

THE MARINER™

N 3 S H A m a t e u r R a d i o C l u b
P i t t s b u r g h P A
(T h e R a d i o C l u b F o r m e r l y K n o w n A s t h e
O r i g i n a l S o u t h H i l l s A m a t e u r R a d i o C l u b)

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12TH!

The next monthly meeting of the N3SH Amateur Radio Club will be November 12th, 7:00 PM, at the Mt Lebanon Fire Department at the Mt Lebanon Municipal Building.

It's time for the Annual Election, so it is VERY important that we get a good turnout! If you can only make one meeting a year, THIS is the one.

We also have some continuing business from the special meeting October 23rd to finish up. And a tour of the new 911 Center is on tap too.

Don't forget... 4th Annual South Hills Hamfest coming up February 28th. We need the help of all hands to keep this premiere 'fest going! The time is NOW to contact W3SRL (ex N3RNY) to see how you can help.

And it's not too late to start thinking about Field Day 1999!

Wait a minute... special meeting? What special meeting? What happened to the club name all of a sudden? What happened to the name of the club hamfest? What's going on here? If you're asking yourself these questions, then you NEED to read the editorial inside.

See you at the meeting!

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November 1998

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 ARRL SS CW
8 ARRL SS CW	9	10	11	12 N3SH Meeting 7 PM Mt Leb Fire	13	14 WAE RTTY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 ARRL SS PH WX3PIT
22 ARRL SS PH	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 CQ WW CW
29 CQ WW CW	30 Xmas Party RSVP's Due!					

- **November 12** – N3SH ARC Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Mt. Lebanon Fire Dept., Mt Lebanon
- **November 21** – WX3PIT-Special Event Station
- **November 21** – Looking for the Breezeshooters Groundwave Contest? Nope; now it's back to an annual event (in February!)
- **November 21** – ARRL Sweepstakes Phone Contest! Let's see if we can get an N3SH multi-op effort going!
- **Sunday Nights 9:00 PM** N3SH Weekly Net 146.955 Repeater

WX3PIT

Announcing the first ever WX3PIT Special Event Station.

The event will be held on Saturday, November 21 2:00 pm-6:00 pm EST (1900Z-2300Z). It is open to all licensed amateurs. Make contact on 146.50 simplex.

Give your call, name, and, if you have one, your spotter ID number.

WX3PIT QSL certificates will be mailed to your call book QTH address, unless otherwise specified.

73, Pat KB8QEV
NWS Pittsburgh WX3PIT

XMAS PARTY!

The N3SH ARC Annual Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 10, 1998 at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church starting at 6:00 pm.

All members of the club in good standing and their families are welcome! But, those planning on attending MUST contact Carol Danko so that we know how many to plan for.

If you plan on attending please contact Carol at n3sbf@juno.com or (412) 884-1466.

All responses are due by November 30, 1998.

NEW CALLS

With the advent of Vanity calls, it's getting harder to tell the players without a scorecard...

Steve W3SRL was N3RNY

Jerry W3BZW was KF3AC

Greg KQ3DX was KD3JB

Ted WN3BOJ was KA3COR

Bob W3RJM was KD3VX

Did we miss you? Don't feel slighted, we'll catch up with in upcoming issues.

And... Ron WN3VAW has been since 1973... but was WN2FQN in 1972. Hey, people ask...

Editorial

Ron Notarius WN3VAW

This is one of the hardest things I've ever had to write. After countless drafts and revisions, it's still unpleasant and painful to have to relate what's been going on. But procrastination won't change the facts, and the facts have to be faced.

You've had to have noticed by now that the club has suddenly changed it's billing name. If you don't already know, you need to know why. I have to stick to the facts, not guesses or conjecture or supposition, because anything that I write here may and probably will come back to haunt us if I don't get it right. So...

Over the last few months, several long-time members of the Club have disappeared from our activities for various reasons. It happens. Some of them -- allegedly at least four of the Club founders and others, exactly whom and how many unknown right now -- decided that they disagreed with the direction that the Club was heading in. It happens. So they formed another radio club. It happens.

And they named their club... South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Incorporated it as a not-for-profit. Registered the SHARC name and logo as their trademarks with the Pa Department of State. This doesn't happen... only it did.

It gets better. Seems that the designer of the logo alleges that he personally trademarked the Club name & logo when he created them 5 years ago, has withdrawn his permission from us to use them anymore, and demands that we cease doing so -- since they now belong to his new group.

Stunned? Most of us are. And I'm sure there's more, ah, interesting things coming our way. Considering that the new group was incorporated in January 1998 and obtained a club callsign last spring, this has been well planned, well executed, long term plan.

To what goal? That is a very good question; we don't know. Yet. Those who know aren't talking. And I'm not prepared to speculate for publication -- yet.

The important thing right now is, what do we do about this? We have three basic choices:

- 1) Throw in the towel and disband.
- 2) Prepare a legal battle with the new group over rights to the name, logo, and possibly other assets.
- 3) Give up on the name, pick a new one, and move on.

I don't worry anymore about the first choice. This has certainly stung, but it's not a fatal blow. Based on the reaction so far, there is no question in my mind that we will survive.

Choice #2 is the first reaction of most of us. It's the emotional answer to this kind of blow. We're certainly being goaded in that direction. (You can make up your own mind; go to <http://www.sharc.net>)

But consider this: Yes, we can go to court, and eventually we might win. Might; it's not certain in today's legal climate. Worse, we'd run the real risk of depleting the Club's bank accounts in trying to win. Even if we had a Club member with deep pockets (like a lottery winner) it wouldn't be fair to ask a few well off individuals to bankroll a court fight. If we go broke, we win the battle, but we lose the war. Further, I have a hunch that a court battle will be messy and ugly; by the time it's done, we may have mortally wounded the group in the fight, and worse, lost our good name and reputation with other area hams in the process. What price "victory?" Remember: this IS only a radio club!

The only viable option is the last. Yes, it hurts our pride. Yes, we have to publicly admit that some of the one-time leaders we trusted caught us with our pants down — and kicked hard. Yes, it's a little embarrassing to tell our friends in other area clubs what happened (you have no idea how hard it was to talk to local ARRL officials and other prominent area hams about the situation).

They can take our name, but not our reputation. They can take our logo, but there are a lot of ways to do a logo. They can try to claim our history as theirs, but they have to explain the contradictions. And they can try and explain why they keep starting new radio clubs when they fall dissatisfied with the old ones... and we can move on.

The sad thing is, if they wanted to go, if they wanted their own separate group, fine. So what? If the designer of the logo no longer wants us to use it, fine. I already have an artist lined up to create us a new one (it will only cost me lunch for two at *Armstrong's*), and this time, WE will own the rights. Had they gone that far & stopped, I'd have wished them well.

But by trying to confiscate our name, they've crossed a line. This is more than just about differences with the Club. Still... the only way to find out will be to play their game, on their terms, by their rules. And frankly, I'm too old for this stuff. So, if the SHARC name and logo means that much to them, let them have it! They won't HAVE us, and they won't BE us. WE WILL. And THAT is what's important.

So for the time being, we're the "N3SH Amateur Radio Club". That may or may not be our permanent name; this will be decided at the next few meetings, as per our new by-laws. (You know, the ones that a select few -- the active membership -- wrote, discussed, and passed in secret -- at our regular, scheduled, open to the public meetings as prescribed in the old by-laws.) Not to worry; no one will be fooled. We may no longer be legally allowed to formally call ourselves this, but everyone will still know us as the Original South Hills Amateur Radio Club. We still serve the South Hills amateur radio community -- and anyone else interested in radio communications. We still have a hamfest to put on, one that people are already looking forward to. And we still have a good reputation as one of the better, if not one of the best, Amateur Radio Clubs in Western Pennsylvania.

Shakespeare asked, "What's in a name?" A name is an identity. Ours has been stolen. We can cry about it, fight an elusive battle to get it back from a group that may already have sullied it by their actions, or pick a new name that we can protect and MOVE ON.

They may need us. We don't need them. Their choice.

[And in case you were wondering...]

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." -- Romeo & Juliet, Act II, Scene II, line 43

This editorial was first posted on the N3SH ARC web page. Corrections to spelling and grammar have been made and some facts have been updated from the original version.

This editorial is the opinion of the editor of this publication and although it has been reviewed by an editorial advisory board, it does not necessarily correspond with the official opinions or positions of the N3SH Amateur Radio Club.

Jacob's Ladder

Rich Oliver <rc@lowell.edu> via the Hallicrafters Reflector

[This came in too late for this year, but file it away for Halloween 1999!]

The Jacob's ladder is pretty easy. All it takes is a neon sign transformer, typically 5KV to 20KV on the secondary. Take a couple of pieces of #10 solid copper wire about 3 feet long and attach one end of each to the secondary terminals of the transformer (usually threaded studs). Bend the wires toward each other above the transformer until they nearly touch, and at that point bend them vertical. They should diverge slightly towards the tops of the wires making a skinny "vee". The arc will strike at the closest point, the bottom of the vee. It is necessary to adjust the spacing at this point carefully. The optimum spacing will depend on the actual secondary voltage, your altitude, and the relative humidity. You want them just close enough to strike the arc consistently. Once it strikes the arc will heat the air immediately around it, the hot air will rise carrying the ionized air in the arc with it, and the arc will rise between the wires. If the spacing is too small the arc will just sit there and refuse to rise.

The spacing requires some experimentation and it will become second nature pretty quickly. Typically the spacing at the bottom will be about half an inch, increasing to about two inches at the top. The danger is that you must never come close to the high voltage for obvious reasons. Be very careful to unplug the transformer before making any adjustments on the wires!!! I always hold the power plug in my hand while I'm adjusting the wires. You won't get a second chance on this apparatus! More important, position it so that kids and pets can't get near it. The other warning is that the transformer tends to run hot in this application, so it is best to only plug it in when it is needed. If you run it all evening you will likely have a meltdown, not to mention a house full of ozone and nitrous oxide.

Anyway, with lots of attention to proper adjustment and safety a Jacob's ladder is a real blast. Have fun!

Special Computer Virus Warning!

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Institute for the Investigation of Irregular Internet Phenomena announced today that many Internet users are becoming infected by a new virus that causes them to believe without question every groundless story, legend, and dire warning that shows up in their inbox or on their browser. The **Gullibility Virus**, as it is called, apparently makes people believe and forward copies of silly hoaxes relating to cookie recipes, email viruses, taxes on modems, and get-rich-quick schemes.

"These are not just readers of tabloids or people who buy lottery tickets based on fortune cookie numbers," a spokesman said. "Most are otherwise normal people, who would laugh at the same stories if told to them by a stranger on a street corner." However, once these same people become infected with the **Gullibility Virus**, they believe anything they read on the Internet.

"My immunity to tall tales and bizarre claims is all gone," reported one weeping victim. "I believe every warning message and sick child story my friends forward to me, even though most of the messages are anonymous." Another victim, now in remission, added, "When I first heard about Good Times, I just accepted it without question. After all, there were dozens of other recipients on the mail header, so I thought the virus must be true." It was a long time, the victim said, before she could stand up at a Hoaxees Anonymous meeting and state, "My name is Jane, and I've been hoaxed." Now, however, she is spreading the word. "Challenge and check whatever you read," she says.

Internet users are urged to examine themselves for symptoms of the virus, which include the following:

- The willingness to believe improbable stories without thinking.
- The urge to forward multiple copies of such stories to others.
- A lack of desire to take three minutes to check to see if a story is true.

T. C. is an example of someone recently infected. He told one reporter, "I read on the Net that the major ingredient in most all shampoos makes your hair fall out, so I've stopped using shampoo." When told about the **Gullibility Virus**, T. C. said he would stop reading email, so that he would not become infected.

Anyone with symptoms like these is urged to seek help immediately. Experts recommend that at the first feelings of gullibility, Internet users rush to their favorite search engine and look up the item tempting them to thoughtless credence. Most hoaxes, legends, and tall tales have been widely discussed and exposed by the Internet community.

Courses in critical thinking are also widely available, and there is online help from many sources, including:

Department of Energy Computer Incident Advisory Capability at <http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>
The Computer Virus Myths Home Page at <http://www.kumite.com/myths/>
Symantec Anti Virus Research Center at <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/index.html>
Network Associates Virus Hoax List at <http://www.mcafee.com/support/hoax.html>
Dr. Solomon's Hoax Page at <http://www.drsolomons.com/vircen/hoax.html>
The Urban Legends Web Site at <http://www.urbanlegends.com>
Urban Legends Reference Pages at <http://www.snopes.com>
Datafellows Hoax Warnings at <http://www.Europe.Datafellows.com/news/hoax.htm>

Those people who are still symptom free can help inoculate themselves against the Gullibility Virus by reading some good material on evaluating sources, such as:

Evaluating Internet Research Sources at http://www.sccu.edu/faculty/R_Harris/evalu8it.htm
Evaluation of Information Sources at <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/~agsmith/evaln/evaln.htm>
Bibliography on Evaluating Internet Resources at <http://refsrvr.lib.vt.edu/libinst/critTHINK.HTM>

Lastly, as a public service, Internet users can help stamp out the **Gullibility Virus** by sending copies of this message to anyone who forwards them a hoax.

This message is so important, I got it anonymously! Forward it to all your friends right away! Don't think about it! This is not a chain letter! This story is true! Don't check it out! This story is so timely, there is no date on it! This story is so important, we're using lots of exclamation points! Lots!! For every message you forward to some unsuspecting person, the Home for the Hopelessly Gullible will donate ten cents to itself. (If you wonder how the Home will know you are forwarding these messages all over creation, you're obviously thinking too much.)

(Author Unknown; This Version Courtesy Hans Brakob K0HB via the KH2D dx-list DX reflector)

Darwin Award Candidate courtesy of Mark Stabryla N3RDV

Top honors for "Human Projectile Of The Month" go to an as-yet-unidentified dude who, we're told, is also a serious contender for the annual Darwin Award. That prestigious prize is given-posthumously-to the person who does the human gene pool the greatest service by removing himself from it in the most extraordinarily stupid fashion. Well, the Darwin folks might see it that way, but we consider it a gallant if not brainless form of ballistic research.

Troopers from the Arizona Highway Patrol got onto this historic event after motorists reported some mysterious scorched and blackened scars on a stretch of deserted highway. The more officers found, the stranger the case got, until they pulled back, regrouped, and launched a full-scale investigation.

Here's what they "pieced" together: JATO are basically huge canisters of solid rocket fuel used to achieve "Jet Assisted Take Off," typically lifting big transports into the air from rough-ground short runways, or shooting overloaded planes from the decks of aircraft carriers. They were not, repeat not, designed to augment the inherent boost factor of, say, a 1967 Chevy Impala. But we guess - let's call him "Zippy" -- didn't know that when he hooked one up to his ride. Ol' Zip apparently chose his runway carefully, selecting a nice long, lonely piece of straight-as-string highway in good repair. Not guessing he might need more than five miles of zoom surface, Zippy's test track had, that far down the strip, a gentle rise on a sloping turn.

Anyway, the Zipster kicked the tire, lit the fire, and ran his Chevy up to top cruising speed. And then he hit IGNITION! Investigators know exactly where this happened, judging from the extended patch of burned and melted asphalt. The pocket-calculator boys figure Zip reached maximum thrust within five seconds, punching that Chevy up to "well in excess of 350 mph" and continuing at "full burn" for another 20 to 25 seconds. Early in that little sprint, at roughly the 2.5 mile mark, the Human Hydra -Shok stood on the brakes, melting them completely, blowing the tires and rapidly reducing all four 'skins to liquefied trails on the pavement.

Remember that gentle rise on the turn? That's where Zippy concluded his land-speed record attempt and went for aerial honors, ultimately reaching an altitude of 125 feet and still climbing when his flight was abruptly terminated. We'll never know how far and how high The Big Zip might have gone. A cliff face of solid rock kind of got in the way, posing a serious violation of the laws of physics vis a` vis two chunks of matter to occupy the same space at the same time. Zip gave it hell though, blasting a three-foot deep crater in the terra-very-firma.

The best modern forensic science could do was ID the cars make, model, and year. As for Zip, the only trace evidence was found of bone, teeth and hair in the crater, and splinters of fingernail embedded in what is believed to be a piece of steering wheel. If there ain't room for this one in the Guinness Book of World records, there damn sure ought to be an honorable mention in Weatherby's.

This version was reprinted from American Handgunner Nov/Dec 1996. Similar versions can be found on the Internet, including the Urban Myths web page & the Darwin Awards page.

“Major” DX-pedition to Cocos Island!

Jim Kehler KH2D via the dx-list DX reflector

To all those interested in REAL DX !!!!

THIS IS THE ONE YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR !!!!!

The Mariana Islands DX Association is planning a MAJOR DXpedition to Cocos Island. This DXpedition will not happen without support from CLASS DX'ers and DX organizations all over the world. We need YOUR bucks, Bucko !!! We haven't gotten any exact figures yet, but this one is going to be expensive..

But before you go running for your safe deposit box, let me give you some of the details.

We will take sixteen operators and will have nine stations on the air full time (providing that somebody like Yaesu, Kencom, or Iwood donates nine radios, and Cushcrap, Butterbutt, or Flash 12 donates 9 antennas....) We have already emailed Alfafa and told them we need them to donate 10 amplifiers (one for a spare). We won't need towers, we have coconut trees. Somebody told us those Butterbutt antennas work really good up in a coconut tree. If these major sponsors aren't smart enough to realize the IMPORTANCE of this DXpedition, we will just take our own equipment - a Yaesu FT101E and a 20 meter dipole.

Logistics for this DXpedition will be a nightmare and very expensive. To go to Cocos island from KH2D's house, we have to drive to the boat ramp in Merizo, which is about 12 miles, and we figure that will cost us at least \$1.42 for gas. Then we need to buy boat tickets for all sixteen operators, and those are 5 bucks each, another \$80 we don't have yet. We can pay our own NORMAL expenses, but you can't expect US to pay for boat tickets for the whole group. That's nuts. After the 8 minute boat ride to Cocos Island, we will hit the beach and walk to the other side of the island where we will meet the U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier that is bringing our gear (provided that somebody donates some). We haven't arranged this with the Navy yet, but we are sure they won't have much to do that weekend anyway. If the Coast Guard has time to deliver 600 cases of beer to the Rota Fiesta, the Navy damn sure should have time to deliver radio gear for our Dxpediton.

Our stay on Cocos will be very expensive too, because it's a tourist area and hot dogs are \$4.00 each, and Cokes are \$2.50 and they won't let anybody bring their own food over on the boat. One of the guys in the club has a brother who has a rowboat, and we are trying to talk him into rowing out after dark and bringing us BBQ ribs, chicken and rice. If we can make that happen we will cut costs dramatically.

We were planning to have a web site with online logs, but every time that Guam Telephone Authority runs a phone line to Cocos Island, one of the tourist runs over it with a Jet Ski and cuts it, so we'll have to wait until after we get back to put the logs on the Internet.

Now this is NOT the T19 Cocos Island, it's the KH2 Cocos Island. KH2 Cocos Island doesn't count for anything - yet. But you never know, the guy who owns the tourist beach there may declare independence from the rest of Guam at any minute. Matter of fact, we are going to encourage him to do just that while we are there.

You can see a map of Guam with Cocos Island at the southern tip if you click this web address: http://www.guam.net/pub/midxa/members/guam_map.html. It's the little TINY island right at the southern tip of Guam, just inside the reef.

We are also involved in heavy negotiations with the ARRL DXCC desk to get our Cocos Island added to the Neglected Countries List. That's expensive too, you know long distance telephone calls aren't free, it's \$.15 a minute to call the ARRL from here, a lot more than they spend mailing our QST's out here on the boat.

Anyway, start saving your spare change, we are setting up an offshore bank account in Cambodia now and you can wire transfer your donations as soon as we figure out what the account number is. Remember - We NEED YOUR BUCKS, Bucko, if you want to make this BIG ONE HAPPEN !! Don't let it be YOUR fault if we can't pull this one off cuz YOU didn't send us any BUCKS !

Oh, next year, we'd like to do someplace REALLY rare, like KH7 (Oahu) so don't send us all your money now, save some for our vacation trip, I mean DXpedition, NEXT summer. We can't go to Hawaii on a boat, we have to take an airplane, and that's REALLY gonna be expensive..... plus if we go to Hawaii we are gonna have all kinds of expenses, like green fees, room service, etc., and you can't expect US to pay for that kinda stuff.

We are also negotiating with Fred Maia and the FCC to have two special calls issued for this DXpedition - 'K' for CW and 'W' for SSB. The shorter our call the more guys we can work in the pileups.....

We look forward to making a contact with you and trust that you would be encouraged by this announcement to also provide some support for this BIG ONE !! If you don't have any money, but you have an extra FT-1000 laying around, just send us that. Or one of them Alfafa amplifiers will be OK too, or a 75' crankup tower, or whatever you have you don't need any more.

Thanks for YOUR SUPPORT !!!

73, Jim KH2D, President, Mariana Islands DX Association
<http://www.guam.net/pub/midxa>

POTPOURRI

Phew! What a month! I can do without another one like this, let me tell you...

One important correction to last month's newsletter: A short "goodbye" to two recent Silent Keys got botched in the final editing/printing process — and even if no one else caught it before it was too late, I did. It should have read:

Goodnight, George. Goodnight, Ira. 73, K3EED & W3ZLK de N3SH SK

W3RJM is still looking for members to operate an N3SH club station during the ARRL Sweepstakes. Please contact Bob for more information. Speaking of contests — considering the short notice, I'm proud of the turnout from the N3SH membership during the Pennsylvania QSO Party. Next year's event isn't far away. Anyone interesting in running a portable station in Greene, Fayette, Somerset, Clarion, Armstrong or Elk Counties — too name just a few... Logs due November 15 to W3HDH!

There's nothing quite like listening to SW broadcast on a Hallicrafters S-108. Unless you have an SX-110... There's a lot you can do with solid state, but there's just something about the audio hi fidelity of a well designed tube rig...

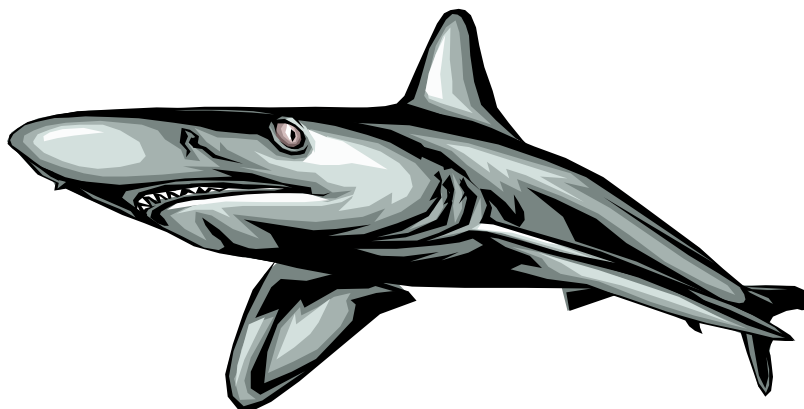
How many of us have an old Heathkit Sixer Lunchbox or Gonset Gooney Bird or Polycom or whatever sitting somewhere on a back shelf? Just for fun, wouldn't it be neat to pick a day and an N3SH 6 meter AM calling frequency and run a 6 meter AM net? But don't do it during a Steeler game! Just takes one irate neighbor with rabbit ears & a few brewskis...

What would YOU like to see the N3SH ARC do next year? Not necessarily at a club meeting, mind you. We just don't seem to do some of the things & have some of the get-togethers we used to. Some of the ideas tossed around recently:

- QRP Kit Construction Night
- Tour a local multi-op contest station
- Have a local DX'er or Contest'er give a talk
- Combine a Spring/Summer/Fall outdoor hamfest with an N3SH outdoor cookout
- Attend a 1999 Pirate Game as a group — complete with tailgate?
- Foxhunt (or in our case, Shark Hunt!)
- Have a friendly challenge with another club — say, high club aggregate score in an upcoming contest?
- Trouble-shooting clinic — take a sick rig or two and demonstrate the art of troubleshooting on it.

As always, special thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Not just those who sent in or contributed articles, but those who've reviewed material and helped with the editing process. Special thanks goes to Jim KH2D. If you're scratching your head wondering what he's talking about, this was his response to all of the recent Dxpedition announcements on the various web pages & reflectors which seem to really be soliciting money and equipment so that you can help finance someone's vacation. Jim was kind enough to permit me to include this. Just don't ask him what he thinks about the issuance of 2x1 calls on Guam... in any event, I felt that with all of the serious stuff we have to talk about, some light-hearted material was also in order.

Think the club newsletter should have more items of direct relevance to the club and to amateur radio? So do I. So write something, will you?

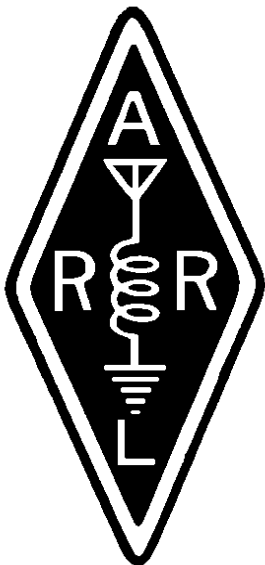
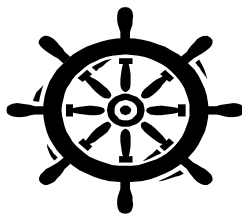


Next Meeting November 12th at the Mt.
Lebanon Fire Department!

Election of New Officers & Other Important
Issues!

If you care about the future of the radio
club, THIS is a meeting you MUST attend!

N3SH Amateur Radio Club
The Mariner
c/o Ron Notarius WN3VAW
3505 Rosalia Avenue
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317



TO: