



A. R. A.

Philipsburg Amateur Radio
Association

Volume 2, Number 1

Newsletter Quarterly

January 1994

Prez says...

Well hope everyone had a great holiday. It is certainly winter!. One new item I wish to share with you all is the addition of newly licensed hams in this area, or upgrades from previous levels and their impact on this general area. Since most of us know who we are who has upgraded, I won't mention personal specifics, however, one main point comes to mind!...

I do believe very strongly in forming a local testing group in the Philipsburg area to serve the Moshannon valley and outlying areas surrounding Philipsburg. I believe the W5YI testing team can fulfill that function. The National Volunteer examiner Coordinator team of W5YI has been examining new hams for quite a while and is fully accredited with the FCC to provide all amateur testing, both theory and Morse, through the use of accredited/registered field examiners, (licensed hams) of which Philipsburg offers several. (I had to upgrade in Indiana and Hollidaysburg!). At present there is no immediate area which you can upgrade or take your first amateur exam locally, so this area will be a permanent site.

I'm trying to schedule our first session in late March or early May in the spring '94. We will then have the third member of the testing team fully

accredited with the necessary credentials and will be ready to give Novice, Technician and Tech plus exams to anyone who desires a test.

I am about ready to order the necessary study guides and will have them on hand for reference to PARA. I am also going to order the necessary computer testing material to be able to administer exams through the use of computer random generated tests produced by the computer data base.

I believe teaming up with the W5YI coordinator organization, will provide Philipsburg with a top notch examining group open to all local and interested people.

A notice will be put into "THE PROGRESS" and also with "WRSC" channel 10 in advance, and an announcement made on 146.76 and 146.39 machines, well in advance of the test sessions, but I think the time will be in late March or early May of 1994.

For more information on the testing and elements offered, or location please call 342-0696 and talk with Dave (AA3EJ) who will answer general or specific questions pertaining to exams, or meet him on our direct frequency 146.520. If you desire, you may attend one of our monthly get-togethers, usually held on the

first Thursday in the conference room of The Church of the Nazarene, outside Philipsburg on Rt.322 toward Clearfield. You don't have to be licensed to attend our get-together sessions, just prepare to discuss any and all issues which you feel you would like to bring up. As usual, coffee and goodies will be served. Have a great holiday and don't work too much DX! -aa3ej

***** NOTICE *****

Dues for 1994 are now due. The dues will remain at \$5.00 payable to the [unclear] Thanks!
- Cynthia

PARA Directors

- President & Secretary -
Dave Runk - AA3EJ - 342-0696
- V.P. & Repeater Trustee
Dave Posmoga - K3MGC - 342-6840
- Treasurer & Newsletter -
Cynthia Posmoga

Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 1993 we have a balance of \$6.47 in the treasury. A new coffee maker for our meetings was recently purchased with the club funds.
- Cynthia



DX... Is described in the 1993 edition of the Amateur Radio Handbook as an abbreviation for "Distance". To quote a paragraph:

"What station do you want?"

How can you know a station's location before you make contact? You can get some idea from the call sign. Think of each call sign as a prefix that indicates the nation or international organization that authorized the license, and the suffix, which uniquely identifies that station among others in the same nation or organization".

On VHF, CQ DX is a "general call used only when the band is open, under favorable "skip" conditions. VHF DX means new states, countries and stations beyond the customary "line-of-sight" range on most VHF bands.

On HF, CQ DX is a "general call to any foreign station" OK. Enough said about the text book cases. Now, down to practical situations. Time and time again I get questions like, "What band do I listen to, to hear 3E8 coming in, or 4N4?. Of course we all know these prefixes are the island of Mauritius off the African east coast and Bosnia-Herzegovina, former Yugoslavia. Well, the answer lies in the mysterious ways of wave propagation, time of day, season of the year and frequency of use. ...no don't rush and grab you graph paper or computer to make a gigantic grid or matrix or to try and make a correlation of all these factors into one hard-and-fast set of rules. It won't work! This is what makes ham radio so interesting. You don't know what is going to be on at a given time until you turn on your

receiver!, and listen, listen and listen some more. There is lots of publications telling of DX-expeditions which are going to planned, but no substitute for listening.

If you missed the December meeting of the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, it was held in the St. Charles cafe in downtown Clearfield. A substantial group turned out for an "All-you-can-eat" buffet and the top of the evening was two videos given on DX-petitions to The South Sandwich Island group (VP8) and to Uganda, East Africa. I don't know where I would want to be, too cold or too hot!. Anyway QSL's were passed around and it was fun to meet everyone. Please monitor 146.520, 146.76 and 146.39 for all the local activity around this area. Amateur radio is gaining momentum in our little community.

GUEST ARTICLE

We wish to thank Jim Warg - N3 ^{ONE} for submitting the following article. Everyone is encouraged to submit an article as this is your newsletter.

My radio interests date back to the late 1940s to early 1950s. As I recall, it started with building crystal sets and eventually 1 and 2 tube receivers. We only had one local AM station in Bethlehem, PA., that was WGPA. Success with the old crystal set and other radios depended on my budget for ground and antenna wire. These were put up numerous times for various reasons. Also, the whisker-crystal contact was extremely important. The old set played constantly as long as the station was on the air. In fact it played so well my mother thought people were in my room talking

when it was vacant.

Eventually as FM and television made more headway I inherited the family Silvertone radio which covered some HF bands. As a side interest I also sat down one day and figured out how to build a battery powered phone system to keep in touch with local friends. The phones could be disconnected, but on occasion were left on by mistake for others to hear some interesting conversation not intended outside the family. This along with the constant battle to keep up lines led to the end of the system.

After high school graduation I entered the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and again had some contact with radio. While stationed in Korea (16 month tour of duty), some of my hours, while tuning generators on night duty, were spent in the Battalion HQ radio shack tuning the HF receivers to transmission around the world but mostly out of Australia. The radio group also started a course in radio fundamentals which unfortunately lasted a short time. After returning to the states and later civilian life I bought a Hammarlund HQ 100 A-7 tube receiver. For the next 20 years I listened to HF bands as possible never having an antenna which lasted very long due to trees being cut down. This prompted me to take down and rebuild an old 80 foot company radio tower over a period of 2 to 3 months. The slow process also gave others a chance to get somewhat used to a tower in the yard, neighbors and my wife in particular.

At this time I took a more serious look at amateur radio and becoming licensed. I started looking at modern equipment and was shocked at the progress made since the old days. After a few

months and following the advice of my brother-in-law, K1ZKR, I bought a Kenwood TS 850 S along with the appropriate accessory equipment. I now stood fast with an operable transceiver and 80 meter dipole antenna.

On a local basis I was still more or less on my own, no Elmer for guidance. This changed when W1DHD, Dave Runk, spotted my dipole and introduced himself about a year ago. I had been studying for my technician license but had little outside contact with the hobby until then. Dave, now an upgraded AA3EF, kept me from slipping into low gear, especially with the 13 WPM code requirement. At the end of January '93 Dave upgraded and I passed several elements with enough credit to become eventually licensed as Tech Plus after one more session in February at which time Dave became an Amateur Extra Class. Come April after continued studying during the winter months, I passed my Advance element, at the same time Norm Van Cleve, sitting next to me was on his way to becoming a Technician Class licensee. After many months of continued practice and pep talks from Dave, I passed the 13 WPM code test and upgraded. After accomplishing that I would say it takes some dedication by oneself as well as others living with you during this time.

At this time I'll just sit back awhile, support the club activities and get caught up with other things. It's a great hobby and well worth all the effort, especially with help from club members.

P.S. My next antenna will probably go up in Spring, a 6 band vertical by Gap.

- 73s from Jim Warg, N3ONE/AA.



THE BOARD WISHES EVERYONE
BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

P.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP LIST

CALL:	NAME:	ADDRESS:	PHONE:
	C.J.	R.D.2 Box 22, Ginter, PA	378-5560
	Aaron Bennese	623 Barclay St., Clearfield, PA 16830	765-8514
	John Bennese	623 Barclay St., Clearfield, PA 16830	765-8514
WA3GFL	Jerry Bush	R.D.1 Box 586B, Osceola Mills, PA	339-7620
	Bill Foreman	RR3 Box 403, Philipsburg, PA 16866	342-3735
	Russ Franek	Philipsburg Towers, Philipsburg, PA 16866	342-3735
N3IZE	Lynn Hummel	24 N.W. 4th Ave., Clearfield, PA 16830	765-3153
N3IYZ	Rick Hummel	24 N.W. 4th Ave., Clearfield, PA 16830	765-3153
N3PUL	Tim Lumadue	RD1 Box 263, West Decatur, PA 16878	
K3BIC	David Posmoga	P.O. Box 1109, Clearfield, PA 16830	342-6340
AA3EJ	David Runk	R.R.1 Box 299, Philipsburg, PA 16866	342-0696
	Hans Scharler	318 N. 5th St., Philipsburg, PA 16830	342-2024
N3BIC	Pete Scharler	318 N. 5th St., Philipsburg, PA 16866	342-2024
K3BIE	Dick Thompson	R.D.3 Box 277, Philipsburg, PA 16866	342-5520
N3PGA	H. Norman Van Cleve, Jr.	401 Hampton Street, Philipsburg, PA 16866	342-5198
N31	^{ONE} Jim Wang	215 S. Front St., Philipsburg, PA 16866	342-5046
	Rodney Wilsoncroft	RD1 Box 239, West Decatur, PA 16878	
KA3SFQ	Jim Whited	R.R.1 Box 151, Clearfield, PA 16830	765-6366