



The Parasitic Emission



Volume 13, Number 5

Get Ready for SUMMER!!!

May 1985

Meeting Notice

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

The May meeting of the Quad County Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:30 pm, Friday, May 17, at the DuBois Area Senior High School. There will be a business meeting, followed by a program on computer communications. Plan on attending, and bring a friend!

QCARC

May Program

by Paul Silinsky, K3PS

The program planned for the May meeting will cover two subjects. For those of you who haven't had the privilege of touring W1AW recently, we have a tour on film planned for you. This presentation is brand new--i.e., less than a month old! We will be one of the first clubs to see this new updated presentation on W1AW which emphasizes the many upgraded facilities at the ARRL station.

To lead up to our June program, which will be an in-depth discussion/demonstration of packet radio by N3CVL from Pittsburgh, the second part of our May program will feature a demonstration of the types of communications possible between computers. If you ever thought you might enjoy teletype, then come to both the May and June meetings to see what the 1980's have done to RTTY type communications. You'll be amazed!

QCARC

The deadline for next month's newsletter: Friday, June 7. ALL material must be RECEIVED by then to be included in the June issue. Your cooperation will ensure that the newsletter is printed on time! It takes one weekend for me to assemble the newsletter, and another to print and copy it. Late submissions screw up the whole operation! -WA3IHK

Minutes of the April Meeting

by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

Since the annual banquet was held there was only a meeting of the officers and the exec board before the banquet, to approve any expenditures.

QCARC

WALK-IN EXAMS

by Paul Silinsky, K3PS

Exams for amateur licenses will be given on May 18, 1985 at the DuBois Area High School, Room 203. As previously announced, LIMITED walk-ins will be accepted. To take the test as a walk-in, bring a completed FCC form 610, a copy of your license, and a check for \$4.00 payable to ARRL/VEC. The exams begin at 9:00 AM. Please be patient! Walk-ins will be served STRICTLY on a first come, first served basis as time permits. There are a very limited number of exams available for walk-ins so not every walk-in may get to take an exam.

QCARC

Afterglow--Tenth Anniversary Club Banquet

by Art Kunst, W3WM

Yes, it was a resounding success and maybe our best banquet event to date. Because success does not come for the asking, I would like to pass along some observations of the elements which helped to bring success.

As always success at events of this nature require a good attendance. We had 60 persons in attendance this year and 64 last year. The audience was almost equally divided between OMs and YL and XYLs. As a rough estimate only half of our membership of 50 members attended. That percentage of 50% is not very good in my estimation. The attendance would have been much less if we had not recruited intensively.

Another fact for your consideration is that the area served by QCARC has about 200 listed radio amateurs of which our club has only 50 as members. Why don't we have a larger membership? Our experiences with recruiting for membership in the club as well as for this banquet, is that at least half of the listed radio amateurs are non-hams, i.e. dead, moved away, no longer interested. The remainder or about 100 area hams have interest in their hobby which ranges from very little to intense. It would be great to increase our club membership for then we would be capable of doing many more things for ourselves and out hobby. Anybody out there with ideas?

How about kudos! Throw a big bouquet at Ev Boden N3DEO as MC. He did a great job keeping everything moving. And throw another bouquet at the Prize Committee -- Gosh -- we had a dozen books, code tapes, and the like. That is a 20% chance of winning! Did you ever have odds that big in your favor? I should mention that Otto Schuler K3SMB donated a Handbook for the League for which we are grateful. And also thanks to Otto for being present the second year in a row at our banquet, and coming up with his wife and staying overnight. If you don't know it, Otto is our Western Pennsylvania Section Manager and the highest League official in this end of the state.

Congratulations to Bryan Simanic WA3UFN for his appointment as Western Pennsylvania Section Emergency Coordinator. That is a big job that requires a lot of cooperation from a lot of hams in Western Pa. Otto Schuler presented the appointment to Bryan. The club shares in the glow of this appointment.

Let's toss a lovely bouquet at Shelly Cretti KA3MYQ and my own XYL Sylbia for being such grand hostesses to our banquet guests. Those long stemmed carnations add a special touch which our ladies appreciated.

Did you like the Old-Old Timers Awards? I didn't know we had so many OTs around. Imagine--Cliff Carlson W3VMX has been part of ham radio for 70 years!! Ron Drummond W3FF sure looked good for an OT. I hope we can do this again next year like we did for the second time with the Ham of the Year Award. It sure surprised the heck out of me to know who received the Award this year. A real surprise and one to make me humble as well. Thanks a lot!

I liked President Joe Shupienis' WA3IHK reflections on the club's past, present, and future. In my estimation there has never been a bigger or more constant spark plug for this club. Too bad we don't have more!

Finally, let's toss the last bouquet to our invited speaker Bob Myers K3HWL who came from the Titusville area. Bob gave us some laughs as he struggled to give the audience a talk of interest to everybody. Bob feels his subject strongly because he has had serious heart problems. None the less Bob is a real spark plug for amateur radio in Northwest Pa., and Assistant Director of the Atlantic Division. Thanks, Bob, for your efforts.

I have a few flowers left which I save for any deserving person I failed to mention by oversight. Thanks to all.

QCARC

QCARC Part of Elite Group
by Paul Silinsky, K3PS

We recently received notification that the Quad County Amateur Radio Club has been appointed as a Special Service Club of the ARRL. For some years the QCARC has been an ARRL Affiliated Club which means that we work with the ARRL to further amateur radio in our area, receive referrals of persons in our area expressing interest in ham radio, and, in general, are recognized as a club doing what is needed to promote amateur radio.

Appointment as a Special Service Club is the next logical step (and not an easy step, either). The meaning of Special Service Club is well expressed in the words of Leo Kluger, WB2TRN, ARRL Club Program Manager: "Through the work of its members, (the QCARC) is recognized for its extended efforts on behalf of amateur radio and service to its community."

What might these "extended efforts" be? We regularly publish a professional looking newsletter. We maintain a Post Office box so the club can be easily reached by prospective hams. We teach Novice code and theory classes. We teach upgrade classes. Our club's active Volunteer Examiner Team regularly conducts amateur exam sessions and was among the first in Pennsylvania. We sponsor a repeater and support emergency/public service communications activities. We have an active public relations campaign. And the list goes on. Don't forget that some

of our members are deeply involved in ham radio on a regional basis. One of our members is Public Relations Assistant for the ARRL Atlantic Division Director, one is the new Western Pennsylvania Section Emergency Coordinator, and one is Chairman of the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council. Our club is indeed involved, and has put forth extended efforts on behalf of amateur radio.

There are only six or eight Special Service Clubs in all of Pennsylvania. The QCARC is really a member of a select group. Each of our members shares in this honor; but, the work is only beginning. There is much more to do and more fun to have doing it. How about pitching in and doing your part, whatever it may be? Come to the May meeting and say, "I'm willing to work for the QCARC." You won't be sorry you did.

QCARC

QCARC Confers Old-Old Timers Award by W3WM

Beginning a new tradition for the club, four of this area's senior radio amateurs were recognized at the club's recent Tenth Anniversary Banquet with the Old-Old Timers Award. An appropriate framed citation suitable for wall-hanging was awarded to the following for their life-long contributions to the radio communications art. The citations are abbreviated below:

W3FF--Ron Drummond,
Punxsutawney. For his
contributions as radio amateur
beginning 1930 as W8FE for 55
years. For his contributions
to broadcast radio as builder
and chief engineer of WPME and
other stations.

ex-W8NQ--Ralph Bush, Kane.
Awarded posthumously. For his
contributions as radio amateur
beginning in 1928 as 8NM for
57 years. In recognition of a
life time technical curiosity
given to construction and
experimentation.

W3IE--Wilbur Rimer, St. Marys.
For his contributions as radio
amateur beginning 1934 as

W8LSH for 51 years. For wartime
service with distinction as
bomber aircraft gunner radio
operator with the Army Air
Corps over Europe.

W3VMX--Cliff Carlson, Ridgway.
As this area's longest asso-
ciation with amateur radio in
year 1914 with self-assigned
call sign of TRS; as Elmer to
many; for public service in the
Johnstown Flood 1976.

In addition each was awarded a
Certificate of Merit for their service to
amateur radio by Otto Schuler, K3SMB, WPA
Section Manager in behalf of the American
Radio Relay League.

QCARC

Keeping Florida Green by Clete Reinsel, W3HWM

On our recent vacation trip to
central Florida, I was impressed by the
cooperation and helpfulness of the
resident hams. Some were probably natives,
many were transplants from further north,
but all spoke good "English." Language was
a bit of a problem going through the
Carolinas and Georgia, however.

We were north of Orlando on
Interstate 4 and I heard a phone patch on
146.76. After it was completed I made
contact and requested a patch to my
sister's. After this was completed the
local ham club president came on frequency
and welcomed us to the area. He advised us
that another Orlando repeater 147.045 had
an open phone patch for us tourists that
could be accessed by *** (phone number)
and # to drop it. This later proved to be
very useful. He later advised me that if I
needed the Florida Highway Patrol that the
146.76 could be used by *11 to get a
direct connection to the FHP.

At Titusville, where we spent
several days, they advised me that manned
space "shot's" air/ground communications
were retransmitted on the 146.94 repeater.

Coming home I was on the Daytona
Beach 147.15 repeater and was advised that
I could get a direct connection to the
Sheriff's office by hitting 911. I
mentioned to this gentleman that I thought
the Hams had been extra kind to us
tourists. His remark was.. "We like to take
care of you-all...after all, you do keep
Florida Green."

How to Select the Right Computer System for Your Ham Shack - Part 2

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

In the last installment, I defined some computer terminology, discussed the concept of a computer system, and outlined the method to use when shopping for a computer software. It is important to follow these steps: 1-Identify your need for a computer, i.e.: What do you want it to do? 2-Research the market for software that will do the job by reading magazine ads, etc. 3-Go shopping, and have someone show you before you buy. 4-Last of all, buy the hardware that will run the programs.

In this article, we will deal with step 4 - buying hardware. As a microcomputer professional, I encounter many small (and not so small) businesses that are having problems getting their "money's worth" from their microcomputer systems. Inevitably, these computers will not do the jobs they were purchased to do. The reason? Someone "fell in love" with a particular model of computer because of cute advertising or a prestigious manufacturer. Or, they "saved money" and bought a cheap home computer, unaware that there are different types and capabilities in microcomputers. These problems could have been prevented if they had followed steps 1 through 4 above!

Types of Microcomputers There are three distinct types of microcomputers. Each is suited to a particular type of use, and has distinguishing features that make it more suited for its purpose.

HOME COMPUTERS - These are inexpensive (usually) units, that are available in department and discount stores. They are primarily oriented toward games, and other "family" uses. Most of them require a TV (color or black-and-white) and a cassette recorder to operate. A major identifying feature is a "game port" for plug in cartridges and joysticks. ADVANTAGES: low cost, universal availability (for saying "SHOW ME!"), and popularity. DISADVANTAGES: Slow speed, limited character display (40x24 or less), generally non-standard BASIC programming language, poor quality keyboards.

TRS-80 Color Computer - MS-BASIC, good keyboard, std cassette recorder.

Commodore-64 - excellent keyboard, odd ball BASIC, strange character set, special cassette unit (\$70).

Apple II - Apple BASIC, must add interface cards for printer, etc.

Atari - Atari BASIC, plays all ATARI games, stay away from membrane keys.

PERSONAL COMPUTERS - This is where the action is in today's market. There are two different types of PCs, and they are totally incompatible with each other. The differences arise from the main microcomputer chips used. The "8-bit" machines use the 8080 or Z-80, while the "16-bit" machines use the 8086 or 16000 series. The current trend is toward the 16-bit machines, but 8-bit processors still have many advantages, cost being a major one. These computers universally use MS-BASIC, so if you want to learn programming, learn it on an MS-BASIC machine. They all have good keyboards, and usually have a video monitor (TV with half the innards removed for twice the price!), and disk drives. Many are available with "bundled" software - that means you get (and pay for) programs that the manufacturer thinks you need. These are more expensive than home computers, but they have many advantages: speed, flexibility, easy interfacing for communications, printers, etc.

8-Bit Computers

TRS-80 Model 4 & 4P - Priced to sell, all interfaces built in, one-piece construction, vast software library.

Heath/Zenith H-89 (Z-90) - Warm up the soldering iron and save \$400! A good CP/M machine.

A host of others - CP/M is the disk operating system for most.

16-Bit Computers

IBM PC - The "leader of the pack", uses MS-DOS disk system, strange keyboard arrangement, overpriced.

Tandy 1000, 1200, 2000 - Radio Shack's PC "clones", Cheaper than IBM, and in some ways better.

Heath/Zenith HS-151/161 (ZF-151/161) - Build and save \$600.

Heath/Zenith H-100 (Z-100) - Have the best of both worlds - 8 and 16 bit all-in-one computers! Save \$1200 by building!

And many, many other IBM PC clones.

Apple MacIntosh - This is a different concept of the personal computer. The Mac is an integrated system that is primarily a "graphics processor". Its fantastic visual effects are quite impressive. Really great for you artistic types!

BUSINESS MICROS - These are top-end microcomputers that are replacing mini-computers in many offices. Their main identifying feature is "networking", which means several terminals are attached and the computer can do several different jobs "at once". If you need one of these in your shack, I'd sure like to see your shack!!!

IBM PC-AT - IBM's entry into this developing market. A re-work of the tried and true PC.

Tandy Model 6000 - The latest in an evolutionary line (started with the Model II) that uses the XENIX operating system for six users!

NorthStar Horizon - A CP/M machine that takes the hardware approach to the multi-user problem and contains a separate processor for each user, with a master "file server". A very fast, efficient 8/16 bit machine.

Going Shopping - You have done your homework and you know what software you need. You have a list of names, and also a couple of computers you think will do the job. Now to do the leg work. Go to a store or hamfest, or wherever you will find the things you want to look at, and say "Show me." Tell the people what you want to see. Try the programs. Try the computers. Ask questions. Keep a "score card". Add up all the good and bad points of each system. Then make your decision. Keep tabs on the vendors, too. A reputable vendor will be helpful before and after the sale. On the other hand, if there is little or no help before they have your money, how much do you think you'll get after they have it?

Conclusion - In this article, I have given you information on various types of microcomputers in common use. I have included a few examples, but by no means is the list all-inclusive, nor do I recommend any specific brand or model. You should do the shopping, and if you like it, buy it. After all, you will be the one to use it, not me.

In the next installment, I will cover peripheral devices and accessories, such as printers, disk drives, MODEMs, and ham interfaces. Stay tuned!

QCARC

At last WA3IHK has installed a real 2 meter antenna on his car! He couldn't figure out how "Knight Rider" has radio, telephone, TV, etc. with no external antennas on his Trans Am!
-WA3UFN

Well this year I decided, after some thought, that the Dayton Hamvention would be a nice change of pace in the line of hamfests. It had been about 3 years since my last trip to Dayton.

This year the hamfest was blessed with very good weather the entire weekend. Although thunderstorms and a dose of rain was initially forecasted.

The bunch of us (KA3MYQ, WA3HSE & KA8REK) decided, after 'HSE's idea, to hit the dealer display center Friday evening. This was a good idea in that it eliminated competing with the hoards of people that are usually checking out the new equipment displays on Saturday. There was ample room to roam as you wished which was very nice. To my surprise the dealers were busy. So busy in fact that I was unable to purchase a meter that I intended. The prices were any where from list to about the normal 15% discount off list and maybe better. With closing time upon us we returned to the motel to rest up for the long, exciting day that would follow.

The first thing all of us did was peer out the window the next morning to observe the weather. The ground was wet from a light shower during the night and the sky was a high light grey overcast. It looked very promising for good weather.

Well to make a long story short, the day was bright and sunny, you know the sun-burned nose type day. There was the usual large flea market area, a good one too, that included the normal amount of walking for about 3 hours.

The next day was spent at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Air Museum. This really seems to be part of the Dayton Hamvention, since so many of the hams end the trip with a visit to the museum. Not to mention the almost 3 hours of walking to look at all the aircraft on display.

All in all the Dayton Hamvention is really a nice trip, if you don't rush yourself and can take a few days of vacation to enjoy things at a reasonable pace.

QCARC

FOR SALE==> Azden PCS-300 handheld.
Has standard equipment plus service manual. \$190 - Contact WA3UFN. -WA3UFN

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|--|-----------|----|--------|
| Radio | Ur Sigs R | S | T |
| Worked on | Mc. | At | E.S.T. |
| Trans. | Rcvr. | | |
| W3NQ | | | |
| Remarks | | | |
| RALPH BUSH, Opr. 228 Janeway St., Kane, Pa. CARLSON & WALKER PRINT | | | |

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|---|------|----------------------------|--|
| PUNXSUTAWNEY, PENNA. Weather Capital of the World | | Z A R C | |
| W3FF | | 511 E. Mahoning St. | |
| Radio | Date | Report | |
| Pse QSL Inx | | 73, Ron Drummond | |



The Parasitic Emission
 Newsletter of the
 Quad County Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 352
 Du Bois, PA 15801

President: Joe Shuplenis, WA3IHK
 Vice Pres: Evan Boden, N3DEO
 Secretary: Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN
 Treasurer: Paul Sillinsky, K3PS

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F 1985
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