



# The Parasitic Emission



Volume 13, Number 6

FIELD DAY ISSUE

June 1985

## Meeting Notice

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

This month's meeting will begin at 7:30 pm on Friday, June 21 at the DuBois Senior High School. After a short business meeting, we will have a special program on packet radio. Plan on attending!

\*QCARC\*

## It's Too Tough to Describe It!!

by Paul Silinsky, K3PS

The program at our June club meeting will be so great it's too tough to really describe how neat it will be! No kidding!!!

The program will be a demonstration and discussion of packet radio --- error-free teletype-like communications. QRM can't even touch it!! If you've been to any of the bigger hamfests this year, you've seen programs on packet radio. It's one of the most popular of the new technologies in ham radio.

Bob Hoffman, N3CVL, from Pittsburgh will present the program. Bob has done this at numerous hamfests, club meetings in the Pittsburgh area, and for the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council.

It's too tough to describe in writing the excitement surrounding packet radio. Come to the meeting and see for yourself. You won't believe what's being done with packet radio!!

\*QCARC\*

The latest QCARC VE session had the following upgrades. To Extra: WA3UFN. To General: WB3GAI, KA3MXZ, KA3MYQ, KA3NUZ. To Technician: KA3MUJ, KA3MYR, KA8REK. New licensees, Technician: Jim Cretti. Novice: John Bishop, Byron Collins, Gertrude Collins, Kay Walborn.

\*QCARC\*

## Minutes of the May Meeting

by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

The regular meeting of the Quad County Amateur Radio Club was called to order May 15, 1985 by Pres. WA3IHK.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available.

**TREASURER REPORT-** The treasurer's report was not available.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-** The novice class has 6 in attendance, the upgrade class has about 8 in attendance. Both classes will be taking exams soon. Under Public Service WA3UFN announced that E.C.s are needed for all of the Quad Counties. Anyone who is interested in maintaining a good emergency communications plan and is a member of the ARRL can be an E.C. For more info contact WA3UFN. WA3IHK reminded everyone of the new deadline for all newsletter articles, which is now the first Friday of the month. Previously this was the deadline for only hand-written articles. Reminder that exams will be given at the High School May 18, there are only provisions for limited walk-ins.

**OLD BUSINESS-** None listed.

**NEW BUSINESS-** Field Day will be June 22-23, a question was asked if we would be holding Field Day at WA3GMT's QTH as in the past. There was some discussion on the matter, KA3MUJ volunteered to contact 'GMT' about using his QTH as the club site again, this year. A motion by WA3UFN seconded by KA3MUJ that the club purchase hot dogs, pop, charcoal and the usual condiments as in the past, carried. Comment made that it would be a good gesture for the club to put on a real effort for the Field Day event this year since we now have a member of the club that is the WPA SEC. After some discussion it was decided that if there is enough interest, we would have a Novice/ Tech station on the air for Field Day. KA3MUJ volunteered to head the organization of this station, along with his station equipment. There was some discussion about



the merits of having a good Public Relations person in the club. Motion to adjourn was made by KA3MUJ, seconded by WA3UFN, carried.

The members adjourned for a new slide presentation on the ARRL's start to the present.

ATTENDANCE- WA3IHK, WA3UFN, W3WM, KA3MYQ, WA3GNS, KA3MUJ, WB3HPE, W8JZZ, WB3HTY

**\*QCARC\***

#### THANK YOU

by Paul Silinsky, K3PS

The Thanks are a-flyin'. But that's OK. The Novice class is over and the upgrade class is over. Many members of the two classes have expressed their thanks to the instructors of the Novice and upgrade classes for the time and effort put into the classes. Some even went so far as to send a thank you note to the instructors. The instructors thank the students in return and hope that each one enjoys the hard earned license privileges. Sharing our hobby with others is part of the game.

#### The Instructors:

Bob Netzlof, WB3IQE  
Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK  
Paul Silinsky, K3PS  
Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

**\*QCARC\***

#### REGISTER YOUR CAPABILITIES

by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

The recent tornadoes that swept through the state emphasize the fact that the amateur radio fraternity must "get their act together, NOW!". May 31, 1985 will long be remembered for many reasons. As amateurs we must honestly get involved in emergency services. Let's face it, Penfield is not but a stones throw from DuBois and Clearfield. If one of these twisters decided to hit either - or worse yet - both of these populated areas, we definitely would have had our hands full. Ask yourself, "Could I have done the job needed for emergency communications"? Can you honestly answer yes or is the answer a rather sheepish yes?

Equipment must be ready to go on a moment's notice. I know, having been called to the county EOC much to my

surprise, at about midnight. By registering your capabilities you are not donating your equipment, it is just that someone has to know who has what and who might be a good choice to send to some location in need of communications.

Along with having equipment ready, the operator must be ready. You don't have to be a super-duper traffic handler, but you have to have the foundation for handling traffic. The best way to get the experience is to participate in a little traffic handling, on HF if you can but there is also traffic on the repeaters as well.

Think back and recall when you or someone you knew had relatives and or friends in a disaster area, and wondered if they were all right. Was ham radio one of the resources you turned to to try and find out the welfare of that relative or friend? If so remember that there was another ham at the other end of the inquiry helping you! Some day that ham may be in the same situation that you were and will want your help.

To wrap things up I would like to have everyone in Clearfield county send me the info about the equipment and capabilities that you can make available. As far as the other counties send the info to your EC and radio officer. If you don't have an EC or RO send the info to me. I am the WPA SEC and I'll try to get the info into the system so that it will do the most good.

**\*QCARC\***

QCARC VE Team

(or Tooting Our Own Horn)

by Paul Silinsky, K3PS

While the examinees are hitting the books, the examiners are doing their homework, too. It takes time and effort to put together an exam session. Each Volunteer Examiner (VE) first must complete a review test demonstrating thorough familiarity with all FCC regulations covering exams and licensing (as you might guess, there are considerably more than a few rules). When the test is successfully completed, the VE receives his identification badge which must be prominently worn at all exam sessions.

Each exam session must be registered with the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC), the ARRL in our case, well in



advance of the exam date. A room for the exam session must be reserved also well in advance. Each 610 form received must be checked IN EVERY DETAIL for accuracy. If our VE Team habitually sends in incorrectly completed 610's, we will lose our accreditation. Exam notices must be completed and sent to each examinee. A candidate roster must be completed and the necessary tests and exam materials ordered. Upon receipt, exam materials must be inventoried and accounted for (we are on the hook for what is sent to us). The VE's must give up the better part of a Saturday for the exam session. Since the exam sessions are planned months in advance and there must be at least three VE's at the session at all times, there can be no backing out at the last minute on the part of the VE's. A firm commitment must be made.

During the exam session, much paperwork must be completed and the VE's become very practiced in writing their signatures. After the exam session, an exam summary and critique must be completed and the test materials inventoried again. The test materials, completed tests, and completed 610's are then packed and shipped back to the VEC no later than 5 days after the exam date.

Why go to all this trouble? Before the Volunteer Examiner program, amateur tests were given in Buffalo and Pittsburgh. Taking a test meant losing a day's work and taking a trip. With the VE program, test sites are much more convenient, and tests are usually conducted on weekends. No more lost work! If the QCARC had no VE Team, you could still take tests in State College, Oil City, Meadville, and Pittsburgh to name a few sites. You'd still have to travel to take a test. But the QCARC does have it's own VE Team---one of the first in Pennsylvania. You can take tests right in your own area. That's why we bother. It's so the QCARC can provide you with still another service!

If you're interested in becoming a VE or just helping out as much as you can at an exam session, contact the QCARC VE Team at the club PO box. You must be an Extra or Advanced class to be a VE, but you don't even need a license to help out! And if you ever have the urge to kick a Volunteer Examiner, keep in mind the tremendous amount of work and commitment that go into each and every exam session.

**\*QCARC\***

## Reflections of a Volunteer Examiner by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

As I write this, the dust is settling from this morning's examination session. In the final analysis, more people passed than didn't, and most accomplished at least part of their license upgrade requirements. I heard no complaints about the fairness of the exams, and I can think of none to make, myself.

The people were mostly from this area. Many were club members, and friends I have known for a long time. It is really great to see so many people that you know, furthering their interest in amateur radio!

Administering all the exams was a lot of work, and the three of us VEs were kept mighty busy! This is only our second examination session, and I still have a lot to learn - especially about organization. Once we got all the paperwork under control, the job wasn't too difficult, but there were still some moments that kept us awfully busy. Correcting the Novice written exams from the ARRL answer key was a royal pain - it would have been simpler to take the test than grade from that answer key!

The new Volunteer Examiner Program has made it easier than ever to take amateur radio exams, particularly for hams in this region, far from the big cities. I think back to my first upgrade from Novice to General - the weeks of preparation, taking a day off from school, having my parents drive me to the big city 100 miles away, then trying to find the right building - all before 9:00 am!

I can also remember the thrill it was to pass the exam, and I can share the excitement of those who passed today. Congratulations to all, and for those who "just missed", better luck next time. Let's see all of you at our next exam!

**\*QCARC\***

## Who Says It Can't Be Done Dep't by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

Congratulations to Shelly Cretti, KA3MYQ on passing the General Class theory exam at our recent exam session. Her score? Would you believe 100% ???

**\*QCARC\***



Emergency Services, the E.C.  
by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

Since the club and newsletter cover the Quad-County area, I figured that this is a good place to recruit Emergency Coordinators. Presently there are no ECs in Cameron, Clearfield and Jefferson counties. It sure would be nice if I could get these positions filled, since the counties are in my backyard, so to speak. The requirements are not all that tough to meet.

First to be an ARRL EC you must maintain membership in the ARRL - this stands to reason. To hold an office in any organization the first requirement is that you are a member. Next I would like to have people that are seriously interested in emergency communications. A person should take the job seriously enough to make the necessary contacts with local authorities such as police, fire departments, Emergency Management director, etc. Of course along with the job is just a little bit of paperwork. If you are interested I'm the one to let know.

**\*QCARC\***

Something IS happening!  
by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

On the same lines of emergency services is the need for active members in ARES, as well as RACES. I have been working on funding for needed equipment for a real amateur radio station at the Clearfield county E.O.C. At this time the wheels are turning towards this goal. The recent news releases in the newspapers and on the radio are not just "hot air". As the reports stated, the county commissioners have approved the request for matching funds for the radio station equipment. By now the precious paper work is in the hands of the Federal government, I hope.

What this means for the hams in Clearfield county is that we now have a real commitment to live up to in the world of emergency services. It is time that talk must turn into action. With the equipment we can provide a vital service to the county. To provide this service, everyone, **countywide**, has to pitch in a little, so that the burden doesn't rest on just a few. This movement to get amateur

radio active is statewide, believe it or not. There have been recent meetings, in Harrisburg, on this topic. I hope to hear from all the hams in the county, soon.

**\*QCARC\***

Attention! All Novices and Technicians  
by Will Baun, KA3MUJ/KT

Hello OMs and YLs, this is KA3MUJ. WA3IHK and I have had a very good idea lately. We would like to have one Field Day station set up just for Novices and Technicians this year. This would give all of us the chance to get in on the fun of operating during Field Day.

Joe has put me in charge of getting everything together and he has pretty much turned me loose on this project. I'd like to be able to operate this station through the night, if possible, but I can't do it all myself. We need several operators, paired up into teams (one to operate, one to log) to take two, three or four hour shifts, depending on how many people we have.

I need YOUR help! I have a rig, a key and an antenna tuner, but I need people to be able to make this all work. I will be out there ALL night - I hope you will be out there also. If you're interested, give me a call at 653-2411, or get in touch with Joe. I don't have a 2 meter rig yet, so you can't reach me on the repeater. 73 and CU at FD!

**\*QCARC\***

CQ FD  
by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

This year, we are going to try something a little different at Field Day. One of the main reasons for taking our radios out into the woods each year is to practice setting them up in case an emergency requires us to do so. I had an opportunity to test this theory on June 1, when I was asked to go to Marienville and set up a station after tornadoes had wrecked the area.

I found that since I had already made the battery connectors for my rig and had a portable antenna ready to go as preparations for last year's Field Day, I was ready to go in minutes. I guess that the Emergency Preparedness aspect of Field Day had just paid off!



This year, we will be operating as WA3UFN, who is the Western Pennsylvania ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator. We should make an effort to operate round-the-clock, and should be ready to accept traffic directed to him. If this means a little less partying and a lot more operating, then so be it.

As usual, the club will be providing hot dogs, buns, potato chips, ketchup, mustard, relish, onions and soft drinks. This is a family affair, and XYLs and Harmonics are welcome. There will of course be time for socializing, but don't forget - you're there to operate, as well.

Field Day will start at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, and last until 5:00 p.m. Sunday. If we set up all antennas and equipment starting at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, we can begin operating immediately and operate until 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

Let's make this a serious FD effort. I'd just once like to see us win in our classification! We have seasoned operators. We have modern, reliable equipment. If we have the dedication, we can do it!!!

**\*QCARC\***

#### How to Select the Right Computer System for Your Ham Shack - Part 3 by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

In past installments, I have covered the basics of selecting software and hardware. I have defined some special terms, and outlined the concept of a computer system. In this and future columns, I will discuss "peripherals" and "accessories" which enhance the operation of the computer system.

Peripheral devices are hardware items which when added to a computer system, extend its abilities. Common peripherals are modems, printers and disk drives. Peripherals can be added to all three types of microcomputers.

Accessories are hardware devices that make the use of the computer easier, less tiring, or more enjoyable. Examples would be joysticks, anti-glare screens and dust covers.

Selecting a printer - For most uses, the first peripheral you should consider is a printer. Many people have prophesied the "paperless society", but until that golden day arrives, we still need to be able to refer to printed material. There

are two types of printers in common use: Dot-matrix and solid-character printers. Each has advantages and disadvantages, and you should carefully weigh your options.

Dot-matrix printers form the letters with rows and columns of tiny dots. This can give a "fuzzy" appearance to the printing, but once you are used to it, it is readable. Dot-matrix printers are faster than other printers, but the quality of printing suffers except for the more expensive models. The selection of typefaces is limited; generally only one or two are programmed into the printer. However, you can buy special programs for most printers that will convert the characters that are sent to the printer to fancier styles. The cheapest models can only use "computer paper", which has the large holes along the sides for pin-feed arrangements, while the better printers have rubber rollers, like a typewriter, allowing you to use any kind of paper. Dot-matrix printers can also print "graphics", for drawing pictures, etc.

Solid-character printers, often called "Daisy-wheel" printers produce typewriter-like characters, with a special hammer for each character. These printers feature interchangeable print wheels for a nearly unlimited selection of typestyles. They are much slower than dot-matrix printers, but the quality is extremely high. If you are going to do a lot of correspondence, then a solid-character printer is the best choice for the money.

Technical specifications - There are two methods of connecting the printer to a computer - serial and parallel connections. You must determine which your computer uses, before purchasing a printer. Many of the newer printers can use either scheme, but be sure before you buy! The two systems are fairly standard, using the RS-232C Standard for serial connections and the Centronics standard for parallel.

The speed is generally specified in "characters per second", or CPS. To find out how many words per minute, multiply this figure by 10. I have found that a cheap dot-matrix printer that runs 40 CPS is typing at 400 WPM, which is a whole lot faster than I can type!

Conclusion - In this installment, I have discussed the various types of printers available for microcomputers. Next time, I will discuss disk and tape storage units for your computer system.

**\*QCARC\***



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

# AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

## REGISTRATION FORM



Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bus. phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary radio interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Check (✓) bands/modes you can operate:

	160	80	40	20	15	10	6	2
CW								
FM								
RTTY								
SSB								
MOBILE								

Can your home station operate without commercial power? [ ] YES [ ] NO

If yes, what bands? \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and send card to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 or directly to your EC (if known)

To All Radio Amateurs:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is a voluntary organization of licensed radio amateurs, who have registered their capabilities and equipment for providing emergency communications as a public service to the community. The purpose of the ARES is to furnish communications in the event of natural disaster, when regular communications fail or are inadequate. Sponsored by ARRL, the ARES functions at the local level to meet local communications needs.

The ARES has a long history of public service going back to its formal inception in 1935. Since that time the ARES has responded countless times to communications emergencies.

Experience has proven that radio amateurs respond more capably in time of emergency when practice has been conducted in an organized group. There is no substitute for experience gained *before* the need arises.

The ARES in each locality operates under the direction of the Emergency Coordinator (EC), whose function is to direct the activities of the ARES to maintain a state of readiness.

To register in the ARES, send the detachable Registration Form above to ARRL Headquarters for forwarding to your EC. *League membership is not required for registration.* Registration does not require possession of any specially designed equipment. All amateurs can be of assistance to the ARES. There is provision in the ARES for *every* amateur regardless of class of license, equipment owned, or personal circumstances.

Won't you join us in providing this essential Amateur Radio service?

John F. Lindholm, W1XX  
 Communications Manager

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

President: Joe Shupien's, WA3IHK  
 Vice Pres: Evan Boden, N3DEO  
 Secretary: Bryan Slmanic, WA3UFN  
 Treasurer: Paul Stillnsky, K3PS

Member:



Amateur Radio News Service



An Affiliated Club of the  
 American Radio Relay League

Serving Radio Amateurs in Clearfield, Cameron, Elk and Jefferson Counties since 1975