

The Parasitic Emission

Volume 38 • Number 4
April 2012

Passing the torch to a new generation

Supporting Amateur Radio Club Activities In this 24-Page Issue...

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WEATHER IS something everybody talks about but nobody can change. We were lucky this year as Spring arrived early and brought several summer-like days. The premature end to Winter allowed many of us to get outside and get an early start on our fair-weather projects.

One weather-related activity we can all take part in is to attend a Skywarn training session. Investing three hours of your time to learn how to help others is a great way to demonstrate your willingness to serve your neighbors and your community.

When you attend Skywarn training, you will sign in with the rest of the group. The National Weather Service specialist will give a multimedia presentation on recognizing dangerous weather, and will discuss the procedures Skywarn volunteers use to inform NWS of weather observations.

Upon completion of the training session, you are officially a Skywarn volunteer, and you may begin calling in any and all severe weather observations as you were trained to. Your credentials will arrive in the mail in a few days.

It's easy, educational and well worth your time.

CHARITY BEGINS AT home, and Amateur Radio is a worthy beneficiary of our service. Recently, nine new hams earned their licenses in DuBois, by participating in free license classes. The Volunteer Examiners administered around 20 exams which resulted in 9 new and three upgrded licenses.

Ever since the Volunteer Examiner program began in 1984, thousands of hams across the country have benefited from nearby exam sessions at convenient places and times. Compared to the way things were before that, it is much easier and less expensive to get a license.

Old Timers can remember trips to the Buffalo or Philadelphia FCC Field Offices, or to the three-times-a-year FCC exams in Pittsburgh's Federal Building across from Penn Station. I will never forget my trip to Pittsburgh to take the General exam. It was a major undertaking for a dirt-poor, 14-year old kid.

I have exciting summer and winter travel stories to tell of Buffalo weather when I upgraded to Advanced and then to Extra so many years ago. I can still picture snow drifting up and over the roof of Malewski's Polish Sausage works, or the time the Mounties chased us out of the Niagara River.

The five VEs at the recent session were kept busy by the paperwork, and I really can't imagine what the workload would have been with only the legal minimum of three. What I can imagine is how much better Amateur Radio would be served by more VEs. Here's where you can help.

Why not become a Volunteer Examiner and help Amateur Radio by giving back? It's easy to do—every VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) provides free training materials and issues credentials upon completion of the application process.

Once you get your credentials, introduce yourself to your local VE Team Liaison, and offer your help. It will be gladly accepted. At the next VE session, you will gain the satisfaction of knowing that you played a vital part in getting new hams on the air. Nothing equals the thrill you will get when you talk to the new hams on the air!

EVERYBODY HAS A story. What's yours? Why not offer to tell it as the program at a club meeting. You say everybody at your club is tired of hearing it? Then it's time to take your show on the road!

There are civic clubs and organizations in your own town who would be happy to have you as their guest speaker. Not only would you be helping them out, you would be creating a new group of friends for Amateur Radio and for your club.

Your roadshow can be extended to other clubs as well. When we all help each other, Amateur Radio benefits. It's a great way to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between all of our fellow amateurs, all around our neck of the woods.

So if you're looking for ways to serve, we've just covered three good ones. Becoming a **Skywarn volunteer** observer will help your neighbors and community when bad weather threatens.

Becoming a **Volunteer Examiner** is beneficial to Amateur Radio, because the VE program is the only way new hams can obtain licenses. It is a vital service and greatly needed if Amateur Radio is to continue to exist.

Sharing your wealth of experience with others is arguably the most enjoyable of these—everybody enjoys a good story well told, and everybody has at least one of those rattling around the old attic.

Why not share yours with ham radio friends, old and new?

I'll see you...**On The Air!**



If you're looking for ways to serve, here are three good ones!

Say Again?

by Doug Rowles W3DWR

[This column was originally published in the January 2011 Parasitic Emission. I feel that it is time for a reprint. - Doug]

ARE YOU A "keyster"? This is not to be confused with the one you sit on! A keyster is one who shows up just before net time to grab the microphone and make sure the radio and the repeater are working correctly by keying the microphone. Of course they don't identify themselves. Will you ever hear a callsign from a keyster? Of course not. That makes it an illegal transmission.



Keysters show up at other times of the day too. In the morning they key up local repeaters just to make sure they made it through the night. I have heard .315, .39 and 444.625 keyed up within seconds of each other on many occasions. Could also be after an afternoon nap.

There is one more category of keyster. This is the one who can show up at any time of the day or night. His or her reasoning is, "I only use this radio ten seconds a week to check into the net, but by gosh every time I am within reach of the microphone I'm gonna key 'er up just to satisfy myself that everything is copacetic."

Is there a keyster cure? I doubt it. Perhaps a size 12 steel-toed boot applied to the one they sit on would be a step in the right direction...

Editorial Policy

by Joe Shupienis W3BC, Publisher

IT IS TIME, once again, to state the editorial and legal policies of this publication.

Non-Discrimination

The Parasitic Emission does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, gender, disability, political affiliation, membership or non-membership in any amateur radio organization.

Subscription

The Parasitic Emission is published monthly and distributed by email to members of participating clubs and all others interested. Anyone may subscribe by sending an email to subscribe@parasiticemission.com indicating their wishes.

Publication Requirements

Original articles, photos and news items of interest to licensed radio amateurs in Central Pennsylvania are accepted for publication subject to the following limitations:

- Copyrighted material or content previously published elsewhere
- Obscene, indecent or libelous content
- Photos of individuals without releases
- Material unrelated to amateur radio
- Political campaigning or solicitation, including ARRL or club offices
- Promoting illegal activity, including hate crimes or sedition

Submissions

The deadline for each month's issue is the **fourth** Monday of the preceding month. Email content to submit@parasiticemission.com

Legal Notices

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Joe Shupienis, W3BC

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The Parasitic Emission is published monthly for all Radio Amateurs residing in central Pennsylvania. This electronic edition is provided free of charge by email, and may also be downloaded from: 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.

Will you ever hear a callsign from a keyster?

The Parasitic Emission

April 2012

A Point, Just To Appoint

by Bryan Simanic WA3UFN

SOMETIMES IT IS difficult to find someone who wants to step up and take a field position. It is often more difficult to find someone qualified. Although it is important to fill the positions, it is equally important to keep in mind the “someone” needed to fill the position should be experienced and credentialed for the job.

Over the years I've witnessed a continually growing trend to place people in positions, seemingly just to have the position filled. Yes, it looks good—on paper! Appointees who are neither experienced or credentialed, or who do not want to learn and understand the position to which they have been appointed can be a liability. Of course all of these issues can be resolved—if—the proper person is appointed.



Some appointments seem to be “handed” out to members of a “clique”. Some appear to be made to complete an organizational chart or given to folks who just want to “wear another hat”. Other appointments seem to be just collected by some, under the guise of building a supposed involved status, all the while it is just a facade of titles to further their own agenda. Appointments that are made along the lines of these reasons can—and do—harm Amateur Radio. The harm is done within the Amateur Radio Service as well as outside.

The first requirement when considering a person for a position should be that the appointee has a working background, with an aptitude and willingness to learn more about the position. This is a real problem, typically

encountered where experience is often the determining factor whether or not a person is hired for a job. Even though we are dealing with Amateur Radio, it should not be all that different where proven ability is required to attain an appointment. It is relatively easy to obtain the experience to be well suited for field appointments. It takes a commitment of time and sometimes money to learn more about the position. Perhaps that is one reason why we have 2 ears, 2 eyes and 1 mouth. Listen, read and learn before professing purported knowledge. Of course sometimes just the mere fact of being a ham for so many years itself is experience but not always enough!

It is time to eliminate the “buddy system” and “warm body” appointments. Appointments should be made where the individuals are qualified or will, within a reasonable period of time, credential themselves to at least gain the theoretical experience relative their

position. It is time to see through the guise of some who rise to the surface only by virtue of the “Pick me, I need the appointment” attitude. If all of a sudden, someone appears for an appointment with no qualifications or prior involvement, that should raise a red flag. If someone seems to quickly “leap frog” to appointments, that too should raise a red flag. We need to be aware of those who *talk the talk* but do not *walk the walk* with respect to a position that they are trying to be appointed or elected.

A saying that I've heard comes to mind, “Are you really doing it or do you just think you are?” Let's be sure we are really doing it and stop thinking we are! Really qualify appointees, at all levels.

[Bryan is an ARRL Life member, Amateur Extra Class Licensee and ARRL registered ARES Field Examiner. He previously held field appointments as Clearfield (PA) County EC, WPA SEC, OO and is an active ARRL VE. He has completed ARES Level 1 and numerous PEMA, NIMS courses.]

Correspondence

Joe,

A Few Changes For The Parasitic Emission Page 6, Vol 38 In The Box For The Headwaters Arc.

Jim Douglas (K3FHC) Is Now President, Tom Guilfooy (WA3HLC) Is Now Secretary, And Jason Layton (K2BYL) Is VP I Remain As Treasurer.

N3pc Uses A PL Of 173.8 For The Crandall Hill Repeater And No PL For The Dutchman Hill To Crandall Link On 146.685 (146.085 Tx)

At Present K3CC Does Not Have A PL, I Do Not Know If He Will When He Gets Up And Running At Full Steam. His Repeater Has Been Down, He Has The Ant On His Deck About 10' Off The Ground. He Is Hoping To Improve This Spring.

The Galeton 443.3 (Dutchman Hill) Link Uses 131.8 Pl.

Headwaters ARC Holds Its Meetings In The Conference Room Next To The Heli Pad At Cole Memorial Hospital (Door A). Secondary Meeting Place Is The EOC on Mockingbird Lane.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne E Stahler II
Treasurer, HARC
WS3PC/N3PC

Appointees without experience or credentials can be a liability

Meeting Notice

April 2012

April Meeting:

THE APRIL meeting will be held in the Hiller Building on the Penn State DuBois Campus at 7:30 pm, Friday, April 20th.

Following the business meeting, our guest speaker will be Mr. Bob Newell, Director of the PA Heartland Chapter, American Red Cross. He will discuss Disaster Relief services offered by the Red Cross, and radio communications services provided and requested during disasters and other service activities.



The PA Heartland Chapter is headquartered in DuBois, and serves Cameron, Clearfield, Elk and Jefferson counties. They generously provided

their facilities for our recent licensing classes and exams, and we offer our communications support to them through a Statement of Cooperation which is an extension of the ARRL Memorandum of Understanding.

April Breakfast

EVERY MONTH, on the second Saturday at 9:30, we meet for an informal group breakfast at Sid's Super Subs, Old Town Road near the Hyde Interchange in Clearfield. This month, we will

meet on Saturday, April 14th. Bring a friend and have a good time with your amateur radio friends and good food!

Minutes: March 2012

by Herb Murray W3TM, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm in the Hiller Building, Penn State DuBois by President Shupienis W3BC. Our guest speaker Herb Enos KB3REA led the Pledge to the Flag, followed by an observance of silence in remembrance of Silent Keys.

Attendance

W3BC, KA3DEO, KA3YCB, WA3UFN, N3DIR, KB3LES, N3SYB, W3PIG, KG4ZXC, AB3OG, W3TM, KB3WBT, KA3FHV, W3DWR, KB3YJH, KB3WKD, KB3QKR, N3QLC. Guests Herb Enos KB3REA, Johnstown, Marty Johnson W3YOZ, Maryland.

Staff Reports

The minutes were read and approved on a motion by W3PIG. The minutes of the March Executive Board meeting were read and approved on a motion by KB3WBT. The Secretary read correspondence received by the club. The Treasurer's report was read and approved on a motion by KB3LES.

Education: Licensing classes have completed with 9 new Technicians and three upgraded Generals. Those new hams in attendance were introduced and welcomed by the club members in attendance.

Net Manager W3DWR requested a volunteer NCS for the April Hamshack net sessions. W3BC volunteered.

Program Coordinator W3TM reported the guest speaker at the April meeting will be Bob Newell, American Red Cross PA Heartland Chapter Director.

The Quad-County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Special Service Club Serving Clearfield, Jefferson Elk And Cameron Counties Since 1975



Public Information: Press Release submitted to local media regarding recent new licenses.

Public Service: Skywarn training report by WA3UFN.

Quad-County ARC Information

President	Joe Shupienis W3BC <i>president@qcarc.org</i>
Vice President	Bob Thunberg N3DIR <i>vp@qcarc.org</i>
Secretary	H. Deforest Murray, III W3TM <i>secretary@qcarc.org</i>
Treasurer	Doug Rowles W3DWR <i>treasurer@qcarc.org</i>
Executive Board	Kevin Hoynoski W3PIG Don Jewell KB3LES Lars Kvant KB3WBT (SM7FYW) Ed Neeper KB3VWX Bryan Simanic WA3UFN
Staff	Activities: Lars Kvant KB3WBT/SM7FYW Education: Joe Shupienis W3BC Membership: Jack Lovesky AA3AZ Net Manager: Doug Rowles W3DWR Program Coordinator: Herb Murray W3TM Public Information: Joe Shupienis W3BC Public Service: Kevin Snyder KA3YCB QSL Manager: Al Maddas KB3SVW Technology: Lars Kvant KB3WBT/SM7FYW Trustee: Bryan Simanic WA3UFN VE Liaison: Bryan Simanic WA3UFN
Repeaters	N3QC 147.315+ [173.8]Rockton Mt K3EDD 444.625+ [173.8]Rockton Mt N3IZE 444.900+ [173.8]Clfd local N3QC-1 144.390 APRS Digipeater
Nets	Sunday @1900 147.315 Quad-County FM Sunday ~1920 446.625 Quad-County UHF
Web	www.qcarc.org , info@qcarc.org @qcarc

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The Parasitic Emission

April 2012

KA3YCB reported on the upcoming Baker Trail Ultra Marathon. W3DWR reminded everyone of the date of the Super 322 Drive-In Car Show. W3BC mentioned the Red Cross Carnival Station setup May 30-June 2 at the DuBois City Park.

Old Business

The Executive Board vacancy was filled by the Executive Board at their March meeting. Kevin Hoynosky W3PIG of DuBois, Clearfield County is the new Board Member.

President W3BC asked for a volunteer to fill the vacancy on the Constitution Committee. Kevin Snyder KA3YCB volunteered and was appointed to serve.

New Business

Upcoming event plans were made. On a motion by W3TM, the Spring Banquet will be coordinated by W3TM and N3DIR. **Passed.**

On a motion by W3PIG and W3TM, the Club will provide food and soft drinks for the Curwensville Dam State Park Quad-County Camp-out, to be coordinated by KB3WBT. **Passed.**

On a motion by KB3LES, the club will contact Ed Golla K3AHS to coordinate another Fall Picnic at his family homestead. **Passed.**

Moved by KB3WBT and KA3FHV to hold the Christmas Dinner at the DuBois Eat 'n Park Restaurant on or about the regular meeting date of December 21. **Passed.** W3BC observed date is the "End of the World" according to the Mayan calendar, and suggested we could "go out with our friends."

General Business

W3BC gave a report on the group radio purchase of Baofeng dual-band handheld radios. They are clearing Customs and could arrive by Tuesday.



KB3LES, KB3WBT and W3BC both brought examples of antennas that can be set-up and used for special events and other public activities.

On a motion by WA3UFN, the meeting was **adjourned** at 8:15.

Programs

FOLLOWING THE meeting, refreshments were served, including Scotty's Donuts and gourmet coffee courtesy of WA3UFN.

Herb Enos KB3REA from Johnstown told the attendees about the **Merit Badge In A Day And A Ham to Stay** project he is coordinating. Several clubs from the southern counties are providing hams, equipment and support for the event to take place on Saturday, March 31



Herb Enos KB3REA explains the upcoming "Merit Badge in a Day And a Ham to Stay" project

near Johnstown.

200 Boy Scouts are registered to attend and complete the requirements to earn their Amateur Radio Merit Badges. Following the Merit badge program, VE exams are scheduled for any of the Scouts who want to obtain Amateur Radio licenses, and feel prepared to pass the exams.

Concluding his presentation, Herb took questions from the audience, and received praise and encouragement for the ambitious plan.



Marty Johnson W3YOZ came all the way from Annapolis, MD to discuss the history of callsigns

Next, **Marty Johnson W3YOZ**, who drove all the way from Annapolis, Maryland to pay a visit, gave a very interesting presentation about the history of callsigns, call districts and changes between pre- and post- WW II Amateur licensing and callsign distribution.

He shed light on finding the original owners of today's vanity callsigns, and where they lived.

Marty is the organizer of the award-winning W3SO "multi-multi" contest station atop Wopsonnock Mountain near Altoona.

DuBois License Class A Success

by Joe Shupienis W3BC

Nine new hams and three upgrades

AMATEUR RADIO Volunteer Examiners from Clearfield and Jefferson Counties administered FCC license examinations for members of recently completed training classes and others hoping to obtain or upgrade their Amateur Radio licenses. The classes and the exams were held at the PA Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross in DuBois.

“This is the largest turnout for Amateur Radio exams locally for a significant number of years,” commented Volunteer Examiner Team Liaison Bryan Simanic WA3UFN of DuBois.

Ranging in age from 10 years old to senior citizens, those participating in the exams came from DuBois, Curwensville, Reynoldsville, Luthersburg, Brookville and surrounding areas. They became involved in Amateur Radio for a variety of reasons, ranging from interest in science and electronics, to emergency and disaster preparedness, and the desire to serve the public.

They will now be able to get on the air and join with thousands of other “hams” nationwide and around the world to participate in this growing and active radio service. Over the past year, the news has carried many reports of ham radio operators providing vital communications during emergencies across America including wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio—also called “ham” radio—was often the *only* means of communication with stricken areas. When trouble is brewing, Amateur Radio volunteers are often the first to provide rescuers with



Recently Licensed Radio Amateurs (l-r) James Withers KB3YJF, Ian Gerard KB3YJM, Joel Best N3UOA, Wayne Kocher KB3YJE, Jay Lorange KB3YJL, Bob Thunberg N3DIR, Nick Lorange KB3YJJ, Devon Lorange KB3YJK, Bev Hudsick W3BEV, Jim Wicker KB3YJG, Greg Donahue KB3WKD, Larry Whitten KB3YJH, Ed Stewart KB3WRX

critical information and communications.

Their slogan, “When all else fails, Ham Radio works!” is more than just words to hams as they prove they can get the message through without the need of telephone, cable, cellular or internet systems which are usually rendered unavailable in a crisis.

In the local area, The Quad-County Amateur Radio Club offers training classes to prepare for license exams, and schedules regular examination sessions. The Club meets monthly in the Hiller Building at Penn State DuBois on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 pm. Meetings are free and the public is

invited to attend. Following each meeting are programs and activities for radio amateurs and those interested in radio and electronic communications.

Help Wanted

LET’S ALL WELCOME these new hams and encourage them to get on the air and enjoy club activities.

This is a great opportunity to help these new hams discover how much enjoyment they can experience by participating with other hams in real Amateur Radio activities!

Meeting Notice

April 2012

April Meeting:

THE APRIL meeting of the Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio club will be held Tuesday, April 10 at

7:00 pm at the Punxsutawney Presbyterian Church, Findlay Street in downtown Punxsutawney. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.



May Meeting

THE MAY meeting will be held at the same location at 7 pm, Tuesday, May 8th. Mark your calendars!

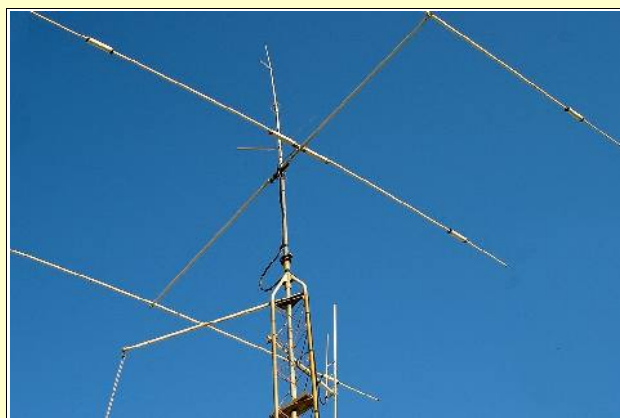
Radio Night

NOW THAT warmer weather is back, the monthly "Radio Night" activity will resume at our Club Station at the Punxsutawney Airport.

This informal gathering is held at 7:00 pm on



the first Tuesday of every month, April through October in the "hangar with the big antenna" at the Punxsutawney Municipal Airport. Refreshments are served and everybody has fun. Come and see us!



The Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club

Serving Punxsutawney and Jefferson County

Monthly Breakfast

EVERY MONTH, the Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club gets together with our friends for a friendly club breakfast at the "Amish Restaurant" along route 310 between Punxsutawney and Reynoldsville. The food is great, the price is very reasonable and the service is outstanding.

If you've never been there, why not stop in? The address is:

Betsy & Clara's Amish Bakery
2147 Route 310
Reynoldsville, PA 15851

This month's breakfast will be at 10:00 am, Saturday April 28th. See you there!



PAARC Information

President	Steve Waltman KB3FPN (Acting)
Vice President	Steve Waltman KB3FPN
Secretary	Peach Caltagerone AB30G
Treasurer	Tom Sprague KB3TOY
Nets	Monday @ 1930 147.390
Web	http://www.punxclub.com

∞ Club Connections

The Parasitic Emission

April 2012

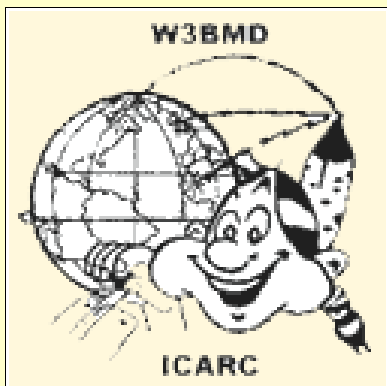
Meeting Notice

April 2012

April Meeting:

THE APRIL meeting of the Indiana County Amateur Radio club will be held Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00

pm at the Eat 'N Park restaurant on Indian Springs Road and PA 286 in Indiana. Meal service is available and dinner will be served before the meeting, starting at 6 pm.



Following the meeting there will be a short demo on the Icom 92A HT

May Meeting

THE MAY meeting will be held at the same location at 7 pm, Tuesday, May 1st. Mark your calendars!

Saturday Breakfast

WE MEET for a friendly club breakfast at the Indiana Eat 'N Park Restaurant every Saturday morning at 9 am. Stop by to say hello and stay for some good eats!

Hot Dog Night

WEATHER permitting, we get together every Wednesday evening at the W3BMD repeater site for a hot dog roast and to hang out with other hams.

Please drop by sometime!



On Receiver Night, the topic was receivers, old and new



Members take part in the meeting after a good supper at the Eat 'N Park



The Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

Serving Indiana County

Skywarn Training

THE NATIONAL Weather Service will conduct a Skywarn Class on Wednesday, June 6 at the Indiana County EOC, 85 Haven Drive, Indiana, PA at 6:30 pm.



If you are a Skywarn Observer, or would like to become one, this class is for you. Skywarn observers report severe weather to their local NWS centers. These

reports improve the accuracy and quality of NW alerts and forecasts, and can be instrumental in saving lives and property.

Indiana County ARC Information

President	Robert Zugates KB3JOF
Vice President	Larry Freeman N3LT
Secretary Treasurer	Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
Repeaters	W3BMD 146.910- No tone W3BMD 444.975+ 110.9 Simplex 147.570 Countywide Emerg Echolink Node No: 113249
Nets	Monday @ 2000 146.910-
Web	http://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/

6 Club connections

The Parasitic Emission

April 2012

The Headwaters Amateur Radio Club

Serving Coudersport and Potter County

survey forms for those interested. Asking about equipment location etc.

Don held a drawing for a PSK Kit. Mike from Austin won. A \$10.00 donation was made to the club. Jim D talked about PSK. tigertronics.com is a good source. A program FLDIGI 3.28 is free software.

Wayne Motioned to adjourn at 8:50 Diana seconded. Attending were Jim D, Don, Greg, Diana, Tom, Jim L, Jason, Jim H, Wayne Williams, Wayne, Glenn, Linda, Mike, Gail.



Headwaters ARC Information			
President	Jim Douglas K3FHC		
Vice President	Jason Layton K2BYL		
Secretary	Tom Guilfooy WA3HLC		
Treasurer	Wayne Stahler, II, WS3PC		
Repeaters	N3PC 146.685-	[173.8]	Coudersport
	N3PC 443.300+	[131.8]	Galeton
	K3CC 146.880-	-OPEN-	Coudersport
	KB3EAR 444.300+		Coudersport
Nets	Monday @ 1900	146.685-	[173.8]
	Monday @ 1930	28.360	[USB]
	Monday @ 1945	1.980	[USB]
Web	www.n3pc.com		

home to verify coverage area. Or mobile to verify coverage. Jason will bring a VHF antenna. State wide operation will be HF on 7.2505 LSB. Alt 5.3480 LSB.

The EOC has 2 separate grounding systems in the building. We ground to the grounding system in the radio room.

New Business



Jim Douglas made a motion to start a committee for Field Day. Greg and Linda will be on the committee please forward information to them or contact them.

Wayne is going to contact Bill Sallade about using the Black Forest conservation association property.

We talked about ARRL Kid's day and possibly operating.

Glenn talked about the EOC trailer going out of service to work on antenna's and install digital equipment.

Glenn will publish a Frequency list for narrow band FM.

The North Central Regional Counterterrorism Task Force is going to setup a plan for standardization of equipment.

Lucinda was unable to attend the meeting for pictures. She plans to be at the next meeting 1hr early.

Glenn & Jason handed out Pennsylvania Auxiliary Communication Services Program Pamphlets.

Glenn asked for a list of club property to be made up and kept on file. The repeater, Controller, Repeater antenna, Link radios are HARC club property.

Greg talked about Field Day and handed out

Meeting Notice

April 2012

April Meeting

THE APRIL meeting of the Headwaters Amateur Radio club will be held Thursday, April 5 at 7:00 pm

in the Conference Room at the Charles Cole Memorial Hospital. Park near the helipad and use entrance "A."

Following the meeting we meet for an evening snack at McDonald's Restaurant in downtown Coudersport.

May Meeting

The May meeting of the Headwaters Amateur Radio Club will be held Thursday, May 3 at 7 pm in the Charles Cole Memorial Hospital Conference Room.

March Minutes

March 1, 2012

Jim Douglas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes from Feb meeting were read. Diana motioned to accept Glenn seconded.

Treasure Report by Wayne. Glenn motioned to accept, Diana seconded

Jason passed out 2 emergency handbooks. Jason turned in a bill for \$10.83, Tom motioned to accept, Jim D seconded.

Old Business

Glenn talked about the up coming weather exercise March 29th. Meet at the EOC at 8:00am. No more than 2 people to operate in the EOC. You can bring your own vehicle and operate from there. EOC request operators to operate from

Elk County Amateur Radio Association

Serving Elk and Cameron Counties

Ridgway

On Saturday morning, March 24, 2012, The Elk County VE team held a VE session in Ridgway. There were two test takers with no successes.

Warren

On Saturday afternoon, March 24, 2012, Matt Gregerson, NS3M, hosted a Ham-in-a-day program at the Salvation Army Building at Warren, PA.

Seven test takers, 3 people passed for their Tech license, one of which was an 8 year old boy from Jamestown, NY.

The Elk County VE Team has been active.

Elk County ARA Information

President	Scott Logue N3LVG	
Vice President	Jerry Robinson N3RYG	
Secretary	Mary Lewis N3UDN	
Treasurer	Pete Carr WW3O	
Officers	Public info: Shari Lewis KB3EWT Newsletter: Jerry Robinson N3RYG Public Service: John Frantz K3TMD	
Repeaters	N3NIA 147.000+ [173.8]	Bootjack
	N3NWL 147.285+	Ridgway
	N3RZL 442.200+	Ridgway
	N3RZL 442.350+	Boone Mtn
	WA8RZR 443.675+	St Marys
	N3FYD 146.805-	Emporium
	WA3WPS 147.180+	Emporium
Nets	Sunday @ 2000 147.000+ [173.8]	
Web	www.n3nia.com	



Some people getting set up for the test and some already taking the test.

Charles Cole Memorial Hospital in Coudersport. A gentleman from Shinglehouse successfully passed for his Tech license. VE services were provided by the Elk County VE Team.

Meeting Notice

by Jerry Robinson N3RYG

THE NEXT ECARA club meeting is Sunday, April 15, 2012 at the Elk County Courthouse Annex Building, 300 Center St. Ridgway, PA at 1:30 pm. I hope to see all of you there!

VE Test Results

by John Frantz K3TMD

THERE WAS A VE session on March 17, 2012, hosted by Skip K3CC (Gilbert Kaufman) of Coudersport held in a conference room at the



Elk County VE team, consisting of Lee Lewis N3NWL, Jerry Bosak AA3NK, Fred Siggins KA3UVC, Joe Lewis N3UGB, John Frantz K3TMD (standing) and Mary Lewis N3UDN at a table in the background, helping a test taker get the proper info on his forms



*Last winter Dale Anderson and I went to visit Ed Zettle W3LQA (sk). While there I took a picture of Ed at his operating station checking out an antenna that we had installed.
- Pete WW30*

Editor's Request

by Joe Shupienis W3BC

DOES ANYONE know of the existence of an "official" logo for the Elk County Amateur Radio Club?

Is there one which was used in the past? Do any of the old timers have old newsletters or membership cards, or hats, etc. that might have what was once a logo?

Even a rough sketch would be helpful, as our

Graphics Design department (me) can take it from there.

As you can see, I've been working on improved club pages with more prominent identification of our participating clubs.

A considerable amount of time has gone into each club's "identity" and it would be a nice touch to have a good logo for each and every club, to highlight their pages for readers from other clubs and the general public.

Please send any artwork you can find to me at editor@parasiticemission.com



Matt teaching the group of 7 prospective hams.

A Ham Radio Mystery

by Greg Jeffers N3FYD

Has anyone run across this criminal in their travels?

A REWARD OF 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of the desperate criminal Hop-A-Long Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a primary cell where he had been clamped in ions, awaiting the Gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry, who was found choked and robbed of her valuable joules.

Capacity is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity was also charged with driving a dc motor over a Wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band pass.

If encountered, he may offer resistance. The Electromotive Force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where they believe he went to ground. They had no success and suspect he returned Ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a megacycle with his friend Eddy Current, who plays a harmonic(a).

Meeting Notice

THE APRIL meeting of the Cambria Radio Club will be held on Friday, April 20 at 6pm at the UPJ

Engineering and Science Building Room 127, University of

Pittsburgh at Johnstown, 450

Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown, PA 15904



Before the meeting we will be holding a **FREE VE test session for the Engineering students at UPJ.**

During our club meeting at UPJ which will be held after the test session we will have a very special theme as suggested in the February 17th CRC Meeting. We are planning to have 15 min presentations on operating basics, show off mobile setups (weather cooperating) "What I enjoy about amateur radio", etc. This way the new hams can see how other amateurs use and enjoy their privileges.

Members and possibly invited officials may participate. Guest speakers welcomed—please let us know if you will be presenting. Contact WA3WGN@CambriaRadio.com for testing N3XCC@CambriaRadio.com

Schedule of Events

- 3:30 PM CRC VE Test Registration Starts
- 4:00 PM CRC VE Test Session Starts (Tech Exams)
- 4:30 PM CRC VE Test Session (General Exams)
- 5:00 PM CRC VE Test Session (Extra Exams)
- 6:00 PM Cambria Radio Club Meeting Starts
- 8:00 PM Meeting ends/continues at Ponderosa

Skywarn Training

By Mike Sakmar N3SSD

THE NWS in State College has scheduled the SKYWARN Spotters Class for Monday April 23rd at 7 pm

at the Central Park Complex Auditorium, 110 Franklin St,

Johnstown, PA.

Parking is available behind CPC and Religious Book Store.

The instructor will be Charles Ross, Senior Hydrologist,

NWS St. College, PA. This class is open to anyone.

Please register with Charles Ross via email to charles.ross@noaa.gov

Pass the word...invite area hams and their family members, friends, Police, Fire, and EMS. Anyone should take advantage of this opportunity, not only hams.



Meeting Report

by Tom Brew K3WS

THE MARCH 9, 2012 Cambria Radio Club meeting was called to order by Tom Brew K3WS, Club

President – Trustee at the Mount Calvary Lutheran Church 1000 Scalp Ave. Johnstown, PA 15904.

The meeting Started at 6pm (although most people showed up earlier) and ended at 8:40pm. The CRC FREE VE Testing started at 6:30pm.

Cambria Radio Club

Serving Cambria County

Attendance

23 people attended the meeting including: WA3MTT, N3VRO, W3YOZ, N3LAD, N3ZQY, KA3VXR, W3SY, AB3OV, KB3WUD, KA3ZD, N3JCV, W3SF, N3KVL NOW GENERAL, K3WS, JACK K3WS-JR, KE3UC, KB3UIY, N3SSD, KA3NZO, K3EMM, N3XCC, W3KKC, & KB9WCX.

Old Business

K3WS announced that all Cambria Radio Club members now have club email in the format of their callsign@CambriaRadio.com.

Members' club email forwards to the member's listed e-mail address. This further enhances club exposure while allowing members personal email privacy.

Merit Badge in a Day and A Ham to Stay Special Event K3B report: FREE VE Test Session for the Boy Scouts and Special Event

Cambria Radio Club Information			
President	Tom Brew K3WS		
Vice President	Fred Raco, Jr. N3JCV		
Secretary	Chuck Englody N3LAD		
Treasurer	Holli Serenko KB3PJG		
Repeaters	WA3WGN 146.940-	[123.0]	Johnstown
	KC3DES 145.210-	[123.0]	N.Germany
	KC3DES 443.525+	[123.0]	Carolltwn
	KE3DR 146.655-	[123.0]	N.Cambria
	K3WS 147.060+	[167.9]	Carolltwn
	N3YFO 145.390-	[123.0]	Johnstown
	KA3ZYC 146.775-	[123.0]	Ebensburg
Nets	Sunday @ 2100 145.210- [123.0]		
Web	cambriaradio.com		

K3B

Over 200 Boy Scouts and 50 Scout leaders now signed up for the March 31st – April 1st scouting and amateur radio event. Event contact is KB3REA@CambriaRadio.com donations and visitors welcomed.

Through the generosity of others this event is FREE to the Boy Scouts attending.

Dave N3YFO, is planning on setting up Radios Friday evening March 30th, the church is having a fish fry until 1900, so dinner and a hamshack setup sounds good. Dave has posted planned operating bands and frequencies that we plan to start with.

Operations will be followed on the CRC FaceBook page along with the Cambria ARES FaceBook page. You can e-mail Dave at N3YFO@CambriaRadio.com if you would like to set up a rig and operate in K3B.

New Business

CRC April 20th Meeting will be held on the 20th at 6pm at the UPJ Johnstown Campus. Before the meeting we will be holding a FREE VE test session for the Engineering students at UPJ.

Program



Fred N3JCV presented to the club members at the march 9th meeting a home made video of his tower erection at his home QTH in Richland Township, Cambria County, PA.

“I have been planning the tower project for about one year. I hired John Crovelli, W2GD to be the project lead. He recommended a Rohn 45G, the Bencher Skyhawk tribander for 10, 15 & 20 meters and a Force 12 Magnum 240 for 40 meters.

John made a site visit in March or 2011 and we decided the best location for the tower. We came to an agreement and he then sent me a list of all the items I would need for the project. Thimbles, performs, over a thousand feet of coax, steel cable, connectors, a rotator, a control box, bearing plates, rotator shelf, anchors and so on. The list was very long and I could see that my initial budget was not very detailed.

Before I ordered anything, I applied for a permit with the local township powers to be and was immediately turned down. I was told that I would have to apply for a variance.

I gently talked to the township solicitor and explained the regulations regarding amateur radio use and kindly had a copy of the regulations for him to review. Two days later I had a permit for a 65' antenna support structure. The wording on the permit was very important.

The foundation for the tower and the guy wires went in on December 28th 2011. I needed the ground to freeze so I could get a crane in the back yard to get things up in the air.

Nice mild winter for everyone else but me. I was the only person in Johnstown that wanted sub zero temperatures. Mother Nature was not on my good list.

Had to step back and punt. Couldn't wait any longer. Me, John and my two sons, Tony and Freddy, put the tower and antennas up last week the old fashioned way. Gin pole and a tram. Guess what? The temperature for the tower build and antenna assembly was two of the coldest days we had all winter.....go figure.

The project is all complete except for some landscaping.

Hooked everything up last weekend and was very pleased with the performance of my new station.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A very special announcement from W3SF Tom: The Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club <http://www.harc1.org> has agreed to co-participate in the Merit Badge in a Day and a Ham to Stay project and Special Event K3B by bringing their mobile antenna systems and possibly some operators as well. ANYONE or any organization willing to participate may contact herb at KB3REA@CambriaRadio.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

SKYWARN Training April 23rd at 7pm visit cambriaradio.com / [skywarn](mailto:skywarn@CambriaRadio.com) for complete details. SkyWarn@CambriaRadio.com

CRC May meeting May 18th at 6pm Technology theme: We will host a swap and sale/ miniature ham fest led by Mike N3SSD complete details: cambriaradio.com or by contacting WA3WGN@CambriaRadio.com

CRC June meeting June 15th at 6pm

CRC Field Day June 23rd and June 24th

FREE VE Test Session June 23rd see

cambriaradio.com for details

CRC July meeting July 20th at 6pm

CRC August Meeting August 17th at 6pm.
FREE VE Test Session at 6:30 pm see
cambriaradio.com for details.

CRC September Meeting September 21 6pm

CRC October Meeting October 12th at 6pm.

CRC November Meeting November 16th at
6pm. FREE VE Test Session at 6:30 pm see
cambriaradio.com for details

CRC December meeting December 14th at
6pm Technology theme: Christmas Party,

Many people make these meetings possible
with their unseen help. It is only with the help
of everyone involved that we are able to have
fun and enjoy this hobby. THANK YOU to
everyone who helps.

Cambria ARES

by John Geiser AB30V

I WOULD LIKE to introduce
myself as the ARES AEC (Amateur Radio
Emergency Services – Assistant
Emergency Coordinator) of Cambria
County and welcome you to the
monthly issue of Cambria ARES.
My name is John Geiser,
AB30V. I reside in Johnstown
PA, In the community of Lorain
Borough.

We in Cambria County are looking
to put a new face to ARES. Through
Tom K3WS (Cambria County EC), We
already have a good start on our ARES
activities. Several people have already
stepped up to help out with local club
activities. I would like to use some of the
things going on, and organize them into
additional ARES Coordinated events.



Dave WB3JSW is doing some great work with
Digital NBEMS operations. Many of the
operators in the Cambria County and
surrounding areas are very familiar with
digital operations, and many are transmitting
digital during the CRC Wednesday Night
Digital training net.

Mike N3SSD is also working on establishing
SkyWarn in our area. Mike has a SkyWarn
class coming to our area on April 23rd at 7
PM. He is also going to keep us up to date
with training and and new and upcoming
information in SkyWarn. A new SkyWarn web
page is being formed at cambriaradio.com

With Tom, Myself, Dave and Mike, We already
have a good start. But I would like to put
together a team of an additional 6 ARES
members. My ideas of this team would be to
have a well trained crew of people. We would
take time to discuss and review ARES
operational procedures. We would also get
together to plan for the future of ARES.

The ARES Team is open to any individuals who
would like to be on the team. There are two
requirements to being on the team. First,
You Must be an ARES Member. Anyone can
join ARES by Contacting me at
ARES@Cambriaradio.com.

Second, You must want to do it.
We like to be serious, but we
want to have fun. By having fun
, we can inspire ARES teams all
over to join in and create a
stronger and enjoyable ARES
organization.

You can find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/CambriaCountyARES. We
are operating through the Cambria Radio
Club, So you can get more information about
us at www.CambriaRadio.com. You can also
come to the Cambria Radio Club monthly
meeting for more information, and to meet us.

To contact us, To become a member of ARES
or our ARES Team, Email: ARES@
Cambriaradio.com



15 Club Connections

The Parasitic
Emission

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2012



more it could be significantly better than the \$46 kid brother, but as we will see, you pay your money and you take your chances. In this case, you can go ahead and feel lucky!

I ordered mine from “nicheone” on Ebay, and it arrived in three days from China! The expedited shipping was free at that! It comes in a larger, heavier box than the UV-3R, so if nothing else, you know you're getting more “stuff” in this deal. Inside that box are two trays holding all the pieces, stacked one above the other. Included is a readable manual I pretty passable English.

The most noticeable item in the box is the docking charger stand. Along with its matching “wall-wart” power supply, the charger is a true drop-in unit, and charges one battery pack, separately or attached to the radio. It even provides entertainment value when you attempt to read the “Engrish” label on the bottom! (May you never suffer the perils of the dreaded “chareto mistake!”)

The Good

THE BATTERY pack is a 7.4-volt, 1800MAH, custom unit designed to fit the UV-5R like a glove. It slides onto the

back of the radio, and secures with a solid click ensuring it stays put. I've run the radio for over a day at a time on a single charge without running low, and the unit charges in about an hour or less.

There are many notable differences between the UV-5R and its kid brother. The UV-5R's single knob is an old-school, volume control with a ganged power switch! That's right, turn the knob to turn the radio on and set the volume, just like a 1950s TV set!

The antenna connector is not the “standard” SMA connector. For some inscrutable reason, Baofeng chose to use the bass-ackwards, Wouxun-style SMA connector. Adapters are cheaply available—there's even one at Radio Shack for \$6—but why they did this is a mystery to me! At least the supplied dual-band rubber duck antenna is a good one.

Moving from the top of the radio to the front, we start to see where the UV-5R leaves its baby brother in the dust. The display is noticeably different, The dot-matrix LCD is backlit by your choice of orange, blue or violet LEDs. It's also an alpha-numeric display, and allows you to enter channel names in letters and numbers—up to six characters each—but only through the programming software.

The speaker and mic grille is immediately below the display, and the audio sounds very crisp and clean, if a bit on the loud side. The laser-etched metal nameplates add a professional touch. In hand, the whole radio feels solid and professional, unlike the somewhat “flexy” plastic feel of the UV-3R.

The most outstanding feature is the numeric keypad, which is very elegantly backlit with white LEDs to just the right brightness. The keypad is used to directly enter frequencies or channel numbers, or to use “Touchtone™” signaling when transmitting. Additionally, the



After using the little guy, I had to see if big brother lives up to its promise.

All in the Family

by Joe Shupienis W3BC

LAST MONTH WE looked at a tiny wonder from China called the Baofeng UV-3R. It enjoys a well-deserved reputation of providing a lot of bang for the buck, and indeed, it is a remarkable little radio. They're literally selling like hotcakes and more as more hams find a use for a bargain-priced dual-band HT.

After seeing how delightfully well the little guy performs, I had to see if big brother lives up to its promise. So I ordered a Baofeng UV-5R. At a street price of just \$60, it seems almost impossible that for a few dollars



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most common menu items can be selected by pressing the buttons as marked in blue. The overall impression of the radio is one of quality, which makes its tiny \$60 price tag almost unbelievable.

If the proof is in the putting, this unit delivers. I measured 5.2 watts on VHF and 4.4 on UHF into a 50Ω load. Low power was inconsistent—one time it was 2.2 watts, another 0.7, and something in between another time. This may have been due to me enabling the automatic power control feature. More research is indicated

On the air, all reports are that the rig has good audio, as long as I hold it up to my mouth. The tiny mic opening does not do very well at a distance. This may be a design feature to permit “noise canceling” in industrial environments. At full volume, its tiny speaker is more than capable of getting you kicked out of a boiler factory for making too much noise.

Receiver sensitivity is quite good. Like its UV-3R sidekick, it's rated at 0.2μV/12 dB SINAD. The UV-5R's DSP circuitry really delivers the goods and pulls out the weakest of weak signals with Q5 readability. Spurious responses appear to be under control, and the direct conversion SDR design means no “image” problems and makes intermod a thing of the past. Front end overload is still possible, but the DSP derived AGC seems to do an adequate job.

There are 128 programmable channels, and each one retains individual data fields for receive frequency, transmit frequency, tone encode/decode, wide/narrow deviation, high/low power, PTT ID, Busy-channel lockout, scanning lockout, call-group ID, and alphanumeric channel name. This gives the radio a lot of flexibility, rivaling units at 4 or 5 times the price.

The Bad

MANAGING ALL THAT data is handled by the worst piece of software I have ever seen—and when I first used computers they needed punched cards, so I've see a lot!. I'm being way too kind when I say that the BF5R.exe program is just barely enough to get the job done. It looks like POC software—as in “Proof of Concept” (you know what I really mean!) Fortunately, once you program the radio, you don't have to suffer through using the software ever again. With universal dislike of the software being voiced all over the Internet, it's only a matter of time until the manufacturer comes up with a finished product, or the Open Source “CHIRP” project gains the ability to manage the UV-5R.

The UV-5R features a Kenwood-style speaker-mic connector on the right side, which doubles as the programming port. This is completely different from the UV-3R's single jack which uses the less-common TRRS, “Three Circuit” 1/8” connector for its speaker-mic and programming port.

The Ugly

WITH APOLOGIES to Clint Eastwood, a ham's got to know his limitations, and this radio certainly has some. Fortunately, none of them are show stoppers, and when you see this radio on your doorstep, it will definitely make your day! Nothing is perfect, though, and here are my main beefs with it:

- #1:** As already covered, the biggest issue for me is the **crummy programming software**. This is something the manufacturer can easily fix, but it remains to be seen if they do. CHIRP now has support, so things are looking up!
- #2:** Coming in at number two on my list is the “**bass-ackwards™**” antenna connector.

#3: Manual programming is a bit “odd” requiring **separate steps to program transmit and receive frequencies for repeaters**. The radio does not have convenience features like automatic repeater split built in. (To be fair, I have yet to see ANY rig with automatic repeater split that works 100% with the Western PA Repeater Council's Bandplan!)

#4: A further complaint is that even the **lowest volume setting is too loud**. Sixty years ago, the old '50s TV sets completely muted when turned all the way down, but retro-style volume knob notwithstanding, the UV-5R is almost always “too loud.”

#5: Finally, after the rig warms up from extended transmitting, the LCD display becomes harder to read due to **heat-related loss of contrast**. There is no contrast setting, so you have to wait for the unit to cool a little to regain contrast in the display.

The Bottom Line

AS I STATED, none of these are serious limitations, and most of the time, they won't get in your way. The excellent RF performance provided by this Software Defined Radio's Digital Signal Processing, its solid build quality, well placed controls and it's low price make the Baofeng UV-5R a handheld transceiver worthy of consideration. At half the price of it's nearest competitors (the Wouxun dual band radios) its price/performance ratio leads the pack.

Like its kid brother the UV-3R the mid-size UV-5R is a significant entry in the full-feature handheld market. Big Brother continues the family tradition of providing plenty of bang for the buck. Whether you're looking for an extra HT to keep in the car, or you figure it's about time you got on the UHF repeaters, this radio deserves a place on the short list of every ham who is looking for a good HT at a reasonable price.

Solid build quality, well placed controls and low price make the UV-5R worthy of consideration

The Parasitic Emission

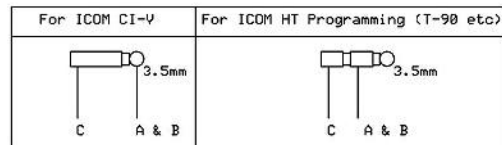
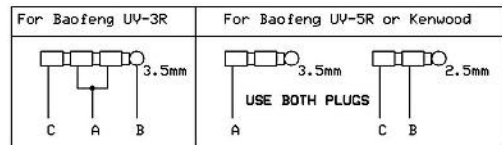
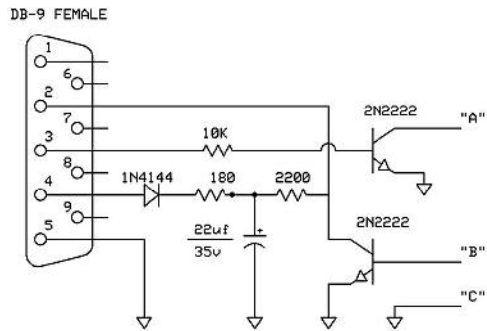
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Serial Radio Interface Mk II

by Joe Shupienis W3BC

WHEN I received my new Baofeng UV-5R, I found that I needed to add the correct connectors to the interface circuit described in last month's issue.

I put a little more thought into the design, and split it at the "breakout points" A, B and C. Connections are made to the corresponding pins on the radio-specific plugs, and it works just fine.



W3BC		
Serial Radio Interface		
Joe Shupienis	Rev 2.0 3/23/2012	Page 1 of 1

"The nice thing about standards is that you have so many to choose from."

– Andrew S. Tanenbaum, PhD.

Shorts

GET WELL wishes to Clearfield County ARES EC / ACS Officer Mike Errigo WB3EQW of Clearfield. Mike reports he will go under the knife on Friday, April 13 for coronary bypass surgery. Here's hoping for a problem-free surgery and a speedy recovery!



LAND MOBILE narrowband is here. Ron Westover K3RCW of Grampian passes along a link to a website he found that explains the FCC's mandate for commercial two-way equipment which goes into effect shortly.

Although the new regulations do not apply to the Amateur Radio Service, it is of interest because it heralds the upcoming availability of large quantities of cheap, pre-1993 vintage commercial surplus equipment hitting the market in the near future.

Although commercial gear usually requires expensive, proprietary programming software and lacks the advanced features and receiver performance of amateur equipment, it has many devoted followers. Here's the link:

<http://www.narrowbanding.com/narrowbanding-defined/index.php>

60 Meter Band Changes

by Joe Shupienis W3BC

ATENTION ALL HF operators! The FCC recently made changes to our 60 meter band allocation. Effective immediately do not operate on 5366.5 kHz. The "channel 3" carrier frequency has been replaced with 5357.0 kHz. Note that this is the "dial frequency."

Permissible emissions are upper sideband, with a bandwidth of 2.8 kHz centered on the frequency 1.5 kHz above the dial frequency with the addition of Morse code, and several digital modes.

Besides the new permission to use CW and digital modes, there has been a power level increase, too. All amateur stations are now authorized 100 watts ERP, based on antenna gain and transmitter output power.

Channel	Dial Frequency	Center channel
1	5,330.5	5,332.0
2	5,346.5	5,348.0
3	5,357.0	5,358.5
4	5,371.5	5,373.0
5	5,403.5	5,405.0

Local Net Schedules

Quad-County FM	1900	Sunday	147.315 + 173.8
Quad-County UHF	1920	Sunday	444.625 + 173.8
Clfd Co ARES	1930	Sunday	147.315 + 173.8
ECARA	2000	Sunday	147.000 + OPEN
Elk CO ARES	2030	Sunday	444.200 + 173.8
Cambria County	2100	Sunday	145.210 - 123.0
Headwaters ARC	1900	Monday	146.685 - 173.8
PAARC	1930	Monday	147.315 + 173.8
Jeff Co ARES	2000	Monday	147.105 + 173.8
Indiana Co ARES	2000	Monday	146.910 - OPEN
Hamshack Net	1900	Wednesday	147.315 + 173.8

I put more thought into the design

The Parasitic Emission

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PSK-31 Newbie Experience

by Pete Carr WW30

WAYNE, NM3B from St. Marys has been running PSK-31 digital mode on HF for quite a while. He demonstrated it to me on a recent visit and I found it very interesting. I'd been working on the 145.01 MHz packet network in the Elk County area for a while and also the connection to the Erie packet network and was happy with the results. Now it was time to try HF digital modes.

Wayne had recommended a computer program called DigiPan that controlled the HF radio through an interface. It did all the dirty work of displaying received signals and doing PTT switching from the computer screen and mouse. Wayne also mentioned several other programs that did the same job but I decided to start with DigiPan.

An PSK-31 interface is similar to a packet terminal node controller or TNC. There are basically two types of interfaces. One uses the sound card inside the computer as an input/output connection to the radio. The other uses a separate sound card specifically designed for digital modes. Then there is the subject of interface powering. Some of them require a dry battery installed inside the case for power while others are external powered. The one I chose takes power from the USB port of the computer.

This interface is made by Signalink and is their USB model. It's a small box with volume controls and status LEDs on the front and cable connections on the back. It plugs into a USB port on the computer and is supplied with cables specific to the HF rig you are going to use. I called and ordered the Signalink and indicated that the companion rig would be a Kenwood TS-520. The salesman thought it was nice that I was finally

crawling into the 21st century with this purchase! What a comedian! Anyway, they had a 4-pin round type connector with cable for the PTT/Mic jack of the rig and an audio cable for the receive side.

Once the unit arrived it was apparent that I needed to change plugs on the receive cable. It came with a 1/8 inch connector at the rig end while I needed a 1/4 inch connector for the Kenwood earphone jack. That was quickly fixed and I was ready for tests.

I powered up the

computer and started the DigiPan program. Then I fired up the Signalink and then the Kenwood. After adjusting the audio control of the rig to about 30% volume I set the interface RX control to 50% and started receiving random symbols on the screen. Then I tuned to around 7.035 MHz in the 40



As with most shacks, this one is crowded. The keyboard and screen are separated from the Kenwood by the amplifier but there isn't much need to tune the rig anyway. All the tuning is done with the mouse and waterfall display.

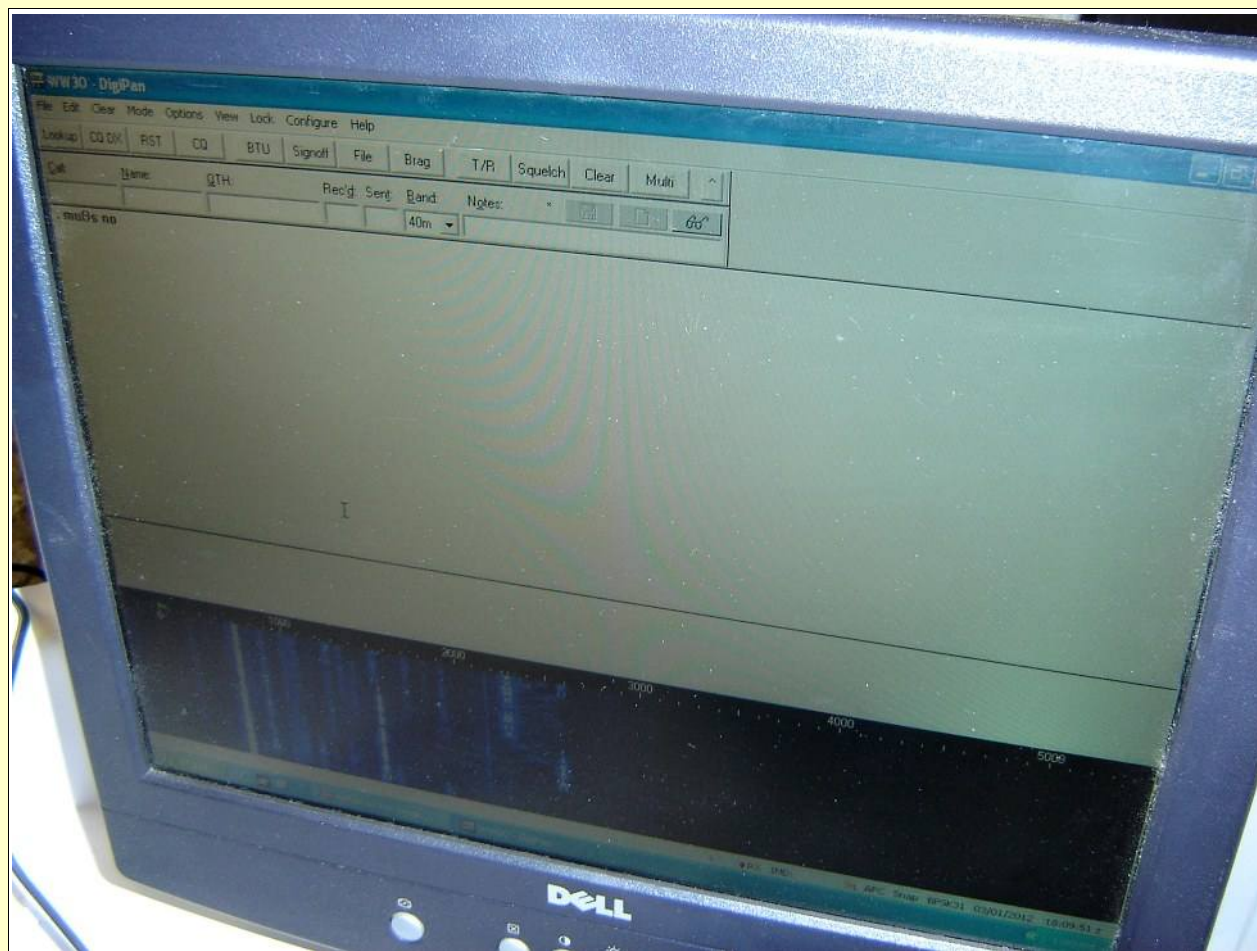
meter band which is where PSK-31 people hang out. The bottom of the screen is a "water fall" display of the audio bandpass of the HF radio. Anyone with Navy sonar experience would be right at home with that. The rest of us, including old Air Force vets like me, had a lot to learn. You can watch a group of signals at various spots on the waterfall and select which one to receive, using the mouse. I did that and watched as a Ham called CQ followed by his call. I spent nearly a half hour just jumping around the bandpass reading bits of QSOs and getting used to navigating the flow.

As I mentioned before, the Signalink has its own sound card. That means that I needed to



The Signalink is hooked up the the Kenwood. The white cable is from the PTT/Mic jack to the interface while the gray cable is receive audio from the earphone jack. A USB cable connects the interface to the computer USB port.

I was finally crawling into the 21st century



The computer screen has the DigiPan program control buttons at the top. Just below is the area where received text is displayed. Below that would be where typed information in "transmit" would appear. Then, at the bottom, is the waterfall display of the received audio bandpass.

go into the computer and route signals to the Signalink instead of the computer sound card. I had done that for receive but also needed to do that on the transmit side. Initial transmit tests showed the Kenwood wouldn't switch to TX. Once I figured out the sound card routing thing all was well.

Sad to say, my typing skills rank right up there with my CW fist so I wanted to use macros for sending "canned" messages on PSK-31. A macro is a programmed message such as an RST report or a listing of your station equipment. This stuff doesn't need to be typed for each QSO so is stored as a macro

with a button at the top of the screen. That sure saves a lot of typing.

Once the macros were set up it was time to make an actual contact. I used the CQ macro to call CQ several time and waited for about 30 seconds after each call. Finally, KD9AMN came back to me. I typed in "tnx for the call" and then sent the RST macros and then BTU K. James, from Pennsboro, WV came back with his RST and station info which copied flawlessly on the screen. I finished up by typing that it was my first PSK-31 QSO and James promised to send a QSL card which I received via eQSL.

The entire QSO was still on the computer screen so I could copy his info to the station log. That's a nice change from CW contacts where I have to decipher my hand writing after the QSO is done!

Later in the day I worked a fellow, Jan, ON7BB in Opglabbeek, Belgium! Try copying that on CW or, worse yet, on SSB with some QRM thrown in!

Anyway, the initial experience on the new digital mode was a real blast. The usual teething troubles were very minor and I like the Signalink interface for its ease of operation. It must be well liked by the group because it's listed as the interface for a majority of the stations I've received.

There are other digital modes and the interface will handle them all. If you want to explore those you will need to choose a suitable computer program such as MixW or Ham Radio Deluxe that handles them. For now I'm happy cruising the band in search of PSK-31 contacts and enjoying another mode of Ham radio.

Resources:

www.tigertronics.com : Manufacturer of the Signalink USB interface.

www.digipan.net : web site for the DigiPan PSK-31 program.

www.digital.hamradioindia.com : Suite of digital mode programs including PSK-31.

www.youtube.com : Then search for PSK-31. Instructional videos.

I worked a fellow in Opglabbeek, Belgium! Try copying that on CW

Merit Badge Recap

by Tom Brew K3WS

THE CAMBRIA RADIO Club thanks everyone who supported the 'Radio Merit Badge in a Day and a Ham to Stay' Program.

First and foremost, we thank CRC member Herb KB3REA for his willingness to be the Program and Event Organizer, and the Richland Troop 100 for being the event host troop. Thanks to the Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club for co-hosting this event with CRC.

We thank the New Germany Grove, and... Ron Rhodes, for allowing us to use their facility. It was fantastic. (Speaking of fantastic, if you haven't had the opportunity to attend the Friday Fish Dinner here, you'd better hurry, Lent is almost over. Excellent meal!)

Thanks to Sheetz, Gallikers Dairy, and Middleswarth Chip Company for providing lunch and beverages for 300 people.

Thanks to RNDT, Inc. <http://www.rndt.net/> for sponsoring a Radio Merit Badge for each and every Scout.



The Radio Merit Badge slide shows were put together by Gary Wilson, K2GW and we thank him for producing an excellent teaching tool for this program.



Radio Merit Badge Project

by Joe Shupienis W3BC

COLD RAIN AND pea-soup fog were no match for the enthusiasm of 171 Boy Scouts who took on Mother Nature and earned their Radio Merit Badges on Saturday, March 31. They took part in a novel project called "Merit Badge In A Day, And A Ham To Stay," hosted by the Cambria Radio Club, Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club and the Indiana County Amateur Radio Club.

26 Hams and 78 adult Scout leaders worked with the Scouts to help them meet the requirements for the Radio Merit Badge, awarded by the Boy Scouts of America.

Following classroom instruction by Ron Rhodes, Jr., Kevin Custer WJ8B and Scott Zimmerman N3XCC, the Scouts received guidance as they operated a number of HF, VHF and UHF radios to communicate on the air with amateurs around the area and around the world under the watchful supervision of the participating hams.

Scouts and others also got the grand tour of a Stryker vehicle driven to the site by Detachment 1, 856 Engineer Co., US Army National Guard.

A VE session was held and one Scout passed his exam. Reports are that many more indicated they would be studying to earn amateur licenses too.

171 Boy Scouts from 30 troops earned Radio Merit Badges

The Parasitic Emission

April 2012

Dave N3YFO, who coordinated the HF radio equipment and frequencies for the K3B Special Event.

all. Great group of men!



We also thank Ron Rhodes, Jr., Scott Zimmerman N3XCC and Kevin Custer WJ8G for presenting the three classes to the Scouts.

MANY thanks to all those who made the 'Multiple Transceiver Shack' possible:

The Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club from Blair County, PA, who provided the tower, and folks to help set up and operate the 'Shack'.



Thanks to everyone who worked with the Scouts all day, talking about the different Ham bands, and covered radio etiquette. Fred N3JCV, John AB3OV, Chris KA3JIB, Dave N3YFO, Jeff N8PSU, Mike N3SSD, Dave WB3JSW, Barb KA3VXR, Dick W3SYY, Tom W3SF, Phil K3PJ, and many others.



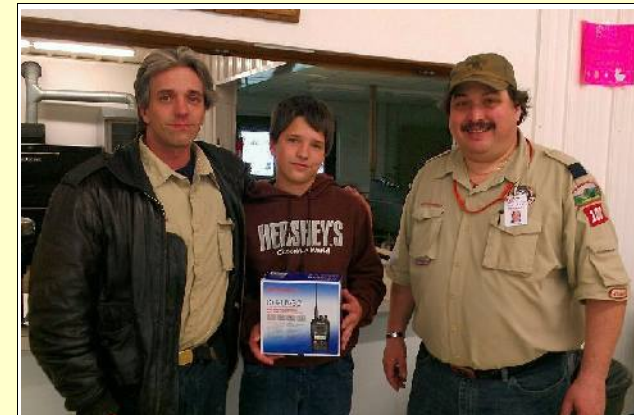
Thanks to Somerset Rural Electric Coop for their electricity demonstration.

The Laurel VEC and the Cambria Radio Club provided the free testing session at this event.



Dave WB3JSW, who tirelessly called for check-ins to the K3B Special Event on the WAN Repeater System. And all the folks who stopped by to say hello!

We thank Detachment 1, 856 Engineer Co US Army National Guard who spent their Saturday demonstrating the Stryker Engineer Vehicle to



Bob Smith KB3KKG and new ham, son David with Event Coordinator Herb Enos KB3REA

Thank you to the members of the Press who covered the 'Radio Merit Badge in a Day and a Ham to Stay' Program.

And thank you and congratulations to all the Boy Scouts who participated and earned their Radio Merit Badge!

Many thanks to all those who made this event possible!

April 2012 Calendar

Amateur Radio Club Activities, Events and Gatherings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» WAN ARES Net	02 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net	03 7:30pm» Indiana Co ARC Meeting	04 7:00pm» Hamshack Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net	05 7:00pm» Headwaters ARC Meeting	06	07
08 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» WAN ARES Net	09 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net	10 7:00pm» Punxsutawney Area ARC Meeting	11 7:00pm» Hamshack Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net	12	13	14 9:30am» Quad-County ARC Breakfast
15 1:30pm» Elk County ARA Meeting 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» WAN ARES Net	16 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net	17	18 HAPPY BIRTHDAY QCARC! 7:00pm» Hamshack Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net	19	20 6:00pm» Cambria Radio Club Meeting 7:30pm» Quad-County ARC Meeting	21
22 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» WAN ARES Net	23 Parasitic Emission Submission Deadline 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net	24	25 7:00pm» Hamshack Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net	26	27	28
29 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» WAN ARES Net	30 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net	01 7:30pm» Indiana Co ARC Meeting	02 7:00pm» Hamshack Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net	03 7:00pm» Headwaters ARC Meeting	04	05

May 2012 Calendar

Amateur Radio Club Activities, Events and Gatherings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net</p> <p>7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net</p> <p>9:00pm» WAN ARES Net</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm» HARC Nets</p> <p>7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>01</p> <p>7:30pm» Indiana Co ARC Meeting</p>	<p>02</p> <p>7:00pm» Hamshack Net</p> <p>9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>03</p> <p>7:00pm» Headwaters ARC Meeting</p>	<p>04</p>	<p>05</p>
<p>06</p> <p>7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net</p> <p>7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net</p> <p>9:00pm» WAN ARES Net</p>	<p>07</p> <p>7:00pm» HARC Nets</p> <p>7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>08</p> <p>7:00pm» Punxsutawney Area ARC Meeting</p>	<p>09</p> <p>7:00pm» Hamshack Net</p> <p>9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30am» Quad-County ARC Breakfast</p> <p>10:00am» Potter Co. ARES VE Exam Session</p>
<p>13</p> <p>7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net</p> <p>7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net</p> <p>9:00pm» WAN ARES Net</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00pm» HARC Nets</p> <p>7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm» Hamshack Net</p> <p>9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00pm» Cambria Radio Club Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm» Quad-County ARC Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>1:30pm» Elk County ARA Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net</p> <p>7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net</p> <p>9:00pm» WAN ARES Net</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00pm» HARC Nets</p> <p>7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm» Hamshack Net</p> <p>9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net</p> <p>7:30pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net</p> <p>9:00pm» WAN ARES Net</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Parasitic Emission Submission Deadline</p> <p>Memorial Day</p> <p>7:00pm» HARC Nets</p> <p>7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net</p> <p>8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm» Hamshack Net</p> <p>9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>01</p>	<p>02</p>