

Report on Butler Hamfest

by John Swarc, N3SPW

Several PARA members made the annual pilgrimage out to Butler, PA for the Breeze-shooters Hamfest and Computer Show on June 4th. This was my first trip to the hamfest so it was a new experience for me.

Those that made the trip include Dave AA3EJ, Dave K3MGC, Jim N3ONE, Norm N3PJA, and myself. (Sorry if I've missed anyone here.)

Aside from the occasional sprinkle, the weather was good for the show. It was real apparent that it had rained the night before, producing mud paths between the outdoor displays. I didn't let this dampen my spirits, however. (Mental Note: Bring extra pair of shoes next year)

The displays had just about anything you could have wanted. Everything from a brand new HF rig sold directly from the Icom folks, to some real vintage rigs in need of special attention.

On a personal note, this is a small world! I ran into one of my college professors, Bernie Fuller N3EFN. It turns out that he is the ARRL Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania. Bernie, or Dean Fuller as I remember him, was on hand to answer questions at the ARRL booth.

All in all, it was a good show. I know I'm planning on being there again next year.

Meetings, Meetings

PARA Newsletter Staff Writer

Our last change in meeting times seems to have been a dud. Due to the extremely low attendance, considerable discussion has been given to moving the meetings back to the first Thursday of each month.

Right now the PARA meetings are on hold through the summer. They will resume again in September. This makes the next regular P.A.R.A. meeting on September 7th at 7:30 PM.

Our meeting location will return to the Church of the Nazarene. The church is located on Route 322, just west of Philipsburg. Can't find it? Talk-in on 146.52 Mhz simplex.

VEC Testing Changes at PARA

PARA Newsletter Staff Writer

The status of the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association with the W5YI Group VEC testing program has been changed from "Active" to "Inactive". The result of this change is that PARA can continue offering testing sessions, however WE MUST NOW REGISTER EACH EXAM SESSION IN ADVANCE WITH W5YI GROUP.

Several factors went into the decision to make this change. For more information on this change contact our VEC testing coordinator Dave AA3EJ.

P.A.R.A. HF Net

A group of dedicated PARA members have been active with establishing an "informal" HF Net on the 10 Meter band. The net meets on 28.400 Mhz on Sundays at 20:00 UTC using Single Side Band.

To participate, all you need is any grade of license, other than an Technician. If you would like more information contact Dave K3MGC, Dave AA3EJ, or Jim N3ONE.

146.04 / .64 Machine Update

Our repeater project seems to have reached a stand-still. We need a duplexer. Without it, the entire machine is useless.

The "home-brew" duplexer remains "under construction". Apparently, there was a design change on the transmit side to accommodate additional RF passing through. The previous design was allowing only about 40% power through.

The people involved with the construction project are

Dave K3MGC, Jim N3ONE, and Jerry WA3GFL.

The bottom line: If you want this machine on the air, get involved and help out. Construction and tuning of the individual cavities is a big project. This takes a lot of time and additional help is never refused. You might even learn something about repeaters in the process! Just think how impressed all your friends will be when you start to explain the theory behind a duplexer!

P.A.R.A. Summer Cookout

The first P.A.R.A. Cookout will be held on August 26th starting at 3:00 PM. Be sure to mark this date in your calendar! The cookout will be held at the residence of Bill Foreman N3QLE.

If you are planning to attend, please R.S.V.P. with John N3SPW (342-7220). This way we'll have an idea of how many people to expect. The P.A.R.A. cookout is open to all area hams and their spouses. Bill's backyard features a swimming pool for the more active among us. Everyone should bring a covered dish. When you R.S.V.P. please mention to John what your planning to bring so we don't end up with ten dishes of potato salad.

To get to Bill's QTH, take Route 350 East past Goody's Ice Cream stand. Turn left at Irwin Drive, and right onto Terry Street. Bill's house is the second on the left. If you get lost, call Bill at 342-3444 for help, and remember to R.S.V.P.!

P.A.R.A. Newsletter

The P.A.R.A. Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association, Philipsburg, PA and is edited by John Szwarc, N3SPW. Your submissions to the P.A.R.A. Newsletter are welcome and encouraged. Send all submissions to John Szwarc, N3SPW, P.O. Box 604, Philipsburg, PA 16866.

To subscribe to P.A.R.A. Newsletter send \$10.00 to Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association, Newsletter Fund, C/O Jim Warg, N3ONE, 215 S. Front Street, Philipsburg, PA 16866.

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P.A.R.A. Jackets & Hats

At the May P.A.R.A. meeting, the idea of getting PARA jackets and hats produced was suggested. Since that meeting, some pricing was obtained from Transfer Junction in State College. The following is the information they gave us:

Jackets

The jackets come in sizes small to extra large. We have our choice of colors and they are lined for those winter months. The minimum order is 12 jackets and cost \$46.00 each. This price includes 2 color silk screen printing and your call embroidered on the front.

Hats

The hats are a twill style. We have a choice of colors and they run \$6.50 each. This includes your call embroidered on the cap. Min. order is 12.

To do this we'd also need a 2 color logo for the jackets. Transfer Junction will design it for free, but we still have to come up the concept.

Learning About ATV

by John Szwarc, N3SPW

Some time ago I wrote about the Altoona, PA amateur television (ATV) repeater. I understand that system is temporarily off the air, however it did spark some interest.

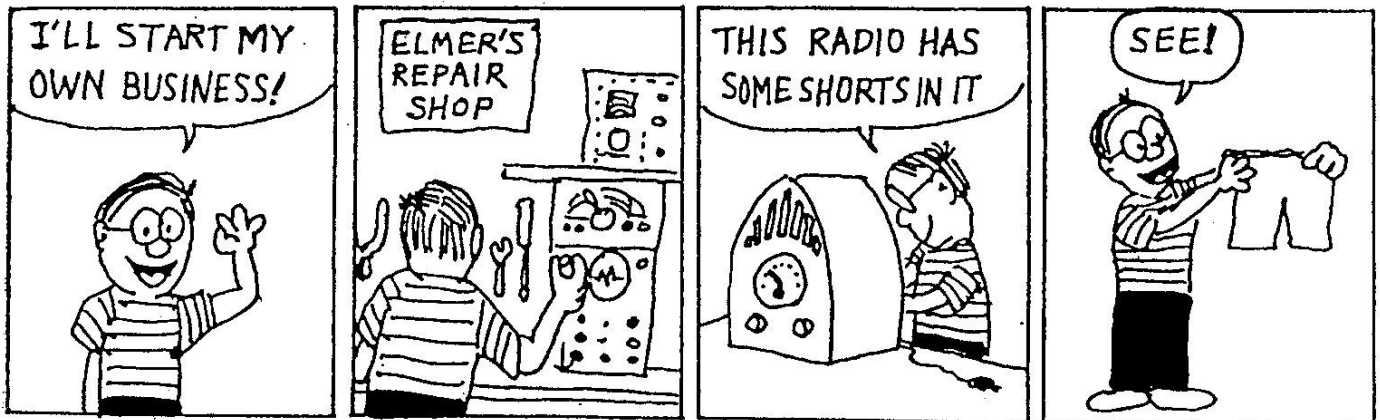
Since then Warren N3TNI and I have been discussing ATV and researching the topic. We've located several books on the topic, and I've even found a magazine called ATV Quarterly.

We've discovered that ATV comes in several different modes. You get your choice of the NTSC standard AM signal, FM, or even digital modulation. (I'll bet you didn't know that your standard TV signal is AM video with a FM audio carrier!)

After the busy month of July, we plan on trying some experiments with ATV to learn more about it. Warren lives in Pine Grove Mills, near State College, and my new QTH is in Kylertown. This should make for a difficult line-of-site path. If your interested in finding out more about ATV, feel free to contact myself, or Warren.

ELMER

By Rich Regent, K9GDF



The Last Amateur Radio Operator

by Berry Griffin, KD6TMM/AA, Amateur Radio News Service

It was a warm sunny day. Joe squinted at the top of his tower, admiring the five-element 20-meter beam he had built. It was an imposing sight, yet it had never been used. Joe was the last ham.

Joe never intended to be the last ham. It had all started when the FCC created the no-code Tech license. Joe considered that action the biggest blunder of any government agency ever.

"Just think of it," Joe had remarked, "an Amateur Radio license with no Morse code requirements! It'll mean ruin for us all!" Joe ignored the fact that the no-code Tech license brought new blood into the hobby after Amateur ranks had been shrinking for many years.

Joe hated no-code hams. He wouldn't accept the no-code license as just another way of entering Amateur ranks.

Joe and some like-minded cronies hung out on the local repeater, where they expounded at length their belief that the new hams are somehow less than human.

When new operators dared talk Joe they found themselves scolded and scorned.

In his zeal to control "his" airwaves, Joe monitored the local repeater with a stopwatch, to make sure interlopers "ID 'ed" on time. If they went a little over, he gave them a tongue lashing. He even harassed them when they operated perfectly, just to make sure

they understood they weren't welcome.

Slowly at first, newcomers began to drop off the air. It was working; he was saving his airwaves.

The number of active ham dropped to far fewer than when he started. He figured only "real Hams" were left, so he didn't mind when the Callbook shrunk to the size of a comic book. But with so few hams, the political power of Amateur Radio diminished. Soon ham spectrum shrunk too.

That didn't bother Joe; he cared only about two and 20 meters. He thought it was funny when the FCC auctioned many VHF and UHF bands, "those no-coder hangouts," to commercial interests.

Finally, citing "no further need for an Amateur Radio license category," the FCC stopped issuing new licenses. Before long, Joe and his buddies were the only hams left.

Joe and his cronies spent long hours ragchewing on 20 meters, bragging about how good things were. Occasionally they paused, but only to note when one of their clan became a "silent key."

Then one day Joe called CQ on twenty meters and got no reply. He kept trying for a week, but no one ever came back to him. Finally, he called one of his friends on twisted pair, to set up a contact. But an elderly-sounding lady informed him his friend was no longer
Continued on Page 5.

Special Event Station

From Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

The Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club will operate W3QFZ from 1630Z September 9 to 0030Z September 10 to commemorate the last run of Amtrack's Broadway Limited. The station will be located at the Horseshoe Curve National Historic Landmark. Operation will be in the lower portion of General phone band on 80, 40, and 20 meters. Local operators may work the station on the NR3T 146.61- and NU3T 442.10+ repeaters. A commemorative QSL card will be issued.

Send QSL and SASE to: HARC Broadway Event, P.O. Box 225, Hollidaysburg PA 16648.

Last Ham

Continued from Page 4.

among the living.

Joe paged through his old, dog-eared Callbook. But he couldn't find a single listing of anyone he had worked recently. That's when he realized he was the only one left.

Joe had just started back toward the house when he suddenly tired. He felt a squeezing pain in his chest, and his left arm ached. He lay back.

His antenna, and clouds drifting by above it, were the last things he saw. But Joe and his like-minded friends had lived long enough to accomplish their goal; they had cleaned up the airwaves.

Morse Code Publications

by Jim Maxwell, W6CF
Amateur Radio News Service

Here is a list of Morse Code periodicals and a source of books any CW enthusiast will enjoy reading.

Morse Code: The Essential Language, by L. Peter Carron, Jr., W3DVK. ARRL and local dealers.

Morsum Magnificat: The Morse Magazine, a bimonthly published in England, via Wise Owl Worldwide Publications, 4314 West 238th St., Torrance CA 90505-4509. Make checks payable to Wise Owl Publications. Two year subscriptions are \$40 by surface mail (\$50 airmail).

Focus: Journal of the First Class CW operators Club. Published quarterly in England. Membership in FOC is restricted, but subscriptions to Focus are available. For information, write Elliott Wolheim, W2MUM, 41 Silversmith Lane, Levittown, NY 11756.

The Vail Correspondent. This articulate and informative quarterly specializes in telegraph key collecting. Subscriptions are \$10 per year at: The Vail Correspondent, Box 88, Maynard MA 01754.

Dots & Dashes. The Morse Telegraph Club publishes this newsprint quarterly, which emphasizes landline telegraphy. Subscriptions are \$8 per year. Morse Telegraph Club, 1101 Maplewood Dr., Normal, IL 61761.

Calendar of Events

N3ONE's New Steel Tree

Compiled from Various Sources

July

- 1 Erie, PA Exam. SAM Radio Association of Erie. Norma Vanderhoff 814-665-9124
- 2 Wilkes-Barre, PA. Hamfest. Murgas ARC.
- 4 Bressler, PA. Hamfest. Harrisburg RAC.
- 6 Philadelphia, Exam. 6 PM Phil-Mont ARC. Contact Dusty Rhodes 215-482-0386
- 7 Nazareth, PA Exam. 7PM Delaware-Lehigh ARC. Contact Robin Moseley 610-820-0944
- 9 Timonium, MD. Hamfest. BRATS.
- 9 Alexander, NY. Hamfest. Genesee Radio Amateurs.
- 9 Pittsburgh, PA. Hamfest. North Hills ARC.
- 12 Scranton, PA Exam. Scranton-Pocono ARC. Contact Raymond Collins 717-689-9688
- 15 Erie, PA. Exam. Gannon Wireless Soc. Contact John Duda 814-734-4260
- 20 East Stroudsburg, PA Exam. 7PM Pocono ARC. Contact Dave Haney 717-942-0945
- 22 Meadville, PA. Exam. 10 AM Crawford ARS. Contact James Cihon 814-724-1413
- 22 Huntington Mills, PA. Hamfest. Jonestown Mtn. RptR. Assoc.
- 23 Indiana, PA. Hamfest. Indiana Co. ARC.
- 26 Wrightstown, PA Exam. 7PM Westminster ARC. Contact Tom Nichaud 215-345-3494
- 29 Indiana, PA. Exam. 9AM Indiana ARC. Contact Paul Williams 412-479-8117
- 29 Berwick, PA. Hamfest. Columbia-Montour ARC.

Aug.

- 6 Warrington, PA. Hamfest. Mid-Atlantic ARC.
- 6 New Kensington, PA. Hamfest. Skyview ARC.
- 13 Easton, PA. Hamfest. Delaware-Lehigh ARC.
- 26 Philipsburg, PA. PARA Cookout. See newsletter article.

Sept.

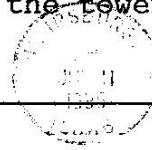
- 9 Philipsburg, PA. Exam. PARA VEC Testing Session. 10:30 AM. Contact Dave AA3EJ 8 814-342-0696. Reservations required.
- 23 York, PA. Conference. Central Atlantic ATV Network. Contact W3CSU for information.
- 30 Horsham, PA. Conference. Pack Rats VHF Conference.

Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association
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Philipsburg, PA 16866-0604

If you've been paying attention to the skyline of Philipsburg, you probably have noticed a shiny new "steel tree" in the area of Front Street. No, this isn't a new species of trees. Its a new ninety foot tower that Jim N3ONE is erecting adjacent to his QTH.

Jim has spent months planning for the tower. Details such as reinforcing the roof joists to support guy wire anchors, pouring concrete for the footer, and fabricating mounts for the rotor have all been completed long ago.

As of this writing, Jim has it nearly complete. On several occasions Jim has called on the assistance of other hams in the area to help assemble several stages of the tower.



Deliver To:

Dick Thompson K3BIE
RFD 3, Box 277
Philipsburg PA 16866