



P . A . R . A

Philipsburg Amateur Radio
Association

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Newsletter Quarterly

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NEWS:

Presidents Column -

Just can't believe it, the association started with 4 people deciding to put together a little monthly "get-together" and look at the association now, starting to grow like weeds...

"Hey Dave, why not start a local club or organization which would benefit the the local community where we all live, made up of licensed radio amateurs and interested people, and I said OK..."

and the association continues to grow. At the last meeting total count equalled fifteen people and its seems to be getting larger! Anyway, I wanted to take this opportunity to share my personal ham radio experience with you.

I received my Novice (KN3CAL) back in 1957 and my general (after 2 tries!) in 1958 (K3CAL). My elmers were Dean W3GGS, Jack W3CDP, and Jim W3CNI.

I moved to New England (MA) and received W1DHD (Reissue) in late '69 or so and finally moved back home here in Philipsburg about 4 years ago. I then upgraded to Advanced class at the end of January this year and a week later got Extra class. It can be done!!, ...if you set your mind to it!. It all depends on what is important for you and how much time you are willing to put

into this super life-long hobby we all share.

Anyway, it is a terrific lifetime hobby to enjoy and to do whatever you want to do - phone, CW, RTTY, AMTOR, packet, Satellite, and EME, just to mention a few of the available modes.

Please call or ask me for assistance if you have any questions. I'm usually available in the evenings, in my low band shack!!.
ENJOY!!! and 73's.

-- Soon to be AA3??

- Dave W1DHD/AE

PARA Directors (Temporary)

President & Secretary -

Dave Runk - W1DHD - 342-0696

V.P. & Repeater Trustee -

Dave Posmoga - K3MGC -
342-6340

Treasurer - Cynthia Posmoga



Notes of Interest

EXAMS - Confirm all information with the listed contact person before appearing for a test. You will need to bring all necessary documents. Some VEC's will require a \$5.60 fee for tests above the Novice level.

March

- 1 Pottstown, 7:30 PM. (W5YI)
Warren Erdman, 215-679-5764
- 4 Levittown, 7 PM. (W5YI)
Dave Heller, 215-736-3333
- 4 Philadelphia, 6 PM. (ARRL)
Dusty Rhoads, 215-482-0386
- 5 Nazareth, 7 PM. (ARRL)
Delaware-Leghigh ARC.
Robin Moseley, 215-820-0944
- 6 Fallsington, 10 AM (ARRL)
Penn Wireless Assn.
George LeNoir, 215-943-4886
- 10 Scranton, 7 PM (W5YI)
Art Sposto, 717-342-8591
- 14 York, 9:30 AM (ARRL)
York Springfest Carol

20 Ephrata, 9:30 AM. (ARRL)
Ephrata ARS. Dennis Sheaffer,
717-733-7221
** No Walk-ins **

27 Philadelphia, 10:30 AM.
U. of PA ARC. (ARRL)
Garrett Klein, 215-222-8752

Some thoughts on Amateur Radio by Dave Posmoga K3MGC

Having been a ham for over 33 years, I thought it might be interesting to impart some observations about ham radio, especially to some of the new comers in our club.

It just seems like yesterday that I received my novice license in 1951 then I was a young teenager who wanted to talk to the world. But alas, I didn't like the code so the only alternative was to go on 2 meter phone, AM that is. There was no such thing as FM or repeaters. Everything was either crystal controlled or VFO. And when you called CQ you tuned the entire 2 meter band hoping someone would call you back. Of course today it's quite different.

I have had many people over the years ask me just what is ham radio? Is it a hobby, a service or what? Amateur radio operators are licensed by the FCC in the interest, necessity and convenience of the public good. Until the end of World War 2 they were considered a vast resource by the military in time of war to be drawn upon as radio operators. They contributed heavily in the research and development of many of the technologies that we take for granted today. In just about every company

From the early nineteen hundreds until approximately the early nineteen sixties most hams built a lot of their own equipment. Hams were not only savvy in the theory of electronics but practically applied that theory in building their own equipment. This came about out of necessity since most commercial equipment was way out of the price range of many.

So, are we still considered by the military to be a vast resource? I think not. But I do believe we are still considered a resource in providing communications on a local level to government agencies such as the Red Cross and Civil Defense agencies during time of need.

Is amateur radio a hobby? Probably by many hams and non hams alike amateur radio is looked upon as a hobby. We certainly do not receive money for our efforts in communications. Then what do we receive? Possibly the gratification of talking to another ham in a far away country, learning about electronics or using the many benefits of ham radio as a stepping stone in to a profession or career in the varied and many fields of electronics and communications.

Whatever ham radio is, it certainly is not dull. There are so many facets of ham radio today that it can keep you busy for many years to come.

Our newly formed club P A R A (Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association) welcomes all to join. Since our club president Dave Runk (W1DHD) passed his Amateur EXTRA Class license we have found out that there are enough of us who are properly licensed to become VE's, Volunteer Examiners. These are hams who can administer the amateur radio tests. And we'll be located right here in Philipsburg.

As with any club, we depend on our members to keep thing moving. If

you would like to give a talk about any part of ham radio, by all means do so.

We are also in need of your input to make things better for you as members. Possibly you would like to write an article for the newsletter. Anything that you can contribute would be appreciated..