

The Dipole

Radiating the News of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club

December 2006

Next Club Meeting: Thursday, December 7th, 7 p.m. at The Gauntlett Center

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A PROGRAM OF UNUSUAL HUMOR

It appears that the contributions and assistance provided by Nat Boonin SK will not end. Following his Memorial Service, Dan Cashin, N3LMY, suggested to President Walt Faust, N3FXR, and *eDipole* writing editor Jim Biddle, W3DCL, that he had a possible program for an upcoming meeting of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club.

Dan went one step beyond the suggestion process. He invited a Dr. Sidney L. Copel over to the conversation and the outcome was dynamic dialog.

The result is this month's program will be a unique program. Dr. Copel's background and credentials are both varied and impressive. His topic will feature humor of the Civil War.

Upon learning of the topic, it was no surprise that Dan Cashin was knowledgeable of Dr. Copel topic. For those who just arrived on this planet, Dan is a very avid Civil War re enactor.

"Dr. Sidney L. Copel is a clinical psychologist who retired from practice in 1995. He received his undergraduate and graduate education at Temple University. He was for many years the Administrator of the Psychological Clinic at the Devereux Foundation where he ran one of the largest programs of its kind in the country.

After leaving Devereux, Dr. Copel went into private practice on the Main Line. Over the years he has published books in his field, lectured on mental health topics and served as a consultant to schools, clinics and police departments. He was for a time a consultant in selection of player personnel to several teams in the NFL.

Sid Copel He is a member of five Civil War Roundtables and has lectured at all of these. He has been interested in the Civil War and reading about it since childhood. His topic Civil War Humor is an unusual element of what many historians claim is the most studied and most chronicled war in the world. "

This special aspect of the Civil War will assure a fun and entertaining evening.

MARPLE NEWTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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Newtown Square, Delaware County, PA 19073

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The Dipole

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Meetings, Nets, and Packet BBS

Monthly Club Meetings: First non-holiday Thursday,
7:00 p.m. at the Gauntlett Center in Newtown Square,
Delaware County. Talk-in: 147.195 repeater
Daily Weather and Information Net: Every morning at 8:30
a.m. on 147.195 repeater
Club Web Page (including online version of *The Dipole*):
<http://www.community.delconet.com/mnarc>
Delaware County ARES Net: Every Wednesday at 19:30 local

Minutes of the November 2, 2006 Meeting

Vice President Jim Goldman W3JG
opened meeting at 7:00 PM.

Bill N3ZAV

Gave the Treasurers Report.

Roger W4RFJ

There will be a meeting of the Delaware County
Digital Users Group on the second Monday

each month at 6:00 PM. Location: The Rose
Tree Fire Company. ARES Net meets every
Wednesday at 7:30 PM. On the following
repeaters 147.195, 442.25, 447.375.

Jim W3JG

Club needs a secretary. Neil Sowersby
KB3LGN is interested. Weather & Information
is not active during the week but John N3SMH
is active on the weekends.

Jim W3JG started the Auction

50-50 winner Dominic KB3GLN
Attendance 41

Possible New Amateur Radio Operator

It is possible that in a few years, there will be
one more Amateur Radio operator in the Craigie
family. While late in coming, it has been learned
that Kay Craigie (N3KN) and Carter Craigie
(N3AO, ZF2CC) are grandparents. Daughter
Jenny Riffe (KA3WVD) became a mother of James
Ryan Riffe in the early morning of Thursday,
September 28.

Grandson James Riffe's early vital numbers
were eight pounds, seven ounces and his length was
20 ½ inches long. There is no call sign yet, but look
to the *eDipole* for the announcement when it is
made.

Progress in the Making

Progress many times comes at its own pace. An
announcement shared by e-mail on Saturday,
November 11, provided an announcement of a form
of long-awaited progress.

The topic of the message is a local realization of
a concept so often championed by Dennis Silage,
K3DS. In his multiple presentations, both locally
and in professional societies, he has urged for a
move from the longstanding analog forms of
communications. The target Dr. Silage has asked
the Amateur Radio world to endorse is the newer,
digital world of Amateur Radio communications.

That message from Loring Kutchins, W3QA,
reported that the 146.94/34 FM repeater went off

the air in order to test one of Chester County ARES/RACES' new D-Star repeaters. This test saw W3EOC_C occupying the area repeater pair as a digital 2-meter voice/data repeater. This test lasted for days. During this test, normal FM voice communications was not possible. In his initial message Lor proudly added, "We are making progress!"

The WX and INFO Net

Thanks to the good timing for his retirement and the completion of a trip to "down under," there is a continuation of the weekday editions of the Weather and Information nets, a long time popular daily occurrence on the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club's 147.195 MHz repeater.

The new morning ringmaster is Jeff Lynch, W3JEF. His first venture into the leadership of a former mainstay of the morning drive time began with just a single check in. On the second day, he doubled the number of participants. Each day has shown growth and projections point to increased numbers.

Jeff's travel adventures, his newly available 8:30 a.m. spunk and his keen way of drawing people "out of the woodwork," will help resuscitated this morning adventure.

While the starting time has once been adjusted to have an 8:25 a.m. start, it appears the retirement patterns of Jeff, the new Monday through Friday host, may produce a more realistic 8:30 a.m. start time.

Old regulars and newcomers are invited to become new regulars on the latest edition of the Marple Newtown Weather and Information Net.

The Effective Date and Review of New Features

The second shoe has dropped. The effective date for the long anticipated and welcomed FCC Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) is quickly approaching. The amendments to Part 97 that have resulted in changes to many Amateur Radio operating bands will become effective on Friday, December 15 at 12:01 EST. This date is 30 days after the publication of this document.

This docket was the feature of a story in the November issue of eDipole. In a "gentle" review, the following changes will enhance operations.

The FCC highlights are the listed:

Expansion of the phone sub band in the 75- and 40-meter bands

An agreement to permit holders of the Novice and Tech Plus (Techs with Element 1 credit) licenses to operate in the General Class CW sub bands on 80-,40-, 15-, and 10-meter bands.

Permit auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2-meter band.

In a move to invite newer technologies, Spread Spectrum may be used in the 222-225 MHz segment of the Amateur spectrum.

In other moves, the FCC has put in place rules that will discourage multiple Vanity Call Signs filings on the same day from the same applicant. Additionally, Amateur Radio operators are permitted to retransmit communications from the International Space Station.

In a move to clarify the reissue of an existing call, Amateur Radio operators may designate that a specific club may be issued their call in memoriam.

The Commission also eliminated certain restrictions governing the manufacture, marketing and sale of external RF power amplifiers intended for Amateur Radio use. They also clarified that "Amateur Radio stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions"

As a surprise to many the FCC has deleted the frequency bands and segments that have been specified for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations. In a form of housekeeping, the FCC has also deleted the requirement to publicly announce Amateur Radio examination locations and times.

In a matter largely only important to operations in Alaska, Amateur Radio stations in that state have been provided with greater flexibility in providing emergency communications in that state and surrounding waters.

There is one item that was not included in what some have called the "omnibus" Report and Order.

The recent FCC docket did not yet include action on the Commission's proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes. A Report and Order in that proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, is still pending, and many within the Amateur Radio community are awaiting some future announcement by the American Radio Relay League when the FCC releases that docket.

Banking Practices

It is unknown if this story is true. If it is only fiction, anyone who has had dealings with the bureaucracy of financial institutions, they can envision this series of event as a true happening.

This story begins with the sad news of a woman dieing earlier in 2006. Citibank billed her for February and March for their annual service charges on her credit card, and then added late fees and interest on the monthly charge. The balance had been \$0.00, now is somewhere around \$60.00! A family member placed a call to Citibank:

- **Family Member:** "I am calling to tell you that she died in January."
- **Bank:** "The account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply."
- **Family Member:** "Maybe, you should turn it over to collections."
- **Bank:** "Since it is two months past due, it already has been."
- **Family Member:** "So, what will they do when they find out she is dead?"
- **Bank:** "Either report her account to the frauds division or report her to the credit bureau, maybe both!"
- **Family Member:** "Do you think God will be mad at her?"
- **Bank:** "Excuse me?"
- **Family Member:** "Did you just get what I was telling you - the part about her being dead?"
- **Bank:** "Sir, you'll have to speak to my supervisor."

Supervisor gets on the phone

- **Family Member:** "I'm calling to tell you, she died in January."

- **Bank:** "The account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply."
- **Family Member:** "You mean you want to collect from her estate?"
- **Bank: (Stammer)** "Are you her lawyer?"
- **Family Member:** "No, I'm her great nephew." (Lawyer info given)
- **Bank:** "Could you fax us a certificate of death?"
- **Family Member:** "Sure." (fax number is given)

After they get the fax

- **Bank:** "Our system just isn't set-up for death. I don't know what more I can do to help."
- **Family Member:** "Well, if you figure it out, great! If not, you could just keep billing her. I don't think she will care."
- **Bank:** "Well, the late fees and charges do still apply."
- **Family Member:** "Would you like her new billing address?"
- **Bank:** "That might help."
- **Family Member:** "Odessa Memorial Cemetery, Highway 129, Plot Number 69."
- **Bank:** "Sir, that's a cemetery!"
- **Family Member:** "What do you do with dead people on your planet?"

Interference

Interference is a pesky problem. It comes in various packages and regardless of its type and Murphy's Law rules. Rarely, if ever, does interference occur when the received information is not important. Add to the normal rules of "interference," the concept of the repeater and the result is truly widespread.

Examples of repeater interference have plagued repeater users for years. Finding the source can be a true challenge. Many years ago, the DCARA 147.36 repeater was experiencing a rasping, and apparently random interference on the 147.96 MHz repeater input frequency.

A collection of tactics was used to determine the source of the unwanted radio energy. One of the first steps was to see how strong the unwanted radio energy was at the repeater site. The high gain antenna and sensitive receiver were of course, hearing it. Attempts at hearing the unwanted signal

at the repeater site using a handheld unit was not conclusive. The next step was to ask all repeater users to become RF detectives.

That tactic proved to be the successful tool. One of the members attempted to use the repeater from his work location. Upon hearing the interference on the repeater output, a quick switch to the input found that the interference was strong at his 70th Street and Elmwood Avenue work location.

Determined to find the source, off came the whip antenna. A much-reduced signal could be heard. It took only a small number of samplings of various areas at his work location to find the source. The management was most cooperative and in a short time the Darby-based repeater was once more usable.

A few years later, an even greater mystery produced a very unsafe condition. From time to time, the 147.36 repeater became an unwanted broadcaster of WIP AM radio. Not only was this bordering an illegal type of operation, it also was a serious challenge to the DCARA Think Tank.

A strong will, skilled analytical thinking, and long hours of persistent thinking finally found the source of the mysterious and unwanted AM broadcast signal.

The math and detective work found a way to pinpoint the collaborative events that resulted in the New Jersey based transmitted signal becoming an annoyance to users of the Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital located repeater.

The investigation done by Tom Harris, WA3RXE, found that when a collection of regional FM repeaters was simultaneously on the air, the mysterious AM signal became a part of the input radio energy. The repeaters involved in the complicated mixing included the 146.76 MHz, the 147.06 MHz, and the "host" 147.36 MHz repeaters.

Armed with the mathematic model was only the first step. Finding the cure became the true battle. After all, what is now a sports-talk radio station was not going to go silent. Asking the other two, 2-meter repeaters to cease operation were equally impossible undertakings.

Using a collection of traditional sources of passive mixing sources proved to the success. A rusting joint on the supporting tower atop the hospital was determined to be the unwanted nonlinear device. It was not a case of preventative maintenance at that point; it was a case of corrective

actions that stopped the retransmitting of the AM broadcast band signal.

Ernie Howard, W8EH, has reported a more recent problem located in southwestern Ohio. Their local Amateur Radio organization supports a collection of repeater apparatus. There were reports of QRM at the group's repeater input receiver located in Monroe, Ohio. It was determined the source of the unwanted signal was radiated from somewhere in the neighborhood near the remote receiver.

To add to the mystery, the source was felt to be some type of electronic equipment. That theory was supported by the reports of a carrier with a few faint tones.

The source was found; it also found to be a bit embarrassing. The source was determined to be his Linksys 4 port wireless router AND a Linksys printer server. Also a weaker source was his old Packard Bell computer that runs APRS.

This solution was only a partial cure. Other area Amateur Radio operators have been asked to take a survey around their homes and shacks. Their quest is to listen for a 146.010 MHz signal. If one is heard, it is hoped that a simple powering down of electronic equipment in the home to determine if the unwanted signal ceases. Possible suspects are any computer routers, switches, computers, TVs, and other pieces of electronic equipment.

If any are found, the club members have been asked to document the type and brand, model, and serial numbers of the equipment.

By collecting this list of information, the Ohio group will be taking a good first step in a form of documentation that can be shared.

Determining Your Age

As the year begins its down slope, this mathematical exercise will work to help readers of *eDipole* to determine your age by restaurant math. This simple math "test" will take less than a minute. This quiz will only work during 2006

As a subtitle, this test can also be described as "Don't tell me your age; you probably would tell a falsehood anyway-but your waiter may know!"

- First of all, pick the number of times a week that you would like to go out to eat. (more than once but less than 10)
- Multiply this number by 2
- Add 5
- Multiply it by 50
- If you have already had your birthday this year add 1756. If you haven't, add 1755.
- Now subtract the four-digit year that you were born. You should have a three-digit number
- The first digit of this was your original number, the number of times you want to go out to restaurants in a week.)
- The next two numbers are YOUR AGE!

FCC Requesting Comments

A recent invitation of comments from the Amateur Radio community has been issued by the FCC. This late October release deal with two Ham Radio related petitions for rule making. Both of these petitions deal with Amateur Radio station identification as found in §97.119(a).

As a reminder, that rule now requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every ten minutes during a communication.

RM-11346 was filed by Murray Green, K3BEQ, on December 9, 2005. The change suggested would increase the interval for identification to 30 minutes as well as at the end of each transmission.

A second petition, RM-11347 was filed on May 19, 2006 by Glen Zook, K9STH. His proposal changes the identification procedures to closely resemble the old FCC §12.82(a) Transmission of Call Sign rule. His proposal states that Amateur Radio operators will be required to transmit the call sign(s) of stations with which they are in communication as well as their own call sign at the start and end of each single transmission or of a series of transmissions between stations in communications "each transmission of which is of less than three minutes' duration" (operators could omit the ID at the end when the entire series is less than three minutes); at least every 10 minutes during a series of transmissions between stations in communication, and at least every 10 minutes during any single transmission more than 10 minutes long.

If the publishing and distribution process permits, readers of the eDipole may be able to comment on these petitions via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Comments on these petitions are due by Wednesday, November 29, 2006.

A New Method of Spacey Education Announced

It was no surprise to many veteran observers that the outcome of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) 2006 International Delegates Meeting in San Francisco included a HF transceiver and a digital TV system in the group's proceedings. At this year's gathering, its 10th, the ARISS delegates discussed adding to existing Amateur Radio hardware as well as increasing the operational capability of the two existing Amateur Radio stations aboard the ISS.

Current plans include installing a Yaesu FT-817ND transceiver. This will permit ISS operation on some HF bands from the ARISS Phase 2 station. The current apparatus lineup includes a modified Kenwood TM-D700E for VHF and UHF work and the well-received school contacts. Additional uses embrace digipeating and slow-scan television (SSTV).

There is currently an HF antenna installed on the space station. Initial plans for the ARISS operation focused upon a Yaesu FT-100D transceiver. A problem exists with this unit; there is no apparent reliable way to ensure that the unit could be adapted to a reduced-output configuration.

There is one current unit that meets current and planned uses. This is a multiple band, multimode transceiver, the FT-817ND, that has a maximum of 5 W output. As a bonus, it also includes VHF and UHF capability.

Planning has been one of the strengths of the ARISS delegate body. This strength is seen in both near and distant plans. As an example of the near-term plans call for an ISS crew to install an Ericsson 70 cm FM transceiver. This radiator is currently on board the ISS. The anticipated location is aboard the ISS *Zvezda* Service Module. This is the crew's living quarters and site of the ARISS Phase 2 station.

Reflecting upon current operations, an Ericsson 2-meter FM transceiver has been in use since 2000 at the ARISS Phase 1 station in the *Zarya* Functional Cargo Block, also known as FGB. Demonstrating the planning and inventory awareness, it is known that a headset is lacking for the second Ericsson radio.

As an example of the long-range planning, the ARISS foresees the installation of a digital Amateur Radio TV (DATV) system aboard the ISS *Columbus* module. This module, a contribution of the European Space Agency, is awaiting launch at Kennedy Space Center. At this point, no Amateur Radio antennas have been installed on the unit.

Delegate Graham Shirville, G3VZV, representing ARISS-Europe, reported that group's plan. They also plan for a mode L/S transponder aboard *Columbus* as well as a DATV downlink on S1 band (2.4 GHz).

Shirville has stated that this is being done so future ARISS contacts could have pictures as well as sound. He also added that ARISS-Europe is looking at a 100 W transmitter and anticipating a signal bandwidth of from 4 to 8 MHz.

Present plans call only for the downlinking of digital video from the ISS. Discussion is under way regarding the possibility of the up linking of video to the space station using Amateur Radio as well. The totality of these plans is only in the preliminary stages.

Shirville also added that ARISS-Europe has had "some fairly major problems" developing the antennas for the systems due to some very extreme launch load requirements. Antennas were to have been installed before *Columbus* came to the US. ARISS-Europe is hoping to fabricate the necessary antennas by year's end so they'll be ready before the module launches. The antennas will be delivered to Cape Kennedy and installed and tested there prior to launch.

It should be noted that in another example of the cooperative nature within ARISS-Europe, that region's delegate Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, is exploring how to fund the antenna systems.

Television from the ISS is not totally a new concept. There was in the past successful testing of a Slow Scan TV (SSTV) system reported ARISS-Russia delegate Sergei Samburov, RV3DR

The SSTV system already aboard the ISS was discussed during the planning meetings. After some successful initial testing, the SSTV has been off the air, explained ARISS-Russia delegate Sergei Samburov, RV3DR.

"We had had some challenging issues with the SSTV. We will be working to resolve these soon," added Samburov. He also said he would meet with Expedition 13 crew member Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, to debrief the cosmonaut on his experience with the SSTV system and come up with a troubleshooting plan to get the system back on the air.

In the international group's hallmark of working within an educational framework, there was discussion about the possibility of ISS crew's launching university-built CubeSats from the space station during space walks. In this quest, ARISS delegates will explore opportunities to work with schools that are constructing CubeSat projects. A desire of this part of the future Amateur Radio future is simple. They want to find ways to enhance the educational value of these tiny spacecraft and to entice the younger generation to consider Amateur Radio.

ARISS International Secretary-Treasurer and ARRL ARISS Liaison Rosalie White, K1STO stressed this ARISS goal. To amplify this goal, he reminded the gathering: "The ARISS Team has always stressed that ARISS equals education."

Emergency Communications Exercise Successful

In a memo to Joe Rzucidlo, K3CGA, EC for Delaware County, Bob Wilson, W3BIG, reported on the Delaware County ARES Response to the Section Emergency Test (SET). Reporting in the roles of Delaware County AEC-Operations, Bob listed in great detail the activities at the Ridley Creek State Park. The SET activities were staged from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#1

During the SET exercise on Saturday, October 7, 2006, a response team operating under DC ARES callsign W3AEC established a field communication station with HF, VHF and UHF capabilities, employing emergency battery power from a

location at Area 12 in Ridley Creek State Park. Time on scene was 0715 hours. Personnel responding at this time: W3BIG.

#2

At 0803 hours, W3AEC checked into the Bucks County EOC resource net on the 147.090 repeater in Warminster, PA. Bucks County ARES unit used the SET exercise to simulate a severe weather event including heavy rain and ice with flooding that required an emergency communication response. Purpose of DC ARES's participation with Bucks County was to demonstrate coordination and interoperability in support of emergency communication requirements within the region.

#3

At 0942 hours, W3AEC made its initial HF contact with W3EOC at the Chester County EOC in West Chester Borough on 75 meters (3987.5 KHz). Within an hour of that first contact, successful communication was established on that frequency with emergency stations in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties.

#4

Message traffic initiated by EPA First District Emergency Coordinator, Bob Famiglio, K3RF, was successfully passed to Chester County EOC via K3EUI in West Chester Borough.

#5

In addition to VHF/UHF mobile and portable stations, W3AEC utilized (2) multi-band portable transceivers for HF operations. One station, A Yaesu FT-897D operated emergency battery power with 30-50 watts and employed a G5RV antenna at a height of 5 feet in an NVIS configuration and a compact loaded-whip dipole array on both 40 meters and 75 meters. This station was operated by W3BIG.

The second station, operated by W3JY with assistance from N3YXQ and N3ZAV, was an Icom IC-706 using a solar-charged battery at 100 watts feeding a military vertical antenna. This station had 4 solar panels deployed to recharge the battery.

#6

The K3MN 147.195 repeater was used as the primary Delaware County communication conduit

until W4RFJ activated the link with the 447.375 and 442.250 UHF repeaters.

#7

Personnel Responding

Nine (9) amateur radio operators participated in the exercise for DC ARES including:

1. W3BIG, Bob Wilson, AEC-Operations of Folcroft, PA
2. W3JY, Joe Ames, AEC-Training & Safety of Malvern, PA
3. N3ZAV, Bill Bowers of Media, PA
4. N3YXQ, Charles Flanagan of Wallingford, PA
5. W3EMA, Bill Wilson of Wallingford, PA
6. W4RFJ, Roger Jordan, who operated from his home station in Ridley Park, PA
7. K3RF, Bob Famiglio, DEC-District 1 EPA of Media, PA
8. N3IXQ, Dan McMonigle of Newtown Square, PA
9. KB3FPM, John Dallatore, who checked in to the net from Lima, PA

#8

Analysis of Response

The goals of the exercise for DC ARES were to:

- Respond in a timely manner to the simulated emergency, representing Delaware County with a field radio station capable of communicating with other ARES units within the First District of the EPA region.
- Check in to the Bucks County resource net to demonstrate a support capability to adjacent county EOCs, should they request assistance.
- Establish HF field station(s) capable of passing message traffic to and from regional EOCs and their ancillary communication units.

Performance:

Despite adverse weather conditions (light rain and 48F degrees) when the first operator arrived on scene at 0715 hours, the exercise was a resounding success. All goals were attained within a relatively short operational period. With a modest participation level compared to Bucks and Chester Counties, Delaware County ARES can be very

proud that its team accomplished much with fewer resources.

All VHF, UHF and HF contacts were attained with emergency battery power under field conditions in less than ideal weather.

All antennas were temporary installations erected on site with minimal time required.

Check-in with the Bucks County EOC and resource net was successful at the first opportunity to do so. Our unit's resources were detailed to Bucks County, including SKYWARN certification.

Message traffic originated by First District Emergency Coordinator was successfully passed to a station representing the Chester County EOC via HF.

ICS forms 213 and 214 were utilized for this exercise.

No personnel were injured during the drill and all operators and equipment left the site at 1610 hours.

Sincere thanks to the nine dedicated amateur radio operators whose efforts made this emergency communication drill a success for DC ARES.

Bob Wilson, W3BIG
AEC – Operations
Delaware County ARES / RACES

While We Are with Families

While most Americans are home on Christmas Day, the is one very solemn place in America where a collection of our fallen countrymen and woman are buried. Thanks to the supreme sacrifices these defenders of our freedom have mad, we are home, safe and free from the tyranny that still exists in many places in this world.



The rows of decorated graves at Christmas provide a reminder that our freedom has been guaranteed by these fallen service personnel buried at Arlington.

WA3MME SK

With the death of Fergy, a laugh has been silenced. He was a frequent source of laughter during his fun-filled QSOs. Many times the deepest and most hearty laughter came from the humorist, himself.

No print collection of thoughts will properly embrace his love of his family, his hobby, his crafty creations, his interactions with neighbors, co-workers, friends, and many times, the rest of the world.

Fergie was a very complicated person. Yet, it was his verbal simplicity that kept both listeners and participants in a "Fergy QSO" literally sitting on the edge of their seat awaiting for what was next.

He was family man in the Fergy style. He and his wife spent a lot of time going fishing and doing outdoor things together.

Their family consisted of nine children, five daughters and four sons. From that family foundation there were 20 grand children, despite the QRZ reference to 23. The difference is an interesting family story. He inherited three extra grandchildren

If either the 20 or 12 grand children are not impressive, he was also a great grandfather.

While his voice was well seasoned, until recently, his level of work and other activities just were far too active for a man who celebrated birthday 73 on October 20. It is safe to say, "He rarely acted his age."

Born in Media, Fergy migrated west to West Chester in 1960s. The balance of his life was in various areas of Chester County. The premature death of his mother resulted in Fergie living with his aunt "Vi " in northwestern Chester County.

In describing her father, his daughter said Mary said she has learned a lot about her father during the arrangements for the private matters for his funeral. There was no formal service. Following his cremation, there was a private burial.

As is stated in brief, published Obituary, Fergy had one brother and two sisters.

A lot of Fergy's life information may appear to be sketchy. In reality, he was a very private person. In addition to keeping to himself, he would only occasionally share family heritage with his children.

Daughter Mary Whisler added that her parents were married in the mid 1960s. Joan will miss her husband. When he was not working or talking with someone on Amateur Radio, his most common activity was doing things at the home and his enjoyable fishing trip to the Delaware Bay. In was appears to be an inherited form of brevity, Mary added, "They would catch all kinds of fish."

Fergy also enjoyed spending time with nature. His private joy was tending to his food and his flowers. His daughter proudly stated, "He had every kind of flower you could think of in his yard."

From his food garden, Fergy would harvest large quantities of tomatoes, corn, squash, pole beans, potatoes, carrots, beets, and many other table favorites. A complete meal would come from his garden.

When Fergy was on HF and occasionally on VHF, he would give a very broad hint about his favorite cartoon creation. Hearing his phonetics for his FCC-issued call this mystery would be revealed when he said, **WA3MME**, **Whisky Alpha 3**, **Mickey Mouse Ears**.

He tried to share his Amateur Radio hobby with his daughter Mary. Once she showed interest, he became a teacher. Her most successful Amateur Radio accomplishment was helping her father when he was preparing his QSL cards.

His quest was DXing and he never stopped "chasing" the hard to get countries. His card collection was on the wall until about a year ago. They were taken down so his office could be painted. His health began to change and he "never had the energy" to put them back up on the wall.

In keeping with the strict policies of the Armed Forces, James J. Ferguson, Sr. [Fergy to us civilians] served with the US Army in Korean War. During this Army stay, Fergy's activities in the Korean Conflict earned for him the National Defense Service Medal.

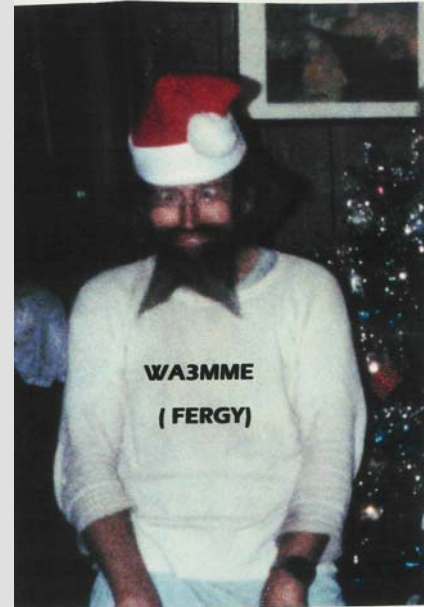
While there were some periods of minor illnesses, the intense illness began on Christmas Eve 2005 and his health battles escalated until his final hospital admission in the middle of the night on Wednesday, November 8.

All but three of his children were with him when he died at 110 a.m. on Friday, November 10

The foundation for much of this **eDipole** content came from a telephone conversation and a letter from his daughter, Mary Whisler.

This text from that letter tells more about Fergy...

This is the picture of my dad as you asked.



As I told you on the phone, my dad was a very personal man.

Yes, Dad was a very funny guy; he loved to make jokes and make people laugh. He was a great story teller. He spent most of his free time on his radios or in his garden or with his flowers.

He loved his grandchildren very much and gave each one of them a nickname that fit their personalities.

He was a hard worker and did his best to teach his sons his trade.

I don't know what else I can add to this to better explain my dad.

I do know that he is resting peacefully for once in a very long time and that he is finally with his mother who was taken away from him while he was young. He is laughing and telling stories and telling them I am his baby girl.

Half of my heart was taken with him. I am going to miss him so much, but I know one day I will hear his laughter again.

Mary Ferguson Whisler

Anyone desiring to aid in the growth of a Memorial Fund in his name may do so by making a memorial contribution to the following:

Joan A. Ferguson
Wachovia Bank
3485 Lincoln Highway
Thorndale PA 19372

As was previously stated, two write items tell a story about Fergy. One comes from the West Chester-based Daily Local newspaper.

DAILYLOCAL.com
The Daily Local News online

11/16/2006

James J. Ferguson Sr. of Downingtown

James Joseph "Fergy" Ferguson Sr., 73, of Downingtown, died Friday, Nov. 10, 2006, at the Brandywine Hospital in Coatesville.

He was the husband of Joan Ann McCorkle Ferguson of Downingtown.

Born Oct. 20, 1933, in Media, he was the son of the late Maurice and Mary Ann Ferguson.

He was employed as a contractor by J.R. Williams Co. of West Chester for more than 30 years. Fergy was an Army veteran of the Korean Conflict and received a National Defense Service Medal.

An avid amateur radio operator, he was known to everyone as WA3MME.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by five daughters, Jean Sylvester-Heyburn of Wallingford, Katherine Ferguson of Caln, Penny Conlin of Boothwyn, Wendy Adams of Honey Brook and Mary Whisler of Wagontown; four sons, James J. Ferguson Jr. of Downingtown, Scott Ferguson of Waskom, Texas, Matthew Ferguson of Port Charlotte, Fla., and Nathan Ferguson of Downingtown; 20 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Jane Mozzoni of Boothwyn.

He was preceded in death by two sisters and one brother.

Private family services are being handled by the Maclean-Chamberlain Funeral Home Inc., of Wagontown.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Joan A. Ferguson, c/o Wachovia Bank, 3485 E. Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA 19372

As a fitting close, this text was extracted from Fergy's QRZ listing...

I am not QSL manager for 9K2CS or SU1CS pse send all cards direct to home call of 9K2CS tks Fergy

I was QSL mang for SU1HN but only have logs for 14.226 dx net ops.

My QSL cards available now via (eqsl.cc). If your card isnt there please put one there for me and I will reply.

I was born on 10/20/33, married, have 9 children, 23 gran children and 5 Great gran "SONS", There is a "FERGY" JR. and a "FERGY" the 3rd so the World may well be Plagued with us untill the 22nd Century, Egad hi hi I work all modes and so far have managed to get to 341 dxcc confirmed, now have got on PSK31 so come find me there on the river and we will row the boat "Back UP-Stream" just to confuse the rest of them. Never you mind the Ducks and Geese you see go by, still haven't figured out what the Dude in the Kyack's game is. And the Fat Lady what goes by in the Inner Tube is me ole Lady so wave to her, I do. Oh and if your on Echo Link, so am I #109448. Or ya mites get me on the W3HQ-L #81357 2M repeater link when I am in Mobile. Drop by, always some one on there to chat with. And MY FILOSIFY IS: ""IF the world ends tomorrow, I don't care if I show up late, OR miss the whole silly thing entirely""

A Bit Too Far

Every Amateur Radio operator has dreams. Those dreams include have the newest, bestus, filled-with-features type rigs, a collection of equipment that assures the ability to communicate.

Sometimes, those dreams may also include a backyard mounted 500-foot tower. Just think, a tower of that height will probably take up so much space that there will be worries about having to mow the grass.

Possibly each of should be careful of what we wish. Just as the old saying states, "You might regret what you wish for."

The accompanying installation is an example of such a wish. Yes, there is no doubt that this

installation will provide assured communications. It will also provide an assurance that there will be no family also.

Be careful about what you wish for.



Our Flag

There is no special time that need be set aside for the love of our nation and its flag. As the year ends, this special tribute to the symbol of our nation seems fitting.

I am the flag of the United States of America.
My name is **Old Glory**.
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
I stand guard with power in the world.
Look up and see me.



I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.
I stand for freedom.
I am confident.
I am arrogant.
I am proud.
When I am flown with my fellow banners,
My head is a little higher,
My colors a little truer.
I bow to no one!
I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped - I am saluted.
I am loved - I am revered.

I am respected - and I am feared.
I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox.
I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy. Guam, Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam know me.
I'm presently in the mountains of Afghanistan and the hot and dusty deserts of Iraq and wherever freedom is needed.
I led my troops, I was dirty, battleworn and tired, But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.
I have been burned, torn and trampled on the **streets** of countries I have helped set free.
It does not hurt for I am invincible.
I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled in the streets of my country.
And when it's done by those whom I've served in battle - it hurts.
But I shall overcome - for I am strong.
I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.
I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours.
But my finest hours are yet to come.
When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield,
When I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,



I am proud.

Dollar Bill

Continual contributor Charles Higgins, W3CAU, has shared with readers of the *eDipole* an interesting background for a very familiar item, the United States of America's one-dollar bill. It is noted that research has shown that by a simple alteration of the image of the total front and rear of this piece of US printed paper money and also by printing it in a size that differs from the original, the

possibility of claims for counterfeit currency have been removed.

Begin by looking at the US one dollar bill. The one-dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.



Altered U.S. Bill Front

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.



Treasury Seal

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.



Altered Bill Rear

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.



Dollar Pyramid

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUI COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking."



In God We Trust

The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.



Dollar Pyramid

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most heroes' monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks; yet very few people know what the symbols mean.



Dollar Right Circle

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning, "one nation from many people."

Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one.

Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And, for minorities: the 13th Amendment



Dollar Right Circle

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this, and their history teachers don't know this. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all.

What previously may have only been a piece of commerce can now be looked upon as a bit of our national heritage and history. The value of our one-dollar bill has grown from just a piece of purchasing power to now include a historical element as well.

The Marple
Newtown
Amateur Radio
Club Wishes
Everyone a
Happy
Thanksgiving.

