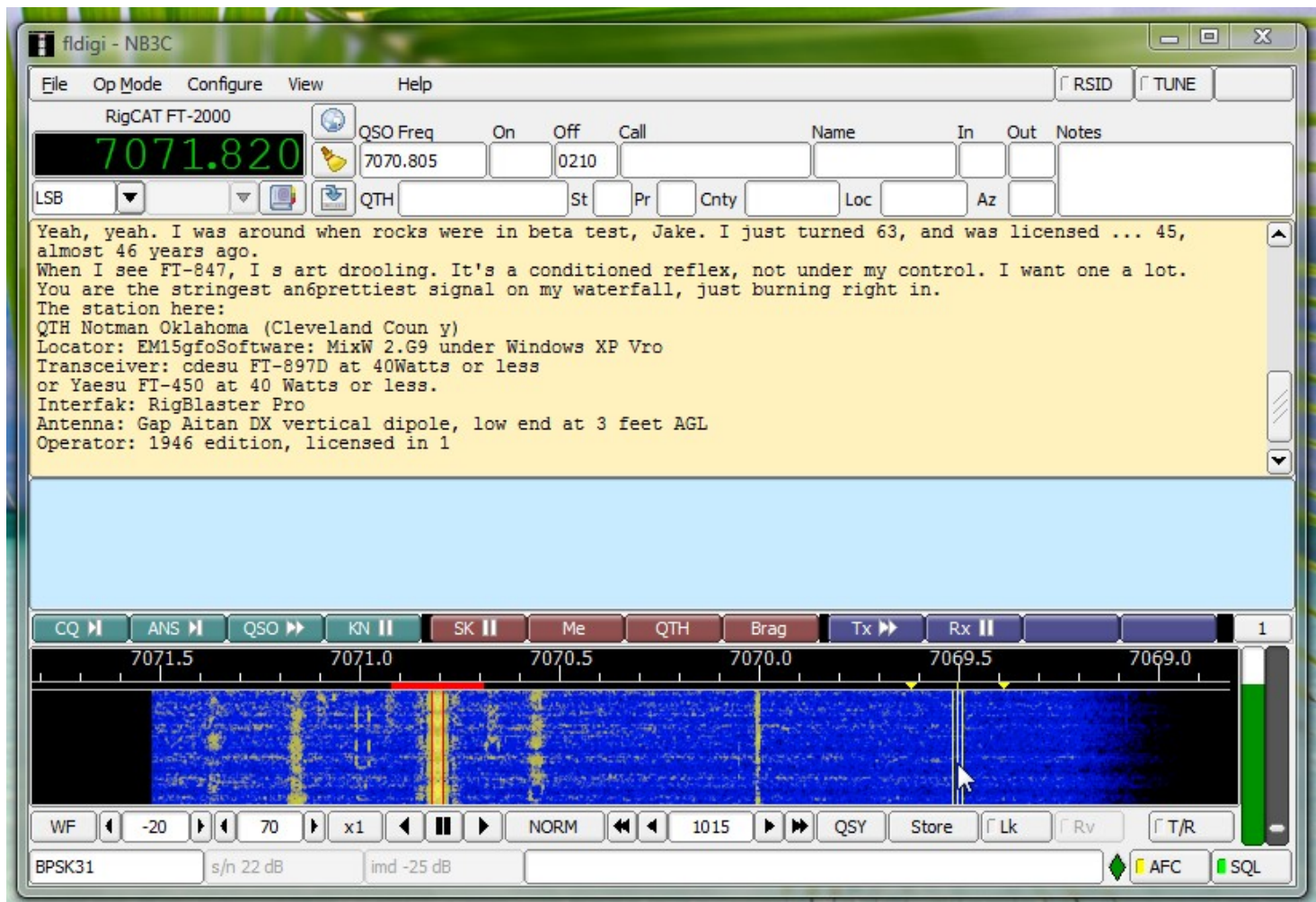
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h7dz3DLGzE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40SlcR7tin4&feature=channel_page>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7kjY_XhjKA&feature=related>

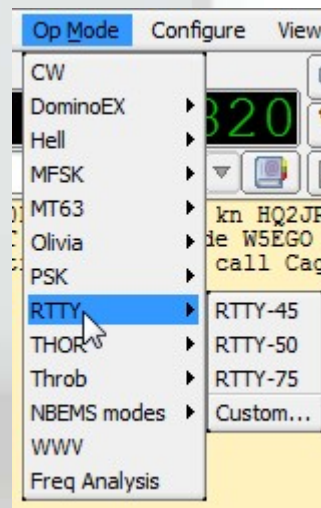
<<http://kd0ar.blogspot.com>>

Software Of The Month.....(con't)



This here is a picture of the program running on my shack computer. In the top left you can see that it is connected to my Yaesu FT-2000D on a freq of 7071.82KHz. In the off-white area below that, you can see the received text being printed. In the light blue-shaded box below, is where the text to be transmitted would be typed. **See the red 'T' shaped bar in the waterfall?** That is the signal I am currently decoding. So, right now I am listening to a signal on roughly 7070.8KHz. See my mouse arrow over there around 7069.5KHz? If I were to click there, the red 'T' bar would move there and start to decode. **In the picture to the right >>>>>>>>>>>>** is the 'Op Mode' selection drop down box. Click here to select your mode of operation. (I'm currently set up to decode PSK31 signals.) As far as decoding the different types of signals heard on the bands, if you can hear it, chances are this program can decode it. **Runs just fine on XP, Vista, and (so far) the new OS Windows 7, 32 or 64 bit versions on all.**

Also enclosed as part of the program is a logging screen, located to the right of the frequency display, so you can log your digital Qs. I like this program a lot. **Most of all, it's still free.** Download it now before the author decides to charge for it! Thanks for reading! 73 de NB3C! **(REMEMBER, I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP YOU SET THIS STUFF UP! E-MAIL ME: <KQ3DX@hotmail.com>)**



In The World Of DX..... (con't)

- ⇒ **SARDINIA, IS0.** Rolf, DL6ZFG will be QRV as IS0/homecall from August 31 to September 18. He will be active holiday style mainly on 40, 30 and 20 meters using all modes. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **ALAND ISLANDS, OH0.** Peter, OH0JWL, Horst, OH0/DF6FL and Siegfried, OH0/DL9ZE are QRV from Eckeroe until September 12. Activity is mainly on 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home calls.
- ⇒ **PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2.** Allan, VK2GR is QRV as P29CW until December from the Western Province while on work assignment with the Australian Doctors International. Activity is in his spare time. QSL direct via VK2IR.
- ⇒ **CANADA, VE.** George, K3GV will be QRV as homecall/VY2 from Prince Edward Island, IOTA NA-029, from September 1 to 28. Activity will be mainly on 20 and 15 meters. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **MALTA, 9H.** Wim, PA2AM will be QRV as 9H3DZ from September 4 to 14. Activity will be mainly on the newer bands using CW and RTTY. QSL to home call.
- ⇒ **AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FO.** Don, G3BJ and Hilary, G4JKS are QRV as FO/G3BJ from Rurutu Island, IOTA OC-050 and Tubuai Island, IOTA OC-152, until September 16. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using mostly CW. QSL to G3BJ.
- ⇒ **JAPAN, JA.** Special event station 8J7M is QRV until December 31 from Honshu Island, IOTA AS-007, in celebration of the 60 years of the Amateur Radio Morioka Club and the 120th anniversary of Morioka-city in the Tohoku region. QSL via bureau.
- ⇒ **DENMARK, OZ.** Michael, DK5NA will be QRV as 5Q5NA from Romo Island, IOTA EU-125, from September 6 to 25. Activity will be on all bands. QSL via bureau.
- ⇒ **NAMIBIA, V5.** Operators DJ2HD, DK1CE and DH3WO will be QRV as V5/home calls from September 5 to 26. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB during their holidays. QSL via operators' instructions.

How is Solar Flux Measured?

The solar flux readings are done at an observatory in Penticton, British Columbia, three times per day. The one used for the official solar flux is the noon reading. The other readings are done in the morning and afternoon.

You can see all of those readings for the past few years at <<http://tinyurl.com/ks8tvn>>. The ones to pay attention to are the readings at 2000z (which are shown in the table as 200000 in the second column) and the observed flux values are in the fifth column.

The sixth column shows adjusted flux values, which are corrected for variations in the distance from Earth to Sun. The adjusted values may be useful for measuring what the Sun is doing, but the observed flux gives an indicator of the relative amount of 2.8 GHz energy that is reaching Earth. 10.7 cm is the approximate wavelength at 2.8 GHz.

The page at <<http://www.spaceweather.ca/sx-eng.php>> has more detailed information about the solar flux under "Information about the Programme."

Ye Olde Editor's Note:

Bottom line: The HIGHER the Solar Flux Index, the better, along with a LOW 'A' Index & a LOW 'K' Index. You can get the latest numbers by listening to WWV at 18 minutes past each hour. They're updated every 3 hours at 0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 & 2100hrs UTC.

(From The ARRL Propagation Bulletin, August 28, 2009 edition.)

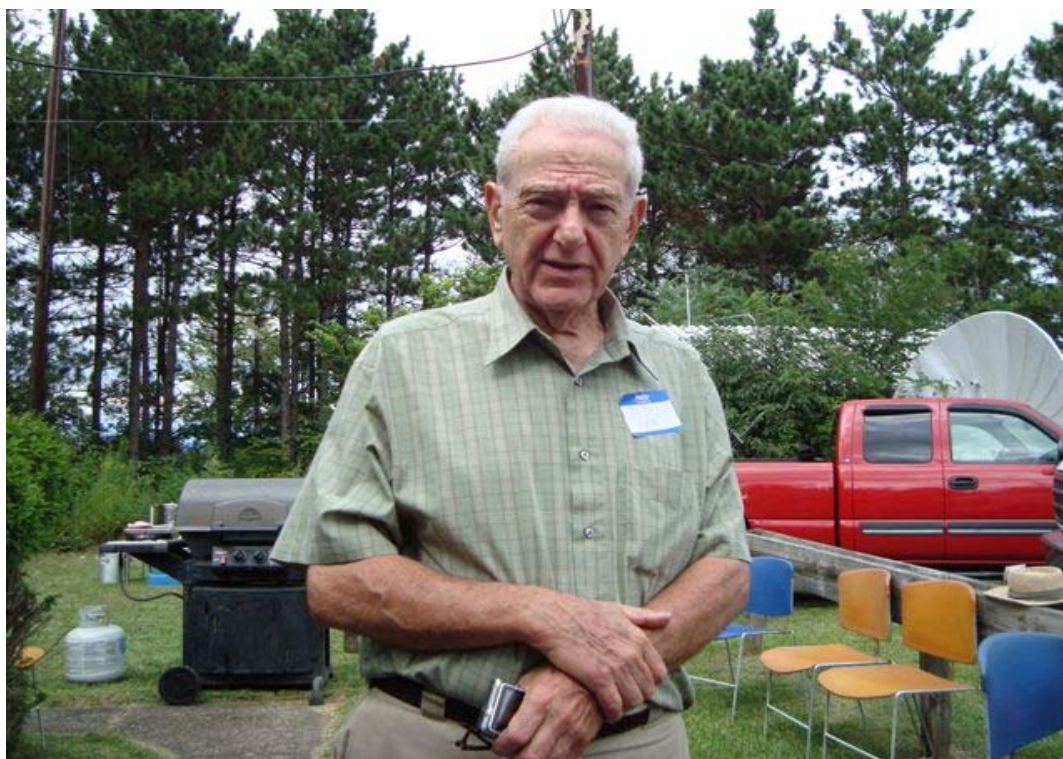
- ⇒ **FAROE ISLANDS, OY.** Johan, OY2J is now QRV. QSL direct to home call.

Corn Roasting, SCARC Style.....



Doug, **K3LAB** (left), Matt, **W3JQJ**, (right), Lee, **N3SAF** (behind Matt), and Satchel, **K9DOG**, (on the ground), all enjoying good food, good weather and good company.

Pics courtesy of Matt, **W3JQJ**



One of my roving reporters, Nate, **W3SVJ** with camera in hand waiting for the festivities to begin.

We had a nice turnout, the weather cooperated, and of course, plenty of good food, corn included, was enjoyed by all.

(TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE)

A group of people are working on a large, intricate sculpture made of white PVC pipes on a grassy lawn. One man is kneeling, working on the base, while others stand around observing or assisting. A red SUV is parked in the background, and a large wooden log lies in the foreground.

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

A man with dark hair and sunglasses, wearing a black t-shirt with a colorful graphic and blue jeans, stands behind a white PVC pipe structure. He is looking to his left. The setting is a grassy field with a gravel area in the background. There is a wooden bench, a blue folding chair, and several parked cars (a silver sedan, a white SUV, and a white sedan) in the background. A dense line of green trees is behind the parking area. Two tall, thin poles are visible in the background. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

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

**Pics courtesy of Matt,
W3JQJ**

(MORE ON PAGE 27)

Just some miscellaneous minutiae designed to fill in a page.....

D-STAR Repeater systems hit the 500 mark

According to the latest version of the D-STAR Newsletter, there are now 500 repeater systems listed in the database worldwide. Also, the first non-Icom repeater system is up & running. The GB7MH system in the U.K. is the first to use a modified repeater, (in this case, a Tait T800) running in full GMSK mode with a bandwidth of 6.25KHz. It is fully operational, and can be accessed via the 'REF005A' gateway.

If you're interested in reading the latest D-STAR newsletter, click on the following link:

[http://www.dstarinfo.com/Newsletter/D-STAR%20Info%20Vol%201%20Issue%202%20\(2.0\)%20-%20Download.pdf](http://www.dstarinfo.com/Newsletter/D-STAR%20Info%20Vol%201%20Issue%202%20(2.0)%20-%20Download.pdf)

For more info on the GB7MH project, click on the link below:

<http://g4ulf.blogspot.com>

The Atlantic Division is pleased to announce that we are sponsoring a webinar with FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement, Laura Smith on Saturday, September 12 from 10:30am to noon. We were fortunate to have Laura talk with members of the Atlantic Division Cabinet staff in early May at our Cabinet Meeting in Gettysburg and were very impressed and pleased with her thoughts and plans for amateur enforcement. There will be a question and answer period at the end of the presentation. There is no fee for attending this webinar if you listen to this webinar through your computer speakers. If you have to call in by telephone to hear the audio portion, you may have to pay for a long distance phone call. This is the link to sign up:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/119437937>

You'll want to sign up early as it is expected that attendance for this webinar will be a 'full house'.

SOUTH AFRICAN HAMS TO PUT ZS10WCS ON THE AIR BEFORE, DURING WORLD CUP

With World Cup soccer coming to South Africa in 2010, hams in that country will commemorate the event starting in September 2009 with a special call sign: ZS10WCS. According to the South African Radio League (SARL) <http://www.sarl.org.za>, that country's IARU Member-Society, the call sign will be used in two ways: In the months leading up to the World Cup, to be held June 11-July 11, 2010, and for times during the event itself. SARL is requiring that clubs selected to use ZS10WCS before the event be on the air on weekends, Friday night through Sunday night. Clubs using the special call sign during the World Cup are expected to be on the air each day.

SARL will supply the special event QSL cards, and requests for direct QSLs will be handled by the SARL QSL bureau. Direct QSLs must include a self-addressed envelope and one IRC or US \$1. Amateurs may also QSL via e-mail wcs@sarl.org.za, but those hams sending an e-mail QSL will only receive an e-mail QSL in return, and not the commemorative printed QSL.

Information provided by SARL (From The ARRL Bulletin, Aug 28 Edition)

National News.....(con't) (Pittsburgh op in the spotlight)

⇒ FCC TO UTILITIES: DON'T LOOK TO HAMS TO PAY FOR YOUR TESTING

In a case that goes back more than 10 years, the FCC has told a Pennsylvania utility that the utility is responsible for paying for "efforts to locate and correct instances of [power line] noise" <http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Duque09_08_07_5108.pdf>. At least one amateur has been complaining to the FCC since 2000 regarding harmful radio interference possibly caused by power line equipment maintained by **Pittsburgh's Duquesne Light Company (DLC)** <<http://www.duquesnelight.com/>>.

Bob Thacker, K3GT, of Allison Park, Pennsylvania -- a suburb just northeast of Pittsburgh -- first noticed harmful interference back in 1996. He told the ARRL that DLC would come out and fix things, but that he would soon hear noise again. After a few years of this, he complained to the FCC, and in 2005, the FCC notified DLC of the complaint. A month later, DLC responded to the FCC, detailing their efforts to resolve the matter and indicated that the most recent complaint was the result of changed conditions, not the continuation of an old problem.

According to the FCC, DLC again communicated with the FCC in a letter dated June 2, 2005, explaining the efforts they had taken to repair three lightning arrestors. During the latter half of 2005 and into 2006, Thacker continued to experience interference and continued to report these instances to DLC, requesting that DLC correct the problems. In 2007, he located a specific pole as one source of noise and advised a Mr. Luther of DLC of this fact; Mr. Luther advised Thacker that he would submit a work order.

In March 2008, DLC contacted Thacker, indicating that it had swept the area where the suspected pole was located and discovered no noise. DLC indicated that the noise source was a neon light. Finally, DLC stated that it had spent "significant amounts of time and money" attempting to address his concerns and that DLC would require him to pay for any additional efforts to locate and correct instances of noise.

Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement Laura Smith responded to DLC in July of this year, saying "Such a response is not acceptable." She spelled out what she called "the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from incidental radiators," specifically:

47 CFR, Section 15.5: General Conditions of Operation <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.5.pdf>; 47 CFR, Section 15.13: Incidental Radiators <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.13.pdf>, and 47 CFR Section 15.15: General Technical Requirements <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.15.pdf>.

"Given the fact this case has been ongoing for quite some time without resolution and DLC has had ample time to locate the instances of interference and make the necessary repairs," Smith told the utility, "you are directed to respond to [me] within 60 days of receipt of this letter, detailing what steps you have taken to resolve the remaining instances of interference that are reported as being caused by your equipment. Should the remaining interference problems not be resolved within those 60 days, DLC will be required to provide [me] with a status update every two weeks going forward as to what progress, if any, has been made to resolve the matter."

ARRL Lab Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG, was pleased with Smith's decision, and said that amateurs should not be made to pay fees to the utilities to test for harmful interference by the same utilities. "It is not the responsibility of an Amateur Radio operator to track down and get rid of power line noise -- that's the utilities' job. I am pleased with the precedent that Laura Smith and the FCC have set here. Now maybe more utilities will take power line noise interference more seriously in the future."

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



(CONTINUED ON
NEXT PAGE)

by HDI

AUG 30 1964

Desert type goodies

08/30/2012
by UUZ

[illegible][illegible]

(Pics courtesy of WB3HDI & N3UUZ)

The Prez Sez.....

What do you get when you mix together a little sunshine, good food and great friends? The 2009 SCARC Annual Corn Roast!

We had a beautiful Sunday afternoon to enjoy and did we ever!

By my count we had about 70 members, family and friends attend and if you missed it, you missed out on some really tasty corn and treats.

My thanks to all who attended, brought along something to tempt the palate, lent a hand in setting up, cleaning up, tearing down and everything else that made this a successful gathering. VERY NICE!!

Even the bees, yellow jackets or whatever they are couldn't dampen spirits on this day. Sorry folks. If I knew they were there, I'd have zapped the li'l buggers before hand.

And let us not forget the "Shucking O' the Corn" which was accomplished by the talents of Joe WB3AGB, Carol KB3GMN and Rich N3SBF. I am not sure where Carol & Richie got the corn but 'twas GOOOOOOOOOD!!!



(TURN THE
PAGE FOR
MORE)

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

Our Master Corn Roaster Rich N3SBF made the job look easy and his masterful wielding of the tongs kept a-MAIZE-ing us. OOOOOOOOOooooook, that was bad. Don't blame me, I stole it from someone else.



Rich brought along his boiling pots, burners/stands, propane and the needed H₂O to do up the corn. The hot pink glove is a required, even stylish, accessory for such tasks. Yeah yeah, I know. It was white and got washed with a red shirt. I'm not sure but a couple spots look like RF burns. Probably from heating up a hot dog on end of a 160M dipole for a late night snack!

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

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

Sandy, XYL of George W3ANX took up the task of Grilling the burgers and dogs.
Sandy grilled 'em good but they still wouldn't talk.



Is this how Rachel Rae does it? Emeril? I think the studio audience was pleased since everything was consumed!!

Burgers, dogs, chicken, fixins' n condiments, breads, salads, home made ice cream, eggs, and the list goes on. What's not to like? It was all good!

Yours truly had the fun of being head slicer. Tomatoes, onions, whatever needing chopped up. Carol claims I slice tomatoes better than anyone. I think she was just saying that to get me to do it! Hihi Toni McKee xyl of W3MAC washed dishes 'n stuff with me underfoot. I wisely left the room before I got soaked with a soapy sponge!

(TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE)

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

To "light the way" to the top of the hill all one need do is spot the Steel City ARC sign and the nice number post!

The post idea was conceived by Art WA3BKD who, as I understand it, cut the timber, planed it smooth, cut to appropriate length, capped the top and applied the correct numbers to both sides. AND he has all his fingers and toes intact!

I am not sure of exactly when he found time in his busy sked to get this done but it sure looks nice and is a marker to show the way to the club house should we ever need to yell for help of the medical variety.

The angled top "points", up the hill, to help guide emergency personnel to our location should we ever call. John N3EQP says he will make up maps for us to give to local EMS folks to aid in finding us.

If you remember way back at the beginning of the year when we got the AED, this was discussed and was to be completed before years end.

Thank you Art for the post work and to John for his map work!



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

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

All this talent we have in our group! Interestingly, there are those members that have something other than radio as a hobby. Radio control flying is big within the membership. Wood working. Even ROBOTICS!?!?

Who'da thunk it? Just when you may have thought that building something was no longer in vogue. Electronics and mechanical know how are NOT dead! Just microscopic!

We gather at the club and the main theme is supposed to be radio (but food usually wins out! Hihi) and we talk, but how many of us really express to anyone else what other things we enjoy doing?

How about sending a blurb along to our Editor Greg NB3C to place into the newsletters telling of your other hobbies and interests? You never know what may come of it!

Thanks for reading along and see ya this coming meeting.

73 Bob WB3HDI



by UUZ
08/30/2009

**Don't forget about the Butler County ARA
Swapfest Sept 13.....**



BCARA

Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc

Butler SwapFest
Sunday September 13, 2009
8 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Drive in, buy a ticket and open your trunk

Bring a friend

Your trash may be someone's treasure

Unionville Fire Department grounds
Located at the intersection of PA Route 8 and Unionville Road
7 miles north of downtown Butler

Prizes

Two (2) Yaesu FT-60R Dual Band Handhelds

Prize drawings will be at 12:00 noon and 2:00 P.M.

Winner must be present to win

50/50 Raffles

Donation of \$5.00 per person includes 1 main prize ticket
Additional tickets available at the club's table

Talk in W3UDX 147.36/96
Web Site: W3UDX.ORG

Food: breakfast of doughnuts and coffee and lunch furnished by the
Unionville VFD
(no individual sales permitted)

Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



WACOM HAMFEST

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

2151 North Main St.

WASHINGTON, PA 15301

8:00 A.M –3:00 P.M—Admission \$5.00

DOUBLE THE SIZE THIS YEAR

DOORS OPEN FOR VENDORS SETUP AT 6:00 A.M

Talk in on 145.49 MHz

MAIN PRIZES:

1st Yaesu 897D HF-6-2-70 M

2nd Icom 208 2m/440 Mobile

3rd MFJ 269 Antenna Analyzer

BLACK BOX PRIZE ONLY 50 TICKETS SOLD

PRIZE'S SUBJECT TO CHANGE –MAIN DRAWING AT 2:00 P.M. NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

MAIN PRIZES PURCHASED THROUGH KJI ELECTRONICS

FREE COFFEE ALL DAY COURTESY OF HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
VE SESSION AT 10:00AM

ADVANCE TICKET SALES—VENDOR SETUP INFO

CONTACT BUD PLANTS, N3TIR @ n3tir@arrl.net or 724-484-0207

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR 6Ft TABLES EARLY, \$10.00 non elect \$12.00 elect.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE AVAILBLE

DOOR PRIZES--YL PRIZE---DX CARD CHECKER—WAS CARD CHECKER -CASINO

NEAR BY

Sponsored by: Washington Amateur Communications

Send vendor payment to: WACOM% Norma Plants N3YJJ

236 Chambers Ridge

West Alexander, Pa 15376

Visit us at WWW.WACOMARC.ORG

August 2009
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September 2009

The Steel City ARC Monthly Contest/Event Planner

October 2009
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i>	3 <i>WACOM Meeting 10M NRAU Activity Test</i>	4 <i>G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Sprint (thru 9/6)</i>	5 <i>All-Asian DX Contest SSB Russian RTTY Contest CO QSO Party IARU Region 1 FD RSGB SSB FD</i>
6 <i>All-Asian DX Contest SSB CO QSO Party IARU Region 1 FD RSGB SSB FD TN QSO Party</i>	7 <i>Labor Day TN QSO Party MI-QRP Labor Day Sprint CW</i>	8 <i>MI-QRP Labor Day Sprint CW ARS Spartan Sprint CW</i>	9 <i>SCARC Social Nite NHARC Meeting</i>	10 <i>WASH Meeting NAC 50MHz Activity Test RSGB 80M Sprint SSB</i>	11 <i>Jay Hudak KA3X Memorial 070 Club 80M Sprint (also 9/12)</i>	12 <i>WAE DX Contest SSB ARRL VHF QSO Party AR QSO Party QRP ARCI VHF Test Swiss HTC QRP Sprint CW</i>
FISTS Straight Key Week						
13 <i>WAE DX Contest SSB ARRL VHF QSO Party Butler Co. ARC SwapFest AR QSO Party NA CW Sprint QRP ARCI VHF Test WASH 2M Net</i>	14	15 <i>SCARC Business Meeting</i>	16 <i>MOON Contest CW/SSB/ Digi</i>	17 <i>NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint</i>	18	19 <i>SC QSO Party CIS DX RTTY Test Scandinavian Activity Test ARRL 10GHz + Test Feld-Hell Club Sprint QCWA QSO Party</i>
20 <i>SC QSO Party CIS DX RTTY Test Scandinavian Activity Test ARRL 10GHz + Test QCWA QSO Party NA SSB Sprint WASH 2M Net</i>	21 <i>Run For The Bacon QRP Test CW</i>	22	23 <i>SCARC Social Nite SKCC Straight Key Sprint RSGB 80M Sprint CW</i>	24	25	26 <i>CQ WW RTTY Test WASH Breakfast Scandinavian Activity Test JLRS Party Test TX QSO Party FIST Clubs QSO Party</i>
27 <i>CQ WW RTTY Test Scandinavian Activity Test JLRS Party Test TX QSO Party FIST Clubs QSO Party WASH 2M Net</i>	28	29	30 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i>			

September 2009
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October 2009

The Steel City ARC Monthly Contest/Event Planner

November 2009
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 SARL 80M QSO Party WACOM Meeting SkyView 2M Net	2	3 Oceania DX Contest SSB European Sprint SSB DARC Feld-Hell 80M Test CA QSO Party TARA PSK Rumble German Telegraphy Test
4 Oceania DX Contest SSB ON 80M Contest CW RSGB 21/28MHz Contest CA QSO Party WASH 2M Net	5 Breezeshooters Net	6 Skyview Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	7 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net	8 WASH Meeting SkyView 2M Net	9 DX/NA YL Anniv. Contest	10 PA QSO Party DX/NA YL Anniv. Test Oceania DX Test CW European Sprint CW FISTS Fall Sprint 10-10 Sprint 10-10 Intl Fall Test CW
11 PA QSO Party DX/NA YL Anniv. Contest Oceania DX Contest CW NA Sprint RTTY Makrothen RTTY Test (also 10/10) WASH 2M Net	12 Breezeshooters Net	13 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	14 SCARC Social Nite NHARC Meeting Alleg Co. ARES Net	15 SkyView 2M Net	16	17 Worked All Germany CW/ SSB JARTS WW RTTY Contest ARCI QSO Party
18 Worked All Germany CW/ SSB JARTS WW RTTY Contest ARCI QSO Party Asia/Pacific Sprint CW IL QSO Party WASH 2M Net	19 IL QSO Party Run For The Bacon QRP Test Breezeshooters Net	20 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	21 Alleg Co. ARES Net	22 SkyView 2M Net	23	24 CQ WW SSB Test
25 CQ WW SSB Test WASH 2M Net	26 Breezeshooters Net	27 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	28 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net	29 SkyView 2M Net	30	31 Halloween WASH Breakfast DAYLITE SAVINGS ENDS 11/1! ROLL CLOCKS BACK 1 HR BEORE BEDTIME!

Kilo Watt Harmonics

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



**NEXT
MEETING:
8PM
15 SEPT**



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

<www.w3kwh.com>



**Did you miss the Corn Roast? If you did, shame shame,
everyone knows your name! Pics inside; check it out!
All kinds of other noteworthy stuff is inside too!**

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