



The Parasitic Emission



Volume 13, Number 12

Merry Christmas to All!

December 1985

Antenna Night

by Art Kunst, W3WM

If you ask radio hams about their favorite topic or concern in ham radio, it usually focuses on antennae. Listen to any group of hams, and invariably the discussion focuses on antennae. There is something magic in the attraction of antennae to radio amateurs! Maybe, it is we all know that "getting out" rests substantially on the antenna we use. Because of this fascination with antennae by our club members also, I am pleased to arrange a program on Antennae for our December club meeting. Fortunately for us, our speaker Tim K3LR is one of the best hands-on practical experts on the subject in Western Pennsylvania. Tim will emphasize the practical concerns most of us have and will stay away from antenna theory. Tim will illuminate the subject with a very fine color slide presentation of all kinds of antennae installations that will make most of us drool with envy. If I seem to be carried away in my enthusiasm, it is only because I had the pleasure of hearing and seeing Tim make this presentation before the Pittsburgh Chapter of QCWA. It was well done and enthusiastically received by this critical bunch of old-timers.

Because the subject is so popular, and because we have not had a club program on antennae in years, I urge you to take advantage of this rare opportunity by your attendance. Inform your ham friends and make it an antenna party at our club meeting on December 20th. You won't be disappointed! See you at 7:30 PM at the DuBois Senior High School. Coffee and snacks will be served at the close of the meeting.

And now a fast look back at our last month's club meeting on Novice Night. It was a pleasure to meet so many new radio amateurs. We heard about the problems of getting licensed and getting on the air. It was a shocking thing to

learn that a large percentage of Novices do not get "on the air", and drop out. From my viewpoint, this is happening because our Elmer system is not being used. Wouldn't it be great if an Elmer were paired off with each new prospective radio ham? Maybe we should try this. It would make the difference!

Our January program is still in the planning stage and so I have nothing firm to report to you. 73 and Merry Christmas to all!

QCARC

Minutes of the November Meeting

by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

The regular meeting if the QCARC lwas called to order November 15, 1985 by Pres. WA3IHK.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

TREASURER REPORT- Not available

COMMITTEE REPORTS- WA3UFN reported that a S.E.T. may still take place before the end of November, problems arose that prevented it from happening on the scheduled date. This year's Halloween Patrol didn't materialize, since the local police did not call for any assistance as was agreed upon. Vandalism may have been down this year due to the inclement weather. WA3UFN also reported that the Packet Radio Digipeater was placed on the air November 11. The digipeater is operating at the same site as the 147.39 FM repeater, with the call WA3UFN-1. WA3IHK reported that the Novice class has been underway, if anyone would like to start out in the class there is room available. Also if anyone would like to refresh their code and or theory they are welcome to attend. WA3IHK also reported that there was a lack of time this month to put together a newsletter as usual.

OLD BUSINESS- W3WM reiterated that dues are due for the Club as well as the repeater for 1986. WA3IHK commented about

the lack of nominations for this year's elections of club offices, that apparently the members are not interested enough to even nominate themselves for an office. A motion to reopen nominations for the Exec Board was made by KA3DWR, seconded by WA3UFN, carried. Nominations: W3WM, KA3DWR, KA3OHH, KA3MKY, W3ZYK, N3DEO, WA3GNS. Motion to close nominations was made. Election by ballot declared W3WM, KA3DWR, W3ZYK, WA3GNS, KA3MKY as the Exec. Board.

NEW BUSINESS- WA3UFN proposed, due to some inquiries, that a family membership for the Club, should be formally established. There were several versions of such a membership proposed but none seemed to be properly worded. The idea was tabled until one could be properly worded and submitted at the next meeting. In order to facilitate the collection of dues for the new class, a motion by WA3UFN seconded by W3WM was made that the family class membership dues be \$3.00. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by KA3DWR seconded by W3WM to adjourn the meeting. The members present adjourned for the "Novice Night" program.

ATTENDANCE- WA3IHK, WA3UFN, KA3MYQ, W3WM, KA3OHH, KA3OGC, KA3OGD, W3ZYK, W3BGI, KA3MKY, KA3FHV, KA3DWR, KA3DEN, WB3HPE, KA3OGM, KA3OGQ, J. Weaver, D. Weaver

QCARC

1986 CLUB DUES

by Paul Silinsky, K3PS

You are reading the December, 1985 issue of the Parasitic Emission. Your QCARC membership expires in about two weeks and with it your subscription to this newsletter expires, too.

Each issue of the Parasitic Emission costs the club over 50 cents to print and mail. So please understand that the club can't afford to send you newsletters after your membership expires with the hope that you really intend to renew soon. This will be your last newsletter unless you pay your dues in the next few weeks.

The editorial staff of the Parasitic Emission prides itself in bringing you a fine newsletter with good quality, locally written items that we want to be of interest to you all. We hope you agree that the Parasitic Emission alone is worth the cost of your QCARC membership and that you will renew and remain with us for the

coming year. Next year, 1986, promises to be a banner year for the Parasitic Emission and the QCARC. Renew today!

QCARC

REPEATER DUES

by Paul Silinsky, K3PS

Ten years ago, it was a major feat to talk to a 2 meter FM mobile station in Marchand (Indiana County) and a milestone event to speak to a mobile in motion on I-80 at Woodland for a mere 20 seconds. Today, contacts to stations at these two locations and countless more are commonplace. That is, the contacts are commonplace, but they don't come without a price. It took a crew of up to 30 area hams from June to October, 1977 to build the present repeater site literally from the ground up. That's water under the bridge that we all profit from every day. But there is an ongoing cost for the repeater that must be paid each and every day to keep it on the air. We lease the site (the finest radio site in this area) from the State Forestry Dept. That takes money. Unilec supplies the repeater with electricity but they want money in return for the service.

All of this adds up to about \$350 per year to keep K3PS/R on the air. The \$350 comes from you the daily users of the .39 repeater. Every year at this time, each repeater user is asked to send a voluntary dues of \$10 to cover repeater operation for the coming year. You can do your part by sending \$10 to:

Quad County FM Association
PO Box 352
DuBois, PA 15801.

If you don't pay your dues, who else will pay theirs?

QCARC

A Christmas Poem

From the ARNS Bulletin,
From MARC, Villanova, PA

'Twas the night before Christmas and all
through the shack
The rig was turned off and the mike cord
lay slack
The antenna rotor had made its last turn,
The tubes in the linear had long ceased to
burn.

I sat there relaxing and took off my
specs,
Preparing to daydream of arm chair DX,
When suddenly outside I heard such a
sound,
I dashed out the door to see what was
around.

The moon shone down brightly and lighted
the night-
For sure propagation for the low bands was
right.
I peered towards the roof where I heard
all the racket,
And there was some guy in a red, fur-
trimmed jacket.

I stood there perplexed in a manner quite
giddy.
Just who was this stranger - di di dah dah
di di ?
He looked very much like an FCC guy,
Who'd come to check up on some bad TVI.

I shouted to him, "OM, QRZ"
"Hey, you by the chimney, all dressed up
in red."
I suddenly knew when I heard sleighbells
jingle.
The guy on the rooftop was jolly Kris
Kringle.

He had a big sack full of amateur gear,
Which made a big load for a prancing
reindeer.
Transmitters, receivers for cabinets and
racks,
Some meters and scopes and a lot of coax.

He said not a word 'cause he'd finished
his work
He picked up his sack, then he turned with
a jerk,
As he leaped to his sleigh, he shouted
with glee,
And I knew in a moment he'd be QRT.

But I heard him transmit as he flew o'er
the trees,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all
Seventy-Threes."

QCARC

The New Kid on the Block, Packet Radio
by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

As of November 11 the 147.39 FM
repeater received a little more company at

its desolate outpost. That company is the
Packet Radio digipeater, WA3UFN-1. The
digipeater operates on one frequency,
145.01 MHz FM, thus a true simplex
repeater. The digipeater is a dedicated
digipeater, by that I mean it is setup as
a repeating station at a good location not
just at someone's house that is operating
as a digipeater. WA3UFN-1 will be in
operation 24 hours a day, open to anyone
who wishes to digipeat through it. So far,
contacts into the Pittsburgh area are
usually reliable, considering the band
conditions and the stations on the air in
the area. The somewhat off and on problems
with getting into Pittsburgh should be
resolved in the spring, by the guys in
that area. There is a Packet Bulletin
Board on the air in Pittsburgh that
enables stations to up and download files,
bulletins, leave and retrieve "mail" to
and from other stations that access the
PBBS. It is also possible to file a
message that will automatically be
forwarded to a destination station that is
normally out of the range of normal
digipeating capability. Plans are in the
works for a major link to the East Coast.
This link will probably be through
Harrisburg, with an intermediate link
possibly at Mifflintown. With the link
through Harrisburg any station going
through the Du Bois digipeater will be
able to work stations along the coast.
Stations should be able to digipeat into
W1AW, ARRL in Newington, CT. Therefore
able to get bulletins and other news
worthy items rather quickly. There a
number of uses for packet outside of just
another way to talk to someone. I am
looking at packet for passing large
amounts of traffic quickly and accurately
during emergencies. There have been
pictures sent via packet too.

K3PS and I are planning to have a
packet radio demonstration at one of the
QCARC club meetings in the spring. By then
the local digipeater will be in the
mainstream of things and we will be able
to provide a program that will show the
best of packet! It's not too late to get
your request into Santa for a Packet
Terminal Node Controller.

QCARC

The Christmas QSO
by Wassil Slotnick, K3X

Zbigniew had taken his Novice ham

test the day after Thanksgiving and waited anxiously for his new ticket to arrive. Each day, while on his lunch break from school, he accosted the mail carrier blocks before he ever reached Zbiegniew's street. Each day he'd ask the same question: "Do you have anything from the FCC for me?" And each day the mail man would patiently answer, "No, son. I'm sorry. Nothing for you today." And off down his route the mail carrier would plod.

Never tiring of hearing the same answer to his eager inquiry each day, Zbiegniew would head for home to wait for tomorrow only to ask the same question and to receive the now familiar answer.

Every day after school Zbiegniew would hurry home, stow his books in his bedroom, and head for the corner of the basement destined to be his gateway to the world--his very own ham shack! He'd run his fingers eagerly over the knobs of the Hammerlund HQ-110 receiver. He'd turn it on and tune around the band imagining he was searching for his elusive 315th DX country. Then, suddenly, in his mind's ear, he heard it! "CQ CQ DX de VE8CC k" His palms now sweating with anticipation, Zbiegniew would, in his dream world of the ham-to-be, hurriedly tune up his powerful(!) DX-60 transmitter and lunge after this rare one. "VE8CC VE8CC de KL3UTZ kn kn!!!" Back came the reply, "KL3UTZ de VE8CC bt GE OM bt NICE TO HEAR YOU TONITE bt UR RST 599 599 bt QTH IS ELLSMERE ISLAND AND NAME HR IS CHRIS bt SO BK TO U AND HW? KL3UTZ de VE8CC kn" With this, Zbiegniew nearly fell out of his chair with excitement and barely managed to send a civil reply to Chris. Somehow he managed to reply and hastily tied the ribbons to the QSO. With the final "sk", Zbiegniew turned off his DX-60 and HQ-110. He'd had enough excitement for today. So upstairs to his bedroom he went to savor the ecstasy of this imagined QSO.

Day after day Zbiegniew quizzed the mail carrier and day after day he received the same, almost expected, reply. Finally, on December 24th, Zbiegniew saw the post man give him the high sign from half a block away. He broke into a run as he approached the post man and anxiously ripped open the official envelope from the FCC. Inside was his long awaited new call sign--KL3UTZ. Imagine his surprise when he saw that he'd actually received the very same call that he'd used day after day for the past month to work the world

from his imagination! Zbiegniew was so happy and so surprised that he barely noticed that the post man was handing him a brightly colored postcard with a foreign stamp on it. He reached for it while wondering who it could be from. After all, hadn't he just gotten his license today? Who could be sending him a QSL?

Breathing rapidly from the excitement and mystery, Zbiegniew saw that the card was from "VE8CC, Chris Cringle, Box 73, Ellsmere Island, NWT NP7 3SC." He ran straight home and quickly assembled a tray of milk and cookies by the fireplace just in case his first QSO, good ole VE8CC, happened to drop in for an "eyeball" on Christmas Eve!

QCARC

Everything I know about DX - Part 3
by Bob Netzlof, WB3IQE

So, most of the world settled down to a standard of amateur call signs which consisted of 2 letters, a number and 2 or 3 more letters (2x2 or 2x3 call signs). The US, UK, France and Italy were issuing 1x2, 1x3, 2x2 and 2x3 callsigns. All amateur callsigns had a single numeral as the third character, except in G, F, I, K and W -lands where one might find the number as the second or third character.

However, a problem was looming. The number of countries was increasing, as old colonial empires broke up. Many colonies simply kept on using the call signs they had been assigned by the Colonial Office or Kolmisherant or whatever, but many wanted something new to reflect their new status. Further, all or nearly all the 3 letter groups had been handed out to some country already.

Well, when you run out of letters, start using numbers. Wxcept that business with the amateur and experimental stations meant that people were already using numbers. That is, you can't let the Federal Republic of Kirchoff use prefix OH2, because Finland has been handing out call signs which begin OH2. You can't hand out K3A through K3Z, because K3T + FL = K3TFL, and there's one of those already.

So the safe course is to start using 3 "letter" prefixes in which the first "letter" is a number. Thus:

3AA-3AZ Monaco
3BA-3BZ Mauritius

The non-standard practice was still to use the first 2 "letters" of the prefix, followed by a number for amateurs, and to use the full 3 "letter" prefix for "regular" stations. Thus an amateur in Monaco would be assigned 3A3AA or 3A3XQ or 3A3ABC; whilst commercial stations would get 3ARM or 3AAA or some such.

Some of these prefixes went to new countries, others went to established countries which felt they needed more prefixes than they had received in earlier allocations. Thus Mexico has XAA-XIZ, and also 4AA-4CZ and 6DA-6JZ. Yugoslavia has YTA-YUZ, YZA-YZZ, and 4NA-4OZ.

Some countries have no choice. Monaco can only issue callsigns which begin with 3A. Yugoslavia has a choice of YT, YU, YZ, 4N, or 4O. As it happens, Yugoslavia uses YU as the normal prefix for amateur callsigns. However, the Yugoslav government can authorize use of any of the 5 prefixes (and sometimes does). That's why you can't get along with just the DXCC Countries List. There you will find that YU = Yugoslavia, with no clue as to YT, YZ, 4N, and 4O. That's also why you need to know your way around the ITU table.

QCARC

Shorts

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

This month's newsletter is the result of an experiment. I am using WordStar(tm) for a one-time trial to see if it makes the editing of the newsletter any easier. I'll know after I try it whether it was worth the hassle or not.

QCARC

K3PS is sporting a new Tandy 200 portable computer which he uses for packet radio and for writing newsletter articles. Flash! It now sports 72K of low-current RAM. Paul seems pleased with its performance.

QCARC

KA30HH has recently been seen about town with a new Ford mobile mount for the rig he doesn't have yet. You should have some place to put the rig before you get it, I guess.

QCARC

Not to be outdone, WA3BUX has also pried some BUX loose and is tooling around with a new mobile mount. Now, if he installs the rig, maybe we'll hear from him!

QCARC

K3PS determined that his TNC kit had aged sufficiently for construction to begin, and now has it on the air. Problem: The Digipeater dislikes anything below freezing and has gone on strike. That's what happens when you "build no kit before its time!"

QCARC

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and kind thoughts after my father's passing away. (WA3IHK)

QCARC

BULLETIN! - Now that the weather is consistently below freezing, conditions are ideal for erecting a "hard" antenna, as per K3X's recommendations. Remember to use a full kilowatt for the first transmission, Wassil reminds us.

QCARC

Precipitation Static - During a heavy snowfall, especially one associated with frontal passage, snowflakes falling to earth can carry a hefty electrostatic charge. I had this borne out one day at State College, where I had erected a 250 foot 80-meter full-wave antenna. I was receiving nothing but an S-meter full of noise, and decided to disconnect the antenna for some reason or other. Much to my surprise, the rig quieted with the antenna connector unplugged. Suddenly, 4-inch sparks arced from the antenna connector to the chassis of the rig!

Immediately shutting off the power was of no help, and I watched, along with an EE-type roommate as the light show continued. Every 5-10 seconds, "Crack!". When the snow let up, so did the arcing.

What this means to you is, watch it! Be especially careful when connecting and disconnecting antennas during snowfall, particularly if using solid state equipment!

QCARC

IHK's Corner

By Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

As I write this, snow is falling, as is evening, and the Christmas lights add a touch of color to the drab gray and white of winter. This time of year is special to many of us, and I have many happy memories of radio conversations during such evenings. The warmth of "Merry Christmas" over the air, logs on the fire, as well as in the shack, and the general spirit of goodwill among the happy memories of Christmas Past.

For some reason, I always become reflective at this time of year, looking back over the past year's accomplishments, and those of years gone by. Wrapping up my 20th year as a Radio Amateur, I ask myself how much things have changed. The answer is that there have been both good and bad changes.

When I was first licensed as a novice, the license was good for only one year, and couldn't be renewed. Now it is the same as any other license. Good for some, bad for others. I feel that there is less incentive to get on the air now, and less reason to upgrade.

License exams are now conducted

locally. This is good. It is infinitely easier for hams to earn higher classes of licenses today than it was 20 years ago. The travel requirement has all but been abolished.

Some things never change. Amateur radio is still at the forefront of radio technology. Hams are pioneering work with packet communications, satellite communications and digital electronics. There are no clear frequencies on 75 meters. People still complain about Morse code requirements.

For the last half of my ham career, I have been involved with the Quad County Amateur Radio Club. It is with no little enjoyment that I see a healthy, active club conducting regular meetings, presenting fascinating programs, publishing a superior newsletter, and fostering public interest in our very special hobby.

The only thing that tarnishes this glowing picture is the lack of participation from the members. You have the power to fix that. Make a New Year's resolution to attend each QCARC meeting. After all, how much enjoyment can be packed into a couple hours each month? Come to the meetings and find out!



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

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Treasurer: Paul Silinsky, K3PS

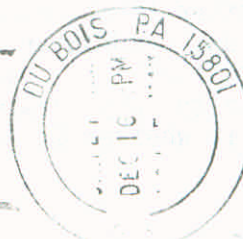


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