



# The Parasitic Emission



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August 1985

## Meeting Notice

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

The August meeting of the Quad County Amateur Radio Club will be held on Friday, August 16, at 7:30 pm in the DuBois Area Senior High School.

The program will be: The Emergency Communications Role of Amateur Radio. Ted Trostle, WB2LOU wrote the book on this for Centre County. The NARC group is one of the best organized and prepared amateur emergency groups in the Commonwealth. Ted will share his experiences with us including recent communication emergencies. Ted is a real pro at this and his talk and slides will be an eye-opener for all of us. Our Western Pennsylvania Section Emergency Coordinator, WA3UFN, urges your attendance as a measure of your support for local EC programs.

\*QCARC\*

## Upcoming Programs

by Art Kunst, W3WM

**September 20 - YLs in Amateur Radio**  
Our own Shelly Cretti, KA3MYQ, will spearhead a program involving area YLs. We have a good number of YLs in the area and in the QCARC. We will learn more of the YL national organization by a prominent invited YL. Shelly plans other surprises so plan to attend and find out.

**October 18 - Setting Up the New Emporium Repeater**  
Our own Ev Boden, N3DEO, has promised to provide a faithful accounting of the trials and tribulations leading to the newest area 2 meter repeater on 147.180 MHz. It has not been easy as Ev will tell you with words and slides. But it is a dream come true with some nightmares. Come and hear Ev tell us of his group's experiences and enjoy a few laughs along the way.

## Minutes of the July Meeting

by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

The regular meeting of the Quad County Amateur Radio Club was called to order July 26, 1985 by President WA3IHK.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### TREASURER REPORT-

COMMITTEE REPORTS- WA3GQU reported on the tentative operation of the Tom Mix Days QSOs. WA3UFN reported on the Sky Warn program, what it was and that if anyone has a Sky Warn card to have it available. The Sky Warn system is being restructured in the area, hopefully more information will be available soon. WA3IHK reported that a code class is tentatively set to begin in September.

OLD BUSINESS- WA3UFN reread the proposed constitutional amendments. Motion by WA3UFN seconded by KA3NUZ to accept the proposed amendments, carried.

NEW BUSINESS- K3PS reminded the members about the ARRL program on League membership renewals that can be processed through the club, being an affiliated club. He also explained the new program on the new ARRL membership sign up which can also be handled through the club. W3WM reported on the information that KA3MYQ has obtained, that may afford us our guest speaker for next year's annual banquet.

GENERAL- K3PS read some information about the latest calls issued, from the ARRL LETTER.

Motion by W3WM seconded by KA3NUZ to adjourn, motion carried. The members present adjourned for a slide presentation on the recent Civil Air Patrol Search & Rescue competition that K3PS, WA3IHK and WA3UFN participated in, which was held at Westover AFB, MA.

ATTENDANCE- WA3IHK, K3PS, WA3UFN, W3WM, KA3MYQ, WB3ERA, WA3GQU, KA3NUZ, KA3MKS, KA3MYP, KA3OHH, N3ELF, KA3MUJ

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Observations on Last Month's Program  
by Jon Siverling, WB3ERA

I'm a DuBois native, serving on active duty in the US Army, and currently stationed at MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida. To keep in touch with the local hams and amateur events, I read the Parasitic Emission. It's a good newsletter and I commend the Quad County Amateur Radio Club for it and especially the efforts of those individuals who push it to press each month. News of the Quad County hams is very welcome in Florida.

On July 26, I attended a meeting of the QCARC at the DuBois Senior High School. The program on Civil Air Patrol was very interesting. The slide show included the search and rescue exercise at Westover AFB, Chicopee, Mass.; the New England Air Museum, ARRL Headquarters and W1AW.

I don't get to attend the club's meetings very often, because I live out of state. However, I was impressed by the members when I attended the July meeting. In comparison to other clubs I've seen nationwide, QCARC is well ahead of many of them, and continues to progress. The QCARC has overcome the biggest problem facing most clubs today - that of declining membership. At the July meeting, I saw both newly licensed novices and recent upgrades. "New blood" is a positive sign of an active club, and is very good for the hobby.

Also, QCARC has an excellent opportunity to earn a new HF transceiver through the League by getting new ARRL members. I hope that those who can will join the ARRL through the club, and get credit for the club towards winning the transceiver. Contact Paul Silinsky, K3PS for more information.

Finally, I encourage full support for Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN, in his efforts as Section Emergency Coordinator. During the recent tornado disaster in Western Pennsylvania, QST noted an embarrassing response in Allegheny County of 25 out of 200 hams enrolled in RACES and ARES. To improve amateur radio response for the next emergency, Bryan has already taken several steps, to include a project for the Clearfield County Emergency Operations Center. He'll need the full support of the hams in the Quad County area to be successful. So, if at all possible, go to the August meeting, talk with Bryan, find out what is planned,

\*QCARC\*

QRZ, QC FM NET  
by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

I am afraid that the familiar phrase, I am too busy, has hit my vocabulary again. This time it is referenced to the position of Net Manager for the Quad County FM Net. I have been the NM as well as the net control for at least 7 years, with an occasional stand-by NCS. Lately, I have been somewhat too busy to keep up with the weekly routine of running the net, and I feel there really should be a regular net. The time I have to complete other jobs is becoming ever so scarce. I have taken on new positions and tasks in amateur radio that are now occupying the otherwise free time I had before. So as to prevent the looming "burn out", I am requesting that some other station take on the job of Net Manager for the local net.

If the QCARC is to continue the positive growth exhibited in the past couple years, we must have new people take part in the various operations of the club. Since I am one of the code/theory class instructors and a Volunteer Examiner I know that we have new stations within the club that can help share in the QCARC's growth. So give it a try!

\*QCARC\*

Tom Mix Days  
by Fred Barr, WA3GQU

The National Tom Mix Festival in the DuBois Area will occur from September 8th to the 15th, 1985. Various locations throughout the DuBois area will be utilized. The Playhouse Theater will show various selections of old silent and talkie movies.

Noted celebrities of Tom's period will also be honored, including such personalities as Allan Lane, Ken Maynard and Bob Steele.

Downtown DuBois will host various events for young and old alike, ranging from children's activities such as toy tractor races and horseshoe throwing to the older age groups' Arts and Crafts and tobacco chewing competition. A "Wellness Run" will start from the City Park on Sunday, September 15. We radio amateurs



should show our cooperation for this community effort.

Mrs. Effy Quinn at the Sport and Trophy Shop across from the Deposit Bank building is chairwoman to coordinate the festival. She would appreciate our help in providing communication to inform interested persons throughout the greater Du Bois area of the times and places of various activities. A complete list of events can be obtained from members of the Tom Mix festival committee.

#### How to Select the Right Computer System for Your Ham Shack - Part 5

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

In previous installments, I have discussed the selection of computers, programs and printers. This time, I would like to cover the broad field of computer communications.

Using your computer to talk to other systems is a lot of fun, akin to teletype operation, but with more exciting possibilities. The main concept to keep in mind when talking to another computer is that you are using your computer as a terminal, that is, a teletype-like device that only displays what it receives and transmits what you type. There is very little "thinking" the computer must do, and so even the simplest home computer can make a very good terminal.

To use the computer as a terminal, you must first program it to operate as one. There are many terminal programs on the market. If you are unsure of which is best for you, ask other computer users who are using their systems as terminals.

To tie your terminal into the "outside world", you need some kind of interface. If your interest is talking over phone lines to remote computers, such as bulletin boards and information services, you will need a MODEM, an acronym for MODulator-DEModulator. This is a box which connects you computer to the phone lines, allowing communication by means of audio tones. Modems come with various features, so be careful. If you don't need the modem to answer the phone, don't buy an auto-answer model. The speed of communications is dependent on the "baud rate". Few services are capable of 1200 baud, so the cheaper, 300 baud modems are your best buy for now. 300 baud is roughly 300 wpm, which is a whole lot faster than you can type, anyway!

If computer morse code is your passion, then you will need a CW interface, which accepts signals from the receiver, provides signals the computer can understand, and also keys the transmitter. The better models include RTTY and AMTOR capability for just a few bucks more. I recommend these, since once the novelty wears off the CW operation, the other modes are there, begging for experimentation.

Packet radio is similar to teletype operation, but it is computer based, and offers full error correction. The sophistication of this system is state-of-the-art, and future amateur radio computer communications will be via this system. The interface required is available from Heathkit and other sources, and is reasonably priced.

The radio forms of computer communication suggest themselves, and for the most part have been around in non-computer forms for years. The telephone communications are quite new, and few hams see any connection to amateur radio except that they both use electricity.

Actually, the connection is much like that of amateur radio magazines to ham radio. Nationwide information services, such as CompuServe have sections devoted to amateur radio, and net-like conversations take place via a central computer. The fascinating thing about this is that messages can be stored indefinitely, making a reference library available for the cost of a phone call. In addition, late-breaking ham radio news can be obtained only minutes after it happens! ARRL bulletins can be downloaded, and then printed on your printer as soon as they are released!

Local bulletin boards are scaled-down versions of the information networks, but there are some that are completely devoted to ham radio. In fact, there are even some that are connected to a packet radio repeater, as well as the phone lines! Most of these are operated as a free public service, but a few have nominal "user fees" to help support the cost and upkeep.

All in all, computer communication is a fascinating, vital part of amateur radio, and it is worth your effort to explore the latest adjunct to your hobby. This concludes the first portion of this series. Future articles will deal with specific uses for computers in your hamshack.



## SHORTS

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

**WARREN HAMFEST** will be held on Sunday, August 18. Plan on attending.

**\*QCARC\***

**BUTLER HAMFEST** will be held on Sunday, September 8. Route 68, west of Butler at the Butler Farm Show grounds.

**\*QCARC\***

Saluting Paul Silinsky, K3PS who has been promoted to the grade of Commander, US Naval Reserve. Congratulations, Paul.

**\*QCARC\***

Watch the credits this fall on ABC's miniseries, North-South for Dick Wagner, N6JLI. WB3ERA reports that he worked Dick on 2 meters in Charleston, SC. The QSO resulted in a tour of the set where the miniseries was being filmed on location.

Dick is in charge of the sound production for the show. WB3ERA's XYL especially enjoyed watching a few "takes" of a scene, and says the series will be worth

Congratulations to new novice, Randy Wolfgang, KA3OJL in Summerville. Good luck, Randy!

**\*QCARC\***

WA3IHK is currently trying to make his computer play the "Unfinished Symphony". When asked if he was going to finish it, he muttered something about having a good excuse not to...

**\*QCARC\***

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Keith Weaver, KA3OGM recently attended CAP Encampment West, a week-long training encampment at the 911th TAG Base (USAFR) in Pittsburgh. Activities included orientation in military aircraft and simulators.

**\*QCARC\***

Are you a ham radio operator? Do you live in Jefferson County? Are you interested in using your radio equipment and skills to help other people in time of need? If so, then participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is for you! Contact WA3IHK for details.



*The Parasitic Emission  
Newsletter of the  
Quad County Amateur Radio Club  
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President: Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

Vice Pres: Evan Boden, N3DEO

Secretary: Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

Treasurer: Paul Silinsky, K3PS

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