

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

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

Inside this issue:
(Click on an article
to read it.)

DX News & Views	2
A Conversation With N3LLR	3
Meeting Minutes	4
ARRL WPA Section News	5
MARS Today	6
A Visit With 'Squad 51'	7
Local News/Club Stuff	10
October Calendar	15
November Calendar	16
WACOM Hamfest	17

The Steel City Amateur Radio Club:

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

VP: Madison McKee, W3MAC
(412) 279-8756

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

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

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

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

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

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE PA QSO PARTY,
OCT 11 & 12, 'THE FRIENDLY QSO PARTY!' NEXT
MEETING: OCT 21, 8:00PM @ THE CLUBHOUSE



KiloWatt Harmonics

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

October 2008

Corn Roast '08 Wrap-Up

The elders discussing club business



Uhh,
Food,
GOOD

Not now, can't
you see we're
VERY busy?



They wouldn't let us
sit at the table.
Something we said?



Blondes really do
have more fun!



Didn't we see this guy
somewhere before?



Well no, they're NOT all
mine, I don't think!

The **THREE GREAT CHEFS** were
there from start up to clean up
to close up. It was **SUPER!**

THANK YOU especially!
And thanks to all that brought some
extra goodies from home.

73 de 'SVJ



Just when does the fun start?

The Three Great Chefs on a mid-
event adrenalin HIGH

DX News & Views

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

- ♦ **KENYA, 5Z.** Valery, RW1AU is QRV as 5Z4/RW1AU from Nairobi. His length of stay is unknown. Lately he has been active using SSB on 20 meters. QSL via K5XK.
- ♦ **MARTINIQUE, FM.** Freddy, F5IRO is QRV as FM/homecall until February 2009. Activity is on 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes in his spare time and on weekends after 2200z. QSL to home call.
- ♦ **HONG KONG, VR.** Vincent, F4BKV is QRV as VR2/homecall until September 2009. He is active using mostly PSK31 with some SSB on various HF bands. QSL via operator's instructions.
- ♦ **TUNISIA, 3V.** Operators S56A, YT1AD and YT3W will be QRV as 3V8BB as a Multi/Single entry in the CQ WW RTTY contest. QSL this operation via YT1AD.

♦ YOUNG DXPEDITIONERS TO GO TO WILLIS ISLAND, VK9

We have decided! It was a very difficult decision for us, we have got 22 applications, all of them avid testers and DXers, unfortunately some of them did not meet the age criteria, others with visa-problems had to withdraw.

Two of them were outstanding in performance, dedication and commitment. These two rookies to join our expedition to Willis Island are:

On the first part:

W4WJF, William Joshua (Josh) Fischer, from North Carolina, USA, 21 years old.

On the second part:

ZS6DXB, Rhynhardt (Rhy) Louw from JHB, Rep. of South Africa, 25 years old.

We are very happy to announce this decision to the DXers community and hope that this will encourage further DXpeditions to take similar or even better approaches to promote and "elmer" young DXers and Contesters.

Preparations

All our preparations are entering the final stage. 1.4 tons of material are on its way and as our carrier told us, it is about to arrive in Australia with the "MS Ute Oltmann" in these days.

There will be a vanguard consisting of Joerg (DL8WPX), Gerd (DJ5IW) and Robert (SP5XVY) who will fly to Cairns by Friday 26th, followed by Dieter, DL8OH, who departs two days later. They will meet our man in Australia, Dale (VK4DMC), and together will take care of all necessary work. In particular, to meet our boat charter, get all material cleared and all additional purchases done. The idea is, to fight Murphy as effective as possible and to prepare the departure of our vessel, the "MV Floreat", as actual as we can, before the crew steps in and the show will begin.

We will keep you informed! (more DX News & Views on page 4)

KiloWatt Harmonics,
October 2008

© 2008, The Steel City
Amateur Radio Club

Edited by Greg Babin,
NB3C

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

All contributions are
welcome at:
KQ3DX@hotmail.com

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

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

- ♦ **SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.** Operator SP3GVX is QRV as HF0POL/LH from a Lighthouse next to the Polish Henryk Arctowski base. QSL via SP3WVL.

- ♦ **CANADA, VE.** All Canadian amateurs are encouraged to participate in the upcoming Special Event Prefixes from October 1 to November 30 to commemorate the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858. They will use the prefixes CJ, CK, CY and CZ.

- ♦ **HONG KONG, VR.** Antonio, VR2PW is generally QRV from Lantau Island, IOTA AS-006, on 20 meters SSB just after 1030z.

A Conversation With N3LLR

Every year, the ARRL holds elections for 1/3 of the 15 member Board of Directors. This year, one of the five Directors up for re-election included Bill Edgar N3LLR, the current Atlantic Division Director.

Earlier this year, Bill agreed to answer some questions regarding his positions and stances on various Amateur Radio & ARRL-related topics. However, due to scheduling issues (mine as well as his), it took longer than intended for us to get together to go over the questions, by which time he had been declared re-elected, as no one was running against him or Tom W3TOM (the sitting Vice Director) this year. We finally got together for a long brunch the day before the Skyview RS Hamfest to discuss things.

It is important to understand where our elected representatives to the Board stand on issues. With that in mind, here's what Bill had to say "on the record" on some of the questions I asked him...

What do you feel is the state of Amateur Radio today?

I am excited about Amateur Radio today. Personally, if I wasn't, I wouldn't be involved.

VEC statistics show that the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators is increasing. The government impression of Amateur Radio on state and federal levels has been improved as of recent events, by the outstanding job Amateur Radio operators did in recent disasters, in carrying out disaster related communications.

What can the average Amateur do, as a practical matter, to strengthen the Amateur Service and the radio hobby, today?

Focus on the positive things with the service.

Get excited about it and share the excitement with others.

Introduce new people to the service.

Get involved with a local club, if you aren't already.

Get involved with the Field Organization within your ARRL Section — there are plenty of opportunities to learn and share there.

Ignore the squirrels in the service.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next 3 years?

To continue with Vice Director Abernethy's and my program of increasing the radio-activity level within the Division.

Continue keeping members informed on what is going on within the Division.

Continue soliciting member input via surveys, webinars, and in-person meetings.

Continue bringing ARRL officials and other high interest topics to the Atlantic Division in the webinar series, designed to help members learn about various topics and issues.

Continue to represent the Atlantic Division members in the best manner possible with the ARRL Board.

What area of Amateur Radio in the Atlantic Division needs the most attention? The least?

Increasing the legislative action effort for Amateur Radio both in the division and on a National level. We are communicators, and generally do an excellent job amongst ourselves, but we need to let our Local, State, and Federal government officials know what is important to us, so that we can continue to provide quality community service during times of disaster. Some of the antenna rules and regulations are not friendly, and are downright detrimental to amateur radio.

Additionally, Amateur Radio clubs all over need attention. We find most new hams do not join clubs, because the meetings are same old—same old. We need support for the clubs to provide better topic material, and also the clubs need to provide activities for their members to participate in so they can learn and grow together. (continued on page 11)

September 2008 Business Meeting Minutes

The President WA3TTS, Mike called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM to get an early ending for the conduct of the annual corn roast. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was held for our Silent Keys. 25 members and 3 guests answered the roll call. Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt and accepted by the membership.

Committee Reports

- ♦ **Clubhouse** The mother of chairman WA3VXJ, Karl and who is also the sister of KA3LNG Kurt, passed away this Monday Sept. 15. Details can be found in the Post-Gazette obit. Ritchie N3SBF, Carol KB3GMN and WB3HDI, Bob are preparing the food for tonight's corn roast.
- ♦ **Technical** N3EQF, John said that the TS-950 is being sent out for repairs and he will give a demo on how to set the voice keyer on the new Icom rig.
- ♦ **Ways and Means** WA3FWA, Joe will run the raffle after the meeting and he displayed a VHF contest certificate received from the ARRL and announced a VHF conference upcoming.
- ♦ **Contest** The PA QSO Party will run Oct.11 and 12.
- ♦ **Old Business** WB3CRF, Rich will order the kerosene for the furnace at the appropriate time.
- ♦ **New Business** W3SVJ, Nate announced the service for Mrs. Pastorak will be at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Carnegie on Thurs. at 10:30 AM.
- ♦ **Good of the Order** Walt has 2 upright freezers available, free for the asking. W3MAC, Mac has donated a 25-amp power supply for the club. Every one present is asked to sign cards for Karl and Kurt.

Meeting Adjourned by popular demand to start the corn roast!

- ♦ **50/50 raffle** won by WA3FWA, Joe.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary, WA3FWA, Joe.



DX News & Views (continued from page 2)

- ♦ **SEYCHELLES, S7.** Operators Iwa, JA0UH and Tohr, JA0UMV will operate from Praslin Island (AF-024), from November 9 to 14. Iwa will sign S79UH and Tohr will sign S79MV. They hope to operate on 160 through 10 meters using SSB and CW. They will not be active on RTTY. QSL via their home call signs, direct or via the JARL Bureau.
- ♦ **CAMBODIA, XU.** Operators JA3AVO, JH3PBL, JA3ARJ and JA3UJR will be active as XU7AVO, XU7PBL, XU7ARJ and XU7UJR, respectively, from Sihanoukville between November 6 and 11.
- ♦ **MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FO/M.** Willi, DJ7RJ, is active as FO/DJ7RJ, until October 19. QSLs will be confirmed via DJ7RJ after his return.
- ♦ **LEBANON, OD.** Sylvain, OD5/F5TLN, will be active until February 2009. He will work mostly on SSB but also some CW on all HF bands. Sylvain will confirm the QSOs after his return home.



The ARRL WPA Section Page

THE ARRL WPA SECTION:

SECTION MANAGER:

John V. Rodgers, N3MSE
803 S Main St.
Butler, PA 16001-6326
724-287-0424
<n3mse@arrl.org>

ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER ASM DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS:

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

CHIEF ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER:

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

ASM MEDIA LIASON:

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

AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR:

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

OFFICIAL OBSERVER COORDINATOR:

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

SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR:

John S Szwarc, N3SPW
PO Box 207
Kylertown, PA 16847-0207
(814) 255-7600 444, (814) 345-6727
<n3spw@philipsburg-ara.org>

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER

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

I would like to thank everyone that helped to make the WPA Section Convention a great success. We were fortunate to have a great day weather wise and also had quite a few ARRL leaders present at the event. I want to thank Katie Breen, W1KRB, for coming down from Connecticut for the hamfest. This was the final hamfest Katie will be attending as a league official. Katie will be leaving soon to get married and move to Wyoming. We wish Katie well and thank her for her service over the past months. I would also like to thank Bill Edgar, N3LLR, Atlantic division director and Eric Olena WB3FPL, Eastern Pa. section manager for attending and helping. Assistant section manager Bruce Watson, AA3LX, and section emergency coordinator John Szwarc, N3SPW, also attended the event. I want to express my appreciation to all the members of the Skyview ARC for their hard work to put the hamfest together. I would also like to congratulate the members of the Butler County ARA on the success of their swap fest last weekend. I was glad to see the event and all the people that came out to support the swap fest. I want to remind everyone that we still are in need of people to participate in leadership roles for the ARES program. If you are interested in this please contact John Szwarc at <n3spw@arrl.net>. On October 4 the Simulated Emergency Test will be conducted in WPA from 9 AM till noon. Check with your local emergency coordinator for information. The section HF frequency will be 3983 KHz. Please check in and participate in the drill on HF or on your local repeater.

We only have a short time to get the tower bill through the legislature. Please contact your state senators and representatives to ask them to support and vote for senate bill 884 and house bill 1177. We have seen several local hams involved in disputes with local zoning that this bill would have helped. A special thanks to Mike Lazaroff, K3AIR, for his help with these issues. Mike is a volunteer legal counsel as well as the DXCC card checker for the section. Please remember to participate in the PA QSO Party that will take place on October 11 and 12. This is a fun relaxing contest and I look forward to working everyone. Thanks to the organizers and participants of the event for a great little contest. This is also a good opportunity to test your station for performance in your ability to communicate with stations in Pennsylvania in the event of an emergency. Additional information and rules for the contest are available at <<http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>>.

Please join a traffic net as well as your local ARES net. The WPA section traffic net meets every evening at 6 PM local on 3983 hz. Stop by and see if you can help deliver messages to individuals in your community. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the final hamfest of the year in our section. WACOM is November 2 in Washington Pa. More on the hamfest next month. Finally I was informed by ARRL headquarters that I was declared elected as section manager for the 2009-2010 term. One of our main objectives is to strengthen our ARES program and also to formulate mutual agreements with our surrounding sections to assist one another in the event of an emergency. Interested individuals willing to help or with suggestions are invited to contact the SEC or myself.

73 John Rodgers N3MSE W. Pa. Section Manager

(more ARRL WPA News on page 14)

MARS Today

Rick Bates, N3ICR

Not so long ago in a world before satellite phones and cell phones nearly every US military member had at least heard of a system known only as MARS. While few knew that the acronym stood for Military Affiliate Radio System, most who had heard of it did know that they could fill out a one page message of 25 words or less and address it to someone back home. No matter what part of the world they were defending they knew that once that small form left their hand, it would not be long until somewhere back home a telephone would ring and their words would be read in a respectful and professional manner. At some point during that phone call from a MARS member or a HAM willing to relay MARS messages, the question would be asked, would you like to send a reply. If so, every effort would be made to get that reply back to that military service member in the field. MARS handled countless such messages between US military service members and the folks back home during more than one conflict.

Now with satellite phones, cell phones, and fiber optic communications cables spanning the great oceans it would seem that the MARS program has no place in the present day world. No more messages of comfort to or from home. No more joyful notices of congratulations on a new family member would arrive over the airwaves and into the hands of a new father or uncle. Yes in today's world of high tech in the palm of your hand MARS appears to be kept alive for purely nostalgic reasons, but nothing could be further from the truth.

A review of the MARS Mission Statement and one would begin to believe that MARS never did handle such traffic. Look over the MARS Mission Statement and way down there at the end you will find Health and Welfare traffic handling. What then does MARS do and what is the MARS role in the world of radio communications today? MARS, regardless of branch, has channels into and out of key locations and offices. MARS has call signs in such offices as FEMA, the Pentagon and more military and government disaster and support agencies than I would even be permitted to mention here. It is a system with permission to send encrypted message traffic and I am not talking about a play on words. I am talking digitally encrypted and digitally transmitted message traffic.

Imagine you are in a situation where you need to send sensitive information from a makeshift EOC (Emergency Operations Center) in the field. Some tent out there in the middle of no landline, cell phone, or internet and you need to send to FEMA or your state equivalent. If you don't think such a place still exists in the USA today give me a call and I'll take you to Clay County, WV. You will likely be astonished first by the beauty of it, then by the fact that you have no GPS or cell phone signal and that even on a good day you are not sure from which direction the sun is shining. And that is when all systems are working perfectly, but in your EOC tent you happen to have a properly equipped MARS operator sitting in a corner watching a dozen RACES members firing off messages by the handfuls. His purpose soon becomes clear. While not a one person fix all, that operator has permissions, frequencies, and just as important, other MARS contacts in some really high places. While not limited to secure traffic or traffic directly to high places, it is where MARS differs from other systems. The first letter of the acronym represents the largest power on the face of the earth. The United States Military.

In flooding, blizzards, fires, earthquakes, and even places where the Post Office can't deliver mail, who is going to bring you food, water, medical supplies, fuel for your generators or the generators themselves? The most successful force on planet earth is just a call away, but who can call up that kind of power? Well, MARS even has a weather person. Oh yes and they even have a call sign just for that. Bet it ends in WX. Which brings us to the point of the receiving destination. Individual MARS members are required to maintain a current Amateur license in good standing and few HAM operators spend even 10% as much time training and managing message traffic in as many modes as even the average MARS member. They are the model and take guidance directly from active and current military communications publications and regulations.

So first, on the receiving end of a MARS message, would be another MARS member or one of the MARS special stations such as FEMA or the Pentagon. Second the operator could, with the turn of a dial, be one of the several hundred thousand US Amateur Radio Operators. When it comes to what we call "Boots on ground" there are more skilled amateurs in the USA than anywhere in the world. The National Guard bases in every state or commonwealth should be yet another point of reception, as should every reserve center and active duty military post or base in the world. In perhaps reverse order, let me say first that it has been my personal and direct experience, both as a member of the military and as the former Interoperability Officer of the PA Army MARS to have visited first hand locations which would be vital in disaster

(continued on page 9)

A Visit With 'Squad 51'



I will start out my article with a trip in Mr. Peabody's famous "wayback machine": "Gee Mr. Peabody – what fascinating year in history will we be visiting today? Sherman, please set the "wayback machine" controls for the year 1971. Location: Los Angeles, CA".

In that year, NBC accepted a proposal from the late producer Robert A. Cinader (of Dragnet and Adam-12 fame) about a new weekly television series showcasing the paramedic program in Los Angeles County. As most of you know, the show I am referring to is 'Emergency!'. It ran Saturday nights on NBC from 1972-1977. I was in grade school myself at the time and remember growing up watching this show. 'Emergency!' made the term "paramedic" a household word.

Recently, while on vacation in Los Angeles, I was fortunate enough to visit the famous fire station where they filmed the show, LA County Fire Station 127. It is located in Carson, CA (a suburb in the west side of Los Angeles near Long Beach) at 2049 East 223rd Street. To this day, it is still a working fire station! The only difference between real life and TV is that they have no paramedic squad at this station. This station has only two fire trucks – period. They work under the moniker of "Light Force 127". As a result of the show, the firemen at this station give daily tours to visitors provided they are in quarters and not out on a call. Souvenir t-shirts, caps and patches are available for sale at \$15 each.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by the crew of "C" shift. LA County firemen work 24 hour shifts. We were given a full tour of the station. During our tour, I talked to one of the fireman about amateur radio. I learned firsthand that the LA County Fire Department relies on amateur radio operators to provide backup communication in emergencies. An excerpt from the LA County Fire Department webpage: <http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/ProgramsEvents/PDFs/CertInstructorsManualPDFs/Amateur%20Radio%20Info.pdf>. (Author's Note: Incidentally, the LA City Fire Department has a program in place for amateur radio operators as well: <http://lafd.org/acs.htm>). Indeed, they have a very active ARES/RACES program in Southern California. I can attest to that fact personally since I experienced an earthquake during my visit. I tuned my ICOM HT to their UHF ARES/RACES repeater right after the quake occurred. The net was on standby mode. I checked back about an hour later and no one answered my call, so I safely inferred that the net was stood down. Generally speaking, damage from the quake was relatively minor.

(continued on next page)



A Visit With 'Squad 51' (continued from page 7)

Another interesting feature of the station is the alcove where the radio was from TV which they acknowledged their calls. It is no longer there, replaced by their main GE repeater unit and a Coke machine! Both the kitchen and day room have changed from TV as well. They were remodeled and brought up-to-date. Things that have remained unchanged over the last 30 years (since the show ended) include the bunk room, shower room (the same sinks from TV are still there!), the lockers and the rear of the station – the basketball hoop from TV is still there! My favorite feature I saved for last – the famous speaker from TV that announced their calls!

In summary, it was a great privilege and honor to visit a piece of television history from the 1970's that still is around today! Oh, and by the way, I located "Rampart General Hospital", aka UCLA Harbor General Hospital. It is located at 1000 West Carson Street, about 3 miles away from "Station 51". The facade has changed as well. If you look closely, you will see the old "Rampart" facade in the picture. Pictured here is the emergency entrance, which has changed completely as well.

73, Bob Mente, KB3NUQ, kb3nuq@comcast.net



MARS Today (continued from page 6)

response and I almost always found them ready and fully able in all areas except communications. National Guard and Reserve bases packed with well maintained equipment that could roll out in little time would be sitting idle while the world suffered.

Not the case in all states. In one I had the privilege of spending three weeks on a military base, where I checked into MARS nets every day and when I transmitted a radio check in the early hours of the morning I was surprised to receive a quick signal report. They were monitored constantly by both MARS and the state National Guard. It is very disappointing that I was surprised, because that should be the norm, the standard or perhaps the requirement. In any case it should be a surprise not to get a response rather than the surprise being that I got one.

Stations once hopping with MARS traffic have closed down. The call sign remains but not one member knows of it. There is no equipment and no operator. There are holes in the building where the antenna was once mounted. Computers and telephones are expected to be there no matter what. I think that there will not be even a small percentage of us who read this who do not know that to be a false sense of security. Again first hand I know it to be just that. But for the sake of an HF antenna and a rig with someone who knew how to operate it, the word would go out or come in.

I am reminded of what to me seemed to be a boast from Katrina. With a laptop computer a city official was able to find a jack still working and using dial up service he called for help. How about this instead, when the lights went out and all the systems died including cell towers crashing to the ground he pulled his handheld from his belt and called a HAM. Bet there would have been a faster response to that than a stream of tones. At the very least a city wide simplex channel but that brings me to the point of just how much frequency do they have?

To all licensed amateur radio operators in this great country I ask why do you think you have a solid claim to four megahertz of choice radio frequency we call two meters? Is that a right given to you by virtue of answering correctly some questions on an exam? Is it a birthright? In a time when radio spectrum is so valuable do you have doubt that it is not strongly sought after? It is based on a few things. First you have a VFO and you know how to use it. Second you know radio and you know your radio. All this adds up to being one of this country's most valuable communications resources and that, my brothers and sisters, is why you still have the best of the bands.

So radio amateurs, you do not have a choice. You are an integral and very powerful link in this nation's defense. Be it attack by man or act of nature, you are expected to respond. My daddy always told me that HAM stood for Highway Assistance Monitor. Well I don't have that as a fact. But he always said that if needed, a HAM will never hesitate to use his or her equipment and skills to assist others in need of them. To do so would be begging to forfeit your license. This nation, and a great many more, realize the potential of HAM radio, not only in promoting good international relations, but also in emergency communications local and world wide.

You can be healthy or handicapped, old or young, male or female, and your skills as a communications operator are all that matters when it is you who hears the call for help. It is why you have the freedom to chat to your friends and family on choice spectrum when it is not needed for emergency communications. When it is, you are expected to step up and defend your community and your country. An army does not win a war. Nations win wars. The people of one nation stand as one and that nation wins the war.

So amateurs sharpen your weapons. Hone your skills. You are the boots on ground in any disaster. We can find others to fill sandbags. You are skilled members of the communication arm and you are vital in any situation.

Commanders of Reserve centers of all branches demand equipment and get your center in the communications loop. Your branch MARS will provide you with more help, training, and assistance than you can imagine. And it is good training for your team. Put your team in the communications loop of this nation? And keep it going in war and in peace. MARS and RACES have weekend nets too.

EOC staff, do you know what you have outside the door? If you don't have a HAM and a MARS operator on your team maybe with a laptop and some luck, you can find a dial up connection.

Clubs, seek out MARS members or create some. MARS members seek out clubs. Do not forget from where you came. We all carry a HAM ticket. (continued on next page)

MARS (continued)

There is one special agency that has been doing emergency communications since before I was born and I am a proud member of that team too. Do you know that when the repeater towers went down CAP (Civil Air Patrol) could have had an airborne repeater at 10,000 feet in less than two hours? Talk about coverage!

In recent years so much tax money has been put into communications equipment and some even in training, but it is not the equipment or even the training that solves the interoperability problems of today or the future. It is people working together.

Local News/Club Stuff

♦ UPDATE ON THE CLUB'S TS-950SDX

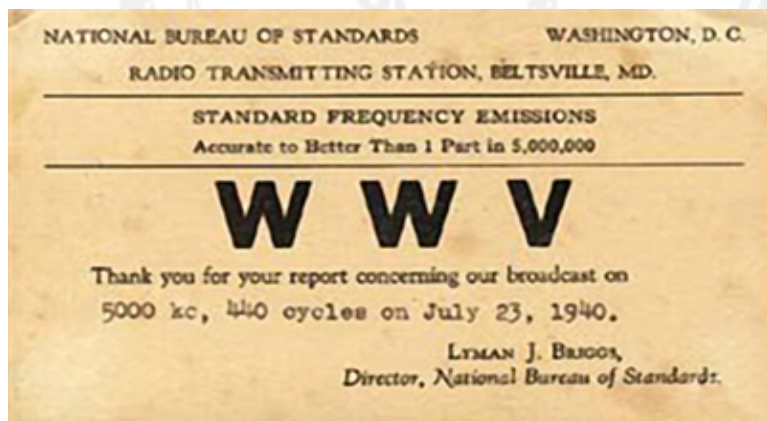
The TS-950SDX is in final test mode now.

We found that it primarily needed a near-complete alignment of the PLL/VCO sections; resoldering of the DDS ladder resistor packs and several other things besides the full Monte work. We stuck to the full Monte pricing however.

Also, the rig needs two short RCA type jumpers in the back; one for receive and one for transmit (this is why the ATU was not working; the one for transmit was missing). If you can't find the other one there, let me know and I will get another one for you.

As I mentioned, we will be repacking the rig in a new, double-walled box. It will be insured for \$2000.

(Excerpts from a letter sent to John, N3EQP)



More Local News & Club Stuff (continued)

♦ IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

* 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

email: <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

♦ 1296 MHz BEACON UPDATE

Hi Folks: This is a first.....

Sep23 02:10 W3KWH/B en90wk 579 into en92vw on
432.322 de ve3tfu (kwic-207-176-249-
45.kwic.com 207.176.249.45)

Sep23 01:56 W3KWH/B en90wk 559 into en92vw on
1296.267 de ve3tfu (kwic-207-176-249-
45.kwic.com 207.176.249.45)

Sep22 22:41 freq check on w3kwh/b en90wk is
1296.267 de wa3tts

TFU got the call wrong on the 432 beacon (wa3tts) but
this is the first report across lake Erie into Ontario for
our 1 Watt 1296 Mhz beacon. de WA3TTS



A Conversation With N3LLR (continued from pg 3)

Most of the Sections in the Atlantic Division are functioning very well through their Section Managers. They have healthy and vibrant Field Organizations, and they are active. We have several sections in which the radio-activity level is low and in which the activity level needs turned up a bit.

Many parties seem to feel that the ARRL is behind the times and in need of major overhaul, or even replacement. What do you think of the ARRL today?

I don't agree that the ARRL is behind the times as a whole. We are like most other organizations where there are things that we need to improve upon.

Our current website is one area that needs overhauled and we have been slowly changing some things. You can see some changes in the Membership sign-up or renewal process. Katie Breen has been very instrumental in those changes. Additionally, there is a project in place to completely overhaul the ARRL website within the next two years. It is a major undertaking simply because of the magnitude of content on our site. This project has already started. There are plans to give access to content owners to update their portion of the website without having the webmaster do the updates for them. For example, there has been some talk about permitting affiliated clubs to have their club websites as part of the ARRL site, and to permit the clubs to update their portion of the website.

We've got good staff at ARRL HQ., most of which are very concerned about providing good quality service to our members.

Take a look at our new Membership Manager, Katie Breen. She came to the ARRL about 2 years ago as a new employee who was not involved with Amateur Radio. She has done a splendid job of increasing membership by focusing on member desires and providing outstanding service. In addition, she's earned her Technician and General class licenses, and has served as a mentor to fellow employees to earn their licenses AND getting them on the air.

Is the ARRL perfect? Heck no. But we ARE working on improvements.

How active a role do the Directors take in the actual running of the League? Is it appropriate to stay at this level, or should more (or even less) involvement be warranted?

The Director's job is to provide the strategic direction for the organization, and the officers of the organization are there to carry out those directives.

Through frequent meetings and updates, officers provide information on how they are doing in following the Board directives and modifications/changes are then made as needed.

There has been an effort to make sure that the directives are being carried out by certain board members — which is important.

It is not the board's purpose to direct the day-to-day operation of the organization. That is the responsibility of the officers/.

There's also been criticism of the League for holding the twice-annual Board of Directors meetings in cities other than Newington. Would a return to holding the Board meeting in the spring & fall in CT be warranted?

Of course. I believe that the board members knew the ARRL HQ is in Connecticut, and it is each of our's responsibility to go to the HQ area for board meetings. This past July, I requested a roll call vote to put on record each Director's vote where to go in January. 9 to 6 said to go to CT.

Should the Board meetings be open (except where inappropriate, such as personnel matters) to any ARRL member who wishes to attend? Is the equivalent of a "sunshine law" needed or warranted when it comes to the League's affairs?

I am not in favor of that. We aren't hiding anything, but there is various types of sensitive information given and discussed. Personnel matters are but one issue, our suit with the FCC over BPL would certainly be another matter, and we do get and discuss information over FCC & governmental issues. If you don't trust your Director or Vice Director, then put someone in who you do trust. (continued on next page)

A Conversation With N3LLR (continued)

Much criticism is directed at the HQ staff in Newington. Without getting into specific individuals, had you the authority to reorganize the HQ staff, what would you do?

Make the CEO more accountable via his and his staff's goals and objectives, with meaningful and reasonable deadlines. Make his salary increases commensurate with how staff at ARRL reach their annual goals.

Overall, we have a very good staff at ARRL HQ, and the caliber of new hires is extremely good.

Recent Section Manager and Division elections have been or become controversial over disqualified candidates. Are the DQ rules clear? Who determines whether a candidate should be DQ'd?

I believe the rules are clear. Each candidate gets a nomination packet that discloses the rules.

The Ethics and Elections committee determines eligibility and/or disqualification.

I have served on that committee. (A director who is coming up for election that year is ineligible to server on the committee that year)

In one high profile SM election, a candidate was warred a number of times to correct an issue that would disqualify him/her, and it was not corrected until after the candidate was disqualified. I agree with the E&E Committee decision.

QST subscription has always been a part of ARRL membership. Do you think that is still warranted today, or would separating the two be a consideration?

A common question. The law stipulates that in membership organizations, the member notices, calls for votes, etc. must be in the publication. Additionally, advertising in the publication from our advertisers help keep the ARRL financially strong. Dues simply do not cover the revenue stream necessary to ARRL financially strong.

As an alternative, would permitting a member to select QEX or the NCJ as an option instead of QST make sense?

Again, we need to follow the laws so that our members get notice of elections, other member notices, etc.

To add that to QEX or NCJ would take away from the flavor of the publications.

Would it make financial sense to spin off or sell the publishing arm of the League, to permit the organization to concentrate on Amateur Radio?

Absolutely not! ARRL depends upon the publishing group to help the revenue stream necessary to fund the ARRL. Without this, we'd have to find outer ways to fund the ARRL, which also might necessitate a hefty dues increase.

Dues are NOT the largest part of the ARRL revenue stream.

DXCC has come under heavy criticism from some circles over the documentation required for approval or disapproval of certain DX operations. Would you change this? Why or why not?

The rules have been changed to keep the politics out. Personally, I think that is a wise decision.

With a recent DXpedition, the group requested recognition and was turned down prior to the DXpedition, for the reasons that the entity was not a UN member state nor did they have a call sign block assigned to them by the ITU. The DXpedition group lobbied hard to have the rules changed after they went and came home. This is why we had an on-line survey on DXCC status recently in the Atlantic Division.

DXCC rules have been "tinkered with" in recent years to first prohibit a new DXCC entity vian an IARU society, and then to permit a new DXCC entity via a 3rd Party list (the US State Department list of recognized territories). Were these moves good, bad, or a wash?

Not knowing the examples cited, it's hard to comment.

We have rules in place. You can't change the rules mid-stream and the rules exist to have a level playing field, so that ALL participants enjoy an equal playing field. (continued on next page)

A Conversation With N3LLR (continued)

How much should the opinions and recommendations of the DX Advisory Committee be considered? Is one DXAC member representing each Division sufficient? How open should the DXAC members be about what the committee is doing?

This committee is made up of DX heavy hitters. I would put significant weight on their opinions and recommendations unless there is something showing that they aren't functioning properly. I'm not aware of any problems.

I think one member from each division is enough. If you get too many people on a committee, it gets unwieldy and doesn't do anything.

Is *Logbook of the World* worth the cost? What can be done to make it "break even," or is that even a worthy goal for a membership service of that type?

Political question! < grin >

It has cost in excess of \$300,000.

It was designed as a revenue stream for the ARRL, and hasn't even begun to pay back — little rate of return!

We could have partnered with, or purchased, eQSL!

When the FCC dropped the Element 1 Morse code examination, many anticipated that our ranks would significantly increase. It appears that hasn't happened. Should we be concerned?

No. Ranks are increasing.

Are there too many contests on the weekend?

Some would say there's not enough!

Should a Major contest sponsor mandate specific parts of a band for use by contest participants?

Quite possible

Or should contest participants be expected to simply use common sense and Good Amateur Practices to determine where they operate?

Always!

Should contest participants be required to digitally record their entire contest operation, start to finish, and make it available on request to the contest sponsor?

This is a hobby. Not a job.

This may kill contesting for young people without money.

What can we do to get inactive amateurs active again?

Excite. Inspire. And reach out to them.

Ye Olde Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the September 2008 WASHRAG, the newsletter of the Wireless Association OF South Hills. Many thanks to them and their editor Ron Notarius, W3WN, for permission to reprint here.



WPA Section News (continued from page 5)

On August 24th, Skyview Radio Society in New Kensington, PA sponsored the Western Pennsylvania Section Convention. This was their second year sponsoring the convention and they definitely outdid themselves over last year. Katie Breen W1KRB, ARRL's Membership Manager was the ARRL-HQ representative. Katie's attendance was a bittersweet moment for this convention as her first hamfest was in the Atlantic Division at the Western New York Section Convention. Her last hamfest representing the ARRL as the Membership Manager was at this latest convention. Katie is getting married and will be leaving the ARRL and moving away from the Newington, CT area.

On September 7th, BCARA held their first Swap and Shop hamfest in Butler, PA. They did an excellent job and the event was extremely well attended. September 20th is the date for EmComm East in Rochester, NY. This is the first year for this event and they have a good lineup of EmComm topics being presented during the day. You can check them out on the internet by going to their website: www.emcommeast.org. Bill, N3LLR will be there -- feel free to stop on by and say 'Hi'.

October 15th is the date for the Western New York Section Convention sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club. This event will be in the Buffalo, NY area and Dan Henderson N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist will be the guest speaker.

During these two months we've held several well attended webinars on subjects which include: Update of the American Red Cross Background Check Issue as it pertains to ARRL volunteers, Bob Bruninga WB4APR, the developer of APRS, has done three APRS webinar training sessions on topics: 'APRS, it's not what you think'; 'APRS for your mobile' and 'APRS for special events'. These presentations have been very well received. His last presentation will be this upcoming Tuesday evening on APRS for Satellites.

On Saturday, July 26th we had Western Pennsylvania amateur radio operator and attorney, Mike Lazaroff K3AIR and ARRL Corporate Counsel, Chris Imlay W3KD giving a webinar dealing with PRB-1, dealing with zoning boards and town councils. Our hats off to these two individuals for their help in this presentation. There were a number of questions that the participants were able to ask and get answers on.

Speaking of webinars, we have one scheduled on Monday -- September 22nd, on Amateur Radio Kit Building. You don't have to be an electronics expert to build your own gear. Heathkit may no longer be in business, but there still are many good ham radio kits on the market. In this webinar, Dan Romanchik, KB6NU - the Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator will show us where to get them and how to build them.

The link to sign up for this webinar is: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/487131608>

We are working on a webinar for October based on con-testing. More information will be passed out when the arrangements are firmed up. These webinars will audio available by VOIP and telephone. The VOIP is audible over your computer speakers.

To sign up for any or all of these webinars, go to: www.atldiv.org/training and click on the register button for each one you are interested in.

Once you have registered, you should receive an email with the information to connect up for the webinar(s) you have registered for. There is no charge for these sessions.

73, Bill Edgar, N3LLR, Atlantic Division Director



Credits/Thanks

Many thanks to those who contributed to yet another issue of 'KiloWatt Harmonics':

W3SVJ, WA3TTS, N3DOK, N3EQP, KB3NUQ, N3MSE,
WA3FWA, W3WN, N3VEF, N3ICR, N3LLR & ARRL

Thank you one and all for your fine efforts. That's it for this month. CU next month with more news and features from the world of Amateur Radio.

73 de NB3C et al.



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						

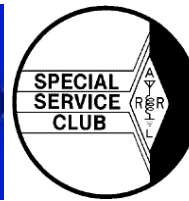
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> <i>Alleg Co. ARES Net</i>	2 <i>Skyview 2M Net</i> <i>10 meter NAC - CW/SSB/FM/Digi</i> <i>SARL 80 m QSO Party - SSB</i> <i>WACOM Business Meeting</i>	3 <i>German Telegraphy Contest - CW</i> <i>YL Anniversary Party (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> <i>WASH Club Breakfast</i>
	School Club Roundup					
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>	

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	

November 2008

December 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 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW Ukrainian DX Contest
2 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW WASH Sun. Net Ukrainian DX Contest DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	3 Breezeshooter's Net	4 Election Day WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Business Meeting	5 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net	6 Skyview 2M Net WACOM Business Meeting	7	8 WAE DX Contest, RTTY Kentucky QSO Party OK/OM DX Contest, CW
9 WASH Sun. Net WAE DX Contest, RTTY Kentucky QSO Party OK/OM DX Contest, CW	10 Breezeshooter's Net	11 Veterans Day WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	12 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net NHARC Business Meeting	13 Skyview 2M Net WASH Business Meeting RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	14 NCCC Sprint	15 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB ARRL EME Contest Feld Hell Sprint RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW SARL Field Day Contest
16 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB WASH Sun. Net ARRL EME Contest RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW SARL Field Day Contest	17 Breezeshooter's Net	18 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net Skyview Social Nite 2 Rivers ARC Business Meeting	19 Alleg Co. ARES Net	20 Skyview 2M Net NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	21 YO International PSK31 Contest	22 LZ DX Contest
23 WASH Sun. Net LZ DX Contest	24 Breezeshooter's Net	25 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	26 SCARC Social Nite Alleg Co. ARES Net RSGB 80m Club Sprint CW SKCC Sprint	27 Thanksgiving Day Skyview 2M Net	28	29 CQ WW DX CW Contest
30 CQ WW DX CW Contest WASH Sun. Net						



WACOM HAMFEST
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008
WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
WASHINGTON, PA 15301
8:00 A.M –1:00 P.M—Admission \$5.00

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

Talk in on 145.49 MHz

MAIN PRIZES:

1st Icom 706 Mark IIG

2nd Icom 208 2m/440 Mobile

3rd MFJ 269 Antenna Analyzer

**4th Sirius Home & Car Complete Satellite
Radio System**

MAIN PRIZES PURCHASED THROUGH KJI ELECTRONICS
PLEASE VISIT THEIR BOOTH AT THE HAMFEST

FREE COFFEE ALL DAY COURTESY OF HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES

VE SESSION AT 10:00AM

ADVANCE TICKET SALES--VENDOR INTREST

CONTACT ED OELSCHLAGER, N3ZNI @ n3zni@arrl.net or 724-986-9271
PLEASE RESERVE YOUR TABLES EARLY, FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE AVAILBLE

DOOR PRIZES--YL PRIZE---DX CARD CHECKER—WAS CARD CHECKER
GUN SHOW NEXT DOOR-CASINO NEAR BY

Sponsored by: Washington Amateur Communications
C/O ED OELSCHLAGER, N3ZNI
60 CARL AVE. B-2
EIGHTY FOUR, PA 15330
Visit us at WWW.WACOMARC.ORG

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



**Don't forget about the PA QSO Party this
month, Oct. 11-12. Also, our next busi-
ness meeting will be on Oct 21 at
8:00PM. CU at the clubhouse.**

Steel City Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 281
Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106
Phone 412-787-0777
Editor: Greg Babin, KQ3DX
KQ3DX@hotmail.com
www.w3kwh.com

