

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

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JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER: EASTERN DAYLIGHT
TIME ENDS NOV. 4 (SUN) AT 2:00AM. THE CLOCKS
'FALL BACK' ONE HOUR B-4 YOU GO TO BED SAT.
NITE. BACK TO SHORT DAYS AND LONG NITES!
GOOD FOR US DX'ER'S!!



KiloWatt Harmonics

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

October, 2007

Editorial Ramblings



Well, here we are into October already. The end of warm weather. On the good side though, it's the start of the contest season. What with the CQWW SSB and CW Contests, the PA QSO Party, plus many more to come, there's plenty to keep us occupied for the upcoming Fall/Winter seasons of the year.

Sorry for the thin-ness of this newsletter. No, Ye Olde Editor did not run out of steam or material this month. What I did run out of was time. I'll be spending 3 weeks of the month between business meetings in Charlotte, NC on company

business, so my time behind the computer editing the newsletter this month will be quite limited.

Don't forget, send me your pics for Shack-Of-The-Month. This is a new feature I'd like to start (or re-start.) Also, I'm always on the lookout for articles. Anything you have that you think our members would be interested in reading, send it to me; I'll use it!! Pictures are great also; they really spice up the newsletter.

Don't forget: this month is also the AMSAT Symposium, held on October 27-28 at the Airport Marriott hotel. Check out the brochure at the end of this newsletter for more info.

As always, your thoughts/comments/criticisms/articles/ideas/pictures are welcome at: KQ3DX@hotmail.com

CU on the bands!!

Thanks/73 de KQ3DX et al.



**OUR NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: OCTOBER 23 @8:00PM—PLEASE
TAKE NOTE OF THE DATE CHANGE DUE TO DRIVEWAY WORK**

Corn Roast Once Again A Big Hit

Thanks goes out to all those who attended our annual Corn Roast, held in conjunction with our September business meeting. Sorry Ye Olde Editor couldn't make it: I was in Charlotte NC on company business for some special high intensity training. (I'd abbreviate that, but it would spell a dirty word.) Anyway, a good time was had by all. Once again, our SCARC Chefs outdid themselves in our little shindig. Special thanks in fact, goes to N3SBF, KB3GMN, WB3HDI, KB3PJW & dad, WA3FWA, WA3VXJ and W3SVJ for their extra efforts. For more Corn Roast info check out the article on [page 9](#). (W3SVJ's Goodies)



Update: PA QSO Party, Oct. 13-14

The 50th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania QSO party is rapidly approaching.

In my first year as chair, the goal was to have the party survive - I'm serious. Year two goal was to have everything finished by April 15th.

Now we move to year three.

I had promised everyone that I would be making changes to bring the party into the 21st century, and we are doing just that. The changes will take place over a 2 year period. Those that do not involve software rewrite are implemented now, and changes that involve scoring changes - such as universal 2 point CW QSOs - will be implemented next year.

Altogether, the task was more delicate than it might seem at first, given the need to update the party, yet keep the friendly spirit of the party.

To wit:

The rules have been rewritten in response to requests for more definition and clarity. Stations have been defined. Bands have been defined. The rules are a lot bigger than they used to be.

We are dispensing with the results and announcement mailings. While I wrestled with this one a bit, there are some advantages. The party results were finished over a month before the mailers went out. The new rules would have added 7 more pages to the mailing, and the expenses were adding up, as well as the size. With PDFs being almost universal, we decided that it was time. We will be e-mailing the party package to people from our database.

Unfortunately, inflation has caught up to our promotional items, such as mugs and T-shirts, so there has been a small price increase for those items.

On the administrative side, the party is appointing a T-Shirt czar to do the ordering and shipping of the shirts and mugs. This will allow those items to be processed at the same time as the logs are being done. This will get everyone's items to them sooner, and hopefully eliminate some of the confusion that has cropped up at times.

More delegation is taking place, with the addition of a financial person to get that part of the work out of my "hair".

The website is going to be more important than it was in the past.

Supplies and updates will be announced there, as well as on this reflector.

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html> is the home page.

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/entryforms.htm> is where you can download the new rules and other stuff.

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqsorules.htm> if you want to look at the rules not in .pdf form.

I will be out of town this week, and checking the email is not at all certain. So read and see what has been done. Aside from the price increases, most everything has been done to clarify issues and to make the party a more pleasant experience for all, both the partier, and the people that put it together.

- 73 de Mike KB3EIA -



(Editor's note: Thanks to Mike, KB3EIA for this information. This is a really great QSO party, so I hope you'll take a few hours and have some fun with it. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX)

**KiloWatt Harmonics,
October 2007**

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

A class has been added - multi-multi portable. While they have been allowed to operate in the contest in previous years, they have not been allowed to compete.

A 20 meter "good neighbor" plaque has been added to promote having more stations work out of state ops.



DX News & Views

Don't forget about the CW WW SSB Contest this month, Oct 27-28. You'll probably hear a lot of the stations listed below and work 'em. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX

- ◆ Be on the lookout for 4U1WRC from the ITU Geneva Headquarters during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest in October. QSL via 4U1ITU.
 - ◆ Look for C50C and C52C from The Gambia October 17-30 on all bands, 160-10M. This will consist of a group of 6 ops from the OM0C Contest Crew. They plan to be especially active on 160M.
 - ◆ Be on the lookout for Koji, who is currently signing D2NX from Angola. He has a 17M Dipole, and a Cushcraft R7, which he hopes to have up soon to use with his Icom PW-1 amplifier. QSL goes to: JH7FQK
 - ◆ ST. HELENA, ZD7: Tom, KC0W is now on St. Helena Island and is signing ZD7X. Look for him to be active in all the major DX contests, and on all bands 160-6M. He'll be active on all modes too, SSB, RTTY and CW
 - ◆ DJIBOUTI, J2: All kinds of activity from Africa. Listen for Jean-Claude J28JA. He has been active on 17 meters around 1400-1500Z. F5JFU is the QSL Manager.
 - ◆ IRAN, EP: Pooyan, EP3PK has been active on 20 meters SSB around 0600z and then using RTTY around 1630z.
 - ◆ SMOM: An international team will activate this semi-rare one. The call will be 1A4A, and they will be on during the week of CQ WW SSB this month. BTW: This is the 1st time that the Sovereign Military Order of Malta will be activated during a major contest. No QSL manager was listed; I'll pass it on when I find out who it is.
 - ◆ An IOTA first: DXpedition to Arwad Island (AS-186), Syria: Eight ops from the Radio Amateur Association of Greece are going to activate this rare one sometime between November 1 and November 15 this year. They will be signing YK9SV for 10 days. The ops will be SV1IW, SV1JG, SV1RC, SV1RP, SV1QN, SV1ACK, SV1GYG and SV8CS. If propagation permits, they will be on 6 through 160 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. They will put in a special emphasis on the low bands and 6 meters. This will be a fairly expensive operation "due to the special agreements needed for licensing, transportation, operation costs and support of the local Ham Radio Association". Check out their web page, still under development at <http://www.raag.org/arwad>. For more information you can contact SV1IW, Manos, at sv1iw@raag.org.
 - ◆ BS7H QSL UPDATE--KU9C: I've been sending QSL cards out for BS7H for a bit over 40 days now, and am starting to get the question "my buddy has his, where is mine" or "are they all out yet". So, here's the status: I'm about 75% of the way thru the pile, and well on the way to being more-or-less current with the incoming mail, which is still coming in at a healthy pace. Just to help folks understand the sheer volume, in the first week after the operation, I received nearly 7,000 envelopes; to date I've received nearly 14,000 envelopes relative to BS7H. Each card has to be checked against the log, as I'm not pre-printing labels by call with each QSO listed, I'm only issuing QSOs claimed. I expect to be current, and have all QSOs in hand answered, more or less, by the end of September. One way to see if your QSL has been processed is to check the LOTW file. Within a few days of printing your label, your confirmed QSOs will show up there.
 - ◆ C56JJ (The Gambia) will be on the air again from November 30 until December 7. Operator PA4JJ, Jan, says he will probably have an on-line log this time on his Web site, <http://c56jj.pa4jj.nl>.
 - ◆ Temotu Islands, H40: KM9D and KF4TUG will be active from this one as H40MY, Tikopia Island, IOTA OC-178. Length of stay is unknown at this time. QSL to OM2SA.
 - ◆ LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L: Jack, HB9TL will be QRV as VK9CLF from October 8 to 18. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct via HB9QR.
- (Thanks to: ARRL DX Bulletin, various issues for the info.)



Monthly Meeting Minutes: September, 2007

Minutes of the Steel City ARC Meeting Tues. Sept. 18, 2007

Meeting conducted by President WA3TTS, Mike at 8 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence for our Silent Keys and a roll call answered by 21 members and 8 guests. The minutes of the Aug. meeting was accepted as published in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer KA3YNO, Walt and accepted by the membership.

Committee Reports

Clubhouse: WA3VXJ Karl, WB3HDI Bob, KB3NZX Bob Jr., KB3PJW Matt and Karl's son have cut the grass and worked on clearing the encroaching bushes along the club road. KB3GMN, Carol and OM N3SBF Ritchey, prepared all of the food for to-nights after-meeting corn roast. W3SVJ, Nate said that the road-paving contractor claims that only 10 days time will elapse from his start to our being able to drive on the new surface.

Technical: WQ3T Dave has his project connected to the TS 2000.

Membership: WA3BKD, Art had the first readings for N3GHT, Bill and returning ex member KB3GM, Brian. The third readings for KB3PJW, Matt and Rich (missed his call), who were accepted into the fold by the membership.

Ways and Means: WA3FWA, Joe will hold the 50/50 raffle after the meeting and he said to take cold drinks from the Pepsi machine at no charge to go with the corn roast food.

Contest: Mike said 200 QSO's were made during the recent VHF QSO party. The PA QSO party will occur on Oct. 13 and 14.

Public Service: KA3MSE, Lloyd will cover the next net.

Volunteer Exams: AI3J, Mark reported that Matt's dad, Ron passed his exam at the recent session. The next VE to be held will be in June of 2008.

Web Site: W3WTW, Tim suggested that we give an honorary DX membership to a ham who has been helping him with our web site.

Old Business: N3EQP, John has a list of ARRL books he recommends that we purchase for the club library. The list is available for our inspection and acceptance.

New Business: KB3NZX, Bob Jr., will continue working to clear the bushes along the club road.

Good of the Order: Nate passed our sympathy to Carol on the loss of her brother Joe. Art ran across former member in retirement, N3GQ, Paul who is well and sends us his greetings. Paul has been in QSO on 40 meters with another former member KA3AIN, Tally. Art will be involved with the reunion of the submarine Requin crew on Sept 28 and 29. He will operate a special event station from the sub's radio shack Sat. the 29th from 10 AM to 3 PM on 40 and 20 meters.

Motion to Adjourn: by Carol.

50/50 raffle: won by KB3GMN, Carol.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary WA3FWA, Joe.

Concerning the roadway improvements: For all of the folks that did not make the Special Meeting regarding the club road paving, here are the results of the secret paper ballot:

Of the 26 members attending, 18 voted for the most expensive and thorough job offered of 8 inches of concrete with a catch basin, 7 voted for a 6 inch concrete job with a catch basin and only 1 voted for the least expensive asphalt paving. There was no opposition to the expense of improving the club road. Joe, WA3FWA



Happy Birthday, Hams!!!

Congratulations and many more for those that celebrate birthdays this month:

SUE, KA3JKS: 10/2 **JOHN, N3EQP: 10/11**

TIM, W3WTW: 10/15 **RICH, N3SBF: 10/17**

GREG, KQ3DX: 10/26 **RICH, WB3CRF: 10/28**

Happy Birthday all!



The Steel City Swap 'n Shop

Editor's note: If you have anything you wanna sell, or are looking for that special something, lemme know. Send it to me and I'll stick it in here. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE N3LWP 412-366-0488

ALL EQUIPMENT IN WORKING ORDER. WILL TEST BEFORE SALE.

ICOM IC-430S 1.5 to 30mhz:
300.00

ICOM IC-730 HF TRANS 3.5 – 30 mhz
300.00

YAESU FT-757GXII HF TRANS 1.5 – 30mhz
350.00

YAESU DESK MIKE YD-148
45.00

HEATHKIT SB-610 MONITOR SCOPE
40.00

RAMSEY 2 METER AMP PA-10 4WATTS IN 20 WATTS OUT
25.00

AEA PAKRATT PK-232 I HAVE FIVE OF THESE. BASIC TO FULL
DSP CAPABILITIES
VARIOUS \$

MFJ-1278B MULTI MODE CONTROLLER
35.00

POWER SUPPLY 13.8 VOLTS 15 AMPS I HAVE THREE
POWER SUPPLIES 30.00

CDE ROTOR WITH CONTROL BOX AND SPARE PARTS
60.00

TA-33 MOSLEY 3 ELEMENT BEAM 10 – 15 – 20 METERS
60.00

KENWOOD 2meter-440 mhz TRANS> 40 WATTS OUT
TW-4100A 80.00

HEATHKIT TUNER SA-2040
100.00

ANTENNAS:

CUSHCRAFT ARX-200B
45.00

COMET UHV-6 7,14,21,28. 50, 146-446 mhz
45.00

BUTTERNUY HF-9V 80,40,20,17,15,10 & 50-54 mhz
55.00

DIAMOND HV-7A 10,6,2, & 70cm MOBILE
45.00

CUSHCRAFT 416TB OSCAR SATELLITE ANTENNA
CIRCULAR POLORIZED 50.00

TWO 11 ELEMENT 2METER BEAMS
40.00@

MANY OTHER MISC. ITEMS. ASK BOB BENNA 412-366-0488

(Thanks to Kurtie, KA3LNG for the info)



More info on the driveway

Attention list members of SCARC.

The long awaited ribbon of concrete road project, all three hundred feet, is about to begin. Here are the construction dates from the first dig until it will be usable for automobile and LIGHT TRUCK traffic.

The scraping will start on Monday the 8th of October. The barricades will come down on Saturday the 20th of October. Because of this construction work the President, WA3TTS, has suggested that we move the meeting date from the regularly scheduled date of October 16th one week later to October the 23rd, Tuesday at the regular time.

That puts the October meeting into the FOURTH Tuesday of the month.

Please make note and adjust your schedule. It should be one happy meeting. One week delay in Firestone's hot dog special for a new road? That surely is an offer you can't refuse.

C U on the 23rd of October. We will have time trials and certificates for zero to 60 going up. We haven't quite figured out what the competition will be for going down. Any ideas from the "gear head community?"

(Thanks to Nate, W3SVJ for the info)



Local Stuff/News & Views/FCC Stuff

VE Testing Schedule: 2008

VE SCHEDULE FOR 2008 AT NORTHLAND LIBRARY 300
CUMBERLAND ROAD

JANUARY 12,2008

FEBURARY 9,2008

MARCH 8,2008

APRIL 12,2008

MAY 10,2008

JUNE 14,2008

JULY 12,2008

AUGUST 9,2008

SEPTEMBER 13,2008

OCTOBER 13,2008

NOVEMBER 11,2008

DECEMBER NO TESTING

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE AT NOON(12 O' Clock) WALK INS
OK, SPECIAL NEEDS PERSON PLEASE CALL AHEAD,SO WE
ARE PREPARED.

THANK YOU, BOB BENNA N3LWP 412-366-0488
n3lwp@verizon.net

(Thanks Kurtie, KA3LNG for the info)



Local Stuff/Goings On

- ◆ WACOM's HamFest will be held on November 4 at the Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main Street, Washington, PA. Talk-in will be on 145.490MHz (No PL tone). For more info, check out their website at: www.wacomarc.org. You can also shoot Jacque, N3ZEL an E-Mail at: N3ZEL@arrl.net

- ◆ AMSAT will be holding their 2007 AMSAT-NA Space

Symposium here in Pittsburgh Oct 26-28 at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel. It's being sponsored locally by the Wireless Association of South Hills. Keynote speaker this year will be Sy Liebergott, a NASA EECOM controller, who was part of the team that brought the crippled Apollo 13 spacecraft back to Earth in 1970.

www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php has all the details.

Check out the brochure at the end of the newsletter for more info.



1296MHz WAS #1 goes to Texas Ham

Al Ward, W5LUA, of Allen, Texas, is the first person to achieve the ARRL's Worked All States (WAS) on 1296 MHz, making him 1296 MHz WAS #1.

Ward first started on his pursuit January 25, 1977, with his first 1296 MHz contact with Leroy May, W5HN (SK). His 30 year quest ended last week, with confirmed contacts with Wyoming, Utah and Idaho, giving Ward his last three needed states, thanks to Paul Perryman's, WA5WCP, EME DXpedition.

"I couldn't have done this without Paul," Ward said. "Also, thanks to Ron Roche, KOALL, and Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, in North Dakota for number 47 in August. Without them, it just wouldn't have been possible."

After collecting his 50th QSL card, Ward drove from his home in Texas to Little Rock, Arkansas so ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, could verify his cards and complete his WAS paperwork. "Verifying QSL cards from 30 years of activity brought back a lot of memories of several stations active on 1296, many who are Silent Keys now," Harrison said.

(From the ARRL Bulletin)

(More FCC News [continued on next page](#))



More FCC/Local Stuff

FCC TO LOWER VANITY CALL SIGN FEES SEPTEMBER 17

The FCC will reduce the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting September 17. In a Report & Order (R&O) released August 6, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission will cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. 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 fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$171,990 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year. Call signs issued prior to 1996 are not considered vanity call signs, even if the holder was able to request a specific call sign.

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

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

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/>

<<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>> also offers the required forms.

NATO GROUP RELEASES REPORT ON BPL

The Information Systems Technology group, part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Research and Technology Organization (RTO), released their report, "HF Interference, Procedures and Tools" (RTO-TR-IST-050), in June. This report "address[es] the concerns raised by the potential for unintentional radio interference to be caused by the widespread operation of broadband wire-line telecommunications systems."

BPL, also called Power Line Telecommunications (PLT) in Europe, uses existing power lines for telecommunications with data rates higher than 1 MBit per second. NATO said that since existing power lines were not designed for such transmissions, "they will cause unintentional RF emissions which may adversely affect the established radio noise floor directly, or by cumulative propagation from many such sources. The existing HF background noise possibly may be increased via ground wave and/or sky wave propagation."

Not only could this be a problem for Amateur Radio operators, but NATO said that military users would be affected as well: "Increase of the existing HF noise floor by widespread use of PLT...will bring up problems for Military Radio Users as well as for HF Communication Intelligence (COMINT) in all NATO countries. The signal-to-noise ratio thus may be reduced for tactical and strategic HF radio as well as for fixed sensitive COMINT sites."

Saying that "PLT will produce the most problems regarding HF interference," the report makes the assertion that ambient noise levels in Europe have not increased in the last 30 years. This was proved using measurements made by the ITU in the 1970s compared with noise levels today, with the report saying that the "ITU Recommendations for natural and man-made noise in the HF-range are still valid in Europe."

(continued on next page)



Still More FCC Stuff/Misc. News

The NATO report said "[r]ecent measurements carried out in Germany and Great Britain indicated that there is no remarkable difference between these measurements, specifically no increase of the ambient noise in quiet rural zones within the last 30 years. Based on these measurement results, the cumulative interference field strengths far away from telecommunication networks should not be higher than -15 dBuV/m (9 kHz bandwidth) across the entire HF range, if no measurable increase in minimum noise levels are to be tolerated."

Conversely, some European PLT proponents "in presentations and discussions have argued (without being able to prove it) that ITU recommendations based on measurements carried out in the 1970s are no longer valid, as the man-made and the ambient noise levels have increased since that time to considerable higher values (by up to 30 dB)."

The NATO report also indicated the following: A high probability that PLT would cause increased noise levels at sensitive receiver sites given the projected market penetration; and the percentages are highly influenced by assumptions on transmitter EIRP (equivalent, or effective, isotropic radiated power), PLT market penetration and duty cycle.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, was pleased to see the report.

"The findings described in this paper are based on good science. NATO has concluded that protection levels well below 0 dBuV/m are needed to prevent interference to sensitive HF operation. They studied distance extrapolation and concluded that 40 dB/decade is not the correct factor to use to make measurements at one distance, and related the measured values to other distances. They also have advanced the state of the art and determined that the aggregate noise from large scale deployment of BPL will increase worldwide noise levels by skywave propagation."

Hare points out that NATO's report "pretty much echoes the ARRL's pleadings during the BPL rulemaking." The ARRL has constantly argued against the 40 dB/decade extrapolation factor that, while recommended by the FCC, the report found, "was not confirmed by measurements carried out by other organizations."

The report acknowledges that there are no commonly accepted regulatory emission limits from PLT and recommends that countries work together to limit these emissions. "While it is highly desirable that the regulatory limits on PLT emissions be harmonized throughout the NATO countries, the RTG recognizes that NATO, by itself, has no regulatory authority over the emission limits. Therefore, it is recommended that NATO seek the implementation of this goal by working together with the national and international regulatory authorities."

GET READY FOR JOTA

Jamboree on the Air will celebrate its 50th year this year when it gets on the air October 19-21. Normally a 48 hour event, this year's JOTA will be 50 hours long in recognition of the anniversary. The fun begins at 2200 (local time) October 19 and ends at midnight (local time) October 21.

An on-the-air operating event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau, JOTA was founded in 1958 by Les Mitchell, G3BHK. It has grown to become the largest international Scout event. More than half a million Scouts and Guides in more than 100 countries participate in JOTA, involving as many as 10,000 Amateur Radio stations.

The event relies on the Amateur Radio community and local hams for its success. Getting Boy and Girl Scouts (including Cubs and Brownies) on the air to talk with other Scouts around the world provides a great opportunity to expose youth to Amateur Radio. Some troops and clubs team up to make a big splash with lots of activities, radios and antennas, offering a variety of modes to experience. For others, JOTA provides an opportunity to coach a smaller group of Scouts and to just have fun talking on the radio. Scouts usually enjoy communicating by speaking into a microphone, but some radio amateurs are able to provide other modes, such as slow-scan TV or amateur TV, satellites, packet radio, RTTY or even EME!

For more information on the 2007 Jamboree on the Air, please visit the ARRL JOTA Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota>> on the ARRL Web site to tell your JOTA stories at <<http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/Stories/>>.



W3SVJ's Goodies



Some photos from the SCARC Corn Roast

A short meeting followed by a lot of **EATING!!**

Pix by Sony, errors by SVJ



From the menu, a "tease" for those folks that couldn't make the meeting/corn roast.

The obvious: corn on the cob, fried chicken, home-made potato salad, homemade garden salad, a very generous and varied deli tray with lots of rolls and spreads. Soft drinks from the machine . . . on the house!

Carol was the "Boss Chef" and managed to keep everything under control and in order under VERY trying, personal circumstances. Thank you dear lady.

Thank you also to the folks on KP etc who "de-husked" the corn, did the clean up and put things back in order. Karl, VXJ; Matt, PJW; Ron (Matt's dad awaiting his new call); Joe, FWA who hauled out three giant trash bags and all the members who helped or just enjoyed the evening. 'Twas nice indeed.

The lid's off and the "heat" is released. Bob assured us that his cauldron of Carnegie Chili "would not burn the tongue and was tasty to the palate." The fact that there was little to NONE left at the end of the evening attests to his capability and truthfulness in the chili kitchen. Thank you Bob, a job well done.

73 de SVJ, still an old guy. And that's a good thing!



Propagation Report

A spotless sun now for three weeks straight, since September 7.

The September 20 forecast from NOAA and the US Air Force showed solar flux values rising to 70 on September 21. (See <http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/forecasts/45DF/092045DF.txt>).

The next day's prediction reverted to 67 (<http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/forecasts/45DF/092145DF.txt>). The September 21 prediction had solar flux rising to 70 again, but not until September 29 to October 1, then falling back below 70, then back to 70 again for October 18-28.

Now the September 27 forecast has solar flux staying around 67-68 through November 11. You can see all the latest daily forecasts for solar flux and planetary A index at <http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html>. The possible end to the stretch of zero sunspot days was based on the observation that when the solar flux is 70 or higher, there is at least one visible sunspot. This makes it seem that we are still at the bottom of the cycle, or haven't quite reached it.

Those daily forecasts are posted after 2100z. There is a new sunspot 970 emerging, so perhaps the September 28 forecast will show solar flux back to 70 or higher. There is currently a solar wind hitting earth, and currently the interplanetary magnetic field points south, which leaves earth vulnerable. That same forecast on September 27 predicts a planetary A index for September 28 to October 3 at 15, 25, 12, 8, 8 and 15, so we may see unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions on Saturday, September 29 and again Wednesday, October 3. Already early Friday morning UTC (which is late Thursday on the West Coast) we've seen the planetary K index as high as 6. Lately with quiet conditions the K index has been 1 or 2. Above 3 is considered unsettled or active geomagnetic conditions.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts unsettled conditions for September 28, unsettled to active September 29, unsettled September 30, quiet October 1, unsettled October 2-3, and quiet to unsettled October 4.

The latest forecast from the Air Force shows solar flux below 80 for the next 45 days, so if this turns out to be true, that would put this run up toward the longest one from 11 years ago. We are today already equal to the second longest run of cycle 22, and are in the longest run of the current cycle. The second longest run for the current cycle is 77 days, ending after April 25, 2007.

Despite the lack of sunspots, hams are still communicating around the world, and reports of working 3B7C with modest stations are still coming in. WA2VQW worked them on 30 meters from his car at 2115z on September 18 while sitting at a traffic light in Hawthorne, New York. Mike was on his way to higher ground, but never made it, instead working the DXpedition while stuck in traffic. W4WNT of Oak Island, North Carolina reports a 30 meter 3B7C contact at 0212z on September 22 using an 80-20 meter fan dipole bent around his deck at 30 feet.

On September 18, Ken Tata, K1KT of Warwick, Rhode Island noticed an online propagation map tracking 2 meter APRS stations showed a path from Rhode Island to Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. Ken was running 50 watts into a dipole, a driven element removed from an 11 element Yagi and mounted on a pole. He reports, "I worked VE1PZ, in FN85, 100 mi north of Halifax; VE1HD, FN95, 100 mi east of Halifax; and VE1AHM, FN76, near Moncton, New Brunswick". He reported that many of the better equipped stations in Southern New England were working into the Maritime Provinces on 432 and 1296 MHz. Ken didn't say what mode he used. Ken sent along web-based VHF propagation sites he likes for checking real-time conditions:

<http://www.mountainlake.k12.mn.us/ham/aprs/>,

<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>,

<http://www.vhfdx.net/spots/map.php>, and

<http://dxworld.com/144prop.html>.

Sunspot numbers for September 20 through 26 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 66.8, 66.9, 66.7, 66.3, 66.1, 66.2, and 66.5 with a mean of 66.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 10, 9, 11, 15, 10, 6 and 3 with a mean of 9.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 7, 10, 11, 7, 5 and 2, with a mean of 6.9.



Check out this cool video on Amateur Radio!

Many thanks to Matt, W3JQJ for turning me on to this one.

You old timers out there, remember those short subject movies you used to see before the main feature?? Check this one out on Amateur Radio on the YouTube website:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGldf0VjQ4>

Club Beacon Updates

(Editor's note: Thanks to Mike, WA3TTS for this update)

Hello Beacon Users: I did some tweaking on the 1296.269 beacon and did a frequency reset. The chirp appears cured for the time being, the PLL block appears to be temperature sensitive and a slightly lower operating voltage cured the chirp-pull. Output is still one watt from the amplifier and the ERP after cable loss and antenna gain is 2.25 Watts effective radiated power. There is an oscillator carrier detectable that is 33 db down from the 1W key-down signal, which is the PLL source leaking past the RF PIN diode switch. ID is still W3KWH/B on CW.

The 144.300Mhz WA3TTS/B has been running essentially maintenance free. The beacon runs about 5W ERP and I make input power adjustments if the amplifier output falls below 3.5 watts or above 7 watts.

By the weekend or early next week there will be a 432.322Mhz beacon with a WA3TTS/B ID running 5 watts ERP and keyed simultaneously with the 144.300 beacon. This beacon will consist of a microwave modules transverter driven from a Phillips SG-531P oscillator-chip module that has an internal 28.322MHz crystal. Output will be set at approximately 4 watts. The combination of cable loss, triplexer loss, and antenna gain will provide a 5W ERP signal for the time being. The 432 antennas are the "Lowe's Loop" halos in a phased 4-stack above the 2M par loops. ASL around 1205~1210ft and close to 50 feet above the 1165 ft ASL ground elevation at my QTH.

Thanks to Tim W3WTW and Bruce W8OAK, the W3KWH website (www.w3kwh.com) has an updated Repeaters & Beacons section listing the WA3TTS and W3KWH beacon details. There is also a beacon report link feature that will allow a web site visitor to leave a beacon report in the Guest-Book. Beacon reports posted to the GuestBook are cleared by the site administrator, usually in less than a day, to serve as a spam filter. Leaving a beacon report in the W3KWH GuestBook let's other web site visitors know there is licensed amateur radio weak signal activity on the VHF/UHF bands, and may well help to defend our spectrum usage as commercial interests vie for additional spectrum resources.

Best Regards, Mike WA3TTS



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

SIGNALS FROM THE SATELLITE

Ham operator Roy Welch of Dallas, seated, plays a tape-recorded signal from the Russian space satellite for fellow hams at the State Fair of Texas. Welch recorded the signals on a receiver at his home.

50 years ago this month, Sputnik I was launched into orbit. Picture above is from the Dallas News. Roy Welch tunes in the satellite's signals as fellow amateurs look on. To listen to an actual Sputnik signal from 1957, follow this link:
<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/sounds/index.php>

Credits/Thanks

I'd like to thank all those who contributed to this month's newsletter:

W3JQJ, W3SVJ, KA3LNG, WA3FWA, KB3EIA, WA3TTS and ARRL.

Thanks for making our newsletter informative and FUN to read.

That's all for this month. CU next month with more news & features. Thanks/73 de KQ3DX et al.

50 Years ago this month: The launch of Sputnik I

Sputnik 1 (Russian: "Спутник-1", "Satellite-1", or literally "Co-traveler-1" byname ПС-1 (PS-1, i.e. "Простейший Спутник-1", or Elementary Satellite-1)) was the first artificial satellite to be put into geocentric orbit. Launched by the Soviet Union on October 4, 1957, it was the first satellite of the Sputnik program.

The satellite helped to identify the density of high atmospheric layers by its orbit change and provided data on radio-signal distribution in the ionosphere. Because the satellite's body was filled with pressurized nitrogen, Sputnik 1 also provided the first opportunity for meteorite detection, as losses in internal pressure due to meteoroid penetration of the outer surface would have been evident in the temperature data. The unanticipated announcement of Sputnik 1's success precipitated the Sputnik crisis in the United States and ignited the so-called Space Race within the Cold War.

Sputnik-1 was set in motion during the International Geophysical Year from the 5th Tyuratam range in Kazakh SSR (now Baikonur Cosmodrome). The satellite travelled at 29,000 kilometers (18,000 miles per hour) and emitted radio signals at around 20.005 and 40.002 MHz which were monitored by amateur radio operators throughout the world. The signals continued for 22 days until the transmitter batteries ran out on October 26, 1957. Sputnik 1 burned as it fell from orbit upon reentering Earth's atmosphere, after traveling about 60 million km (37 million miles) in orbit.



A USSR stamp, showing Sputnik 1's orbit

A technician putting the finishing touches on Sputnik I





WACOM HAMFEST

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2007

**WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
WASHINGTON, PA 15301**

8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

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

MAIN PRIZES:

- 1st Yaesu 857D HF Radio**
- 2nd MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer**
- 3rd Yaesu FT-7800 Dual-Band Mobile**

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

~~FREE COFFEE ALL DAY COURTESY OF HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES~~

VE SESSION AT 10:00 A.M.

ADVANCE TICKET SALES, VENDOR INTEREST:

**CONTACT ED OELSCHLAGER, N3ZNI AT n3zni@arrl.net OR 724.986.9271
RESERVE YOUR TABLES EARLY; FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.**

Breakfast and Lunch by Jack's Catering

**** Door Prizes ** ** YL Prizes ** ** DX Card Checker ****

**Sponsored by: Washington Amateur COMmunications
C/O ED OELSCHLAGER, N3ZNI
60 CARL AVENUE B-2
EIGHTY FOUR, PA 15330**

visit us at www.wacomarc.org

September 2007

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 2007

November 2007

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>Breezeshooters Net</i>	2 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net SkyView Business Meeting YLRL Anniv. Party CW	3 <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net YLRL Anniv. Party CW	4 WACOM Meeting SkyView 2M Net YLRL Anniv. Party CW	5 NCCC CW Sprint	6 <i>Oceania DX Contest SSB</i> CA QSO Party EU Autumn Sprint NCCC CW Sprint
7 WASH Sun. Eve. Net Oceania DX Contest SSB CA QSO Party RSGB 21/28MHz Contest	8 <i>Columbus Day</i> <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	9 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net YLRL Anniv. Party SSB	10 WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net NHARC Business Meeting 10-10 Day Sprint YLRL Anniv. Party SSB	11 WASH Business Meeting SkyView 2M Net YLRL Anniv. Party SSB	12 NCCC CW Sprint	13 <i>PA QSO Party</i> <i>Oceania DX Contest CW</i> EU Autumn Sprint CW
ACCESS TO CLUBHOUSE CLOSED DUE TO ROADWAY RE-CONSTRUCTION						
14 <i>PA QSO Party</i> WASH Sun. Eve. Net Oceania DX Contest CW NA RTTY Sprint	15 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	16 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net 2 Rivers ARC Meeting SkyView Social Nite	17 WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net	18 SkyView 2M Net	19 NCCC CW Sprint	20 JARTS WW RTTY Contest 50MHz Fall Sprint W/VE Islands Q Party
ARRL School Club Roundup						
ACCESS TO CLUBHOUSE CLOSED DUE TO ROADWAY RE-CONSTRUCTION						
21 WASH Sun. Eve. Net IL QSO Party JARTS WW RTTY Contest 50MHz Fall Sprint W/VE Islands Q Party	22 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i> IL QSO Party	23 <i>SCARC Business Meeting--Note date change</i> WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	24 <i>United Nations Day</i> WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net	25 SkyView 2M Net	26 NCCC CW Sprint	27 CQ WW SSB DX Contest WASH Club Breakfast ARRL EME Contest 10-10 Int. Fall Contest
28 CQ WW SSB DX Contest WASH Sun. Eve. Net ARRL EME Contest 10-10 Int. Fall Contest	29 <i>Breezeshooters Net</i>	30 WACOM 2M Net WACOM 10M Net	31 <i>Halloween</i> <i>SCARC Social Nite</i> WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net			

October 2007

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 2007

December 2007

S M T W T F S
 1
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 SkyView 2M Net WACOM Meeting	2	3 Ukrainian DX Contest ARRL CW Sweepstakes
4 EASTERN DAYLITE TIME ENDS @2:00AM. 'FALL BACK' 1 HR WASH Sun. Eve Net Ukrainian DX Contest ARRL CW Sweepstakes WACOM Hamfest	5 Breezeshooters Net	6 Election Day WACOM 10M Net WACOM 2M Net SkyView Business Meeting	7 SCARC Social Nite WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net	8 SkyView 2M Net	9	10 WAE DX RTTY Contest Kentucky QSO Party OK/OM DX CW Contest
11 Veterans Day WASH Sun. Eve Net WAE DX RTTY Contest Kentucky QSO Party OK/OM DX CW Contest	12 Breezeshooters Net	13 WACOM 10M Net WACOM 2M Net	14 SCARC Social Nite WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net NHARC Business Meeting	15 SkyView 2M Net	16	17 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes LZ DX Contest
18 WASH Sun. Eve Net ARRL SSB Sweepstakes EU PSK63 QSO Party LZ DX Contest	19 Breezeshooters Net	20 SCARC Business Meeting WACOM 10M Net WACOM 2M Net 2 Rivers ARC Business Meeting SkyView Social Nite	21 WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net	22 Thanksgiving Day SkyView 2M Net	23	24 CQWW CW Contest WASH Club Breakfast ARRL EME Contest
25 WASH Sun. Eve Net CQWW CW Contest ARRL EME Contest	26 Breezeshooters Net	27 WACOM 10M Net WACOM 2M Net	28 SCARC Social Nite WACOM YL Net Alleg Co. ARES Net	29 SkyView 2M Net	30 ARRL 160M Contest (to 12/2/07)	

Where can I get more information?

For general club information about the 2007 AMSAT Space symposium, visit our web site at <http://www.amsat.org>

Or contact:

Kevin Smith **N3HKQ**

or

Pat Sanford **KC4WTT**

at

symposium@amsat.org

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2007

AMSAT Space Symposium

October 26—28, 2007
Airport Marriott Hotel
777 Aten Road
(Moon Run exit of PA 60)
Coraopolis, PA 15108



- Meet a number of key engineers and spacecraft designers who have put amateur radio in space.
- Are you new to amateur satellites? Learn how to make and participate in satellite contacts.
- Learn about the latest Eagle innovations.
- See how you can contribute your talents to the Amateur Satellite Service.



Who Is AMSAT?

AMSAT is a non-profit volunteer organization which designs, builds and operates experimental satellites and promotes space education. We work in partnership with government, industry, educational institutions and fellow amateur radio societies. We encourage technical and scientific innovation, and promote the training and development of skilled satellite and ground system designers and operators.

Our Vision is to deploy high earth orbit satellite systems that offer daily coverage by 2009 and continuous coverage by 2012. AMSAT will continue active participation in human space missions and support a stream of LEO satellites developed in cooperation with the educational community and other amateur satellite groups.

Who Are Your Hosts?

- The Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club is a non-profit organization, affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and dedicated to advancing the principles of amateur radio while making it fun for all who participate.
- We also have the active support of many local amateur radio clubs and AMSAT members.
- WASH co-sponsored an ARISS contact for Upper St. Clair HS in August 2004.
- Routinely make satellite contacts for Field Day.
- Visit us at <http://www.n3sh.org>



Why Pittsburgh?

- A friendlier place you will never find
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- World class International Airport.
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Preliminary Agenda:

Thursday, October 25 through Friday noon, October 26, 2007 BOD meeting

Friday, October 26, 2007

Symposium First Session; 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Annual meeting; 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Introduction to Amateur Satellites by Gould Smith; 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Symposium Second Session; 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Symposium Third Session; 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Cocktails & Hors Dourves; 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Banquet (Keynote Speaker Mr. Sy Liebergot); 7:30 PM till ?

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Area Coordinators meeting; 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Tour (details to be announced); 9:00 AM to ?

About Our Keynote Speaker

Sy Liebergot

Apollo Electrical, Environmental, Consumables Flight Controller

Sy Liebergot: Flight... I recommend we shut down reactant valves to the fuel cells.

Gene Kranz: What the hell good is that gonna do?

Sy Liebergot: If that's where the leak is, we can isolate it. We can save what's left in the tanks and we can run on the good cell.

Gene Kranz: You close 'em, you can't open 'em again! You can't land on the moon with one healthy fuel cell!

Sy Liebergot: Gene, the Odyssey is *dying*. From my chair here, this is the last option.

Sy Liebergot was the Apollo EECOM and part of the team that guided Apollo 13 back to Earth following the explosion which crippled the spacecraft.

Author of "Apollo EECOM: Journey Of A Lifetime"

Web site: <http://www.apolloeecom.com/>

**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**



**Picture is of a QSL
Card sent for
reception reports
of Sputnik I,
launched 50 years
ago this month.
Those little beeps
emanating from it
certainly changed
the world, didn't
they?**



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