

THE MARINER

South Hills Amateur Radio Club N3SH
Pittsburgh PA

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY OCTOBER 8TH!

The next monthly meeting of the South Hills Amateur Radio Club will be October 8th, 7:00 PM, at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

October Event Calendar 2

1998 PA QSO Party Announcement 2

New rules for ARRL Field Day 1999? 3

N3RNY reviews the Yaesu VX-1R 4

Thought much about Packet lately? 5

VE Exam Session 6

N3RNX Surfs the Web 6

We've got a lot to talk about... the audit is due, it's time to nominate officers for next year, but most importantly, we're going to talk about the direction the SHARC's are going in — and if that's not what we want to do, then it's time to figure out where we should be going.

Why is this necessary? Well, like every club, we've had some unfortunate things happen lately. We've had some Silent Keys, club members who are and will be missed; a Field Day that didn't come off due to circumstances; and an unusually low turnout of late for club meetings & the SHARC net, even for a summer. It's not always a smooth road, so it may be worry over nothing. Still, as we get ready for 1999, especially with the next SHARCFest less than six months away, now is the time to make sure we haven't taken a wrong turn — and if we have, then now is the time to try & turn things around.

See you at the meeting!

Hey! It's an Actual Newsletter!

Bet quite a few people reading this are more than a little surprised... starting with me!

As you know, Steve N3RNY became the Mariner editor last year. But Steve is a very, very busy person. As he put it, he's burning the candle at both ends and just lit it in the middle, too.

The bottom line: Steve just didn't have time to do the Mariner and be the Chairman of SHARCFest 99 too. And with SHARCFest 99 just around the corner...

A newsletter is important to a club. It's one of those little things that act as part of the glue that holds a group together. Not everyone can make every meeting, or every club net, or come to operating events or social events. A newsletter helps keep those members who can't make it all the time up to date with our activities. And it helps the more active members keep tabs on what's been going on too.

Why me? Well, I've edited the club newsletters before, though it has been awhile. And as one of the people making noise about the Mariner, I came to the "put up or shut up" point. So here I am... gulp!

Yeah, it's a little rough around the edges. No graphics, no pictures, and a crash course in Microsoft Publisher 98. So start sending me some stuff for the next one, and by then, maybe I'll figure this package out (he says confidently...).

October 1998

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 CA QSO Party
4 CA QSO Party WACOM	5	6	7	8 Monthly Meeting	9 PA QSO Preview, 8:00	10 PA QSO Party RI QSO Party
11 Lima Hamfest PA QSO Party	12	13	14	15 VE Test 7:00	16	17 JOTA IL QSO Party
18 Greensburg Hamfest	19	20	21	22	23	24 CQ WW SSB
25 CQ WW SSB Marion Hamfest	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

- **October 8** – SHARC Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, John McMillan Presbyterian Church, Bethel Park
- **October 15** – SHARC VE Exam Session, 7:00 PM, John McMillan Presbyterian Church. Talk-in on 146.955. Contact AA3FI to pre-register & for details
- **October 10 & 11** – 41st Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party. One of the biggest in the country! Greene, Washington, Somerset and Fayette County Hams – get on the air, you're needed multipliers! Contact W3HDH (dougHDH@aol.com) for rules & details.

1998 PA QSO PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sponsored by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club of State College, PA.

Operating Periods: 1600 Z October 10 to 0500Z October 11 & 1300 Z to 2200Z October 11, 1998 (Saturday, Noon to 1 AM & Sunday, 9 AM to 6 PM for the rest of us).

Frequencies:

SSB: 1.850 3.980 14.280 21.380 28.310

50.125 MHz

FM: 146.55 MHz

CW: 1.810 & 40 kHz up from the bottom

Tech & Tech Plus: 28.310 50.125 146.55

Mobile Window: 5 kHz below listed frequencies

Exchange: Sequential Serial Number. For PA Stations, County & ARRL/RAC section; for non-PA, ARRL/RAC section. Stations on county lines give out ONE serial number but TWO or more multipliers. Work each Fixed station once per band & mode; work each Mobile or Rover once per band & mode & county.

Points: CW & 160 & 80: 2 pts; Other CW: 1.5 pts; SSB/FM : 1 pt.

Multipliers: PA: Sum of Counties, Sections & DX (1), max 151; non-PA, Total Counties, Max 67.

Bonus: QRP: Double Points. Novice/Tech: Triple Points. Mobile/Rover Bonus: 500 Points per County, 10 QSO minimum. Special Event: K3YTL QSOs worth 200 points EACH.

Final Score: Pts x Multiplier plus Bonus(s) that apply.

Entry Divisions: Single Op QRO, Medium (150 W), QRP, CW Only, Multi-single, Multi-Multi, Portable, Mobile, Rover, Novice/Tech.

Awards: Plaques to top scores in ALL entry divisions & many others as warranted. Trophy to Club winner (total score from all club members entering) & plaque to club with highest average score from members. Special plaque to top first time entrant. Certificates for high score from each county & others as warranted. Special Participation Coffee Mug to anyone making 100 or more QSOs (extra cost

\$10) emblazoned with your call. Special Plaque for working all 67 counties in one contest (\$25)

Send logs by November 15 1998 to:

Doug Maddox W3HDH

RD #1 Box 760

Petersburg, PA 16669

Suggested donation of \$1 per log to defray printing & postage costs.

Details & forms available on the PA QSO web page, <http://members.aol.com/dougHDH/paqsoparty/narcweb.htm>

Up to the minute details, especially on mobile portable & rover operations available on the PA QSO Reflector; send a 2 word message, "subscribe paqso", to majordomo@qth.net

Friday Night PA QSO Preview Net, October 9 3.910 kHz, 8:00 PM, for last minute info.

Proposed BONUS points & AWARDS for your next FIELD DAY

25 points per antenna or power connection that had to be kluged because there were no mating connectors on hand.

100 point bonus if ALL connections made without using clip leads or solder. An extra 50 points per 250' roll of duck tape used. 500 points for getting a signal on air without using any duck tape at all.

50 points for installing a PL-259 while dangling from the mast, at least 15-feet above the ground. Extra bonus of 25 points for remembering to install the sleeve before soldering. Additional 5 points if the sleeve was placed in the proper direction.

50 points if 3 or more beam elements lie in the same plane with no greater than 10-degrees deviation. An extra 150 points if the plane is within 10-degrees of horizontal. 50 points for each successful re-raising of the antenna if task was completed within 30-minutes of its falling. 100 points per square inch of bandage material used to treat cuts and abrasions incurred while erecting the antenna or trying to position the generator. (You may substitute 500 points per stitch -- whichever is greater)

Ben Franklin Bonus: 10 points per contact made during a severe thunderstorm. Additional bonus of 2 points per contact made under a collapsed tent. Additional bonus of 2 points per contact if tent interior is flooded with more than 3-inches of water.

10 points per inhaled moth or fly, while speaking into the microphone. 5 points per stuffed mosquito, squashed on log; must submit log.

25 points for receiving a "59" signal report from a station who had to ask you to repeat your "check" over 10-times. (Or giving a "36" signal report to a station known to be running an automated contest exchange system.)

The "Yeah, Right" Bonus: add 100 points for each 20-meter net control operator who appears on your frequency -- and, who, after listening to your plea, apologizes and politely agrees to let you continue.

200 points for each pileup you generate & immediately abandon by switching bands or turning the microphone over to an inexperienced beginner.

1 point per volt of RF energy on the microphone housing - or 10 points per lip blister. 50 points if entire mustache is burned off.

Penalty of 50 points if the campfire was prematurely started by a falling end of the inverted-Vee that arced through the starter gasoline. 50 point bonus if this was done intentionally because no one remembered to bring matches.

Saturday evening campfire scoring: Skewer marshmallow and approach fire, remaining 24" above ground. When marshmallow melts or burst into flame, record distance (in feet) to edge of fire. Multiply this figure by 100.

10 points per antenna insulator manufactured from melted glass pop-bottles, thrown in the campfire.

250 bonus points for working someone who asks, "what's Field Day?" and taking the time to answer him.

10 points for each successful tent set-up that was accomplished by using plastic tent stakes, exclusively.

100 points for bodily providing the electrical return path to ground for the generator.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Conservation of Resources Award: for the cost-saving practice of using a 100-foot, 14/3 extension cord for the 2-kW linear.

Joe Cool Award: for non-chalantly asking W1AW to repeat its call phonetically...and then asking several times for a repeat of its Section.

Special-Friend Award: a certificate of achievement for creative engineering -- earned for attaching the output of the linear to the RX input of your best friend's IC-781.

E. Kneivel Award: for filling the generator gas tank without bothering to shut it off first.

Good Faith Award: for powering the logging computer and the linear from the same quad-box.

Maxwell Award: for packing the log disks on top of the power-supply/speaker cabinet of the FT-757 for the trip home from Field Day.

Iron Ear Award: for spending 90-minutes or more attempting to raise someone on 160-meters.

Adm. R.E. Byrd Award: for running an exhaust hose from the generator to keep the operating tent warm during the early morning hours.

Diplomacy Award: for patiently explaining the difference to the 125th visitor who asks, "oh... isn't that sort of like C.B.?"

Diplomacy Award-II: for deftly fielding the question, "I have a cousin who lives in Madagascar -- could I talk to her now?"

Poker Face Award: for respectfully declining the offer from the visitor who pulls up in a huge Kenworth, complete with four, shiny, stainless steel, 9-foot whip antennas, and says, "If ya'll want to run some REAL power, you can borrow mah linear..."

Hot Rodding the Yaesu VX-1R HT

Steve Lane – N3RNY

I have been accused by most everyone who knows me of having FAR, FAR too many toys hanging off my belt. Ok, Ok, so sometimes they are tucked into my briefcase. Hidden in my Day-Runner appointment book. Jammed into the console of my Jeep. Flopping around in the pocket of my fatigue pants (on my reserve duty weekends) In my bunker coat when on duty at my 'Real' job at the Fire Department. Alright..... Alright..... ALRIGHT!!!! I get the picture!! I'M A RADIO GEEK!!

Whew! Feels good to get that off my chest! Ever seen one of those movies about some guy (or gal) going to their first meeting of a 12-Step recovery program? The scene goes something like this:

Person: *Hi everyone, my name is Joe, and I'm an (alcoholic, drug addict, liar, gambler)*
 Group: *Hi Joe.*
 Person: *I never thought I'd be standing up her tonight saying these thing, because they always happen to the other guy, right? But I finally came to grips with the fact that I have a problem.*
 Group: *<silence>*
 Person: *You see, my wife and kids had been telling me for years that I had a problem, but I refused to see it, much less accept it. I finally had to hit rock bottom and buy one of those tiny little 'peanut whistle' Ht's to realize that I was a RADIO GEEK.*
 Group: *<applause> (Hug from the group director, more applause)*

But seriously folks, I recently bought a little Yaesu VX-1R dualband HT and the first words out of my wife's mouth (after she rolled her eyes skyward and gave me THAT look) was "Gee that's really cute! Is it really a radio? Yes dear, it is really a radio. Works too. See, this is the memory button, and this is the VFO. Here are the volume up/down buttons and the ... "WHOA! I didn't want to know how to build one from parts in my spare time, I just wanted to know if it had a purpose, unlike most of the JUNK up in your little room."

"Hey! Easy now sweetie, this is just about the hottest little HT on the market now. It does 2 meters, 70 centimeters, Aircraft receive, Wideband FM, TV and more! Besides, if I open up the case and bridge these little solder pads it will then cover....." "Enough!!" she said. Story of my life.

Well, enough social commentary on my home life. On to the specifics of this nifty little HT.

Out of the box, here is the range of covered frequencies:

500	1.7 MHz	Broadcast AM Receive
76	108 MHz	Wideband FM Receive
108	137 MHz	AM Aircraft Receive
137	170 MHz	VHF "Ham" (TX in 144-148 Range)
170	222 MHz	VHF TV Receive
222	420 MHz	ACT 1 "Action Band 1" Receive
420	470 MHz	UHF "Ham" (w/ TX in 430-450 Range)
470	800 MHz	"UHF TV"
800	999 MHz	ACT 2 "Action band 2" (Cell Blocked)

I bought my particular radio from a guy in Indiana, who just couldn't hit his local repeater with only 500mw of power and a rubber duck. I paid the princely sum of \$150 + \$ for shipping to get the unit sent Via UPS to my door. It arrived two days after my check arrived at his home. Not too shabby, considering that this unit sells for \$229 new, and originally listed out at almost \$300 when it hit the market this past March. It ships with the radio itself, about a 5" long "wideband" rubber duck antenna, a Lithium-Ion battery and a wall-wart charger. The supplied manual is top-notch, as is the standard with all things Yaesu. It is very informative, and easy to follow.

WARNING: This radio violates my basic premise that any unit worth a hoot should be able to be programmed without reading the manual. The VX-1R is the exception to this rule. This radio is not especially easy to program, at least until you read the book. After browsing through it however, it is a snap. The majority of the features of this little rig are accessed through a menu system, and the sheer size of the radio necessitates that there be no keypad for direct entry. The bright side of this equation, however is that the ADMS-1D software/cable package that programs the FT-50R, FT-10R/FT-40R and FT-51R will also do the VX-1R. This is DEFINITELY the way to go!

The software supplied installs easily to your hard drive, and the cable plugs straight into a COM port on your PC. It runs under Win 3.x or Win9x. The neat thing about using the software method is that you can create files for every possible place that you may want to visit and simply download the correct file to the radio prior to travelling there. The ARRL program "Travel Plus for Repeaters" is a huge help here, as every repeater in the US that is listed in the repeater book is available. This is a definite plus for travelers. On a recent trip to Phoenix, Arizona, I made up a file of all of the frequencies that I was likely to want to monitor and loaded them up to my radio before I left. I brought my PC and CD collection along as well, and loaded up a number of public safety stuff in the other bands as well after I arrived.

One serious drawback to the VX-1R, however is the fact that out-of-the-box there is no way to monitor frequencies in more than one band. That is to say, that if you have several VHF-Ham repeaters loaded in and you are scanning them, the only other frequencies you could monitor would be other VHF frequencies in the 137-170 range. Major bummer!

But wait, there's more! There is a software mod that will correct this. It is contained in an AWESOME Webster that I will post at the end of this article. On the subject of moods, let me point out that there are a dozen or more mods out on the internet now pertaining to the VX-1R. Most will work, given that you have a particular firmware version in your radio. (Firmware is the software that is burned into an Eprom in a radio so it can "remember" how to boot itself up.) This information is also contained on the website. Again, depending on the version that you have, there are a number of methods of obtaining the results you desire. Some involve opening the radio and doing some minor soldering, and some involve some REALLY EASY software hacking. In any case, if you have the desire to do it, you can do it. NO EXCEPTIONS.

As for practical applications for the VX-1R, I have used my personal radio (OK, radios. I have owned three different versions of the VX-1R and experimented

pertaining to such. Out of the box, the VX-1R will quite satisfactorily scan within a given band. After some easy mods, it will go nearly anywhere in scan. The TX side is also quite satisfactory, with CTCSS encode/decode and DCS included as-is. Mind you, the entire radio is about the size of my tiny little Motorola alpha-pager! The little lithium-ion power cell is not much larger than an AA cell, and will run the unit in scan for a whole day. The power output is about ½ watt on battery, but my radio does a respectable 1.2w when hooked up to an external power source. There is a nifty little adapter available to utilize AA alkalines for emergency power, but this is little more than a transformer to boost the voltage at a serious penalty in durability.

In actual use, the VX-1R performs surprisingly well for radio of its class. Let's face it. For the majority of our needs as hams, a ½ watt will do the job. This is especially true on simplex, where a good deal of the communications we do on a daily basis could be carried out. In the heart of a repeater's coverage area, the VX-1r would probably be adequate, especially when used with a larger antenna. The ducky supplied with the VX-1R could very generously be construed as an antenna, but then so could a doorknob and an antenna tuner. The Comet SMA-503 works very well on both my VX-1R and my FT-50R. Perhaps the best use for one of these little rigs, however is at a hamfest or other event where you want to stay in simplex range of your ham friends? Also is the possibility of using the VX-1R in conjunction with a dual-band mobile or base rig that has cross-band repeat capability. This would allow you to get into a semi-local repeater without torturing your listeners with your noisy signal. I also used my VX-1R on our family vacation to Disney World in Orlando this spring. There are two repeaters on the property at Disney, one on 2m and the other on 440 Mhz that were very quiet. This was deceiving, however, because EVERY time I put out a call for local info, someone was there to help. They never complained about my signal, and I was able to stay in touch with three other members of my extended family on 440 in the various parks.

In conclusion, if you have been considering a mini-HT to feed your radio addiction, the VX-1R is a good choice. It crams a LOT of features into a VERY small package, and performs very well for a radio smaller than most speaker mikes. Yes, there are some minor shortcomings, especially on the receive side of things, but then again, this unit was designed as a transceiver, not as a scanner. It is also designed to SUPPLEMENT you main HT, not to REPLACE it. I highly recommend the VX-1R to anyone in the market for a good, solid minute HT with a bunch of bells and whistles. As I promised, here is the link to the absolute best web site I have ever seen dedicated to a single model of radio.

<http://www.icongrp.com/~sllewd/index.htm>

73, and remember: If you only THINK you have enough radios, you don't!

Whither Packet?

Been on packet lately?

If you haven't, you haven't missed much. Packet Radio hasn't changed much in the last 10 years or so. That was when the 1200, 2400 and 9600 baud TNC standards were set. A lot of packet BBS's and networks got set up & interconnected. And that's been pretty much it. Yes, we have some new methods of using packet — DX Cluster & APRS to name two — but AX.25 — Amateur Enhanced X.25 Packet Data Transmissions over Radio — hasn't. And that's a shame.

You see, 10 years ago, after TAPR and other pretty much perfected AX.25, it got licensed by some of the first commercial Wireless LAN companies to use at 900 MHz. Today, these same companies are racing to set up high speed wireless links in the 2 & 5 GHz bands — and Amateurs are being left behind in the dust.

Part of the problem: we don't have the bandwidth to run high speed data on those bands where the average ham can easily experiment. Or is there?

Most professional environments are using either Token Ring (4 or 16 MHz bandwidth) or Ethernet (10 or 100 MHz) today. But we forget about an older, obsolete technology: ARCNet. One of the original LAN topologies, ARCNet has a 1 MHz bandwidth. And ARCNet cards can be had for pennies.

Imagine a black box, a radio modem similar to our packet TNCs, that you can attach to an ARCNet card. It does whatever digital-to-analog conversions necessary. Now feed the output of that black box into a 70 cm rig centered on 422 MHz, or a 33 cm rig on 912 MHz. What do you have? A wireless network approaching the speed of a T1 telephone line. What could this accomplish? It starts becoming practical to move large pieces of data. We could move beyond a bulletin board store-and-forward system to a real-time network with a real-time high(er) speed File Server. And because ARCNet supports TCP/IP, these servers could be running Web services. In short, if we can convert from AX.25 packet to a Wireless ARCNet, we could be running a Wireless Internet.

Are there problems to overcome? Sure. Standard ARCNet usually has a technical limit of 255 devices on a particular LAN segment. We'd have to figure out how to legally ID to keep the FCC happy. And there are several flavors of ARCNet which are not always compatible with each other. But nothing that can't be figured out. The biggest problem is building the black box. I don't know enough to design that box, though I'd like to learn.

I can put up the ARCNet cards, and my under-construction server will soon be available. Anyone else interested?

— Ron WN3VAW —

I Don't Do Windows...

Upgraded to Windows 98 yet? If you haven't, you're not alone... and read this first.

There've been problems with the Windows 98 upgrade wizards to upgrade from Win 95 to Win 98. This on top of the many known problems with the older versions of Win 95. It's estimated that 50% of corporate desktops are still running Windows 3.1x! Compaq, IBM, Dell, Gateway, NEC & Toshiba all recommend you check their web sites for the latest drivers prior to upgrading. Or, wipe your drive clean & do a new install from scratch, not an upgrade. Or wait

1998 SHARC VEC Schedule:

Our next VEC exam session is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 1998, at 7:00 PM. It will be held at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church in Bethel Park, PA. Talk-ins will be available on 146.955 MHz.

All examiners are ARRL affiliated.
Morse code exams are multiple-choice.
Walk-ins are welcome.

SHARC VE Liaison / Contact Coordinator is Bob Sanford, AA3FI
E-Mail: sanfordb@access.hky.com or (724) 356-4020

Note: If you plan on attending the test session, please drop us a quick note just to let us know you are coming and the exam elements you plan to take. Thanks!

Please bring the following to your test session:
Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
Pen / Pencil / Calculator
Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
Check or Cash in the amount of \$6.35 (payable to: ARRL VEC)
Note: Novice written (element 2) and 5 wpm (element 1A) code exams are free

Taking a Byte Out of CyberSpace

It's time for another news letter and I found some rather interesting things on the Internet for the radio hobbyist.

The first is terrific audio recorder using your computer sound card. By feeding audio into the mike input of your sound card it will save any audio to a wave file on your hard drive. The big advantage is you can set it to be voice activated. I have used it in recording activity on our fire frequencies and it only records when there is activity on the channel.

Another plus is that it time stamps each transmission using you computers internal clock. The controls are very user friendly and it will run in the background in windows. I can see another very handy use for it when doing the net. It will record the entire net for you, allow you to have instant replay of a transmission you just missed, and give you a permanent record including total time of the net. Also because the recording is digital, the quality is outstanding. Best of all a 30 day trial copy is free for the downloading at www.sagebrush.com/~sells/recall.htm.

The second treasure I found is called Wintone. It is a very sophisticated tone decoding program, again using your soundcard, to decode and display audio tones. This includes PL tones, DTMF tones, and a number of other formats. All in real time. By feeding the audio from a receiver in the sound card it will display the PL tones from your local repeater or any other frequency your tuned to. The DTMF function will display any number sequences dialed over the air. It also includes many functions I haven't explored yet. Wintone can be found at www.steaksandwich.com/ for the downloading.

The last is a web site I found as I was doing this article at www.muenster.de/~welp/sb.htm. It is loaded with software to buy and to download. Again the programs make use of your sound card to decode all manner of formats found on the radio. Some you may find very interesting. I going to start looking now.

Have fun and let us know what you find.....Pete...N3RNX

SHARCNet

Don't forget about **SHARCnet**, our weekly club net, Sunday Nights, 9:00 PM on the N3RNX Repeater, 146.955 MHz!

Net Manager N3KEH is looking for volunteers to run the net each week. Right now, we have NCS vacancies in October and into November. If you have an extra few minutes one upcoming Sunday night, let Don know. It's very important for everyone to lend a hand; if we keep relying on the same handful of operators, they start getting tired of it, and we suddenly find ourselves with a Net Control. Let's NOT find out the answer to "what if they gave a net and nobody came?"

440 REPEATER UPDATE

Steve has been able to get another frequency pair coordinated for us and we ordered the crystals needed to change the repeater.

The process of coordination takes quite awhile which accounts for the delay.

The good news is that the crystals are in and we did a tune-up on the machine this week. All seems OK but we want to have a few things checked before we haul it to the site. Brett, N3FFP, has agreed to fine tune the duplexer for us and we need to check and make sure there are no spurs being put out by the transmitter; this was the problem we had the last time.

If all checks out fine we should be able to have it in service in the next week or so. I think everyone will be pleased with the performance of it.

The new frequency is 442.550 + 5Mhz and the PL tone is 131.8. We have decided to leave the machine in tone all the time to simplify things and to keep interference to a minimum.

After it's up and running please let us know how it's working.

And remember you can never have too many radios.....73's.....N3RNX

Editor's Footnote: If you're involved with another WPa repeater, especially one that's been around for awhile, make sure the owner and/or trustee have kept their data up to date with the WPa Repeater Council — especially if they've changed calls since the Vanity system came into place. The old days of casually staying in touch with the Repeater Coordinator at a hamfest are no more. 442.8 was lost in part because WPRC received no reply from the amateur listed as owner of the former repeater construction project when they asked for more data. It also turned out that the letter was never sent because of an inability to track this amateur's new vanity call via the CD-ROM callsign database they used. Also, several WPRC board members seemed quite upset to also learn about another Pittsburgh area repeater who's trustee had gotten a 1x2 but had neglected to tell them. Best to avoid problems before they occur.

POTPOURRI

Is that a fancy word for the filler a newsletter editor uses to make sure that there's no blank space left on the last page? (oops)

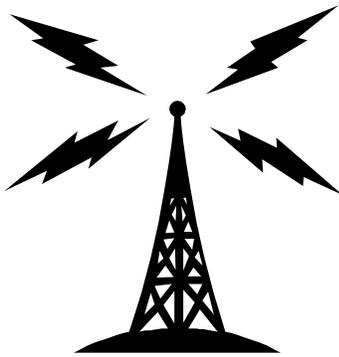
A couple of big contests are coming up in the next few weeks. Locally, we're not that far off from the Breezeshooters Groundwave. Regionally, we've got PA QSO almost on top of us. Come December, the ARRL 160 Meter & 10 Meter contests plus Straight Key Night, and a big VHF contest in January. Amongst many, many others. But the CQ WorldWide DX Phone contest is due up the last full weekend of October. It can be a lot of fun, and is a great way to pick up the rarer DX, especially on the lower bands. I'm looking for a few people to help me operate WN3VAW during the test. No experience necessary, though it will help if you know how to tune a tube rig! No, we're not going to win anything (not with 100 watts on a couple of verticals) but the idea is to have some fun, work some DX, and get some experience. Interested? Catch me on the repeater, send me an email, call me at home, or see me at the meeting.

No, I didn't forget about ARRL Sweepstakes. W3RJM has some ideas on that. Another reason to make the club meeting!

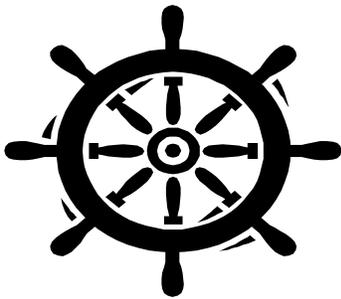
Have you read or responded to the FCC NPRM on the proposed restructuring of the Amateur Service? The hoopla has died down the last few weeks, but it is still very important to do so. This is going to be the biggest change since the 1960's implementation of Incentive Licensing — bigger than Novice Enhancement or No Code Tech. NOW is the time to put forth your two cents worth. This will be a MAJOR overhaul. If you don't like it, this may be your only chance to have any input at all. Don't spend the next few years regretting it!



200 MB of clip art, and this is the only radio-related stuff they have?



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



TO: