Worth Repeating NEWS

SPRING ISSUE Vol. VIII No. 1 1983

TNX es KUDOS By K3IJ

It is fitting and proper that an outgoing president say a few words as he leaves office. I started to write this and before long I had two pages of memories recorded.

Being with the ARA since its conception and all its growing pains, it is difficult to condense your feelings into a paragraph or two. Building a club like ours is like building a snowman, it starts with a small snowball and an idea. Ours started with a meeting in a Pantry Quick parking lot in late 1973 between W3FCU and myself, joined by W3TRM. We started the ball rolling and it grew and grew.

Soom other interested hams joined us. In a few short years we developed into one of the major clubs in northeast Penna., amassing a respectful array of hardware and as far as I know, the only club in the area to own outright a commercial quality communications facility, in addition to the property upon which it set on.

We all know that this could only be accomplished by a lot of hard work, sacrifice and most important, "Cooperation". I've always been prowd of our ability to work together without the infighting other neighboring clubs are plagued with, and I've never been shy about letting anyone know about it.

Our ARA members reorganized the HARC and together trained a hundred new operators for the region, proving that we are interested in the future of our hobby.

I am prowd to work with such a fine group of people and truly appreciate the cooperation I received during my years as ARA president. I know you will continue to support K3PGI as he assumes the office of ARA presidency for 1983.

We are entering the digital age, home computers are everywhere. Repeaters and computers are a marrage made electronic heaven. Bells and whistles possibilities are endless to a clever computer buff. Lets continue to develop new ideas and implement them. All it takes is those ideas and some good ol'e ARA elbow grease.

The Hazleton Amateur Radio Club meets every 3rd. wednesday of the month at the PP & L building in Hazleton. The Anthracite Repeater Association meets every last Thursday of the month at Lucia's resturant, Alter Street, Hazleton. Members and non-members & guests are always welcomed to attend these meetings which start at 8 PM local time. bring your buddy along next time.

Cable Television Interference:

A CATV plant is a system by which television programs are carried off-the-air in a network of cables to subscribers. These CATV consumers pay fees to have the cables connected to their home TV sets. The original idea was to bring TV programming to outlying areas where TV signals are weak and reception is poor. Today, the idea has been expanded upon so that TV fans are provided with a far greater number of channels and programs than conventional broadcast TV. Thus, we're witnessing a massive influx of CATV into practically every major metropolitan area in the country! To say that cable television is a burgeoning industry is an exercise in understatement. Accordingly, CATV is not without its "growing pains."

In theory, cable plants are **closed**; FCC defines them as nonbroadcast facilities. They should not interact with the rf environment outside the cables. Given this definition, the FCC allows cable operators to use just about any frequency they choose (to carry the additional programming, many channels beyond the conventional broadcast frequencies for TV are required). Amateur Radio frequencies are often employed.

As a practical matter, however, cable plants are often not completely closed. They leak at various levels. This is generally true for plants that use poorly shielded cables, loose-fitting connectors and unshielded converters, and those that are installed carelessly by cable technicians. High-quality, state-of-the-art systems generally do not exhibit leakage problems.

Leakage = potential and active interference. Amateurs are increasingly subjected to co-channel interference, most notably at 145.25 MHz, CATV's Channel E **and** a popular 2-meter repeater frequency! Conversely, cable subscribers are suffering, too, because Amateur Radio signals can enter the poorly shielded cables in violation of the cable system's "closed" definition. When complaints are issued, many cable operators blame the amateur, when in fact, the fault lies directly with the cable operator himself! Commission regulations are very strict about the "closed" nature of CATV plants.

Where does your club fit in to all of this ? By forming a CATVI Committee you can coordinate local efforts to combat the problem and keep your Amateur Radio

* Continued on the inside -------

ELECTION RESULTS - Anthracite Repeater Asso.

Pres. K3PGI V. Pres. N3CME

Sec. N3CTZ Treas. K3YD

Board members

K3BS W3IVG KB3WQ W3TI N3ASW K3IJ K3JSZ

Bulletin Editor W3TI Printing K3NYX

Reporters N3CQB K3IJ KC3AI

A R R L DIRECTOR VISITATION

DO IT NOW ! Mark your calander for March 16. Our Atlantic Division ARRL Director Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC will be present at the monthly HARC meeting as guest speaker and evening program.

Hugh is a terriffic speaker and will bring you abreast of any new developments in the league or FCC changes etc. A general question session is always in order for Hugh. Here you can get your pet peeves or quandries squared away. Let's have a good turnout this year as compared to his last year visit. Tell your neighboring club members. Bring a non-club member along. Don't forget. March 16, 8 PM, PP&L building, Hazletpn.

ARE YOU AN ARRL MEMBER - -

Every month some one's membership in ARRL is due to expire and most of us just send our money direct to league Hqtrs. It would be benificial to the club if you made your renewal through the club. You pay the regular price but the club gets to keep 2 bux for their treasury. Keep this in mind next time its time to renew. If your not a member, get the details and application from our club secretary.

NEW Tee SHIRTS ANYONE - -

A few years ago we had a T Shirt sale with the club logo in red. Now you have the opportunity to replace same in avariety of colors, or the same canery yellow! Jerseys are also available. There is still time to check with Tom K3IJ for prices, colors and other facts not detailed in this short announcement.

TV Cable continued -----

activity from being unjustly blamed. Solutions do exist. When an interference situation occurs, your committee should file a report and complaint to the cable operator (his name and address are on any converter!). Describe the nature of the problem, and if possible, specific origins of leaks: poles, drops, terminals, and so forth. Remind him of his obligations under FCC rules to clean up leaks (Section 76.605 (a) (12)) and harmful interference (Section 76.612 (b)). The cable operator should know these regulations and respond accordingly. If the cable operator does not act satisfactorily, proceed to the next level of recourse. Contact the ARRL CATVI Desk for liaison with national industry representatives: Peer pressure can often work wonders! A report form is available from ARRL Hq. for this purpose.

In stubborn cases, appeals can be made before municipal governments, and state and federal officials, for intervention and enforcement. Normally, however, problems can be resolved at the earliest stage. It is in the best interests of the cable operator, and the industry as a whole, to nip problems in the bud. Fines for the individual operator and harsh regulation across the industry are possible if problems persist. In summary, a well-organized committee presentation to a noncompliant cable operator is a very effective avenue of approach to CATVI.

Hamming In the Soviet Union

Soviet Union is the only country where Amateur Radio is treated as a Sport, and it is given the maximum encouragement by the government. There are more than a hundred thousand enthusiasts engaged in this Radio Sport now. Out of these, over 15,000 are Hams with over 10% of them being ladies. The Soviet Hams are very active on the bands communicating with the hams from all parts of the world, breaking through all barriers to human friendship and communication.

From the early days they were aware of the potentiality of the radio medium both for technical and scientific development and for propaganda. Hence, Radio was popularized extensively. According to them, Alexander Popov, who demonstrated first radio in the world on 7th May 1895 was the inventor of radio; and Sergei Zhidkovsky built the "worlds first amateur radio receiving-transmitting station".

Amateur Radio is a highly organized and a serious sport primarily designed to serve the State. It is controlled by the Radio Sports Federation, which is under DOSAAF, a voluntary society for assisting the Army, Navy and Airforce. It is a paramilitary training and Civil Defence Organization. DOSAAF controls other sports like Parachute-jumping, rifle-shooting, motorcycling, etc.

DOSAAF organizes "Electronic circles" right at elementary school, and the young pioneers club (between ages of 14 and 19) to factories and industrial workers, and thus create interest in electronics for people of all ages. In fact, it is working for "Radio-fying" of the entire country. So far over 4,000,000 are reported to have been trained by these circles. DOSAAF publishes electronic books, magazines; sponsors code-copying contests; sets up exhibitions; gives prizes for the best electronic construction project, and organizes ham radio contests of all kinds. DOSAAF radio centers all over the land, with Central Radio Club (Post Box 88, Moscow) as the center; answers all technical queries in person or through post, and offers assistance for all enthusiasts.

To get a license, one has to enroll in one of the basic electronic courses, join a club, and pass a SWL test which licenses one to listen to the ham bands. Incidentally, only in the Soviet Union SWL's are trained and licensed, and SWLing is a prerequisite to becoming a ham. The SWL test covers theory, wave propagation, Q-codes and abbreviations, operating procedure, log-keeping, safety rules and first aid. They must be able to send and receive the International Morse Code at 10 wpm.

Soviet hams are proficient operators and they mostly use electronic-keyers and bug-keys. Very few use straight keys; their preference is, CW, SSB, and AM-phone, in that order. Only a handful experiment in Amateur Television, and so far, none have taken up Radio-teletype.

Every year an amateur Exhibition is arranged in the national level, which includes equipment from the whole of Soviet Union. This is preceded by exhibitions regionally arranged in cities, provinces and the republics.

Soviet hams place their services at the disposal of the scientists as assistants in different spheres. They organize a wide network of listening posts for satellite signal tracking. They are ready to undertake mass radio investigation for any scientific research at short notice.

They are also expected to be in a position to build and repair simple receivers. SWL's are given SWL call-letters with UA prefix followed by numbers. SWL report cards are supplied by the Government freely to the SWL's.

Only after six months of SWLing, one can take a third class Ham test, for which 12 wpm is required. This class permits operation with 10 watts in-put on 80 and 40 meters CW, and phone operation in the 10 meter band. Six months after passing this test, licenses are issued after inspection of the station set-up by an official. This license is required to be renewed only if the operator qualified for another class.

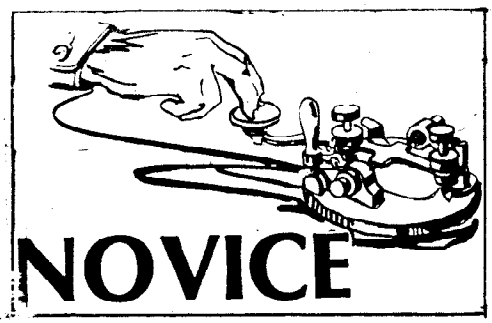
The second class licensing test is of slightly higher standard, and for this class, operation is permitted up to 40 watts on CW in the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter amateur bands. Phone operation is permitted only in the 10 meter band. The first class licensing requires 18 wpm morse speed along with the ability to design transmitters and receivers, and to build and trouble-shoot advanced transmitters and receivers. They are permitted 200 watts CW or phone on all the bands.

COMMING EVENTS

The ARA will sponsor a Fox Hunt April 24. A small entrance fee will be charged to cover refreshments etc. For further details as they arrise, keep an ear open on the Wednesday and Friday evening traffic net on 146-67 mhz. OR contact director in charge, K3IJ.

A special event station is being planned at the Eckley Miners Village this summer. The call to be used K3AA or King Coal three American Anthracite, call belonging to Dr. Steve Motika. As usual, a project of this size undertaking is going to need manpower. PLEASE don't wait to be asked to help out. Why not volunteer your services NOW. It's always nice to say after any club event, " I helped on that project".

NOTE * Next board meeting of the ARA will be held Sunday March 27, 8 PM sharp at the QTH of K3PGI. All directors are requested to attend.



A NOVICE class of instruction is to start soon.Sorry, but details are sketchy with ye editor. For full data and dates contact N3ASW who is in charge of this project.

HARC ELECTION * *

Members of the Hazleton Amateur Radio club should be receiving ballots to elect a new slate of officers for 1983, The following are the candidates nominated. Your ballot must be present at the next meeting, March 16 at 8 PM.

Nominated: Pres. N3ASW Ray Weichman and N3CME John Harris. Vice Pres. N3CQB Dick, N3AIN Joe, W3IVG Joe, K3JSZ Herm. Treas. KA3CAN Jane Kujat. Secy. WB3EGD Rick Rockman.

THE VOLUNTEER EXAMINATION PROGRAM

During recent months the FCC has advised that it can no longer afford the million dollar annual expenditure required to give amateur license examinations. The lead editorial in the December 1982 issue of QST lays the issue squarely on the line. This program represents a long term commitment not only for the administering organization(s) but for the volunteers as well. The cost will be very high and it is not clear at the time of this writing whether any of the costs might be recoverable. Printing, postage, manpower and computer management necessary to provide a uniform operable system will be expensive, an off-the-cuff estimate five years down stream may be as high as a quarter of a million dollars per year. This does not take into account local costs such as liability insurance, room rental, supplies and the out-of-pocket expenses of the volunteers (travel, parking, meals, etc.). It may be wishful thinking, but maybe someone can come up with simple solutions that can be implemented nationwide on a continuing basis.

FROM WHERE WE SIT --- By W3TI

Editorials are not usually found on the last page, but I thought there were more important things to print up front. If there was space left I'd fill in. First I want to thank the board of directors in aquiring a secretary from the Hazleton area. Next, I wish to thank the membership for persevering me as their secretary for three years (wow- has it been that long). However, the board did not forget me. They me editor of the club bulletin.

A few words on the bulletin. I would like to publish at least 3 issues a year. One in Jan/Feb. to catch officer ballots and election results , plus any spring acticities. Another in May to catch Field Day, Hamfests, picnics and other club summer activities, and still another around October to round out the year-end events and announcements.

There is just one draw-back in being a news sheet editor. He always needs news items to print. Here are a few pointers on what's news worthy items.

1. Short technical articles.(Not copied from QST,CQ 73 etc.)
2. Comming Events- Always a must so long as the event has not taken place before the bulletin has been printed and mailed.
3. Personal Experiences, examples such as field day, Mini-DX peditions, Visits to other states or countries, vacation trips, or your observations and experiences at your own club meet.
4. Future DX events, Again NOT copied from QST or other ham journals. If your that interested then you'll buy them direct.

From my previous journalistic days in writting for our local news sheet years ago, an ol'e timer reporter and editor told me to follow the "5 W's", WHO, WHEN, WHERE, WHAT,& WHY. If your article answers these five questions, then it's news. If it's just WHAT & WHERE, then it is just a want ad. Please get your articles to me at least 2 to 3 weeks before bulletin time. 73

ITEMS FOR SALE - -

ICOM 2 AT W/accessories leather case, speaker mike, DC module & cord.$200
MODEL 15 Teletype W/ extra units & table $ 35.00
LINEAR Amp & Pwr.sup.80 -10 mtrs. Pr. 811 A's W/extra tubes. $ 100. KB3WQ - 788-3977

RTTY - Video display type 10" screen. Complete w/keyboard and terminal unit. For technical details contact N3BBX. For sale item, $ 185 see W3TI.

R UR DUES DUE ?

Please check your membership card to see if you are a paid up member. New rules as of Feb.24 meeting. Please pay your dues direct to the club treasurer or via mail, Anthracite Repeater Assn. PO Box 73, Hazleton, Pa. 18201 You will be. issued a dues card and a receipt for payment. Don't forget, to keep the repeater on the air we must pay for electric power.