

The Parasitic Emission

Volume 36 – Number 6
June 2010

**FIELD DAY!
JUNE 26-27**

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WE WELCOME three more clubs to our growing *Parasitic Emission* family! The **Headwaters ARC** in Coudersport, Potter County, the **Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association** in Philipsburg, Centre County, and the **Indiana County Amateur Radio Club**. All three clubs will be receiving *The Parasitic Emission* every month, and will share their activities with us in the *Club Connections* column.

You may notice our new "Cover Page" and expanded club coverage this month. Also, the page layout changed to "landscape" orientation. Since the *Emission* is read on computer screens, this permits each page to fill the screen. Square pegs in square holes, and all.

This issue features two articles by members of our newly associated clubs. John Szwarc, N3SPW, President of the Philipsburg ARA, and Skip Kauffmann, K3CC, Potter County ARES Emergency Coordinator have generously contributed their time and effort for two great articles. Thanks, fellows!

Let's give all our new readers a warm welcome! I'm looking forward to hearing about their activities, and I'm sure they're looking forward to reading about all the other club activities in the ever-growing area we cover.

After all, what makes any hobby worthwhile—

activities, right? Our favorite hobby, Amateur Radio is no different. There has to be more to it than a piece of paper from the FCC to hang on our wall. It's safe to say that every one of us made a substantial effort to acquire that piece of paper so we could use it!

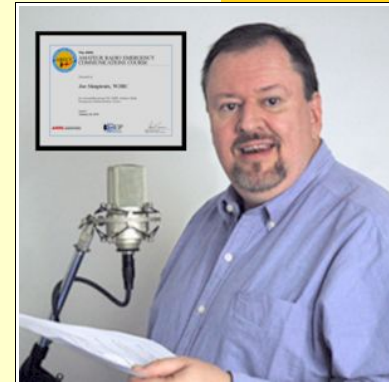
As I was putting together the Field Day montage which graces our front page, I couldn't help but notice there was only one photo available which showed people operating radios in a field. Imagine that! Field Day in an actual field!

Sure, everybody likes a picnic. I know I sure like to eat! Psychologists from Dr. Pavlov to the present day are well aware that food is a great motivator. But when all our amateur radio events revolve around food instead of radio, is it any wonder that participation drops off? This points out an obvious truth—Amateur

Radio activities ought to be about **Amateur Radio!**

There are many aspects to Field Day. One of the most important is emergency preparedness. It's a great opportunity for us to practice setting up radios, generators, and antennas under conditions which mimic those we might encounter in a real-life disaster. If we have to contract a commercial radio technician to install our Field Day antennas for us, what does that say about our level of emergency readiness—or competence?

During an actual emergency, do you honestly believe that commercial radio technicians will put our antennas up for us???



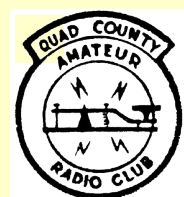
1982 QCARC Field Day at WA3GMT's Field Day and Picnic Grove.

Left to right: Gary Boucher W3GNR and YL Marlene, Kathy Golla, Ron Drummond W3FF, Joe Shupienis WA3IHK, Bryan Simanic WA3UFN, George Dessert W3IJT, Gil Hamilton K3BFO, Doc Vancheri W3BWH, Dick Flanders WA3BUX, Ed Golla WA3GMT, Fred Barr WA3GQU, Jim Albert K3TFL, Paul Silinsky K3PS, Dick Hockman K3LIX.

My personal plans for this year's Field Day will be something new for me. I'm going to be in "reporter" mode. To make the *Emission* a better publication, and to better serve the growing number of clubs who are receiving it, I plan on making the rounds to as many Field Day stations as I can. I hope to take lots of photos, and to meet as many of our readers as I can. While driving, I'll likely operate, but serious operating and running up a big score is not on my agenda this year.

I'll see you on Field Day... **on the air!**

*Amateur
Radio
activities
ought to be
about
Amateur
Radio...*



The Quad-County Amateur Radio Club

Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson Counties

Meeting Notice

June 18, 2010

The June Meeting of the QCARC will be at 7:30 pm, Friday, June 18, 2010. The meeting place is at the Clearfield County 911 Center on Leonard Street in Clearfield.

The June QCARC Breakfast will be at 9:30 am, Saturday, June 12 at Sid's Super Subs, 1306 Old Town Road in Clearfield.

Minutes

by Jeff Rowles, KA3FHV

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM. Friday, May 21, 2010 by Doug, W3DWR. The minutes of the last regular meeting were approved as read. The treasurer's report was given by Doug due to the absence of the treasurer. A motion to approve was made by KA3FHV with a second by W3KWT.

Old Business

Doug received an email from WPRC Vice Chairman, Philip Heck, in regard to our request for a coordinated control frequency for the 147.315 repeater. Our request has been forwarded to the frequency co-ordinator; however, we must still complete the formal paperwork. After further discussion a motion was made by W3BC and seconded by AA3AZ to purchase from W3DWR a Kenwood TS-431A for \$20.00 to be used as the receiver at the repeater site. The radio has an intermittent transmit problem, but the receiver is in good condition.

New Business

Field Day this year is June 26 & 27. Set up of the two G5RV antennas will take place on Friday the 25th at 6:30 PM. The 911

conference room has been penciled in for our use for Field Day. Publicity and the invitation(s) to elected officials as well as the invitation to the EMA director will be handled by W3DWR. There will be two HF radios available.

We need a CW operator. An email was sent to N3IES in this regard. The food usually manages to take care of itself. Computer logging setup will be in the capable hands of W3BC.

There appears to be a noise problem with the repeater. We are going to look into a work party to check it out and also set up the control radio.

A motion to adjourn was made by KA3FHV and seconded by SM7FYW.

An excellent power point presentation on "boat anchor" restoration by W3BC followed the meeting.

Attendance: KA3FHV, W3KWT, SM7FYW, Kay, KBELES, KB3TAP, AA3AZ, KB3ABK, W3DWR, N4BIX (new member) and W3BAR.

QCARC Information

President	Doug Rowles, W3DWR ka3dwr@hotmail.com
Vice President	Lars Kvant, SM7FYW/W3 sm7fyw@hotmail.com
Secretary	Jeff Rowles, KA3FHV jrowles@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Dorothy Morrison, N3PUQ edmo1@atlanticbb.net
Executive Board	Ed Hinkle, K3EDD Joe Bitner, N3IES Rich Brnik, KB3QKR Thomas Robinson, W3KWT Ed Morrison, K3JE
Repeaters	N3QC 147.315+ [173.8] K3EDD 444.625+ [173.8] N3IZE 444.900+ [173.8] local
Nets	Sunday @ 1900 147.315 (Club) Sunday @ 1945 147.315 (ARES)
Web	www.qcarc.com



Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club

Punxsutawney and Jefferson County

Meeting Notice

June 8, 2010

The June Meeting of the PAARC will be at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 8, 2010. The meeting will be held at the Punxsutawney Presbyterian Church on Findlay Street in Punxsutawney.

The **Shack Night** is back! The next Shack Night will be Tuesday, June 1st at the PAARC hamshack at the Punxsutawney Municipal Airport. Doors open from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Minutes

by Steve Waltman, KB3FPN

The May meeting of the PAARC was held on May 11, 2010 and called to order by the President, N3HBH, Mike. Jim, KA3WSX has been in a Pittsburgh hospital and then when home again fell down steps at home and fractured his wrist.

W3QOS reported a balance of \$450.17—approved

Minutes April meeting read by Steve KB3FPN and approved - Jeff KA3FHV motion and John KB3OUG second.

Old Business:

The first shack night of 2010 will be Tuesday, June 1, with hot sausage by Parker, then the next meeting will June 8, with the club breakfast June 26th

New Business:

ARRL Field Day will be discussed at the June meeting - the Dayton Hamvention is coming up and the Butler Hamfest is on Sunday June 6.

Bill Latta reported that Larry Straitiff left equipment that belonged to his dad at the shack or airport as a donation to the club - thanks for information Bill.

There was discussion that it may be a good idea to give Larry a free membership - all were in favor.

The meeting was turned over to W3BC, Joe for a presentation on boat anchor radios or "real radios glow in the dark".

Don, KB3LES made a motion to adjourn meeting with a second by BLANK. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Waltman, Secretary PAARC

PAARC Information

President	Mike Miller, N3HBH n3hbh@comcast.net
Vice President	Jim Byrne, KA3WSX jimwsx@windstream.net
Secretary	Steve Waltman, KB3FPN kb3fpn@windstream.net
Treasurer	Sham Hollopeter, W3QOS
Repeaters	N5NWC 146.715- [173.8] Punxs'y N5NWC 443.475+ Punxs'y KE3DR 147.390+ [173.8] Rockton N3HAO 53.07- (-1MHz) Rockton N3JGT 147.105+ [173.8] Sigel N3GPM 444.275+ Brookv1
Nets	Monday @ 1930 147.390 (Club) Monday @ 2000 147.105 (ARES)
Web	www.qsl.net/k3hwj/



Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association

Philipsburg and Clearfield County

Meeting Notice

June 12, 2010

Next meeting 6/12/10 at 3:00pm at Bock's Tea Room Restaurant

Next **VE test session** 6/12/10 at 4:00pm after PARA meeting

Minutes

by Dave Runk, AA3EJ

Attendees: Mike-WB3EQW, Dave-AA3EJ, Filip-AB3HK, John-N3SPW, Lou-WB3AAI, Rich-KB3QKR, Jim-N3ONE, Paul-W3PRL

Meeting opened 5/8/10 at 3pm, in Bock's Tea Room restaurant, Philipsburg, PA

"HAM-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD"

given to Lou, WB3AAI who just returned back from hibernation in FL, welcome home Lou!. Pics taken and will be placed on the PARA-ARA.ORG web page...

HERITAGE DAYS report by Dave-AA3EJ...

All set registered for second week in July under the special call W3P Wed-Sat operation. Two operators to be operating full time during that period, HF stations and 2m station is planned. Lou will build the two dipole antennas, John-N3SPW to furnish the banner, and PR material. Joe, KB3CBN to take care of the QSL details and PR printing info to be given out. Demo/TV/monitor to be investigated to be running for the public to view, if possible. Joe-KB3CBN mentioned Internet access is available for laptop usage if desired using his WAN network. Operators schedule to be provided on-line by Paul-

W3PRL for operation times.

APRS DIGIPEATER report by John

(Mark-K3ITG on road)...ready and operating from Kylertown, new future QTH being sought as original Rockton Mountain became non-feasible due to another digipeater covering that range at present. Future QTH permission to be used is the .75 repeater site at George's garage (Jim-N3ONE) to coordinate.

PARA NEWSLETTER, report by John,

W3BC is publishing *The Parasitic Emission* newsletter which has been including news about regional clubs and a vote was taken to include PARA in there as well. Dave-AA3EJ will contact W3BC to coordinate PARA news and include info as it becomes available. Joe will then include PARA as one of the local regional clubs' activities..Coordinate action, Dave-AA3EJ

VE TESTING report by Dave-AA3EJ...

May testing session was held with two applicants, Thanks for all who participated in the testing team, and especially the applicants!!. Next test session is scheduled for 4pm next month after the PARA meeting at 4pm. Any interested applicants please

PARA Information

President	John Szwarc, N3SPW jsszwarc@yahoo.com
Vice President	Dave Runk, AA3EJ aa3ej@live.com
Secretary	Dave Runk, AA3EJ aa3ej@live.com
Treasurer	Jim Warg, N3ONE
Liaison	Filip Cerny AB3HK, ARRL Liaison Dick Thompson, K3BIE Interclub Liaison
Repeaters	W3PHB 146.430+ [173.8] Rt1snk Mt W3PHB 146.640- [173.8] Philipsbg W3PHB 444.750+ [173.8] Philipsbg
Nets	Saturday @ 2100 147.430+ [173.8]
Web	www.philipsburg-ara.org

email Dave-aa3ej at [aa3ej@live.com] for reservation to ensure that your test will be available.

BLACK MOSHANNON 10K RUN, report by John-N3SPW [Dick-K3BIE absent]

Participants needed for the 10k run to act as spotters. Dick K3BIE to send out email for registration. event to take place 5/29/10. Dick-K3BIE to coordinate event for PARA...

TREASURY Report by Jim-N3ONE

\$713.97 in Treasury till at present with all bills paid!. Congrats Jim!!

LIABILITY INSURANCE & TAX ISSUE report and comments by Paul-W3PRL..

It was brought up and discussed by club members to determine if there is any problem with the PARA club structure with tax and liability, and with it's present operating structure. After comprehensive discussion by several members it was determined that the issues discussed DOES NOT affect the PARA club. any change in the club's structure will be deferred to a later date for discussion when that need arises.

REPEATER REPORTs by Filip-AB3HK..

All repeaters are working as planned with .64 PLL being off most of the time due to a local noise man-made. dave-AA3EJ monitors that repeater during the day and has been very quiet most of the time. The .43 repeater has been working great, PLL output removed to eliminate the "Hum" problem on repeated audio, but Echo Link is off at present. alternative means being investigated by John-N3SPW and Filip-AB3HK to include Telephone/I-net connection or control line. Investigation ongoing at present. .75 has been running smoothly at George's garage (Jim-N3ONE) contact without any problems to date. Located is being sought for home for digi-peater. (Jim-N3ONE to coordinate permission)



Headwaters Amateur Radio Club
N3PC
Coudersport, PA 16915

Headwaters Amateur Radio Club

Coudersport and Potter County

Meeting Notice

June 3, 2010

The June meeting of the HARC is scheduled for 7:00 pm, Thursday, June 3, 2010.

Minutes

by Charles Scott Sharpe, KB3JVD

The meeting was called to order by Jason, K2BYL, at 7:02 PM, 6th May 2010

Meeting minutes from the April meeting were read. Glenn motioned to accept the minutes Milton seconded.

Jim C. motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jim L. seconded.

Old business:

Jim talked with Lonnie Bunch about using the facilities at the hospital. This is a possibility and we would have to talk with Lonnie more. Entrance is at the helipad parking area, 3rd Entrance from Coudersport in entrance door A. More to come. VE exams will be held at that location.

It looks like Wayne will be the new Potter Co. ACS officer.

Jayson made a trip to Closes Lumber to get the bolts for the bars he had. He went to Worth Smith Hardware in Olean and found they had brass hardware.

Wayne got in touch with Bill Sallade about the club house for field day. Wayne will get the key and suggested we donate \$75 for the use of the club house.

Jim C. suggested that we get a group to meet ahead of time to discuss all the items needed. If you want to be on the committee contact Jason. Jim L, Charles S. Expressed interest in the committee.

New Business

Joe Shupienis, W3BC was a guest and spoke of the importance of having a club newsletter. He is the publisher of *The Parasitic Emission* newsletter. You can check the newsletter out at <http://www.parasiticemission.com> He would like information from the club to provide data, club news, etc to be published in *The Parasitic Emission*.

We had a quick vote and everyone agreed we should send our data to the publisher to regularly send our meeting minutes etc for publication. Send submissions to submission@parasiticemission.com

Joe also talked about his recent work toward forming a regional council of amateur radio clubs. The goal is to provide advocacy, help, and support, including providing programs for smaller clubs. The idea is to have an appointed member to represent each local club.

Wayne spoke about RACES, the EOC considers us a RACES Club. None of the

Headwaters ARC Information

President	<u>Jason Layton, K2BYL</u>		
Vice President	<u>James Centanni, W2IMK</u>		
Secretary	<u>Charles Scott Sharpe, KB3JVD</u>		
Treasurer	<u>Wayne Stahler, II, WS3PC</u>		
Repeaters	N3PC 146.685- [173.8] Coudersport K3CC 146.880- [173.8] Coudersport KB3EAR 444.300+ Coudersport		
Nets	Monday @ 1900 146.685- [173.8] Monday @ 1930 28.360 [USB] Monday @ 1945 1.980 [USB]		
Web	<u>www.n3pc.com</u>		

current legalities have been met. Wayne is still waiting on a letter stating he is the ACS officer. There are some legal issues that need attention.

Joe suggested that there is a fundamental misunderstanding between the relationship of ARES/RACES. Joe gave a brief history of the RACES and ARES organization.

A sticking point is that county EMA's are not understanding how ARES can meet their needs.

The county is missing important information about RACES and ARES. We need to fill out applications for either or both groups. It is suggested that club members fill both applications. This is to help resolve issues in the future and cover members in multiple instances.

Jason spoke about Glenn's project regarding EMP. Followed by a short history of EMP and the cold war. Jason suggested that each member consider the possibility of EMP damage due to Lightning strikes.

- Check your ground.
- Most power companies have a MOV(Magnesium oxide varistor) device that can be installed inline with the power meter.
- Glenn spoke about a circuit breaker type device.
- Jason asked if Glenn could provide us with information about EMP and protection.

Charles mentioned some of the videos offered by the ARRL Atlantic Division web site. For more information, see <http://www.atldiv.org/training>

Monday Night Net Assignments: Not discussed,

Jim L motioned for adjournment, Glenn 2nd. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.



Elk County Amateur Radio Association

Elk and Cameron Counties

Meeting Notice

June 20, 2010

The June Meeting of the Elk County ARA will take place at 1:30 pm, Sunday June 20 at the Elk County 911 Center, Route 219 south of Ridgway.

Repeater Report

Pete Carr, WW30

Lee Lewis N3NWL accompanied me to the Ridgway Borough Council meeting to ask about using the Montmorenci Fire Hall as a backup 147.00 MHz repeater location. The land is owned by National Fuel Gas and the Borough is going to ask them if it's okay.

Separately, we are looking into the old Alltel telephone company radio site. That is behind the Boot Jack School and has not been used in many years. This site has two buildings, two 45 foot telephone poles and a 70 foot pole. There is electric on site and the buildings are repairable. The Club is looking to lease the 200' by 200' lot for the taxes and assume maintenance and liability.

Shorts

From Elk County

A test session was held in Coudersport recently and **Rich Skellen** passed the Technician class license. His callsign is **KB3UOC**. Rich is a teacher at the Ridgway High School and resides in Ridgway.

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Elk County ARA Information

President	<u>Scott Logue, N3LVG</u>		
Vice President	<u>Rick Wehler, N3RJH</u>		
Secretary	<u>Jerry Robinson, N3RYG</u>		
Treasurer	<u>Mary Lewis, N3UDN</u>		
ARES EC	<u>Bob Devilling, N3SGY</u>		
Repeaters	N3NIA 147.000+ [173.8]	Bootjack	
	N3NWL 147.285+	Ridgway	
	N3RZL 442.200+	Ridgway	
	N3RZL 442.350+	Boone Mtn	
	N3RZL 144.390= [APRS]	Ridgway	
	WA8RZR 443.675+	St Marys	
	N3NIA 28.205 BEACON	Ridgway	
	N3FYD 146.805-	Emporium	
WA3WPS 147.180+	Emporium		
Nets	Sunday @ 2000 147.000+ [173.8]		
Web	<u>www.n3nia.com</u>		

JUNE IS HERE, and that means it's time for Field Day! As I kick off this issue of The Parasitic Emission, I am reminded of how important Field Day has been throughout my ham career. My story, I'm sure, parallels many others. I was 13 years old and had a shiny, brand-new Novice license way back in June of 1966. My Elmer, Jim Albert K3TFL came tooling by my QTH in a beat-up, old Jeep with no top, no doors and no brakes. It was overflowing with old radios and old hams.

I ran to the curb and jumped in. In those days, nobody worried about a 13 year old driving off to the woods with a bunch of strange old men—because they didn't have to! Upon arriving at the Field Day site in Clear Run, I was awestruck by the radios... They were way better than my young mind could ever imagine owning.

We got to work stringing up antenna wires, pounding ground rods and installing the generator. I was in ham heaven when Dick Flanders (WA3BUX) let me operate his Heathkit transceiver. Long before the days of GOTA stations, I worked several stations on 20-meter sideband, under his watchful eye. When I worked a station in sunny California, the bug bit hard and I developed the lifelong affliction called "ham fever."

There was no club in those days, and the next several years had no local Field Days. I got on from home, but it just wasn't the same. After my first year of college at Penn State DuBois, I convinced Bruce Girrell (WA3HPE), Fred Barr (WA3GQU) and Jon Siverling (WN3ODY, now WB3ERA) to set up on top of the hill behind the campus near the DuBois Monument. We converted a CB groundplane to a 20-meter vertical, and carried it, fully assembled, up

the streets from the campus to the hilltop. You could hear the neighbors all thinking, "Crazy college kids!"

Murphy had a field day too. Late that evening, I heard a VK7 on 20 meters, and called him. Just as he was answering me... you guessed it! The generator ran dry! Fred and Bruce went running to the generator, gas cans in hand and I kept sending as the lights grew dimmer and the transmitter drained the filter capacitors with every dit.

The next summer, we set up shop at a rustic farm on a hilltop overlooking DuBois. The farmer's only concern was that we had to be sure not to leave any holes that might cause his plough-horses to break a leg. We were using my off-center fed 80 meter fullwave antenna, and were pleasantly surprised to work another 80 meter station set up on The Mall in Washington, DC in the middle of the afternoon! We worked many more stations after that.

I spent the next couple Field Days with the Penn State ARC—on Tussey Mountain near the W3HKK VHF site, and at the fire tower on top of Little Flat Mountain. We got the keys to the buildings from the Forestry Department, and set up a VHF station in the fire tower. We sure surprised a lot of people on six and two meters! We strung inverted vees from the tower and had HF fun day and night, while running up a big score. John Sierzega (WN3QPK) from DuBois helped in the effort. To this day, when I smell bacon cooking in the morning, it often brings back fond memories of the fresh mountain air and the old, cast-iron stove in that stone cabin on that fine summer morning in June 1974.

Through the next several years, there were many enjoyable Quad-County ARC Field Days. The image of Mason Freeman (W3DQF) pounding brass in the wee hours, while being

swarmed by huge Luna moths will remain with me a long time. Bob Netzlof (WB3IQE) would often settle in for a long evening shift at the key and would run up a respectable score for us, rain or shine.

QCARC Field Day was a family affair. The best times we had were at the QTH of Ed Golla (WA3GMT). Ed set up a beautiful, wooded

picnic grove behind his house, with acres of mowed, open field for antennas and parking. He installed a permanent cooking table, and a nice swing with plenty of benches and tables that I'm sure are there to this day.

Maybe it's just me, but I have a hard time sitting indoors and calling it "Field" day. There's just something special about playing with radios in the great outdoors that feels "right." Especially when you share that fun with friends.

Last year, I tried something new—I've never entered as a "mobile" station, so Bryan (WA3UFN) and I gave it a shot. With a good mobile antenna, and stopping in superior locations, we were able to rack up a respectable score. On 20 meter CW, it was hard to tell the difference from operating at home: The rate was right up there! Running S&P, every station I called resulted in a QSO. Compared to the 55 other Class 1C (mobile) stations across the country, we came in 2nd in our WPA section, 4th in the Atlantic Division, and finished in the top ten nationwide!



WHEN WAS THE last time you attended a local amateur radio club meeting and wondered where all the people were? When only four or five people show up one has to conclude there is a problem. The health of the organization is either at risk or on life support. People have apparently become dissatisfied with the group's activities.

Much has been written in the pages of *QST*, *CQ Magazine*, and others about the changing demographics of the amateur radio community. Obviously things have changed. The very first amateur radio meeting I attended was the CARS club (Crawford Amateur Radio Society, Meadville, PA) back in the early 1980s. It was standing room only, with about fifty people in attendance. Local radio club meetings aren't like that anymore. Yes, some clubs are doing better than others, but you will have to concede that the overall numbers participating have taken a sharp decline in the past twenty years. And further, it has become rare to find anyone under the age of 40 at a club meeting.

So is it that today's youth are "lazy" and "uninterested" in technology? Certainly not. They are more immersed in technology than any of us were when we were their age. Just watch the typical youngster send an IM [*instant message via cell phone-Ed.*] to their friends or use a Nintendo DSi game to access the world wide web using a local wireless "hot spot". In fact, much of the modern technology has become routine to today's youth.

But one thing is for certain: the technical minded youth of the past two decades have been turning to computers and other assorted electronic devices to satisfy their curiosity about electronic gadgets. The ability to har-

ness radio waves and talk with people around the world seems boring to today's youth.

The disconnect, in my opinion, is that technology has moved forward while much of the amateur community has been slow to adopt it. In fact, the amateur community has, at times, pushed many interested people away. Who among us hasn't heard a fellow ham talk about how "real hams have to pass the code test". Or about how "the FCC tests are so much easier to pass now that they've taken all the hard questions out". Oh, and one of my personal favorites is that "it isn't ham radio unless you are using a radio" when talking about web based link systems like EchoLink. Did you ever stop to consider how that sounds to someone who might be half-interested in the hobby? Do you think it encouraged them?

Many "old-school hams" seem to have a picture of what they think amateur radio is. And in many cases that picture does not include any of the modern technology. This is a very different picture from what the ARRL paints with their public relations efforts. Emergency Communications, digital modes and much more is the order of the day. And that, oftentimes, seems very interesting to technical-minded youth. It's the combination of their computer knowledge and desire for public service with the amateur radio hobby. But then they show up at a local club meeting and inevitably someone will "set them straight" on what amateur radio is. And that prospective new ham is never seen again.

For the local amateur radio clubs to survive there will have to be some dramatic changes. It's no longer something we "should" do, but something that "must" be done. Without significant changes the numbers at local club meetings, and the amateur community in general, will continue to decline. So what should those changes include? First and foremost is a change in attitude. If any of us

ever see an "old-school ham" painting their amateur radio picture for someone, it is incumbent on each of us to jump in and change the course of that discussion. We need new licensed hams. Chasing them away with stories longing for what is now ancient history will not be helpful to any of us.

But one of the best ideas I've seen came up in a conversation I had with Joe W3BC. His idea was to create a structure where neighboring amateur radio clubs can easily share resources and talent between themselves. In many cases clubs have shrunk to the point where they are not able to do many activities that had been done in the past. It takes more than a few people to set up a "Jamboree on the Air" station for the Boy Scouts. Or to run a full-sized hamfest. Or to have a pool of quality speakers for club meetings. Even managing a VE testing team has become burdensome to some smaller clubs. And if a club isn't making any "new hams" in the local area, what makes you think there will be a "tomorrow"? By sharing resources local clubs could consolidate efforts to effectively accomplish these things and many more.

This idea would give clubs a chance to increase their activity level and breathe new life into the individual organizations. This could, if executed properly, be a catalyst to attracting the technical-minded youth back to the amateur radio community.

So who is with me on this? Will we build a better tomorrow? Or will it be business as usual until the last of the club members die off? If the idea of creating a structure where neighboring amateur radio clubs can share resources and talent is interesting to you we need to hear from you. Please contact either Joe (w3bc@arrl.net) or me (n3spw@arrl.net.) Divided we are already falling. But together we can build a better tomorrow.

*This could
attract
technical-
minded youth
back to ama-
teur radio*

The Closet Ham

by Skip Kauffman, K3CC

AS YEARS GO BY, some words have different meanings. In the 1960's, I was a "Closet Ham." I built my radio shack in my bedroom closet! It was just large enough for a chair and shelf to hold my KT200 and 6L6 transmitter. Now, flash forward almost 50 years!

Today we have many new Ham personalities. There are the repeater jockeys with their ham shacks on their belt. Then there are the nternet techs with IHOP, IRLP and other things that I don't understand. If you don't talk one radio to another the old fashion way, I want nothing to do with it.



A growing bunch, are the CB-er know-it-alls. To hear them tell it, these guys worked WAS and DXCC all on 11 meters and are "the" experts on audio, antennas and everything electronic. They are easy to spot on the air... "How do I sound now?"

Contesters are the fun "type A's". My stuff is bigger and better than yours. Our motto is, "the one with the most toys wins."

Now, back to today's "Closet Hams". They are not too sure of themselves and overwhelmed by the tech jargon. The test was hard and they studied diligently to pass. These communicators got into ham radio for fun. To them, I say that talking and listening to the stories of others is an art. Relish this time and make friends with other hams.

We "Ole Timers" have left these hams in the lurch. The "Closet Hams" are very much like we were 50 years ago. Back then, hams had

etiquette. We listened more than we talked. Some topics as religion and politics were taboo. I look back on those days with great fondness.

OK, it's natural to reflect on the past but we are in the present/future. How do we marry these eclectic groups?

Your local Amateur Radio Club should be the common rallying place. I believe that the local club is the backbone of the ham fraternity. What must happen, is due respect given to all. The American Radio Relay League has published an "Amateur's Code." Please read this!!

The missing link is respect for everyone on the spectrum. Today, it seems

that there are more and more individuals. Yes, we are individuals, but bound by a common thread—Amateur Radio. I see some local radio clubs with very small memberships. Some people tell me the small clubs are "cliques".

We Ham Radio operators consider ourselves communicators. Well, here's a new twist, start talking to one another and communicate. Older hams should try to instill the values of friendship and learning. I, like many, started in Ham Radio when I was in high school.

It's almost 50 years since then. Many of my Elmers and friends have passed along the way. It seems the older I get, the more of my old friends are gone. The QCWA was depressing. Each year, a good comrade died.

Please find a local Amateur Radio Club and join. You may be surprised by the common interest that you share with others. Today's

tight economy, creates many commitments on your time. Work, family, church and relaxing leave few hours for ham radio. Make the best of the time that you spend on ham radio. I have made life-long friends from all over the world.

Once you have joined a local club, get involved. Find a program that interests you. Keep it simple, do not over extend yourself. When you find a local club, ask yourself some questions:

- 1) Does the club provide service to the community?
- 2) Do they have a club HF station with antennas and multi mode capability?
- 3) Does the club promote license upgrades, Elmers and VE sessions?
- 4) Do they have programs after the regular meetings?
- 5) Are you comfortable with the club?

Again, I stress, communicate your ideas and needs to the club members. Spend time with an "Elmer" or being an Elmer—both on and off the air. When you make a contact try to spend time getting to know the other operator. Do not give just a signal report, name and location. Relax, talk about your interests, and listen to the other operator.

I encourage all hams to join the American Radio Relay League. It is costly, but well worth QST and membership discounts. Alone we have no voice in the wilderness. Collectively, we can roar!! The League is our only voice to the FCC. The ARRL is there to serve you. They can provide you with publications for all Amateur Radio facets.

Ham Radio is a hobby, it should be fun and interesting. Speak with kindness toward others. See you in the pileups.

*Your local
Amateur
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of the ham
fraternity*

ARRL Rookie Roundup

by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

BY NOW MANY of you have read about the exploits of the W3BC/Rover contest station in this newsletter. Well, if you happen to have any interest in contesting and you have been licensed for three years or less, you can participate and submit an entry in the ARRL Rookie Roundup! This is a great opportunity to get started in contesting which is one of the many facets of our hobby. You will be competing with operators that are relatively new to contesting so the pressure will be a lot less than starting out in one of the regular contests. By the way if you have been licensed longer than three years, you can participate too. Non-rookies can only contact Rookie stations. How are you going to know rookie from non-rookie? The station ID information on the web page, listed below, covers that along with all the other rules.

This year there are still two more Rookie Roundups available to participate in; August 15 and December 19. The August contest is for RTTY contacts and the December contest is for CW contacts. Unfortunately the SSB mode was used only for the April contest. There will be just one date for the Rookie Roundup in 2011, the April date has yet to be announced. I am sure that all modes will be used then and there may be some updated rules for the Roundup so be sure to read the info that will be available on the ARRL contest web pages.

So if you think that you may have an interest in contesting, check out the Rookie Roundup. The Roundup should be a great way to improve your contesting skills and obtain a certificate to start your own contest wall paper!

For all the information and rules about the contest, including what frequencies to find contest activity, be sure to check out www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup



Shorts

Get well wishes to **Jim Byrne, KA3WSX**. Hope you're feeling better, Jim!

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If you have photos or stories of interest to hams in our area, please share them with us. Send them to:

submit@parasiticemission.com

If you have questions or comments for the editor, please send them to:

W3BC@parasiticemission.com

Remember the **new deadline**: The last Monday of the month before publication.

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You don't have to be a "professional" writer to write for *The Parasitic Emission*. We will print whatever you send us. We will be happy to correct and polish your article if you so request.

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If you know of someone who might like to receive a copy, please send their email address to subscribe@parasiticemission.com and we will add them to our list.

AMATEUR RADIO GPS MYSTERY TOUR.

EVERY MONTH, we present a set of GPS coordinates that are somehow related to amateur radio. Some will be immediately obvious, while others will require some head-scratching.

Last month's coordinates were 51° 18' 19" N, 30° 03' 57" E, which is the location of one of the transmitting antennas of the notorious "[Russian Woodpecker](#)" over-the-horizon RADAR system. Through the 70s and 80s its pulse-modulated gigawatts were loud and clear, day and night, and it was more than just an annoyance on the ham bands. It's proximity to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was probably not a coincidence.

These days, some Ukrainian hams occasionally sneak in to "STEELYARD" and attach HF transceivers to it. Their signals are very strong, stateside.

This month we visit the location of a famous *receiving* site. Be sure to take a look at the satellite images when you find it, but take a guess first...

June ARGMT Coordinates:

38° 30' 53.8" N, 79° 16' 48.2" W

Hint: Remember, if anyone asks, there is No Such Agency. Better keep an eye on that black SUV that just parked across the street...

This is a great opportunity to get started in contesting...

Photo Credits

THANKS TO Dick Hockman, K3LIX and Doug Rowles, W3DWR for Photos of Field Days Past. If I recall correctly, the black & white photo was taken by Dick Leach, WA3HSE (now AA2FZ). I'll try to identify folks to the best of my recollection. Front cover top left to top right: Bryan Simanic WA3UFN, Dick Flanders WA3BUX (SK), Randy Wolfgang KA3OJT (SK), Dick Hockman K3LIX. Jim Albert K3TFL (SK), Bob Thunberg N3DIR, Ed Golla WA3GMT (SK) and XYL, Kathy.

Middle left: Dave Henry KA3AWL, Bob Netzlof WB3IQE, Joe Shupienis WA3IHK, Paul Silinsky K3PS, Fred Barr WA3GQU, Dick Flanders W3BUX (SK), Blaine Hockman, Dick Thompson K3BIE. Center: "Bumps" Rimer W3IE (SK), Dick Flanders WA3BUX (SK), Paul Silinsky K3ZDR, Dan Bunn WB3DUF. Right: WA3BUX, Kathy Golla, K3PS.

Bottom left: Jon Siverling WN3TYR (now WB3ERA), Bruce Girrell WA3HPE, Fred Barr WA3GQU, Joe Shupienis WA3IHK. Bottom right: Jack Lovesky AA3AZ, Gary Barnett WB3GAF, Guy in Blue Shirt, Brad Bedell N3HAO, K1D, Joe Buttner N3IES, CHA1R, WA3GMT, Steve Silinsky, Doug Rowles KA3DWR.

Thanks to Bryan Simanic WA3UFN for help with some of these, Any errors or mis-identifications are his fault!

Two Meter Net Schedules

by Joe Shupienis, W3BC

QCARC	1900	Sunday	147.315	T 173.8
C1fd Co ARES	1945	Sunday	147.315	T 173.8
ECARA	2000	Sunday	147.000	T 173.8
PAARC	1930	Monday	147.390	T 173.8
Jefferson Co.	2000	Monday	147.105	T 173.8
PARA	2100	Saturday	146.460	T 173.8
HeadwatersARC	1900	Monday	146.685	T 173.8

ARRL June VHF QSO Party

By Joe Shupienis

EVERY JUNE, VHF enthusiasts across North America blow the dust off their equipment, work the rust out of their rotors, and pump the watts into the coax. All this in a quest for the most grids and the most contacts. It's time for the June VHF contest!

There is something for every ham in this contest. Regardless of your license class, you can legally operate on some VHF or UHF frequency, and during the contest, there will be many other stations who want to work you!

Regardless of your equipment or location, you can participate—and in a big way if you have a mind to. Let's say you only have a 2-meter FM rig. You try to make as many contacts on simplex frequencies as possible. Repeaters are not permissible, and 146.52 is off-limits, too. Most FM operators use 146.55 and 146.58.

VHF contesting is not like HF. You won't hear hundreds of stations, even though there may be hundreds of stations. Due to the nature of VHF propagation, you will usually hear stations from one area at a time. Work the ones you hear, because in a few minutes, they will fade away. But **don't quit!** In a few more minutes, conditions will favor stations from another area. You just have to find it!

If you have a beam, turn it a few degrees (15-45, depending on your beamwidth) at a time, then listen and call repeatedly. If nobody comes back, call again. Repeat as necessary!

6 Meter Operation

When six is open, everybody will go there. Since most modern HF rigs include six meters, you probably already have a *great* rig to use there. Even if you don't have a 6 meter beam, you can make more than a few DX

QSOs with almost *any* HF antenna!

When the band opens, it seems like there's more activity in the contest than during the rest of the year! When the band is not open, you will hear very little. Just wait, **be patient** and keep calling and listening. Sooner or later, things will open up, if only for a moment. **You have to be on the air when the band opens, otherwise you'll miss the opportunity for QSOs and Grids.**

Rover Report

The W3BC Rover team will be heading out once again this year. As of this writing, the plans aren't finalized, but look for us Saturday near the convergence of 40°N 78°W, near McConnellsburg. That puts us near the corner of FN00, FN10, FM09 and FM19, allowing us to set up in each grid for a few hours.

Sunday, we'll be in our usual FN01 and FN11, and maybe do another stint in FN00 and FN10, but from the northern part.

Of course if the weather is unfavorable (thunderstorm activity), we don't want to be sitting on half-mile high mountains with antennas sticking way up in the air!

Mind the Rules!

On six meters, you will work USB and CW from 50.125 to 50.300, and FM on 52.525. On two, USB and CW is centered on 144.200 +/- 50 kHz, and FM simplex is mostly on 146.55 and .58.

222 (if you have it) activity is sparse, but is found from 222.100 up to 222.300. There is very little FM on this band.

In the UHF world, tune in around 432.100 +/- 50 kHz, and FM on 446.000. On 902 and above, you and the other station coordinate on 2 and arrange your frequencies there.

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf-qso-party>

It seems like there's more VHF activity in the contest than the rest of the year

NOW THAT SUMMER is beginning, we should be reminded that it is also lightning season and Mother Nature likes to “zap” electronic equipment. It is always best to disconnect antennas from radios and likely from power as well, including the power supply.

I realize this is not always either easy to do and admittedly it is time consuming to both disconnect everything and then turn around and connect it all back together again.

One option for power is a protected power strip which hopefully contains one or more MOV's (metal oxide varistor) which will blow and short if lightning enters the AC mains.

I know from experience these devices do the job as intended and will short when hit tripping the breaker(s) as it goes.

It is a nuisance to replace them in equipment that has been stuck, but it always worked after they were replaced, or removed. Obviously removing them is a short term fix, as now the whole device is vulnerable again.

Secondly though somewhat expensive there are devices made by Polyphaser and others that protect antenna lines from lightning. I have Polyphasers installed at over 300 sites and there have been very few actual equipment failures over the last 10 years. A few Polyphasers gave their life for the cause though.

Adding to the protection of antenna lines you

may also add a barrel connector outside where the cable enters the shack and ground each line with a suitable wire (#6 or 8 copper) with a stainless hose clamp, sealing it with tape afterwards and running it to a good ground point. This can be done coming off the tower, before entering the shack, behind the radio and so on.

A typical antenna cable installation will be grounded this way at the end of the run on the tower at the top, half way down the tower (if tall enough – like 300 feet or more), where it comes off the tower, before entering the

shack/shelter, inside coupled to a Polyphaser, then run to the equipment and of course the equipment rack is also grounded so the cable is grounded again.

All grounds run to a common point and this includes the utility ground, telephone ground, equipment ground, and so. This prevents ground loops which can cause no end

of future problems. (Experience is a wonderful teacher).

From this experience I should have all this in place. NOT! I am optimistic that nothing whatsoever will happen. I suppose with this attitude it is only a matter of time. I know that with the 34 years that I have lived here I have had only one incident of lightning damage and that was a scanner audio chip and the lightning struck about 500 feet away. So you don't have to have a direct hit, it can be some distance away.

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Joe Shupienis, W3BC

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www.parasiticemission.com

which also makes available selected back issues, current issues and more.

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The current, online, interactive version of the calendar, which contains regional club activities and events in upcoming months may be accessed at calendar.parasiticemission.com.

You may use that calendar to enter amateur radio events of interest to local amateurs which are intended for publication, subject to review and approval.

Mother Nature likes to “zap” electronic equipment!

June 2010 Amateur Radio Club Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:45pm» Clearfield County ARES Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net	31 Memorial Day 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net	01 7:00pm» Punxsutawney ARC "Radio Night"	02	03 7:00pm» Headwaters ARC Meeting	04	05 8:00am» Rochester Hamfest 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net
06 8:00am» Breezeshooters Hamfest 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:45pm» Clearfield County ARES Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net	07 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net	08 7:00pm» Punxsutawney Area ARC Meeting	09	10	11	12 9:30am» QCARC Breakfast 2:00pm» 2010 ARRL June VHF QSO Party 3:00pm» PARA Meeting 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net
13 12:00am» 2010 ARRL June VHF QSO Party (cont.) 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:45pm» Clearfield County ARES Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net	14 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net	15	16	17	18 7:30pm» QCARC Meeting	19 2:00pm» ARRL Kids' Day 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net
20 1:30pm» Elk County ARA Meeting 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:45pm» Clearfield County ARES Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net	21 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net	22	23	24	25	26 2:00pm» ARRL Field Day 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net
27 12:00am» ARRL Field Day (cont.) 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:45pm» Clearfield County ARES Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net	28 Parasitic Emission Submission Deadline 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net	29	30	01 7:00pm» Headwaters ARC Meeting	02	03 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net