

The Dipole

Radiating the News of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club

February 2007

Next Club Meeting: Thurs. Feb. 1st, 7 p.m. at The Gauntlett Center

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IRLP REFRESHER: THE PROGRAM

The program for the February meeting of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club (MNARClub) will focus on a communication format that is slowly becoming an important part of Amateur Radio. After an absence on the MNARClub's VHF repeater (147.195 MHz), the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) is returning.

The quest of this meeting will be a review for former users and an introduction for new-comers to the hobby or existing members who have not yet "gotten their feet wet." For those who have not used this communications tool, the meeting will help you acquire and an understanding of a new vocabulary. Additionally, for some attendees, this can become an introduction to a growing technology, voice-over-internet protocol (VoIP).

VoIP has become an accepted form of communications in both the cable-television and landline-phone companies. One of the items in the three-tier price structure being advertised by Comcast and the new Verizon FiOS (Fiber-Optic Service) embrace this once-new technology demonstrate the commercial viability of this concept.

One of the goals of IRLP is provide the linking of amateur radio systems with a method that is both inexpensive and reliable. This linking is a system that is not dependent upon satellites, leased communication-grade lines, or difficult-to-maintain RF links.

The operation of IRLP is accomplished through a worldwide network of dedicated servers and nodes that provide a very stable form of voice communications between a growing number of communities throughout the world. An additional plus is the quality of the audio. IRLP promotes its audio as "...the full dynamic range of telephone quality audio."

Returning to make this presentation, Tom Tenaglia, K3TAT, will explain the processes that make IRLP happen. He has asked members to bring their 2-meter HTs. IRLP uses VoIP custom software and hardware. Coupled with the power of the Internet, IRLP will link your repeater site or simplex station to the world in a simple and cost effective way.

One of the supporting slogans associated with this growing form of interconnection is: "IRLP -- Keeping the radio in Amateur Radio."

MARPLE NEWTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
c/o The Gauntlett Center
20 South Media Line Road at West Chester Pike
Newtown Square, Delaware County, PA 19073

For information about our club,
phone President Walt Faust at (610) 622-2200.

OFFICERS

President.....Walt Faust N3FXR
Program Chair.....Joe Arico N3BAM
Vice President.....Jim Goldman W3JG
Secretary.....Bill Bowers N3ZAV
Treasurer.....Nat Boonin W3JS SK

**COMMITTEES, MANAGERS,
AND COORDINATORS**

Public Relations.....Jim Biddle W3DCL
License Exam School Manager.....Bill White K3TBZ
Webmaster.....Tom Tenaglia K3TAT
K3MN Repeater Trustee.....Dan Amoroso W3DI
K3MN Club Station Managers.....Ed Fleck W3YCY
IRLP Trustee.....Tom Tenaglia K3TAT

The Dipole

Contributing Editor.....Jim Biddle W3DCL
Desktop Publishing.....Tom Tenaglia K3TAT
Reproduction.....Nat Boonin W3JS SK
Distribution.....The Peel'em and Seal'em Group

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://mnarc.org>
Delaware County ARES Net: Every Wednesday at 19:30 local

**Minutes of the
December 7th, 2006 Meeting**

Meeting opened by club President Walt Faust
N3FXR at 7:08 P.M. on 12/7/06

Bill N3ZAV gave the Treasurers report. We
have 3308.82 and have just purchased a new
computer for the IRLP and paid December's rent.

An appeal was made for the members to submit
their yearly dues for 2007

Neil Sowersby KB3LGN was recognized as the
new club Secretary.

Neil W2GTV reported on the weathernet.
Things are going well. He reported 16 sign ins on a
recent morning.

Dan Cushin's ??????? suggested speaker, Dr.
Sidney Cople, gave a very interesting and comical
lecture on late 19th Century American thought
entitled, " Civil War Humor."

There were 20 sign-ins.

Don Keer N3EDI won the 50/50

Neil KB3LGN

**FCC Suspends
Vanity Call Sign Processing**

Readers of the *eDipole* are asked to be patient
when reading this story. At the time this was
prepared for the February 2007 issue of the *eDipole*,
this suspension was in place. Readers should be
aware that this might be rescinded during the
processing and preparation of this issue.

The following is the full text of the initial release:

The FCC has put new Amateur Radio vanity
call sign processing on hold while it modifies
the software that handles vanity applications.
The suspension is a result of a rule change that
went into effect December 15 to discourage the
filing of multiple applications by one individual
for the same call sign. The FCC is still
processing vanity call sign renewal applications.

"The Commission continues to accept vanity
call sign applications," says a brief
announcement on the FCC's Universal
Licensing System (ULS) Web page,
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. "However, these
applications will not be processed until software
changes in accordance with the recent rule
making have been fully implemented." Just
when that might happen is not known.

As revised in the FCC's recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140, §97.19(d)(1) stipulates that if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the ULS. "Subsequent vanity call sign applications from that applicant with the same receipt date will not be accepted," the rule concludes.

The FCC says that when it resumes processing new vanity applications, it will handle pending applications "consistent with the date order in which they were received."

This suspension affects new vanity call sign applications submitted on December 18 or later. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued-- or the application is denied. The FCC granted the last new Amateur Radio vanity call signs on January 4 for applications received December 15.

All vanity call sign renewal applications, including those for club stations, must be filed via the ULS. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

This is a topic that prompted a great amount of interest. Because of this, a follow up notice was released on FRIDAY January 26, 2007. That report cited the following:

The hold on processing new Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications remained in effect at week's end, although FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff members have indicated informally that it would end very soon. The Commission stopped processing new vanity call sign applications while it modifies the software that handles vanity applications. The suspension, which does not affect vanity call sign renewals, resulted from a new Amateur Radio Service rule that went into effect December 15 to discourage the filing of multiple applications by one individual for the same call sign on the same receipt day.

"The Commission continues to accept vanity call sign applications," a brief announcement on the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) Web page says. "However, these applications will not be processed until software changes in

accordance with the recent rule making have been fully implemented."

The FCC granted the last Amateur Radio vanity call signs on January 4 for applications received December 15. The current suspension affects new vanity call sign applications submitted on December 18 or later. Once processing of new vanity applications resumes, the FCC says, it will process all applications in the queue in the order in which they were received. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued -- or the application is denied.

The FCC's "omnibus" Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 stipulates that if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the ULS. The FCC will dismiss any subsequent vanity call sign applications from the same applicant on the same receipt date. The FCC put new vanity call sign processing on hold after an applicant unwittingly submitted 30 applications for the same call sign three days after the new rule became effective.

The future of this problem area in Amateur Radio licensing remains to be uncertain.

Rebirth of College Amateur Radio Stations

One of the niche identities that Temple University very quietly and very proudly shares is the existence and activity of the North Broad Street campus's Amateur Radio station, K3TU. For a sampling of the school's Amateur Radio programs and activities and a tour of the facility, visit: <http://www.temple.edu/k3tu/>

The history of the station has includes three known call signs. They include K3JKI and WA3TVT. One of the outreaches of the Temple Amateur Radio Club is the incorporation of Amateur Radio in various student programs, as well as a collection of Senior Design Projects.

Recently, there have been several announcements made by representatives of

Pennsylvania universities as they hope to see a rebirth of Amateur Radio facilities on their campuses.

Included in the most recent queries was that from Lehigh University as they strive to re-start their Amateur Radio Society

Their announcement stated:

A group of Lehigh University alumni, and students has recently re-activated the previously lapsed amateur radio callsign, W3AEQ, of the Lehigh University Amateur Radio Society and has formed the nucleus of a new club at Lehigh. We are now working to identify additional faculty, staff and students at Lehigh, or students who will be attending Lehigh who have an interest in amateur radio or who are licensed radio amateurs. Our goal is to re-establish a student-lead, on campus amateur radio club and station at the University.

We are asking for help from other amateur radio operators to identify current students, faculty, staff and alumni at Lehigh who might have an interest in helping to build a new, on-campus amateur radio organization. Assistance from other Lehigh Valley hams near the campus is also welcome.

Any help you can give us in this regard will be greatly appreciated. In particular, we would like to receive contact information for licensed amateur radio operators or people with an interest in amateur radio who are now or will be associated in any way with the Lehigh University.

Thank you in advance for any help you are able to provide.

73,
Gary Wilson, K2GW
Lehigh Class of 1972
Trustee, W3AEQ

Contact information:
Gary Wilson, K2GW
587 Flock Road
Hamilton Square NJ 08690
e-mail: k2gw@arrl.net

A similar resuscitation has surfaced even closer to the footprint area of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club. The following is the announcement supporting this effort:

A group of University of Pennsylvania alumni, staff and students has recently re-activated the previously lapsed amateur radio callsign, W3ABT, of the University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club and has formed the nucleus of a new club at Penn. We are now working to identify additional faculty, staff and students at Penn, or students who will be attending Penn who have an interest in amateur radio or who are licensed radio amateurs. Our goal is to re-establish a student-lead, on-campus amateur radio club and station at the University.

By means of this letter, we are asking for help from Philadelphia area amateur radio club members to identify current students, faculty, staff and alumni at Penn who might have an interest in helping to build a new, on-campus amateur radio organization.

Any help you can give us in this regard will be greatly appreciated. In particular, we would like to receive contact information for licensed amateur radio operators or people with an interest in amateur radio who are now or will be associated in any way with the University of Pennsylvania.

Thank you in advance for any help you are able to provide.

73, Jan Carman, K5MA
Secretary, UPENN Amateur Radio Club

Contact information:
Jan Carman, K5MA
P. O. Box 930
West Falmouth, MA 02574-0930
jcarman@capecod.net

SKs

TOM MC CLOY SK

The following SK notice was provided by Joseph Arico N3BAM:

To All...

Tom McCloy, K3DEW, lived 2 houses up from me on S. New Ardmore Ave. He came to many MNARC meetings in the past and even though he almost lived next door, the only time I would get a chance to talk to him was at the meetings! I am not sure if he was a member of

DCARA. He had oral cancer and was not active in Ham radio over the last year. He and Rocky helped me give a Ham Radio demo at the Russell Elementary School about 10 years ago. Tom was a microwave communications technician and instructor for AT&T and was considered an expert in his field. He was an interesting fellow, a Ham Radio advocate and he will be missed.

The following is the printed McCloy Obituary...

Mc CLOY, Thomas T., Jr. Of Broomall, PA. On January 25, 2007. Beloved Husband of Edna (nee Pellerin), loving father of Thomas T. III (Susan), Caroleigh M. Haw (Miles) and Cancace Scola (Thomas), brother of the late Betty Jane Barnum, grandfather of Thomas and Relatives and friends are invited to Thomas' Life Greenlight Scola. Celebration 10 AM Monday January 29th at the ROTHERMEL-VIDEON-GIVNISH FUNERAL HOME, 57 E. Eagle Rd., Havertown, PA. Funeral Service 11 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to The Oral Cancer Foundation, 3419 Via Lido #205, Newport Beach, CA 92663 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 would be appreciated. Interment Arlington Cemetery. "A Life Celebration Home"

HAROLD WILLIAM JONES, W3JSD, SK

The following information as obtained from several sources the following notice was supplied by Bob Fields, KC6AOH...

Bill Jones, W3JSD, was a long time member of DCARA passed away just prior to New Years and it has just come to light recently. Bill Jones W3JSD was active in politics in Aston, PA and a long time friend of the 147.360 repeater

He recently became active again on the repeater after a long time away.

Remembering the many accomplishment, Jim Biddle, W3DCL, added a group of memories about Bill Jones:

As examples of his earlier Amateur Radio operations, Bill with the assistance of Ronel "Ron" Carter, W3PWT [while now living in his ancestral home in Delaware, Ron, then WA3PWT, lived in Delaware County] establish a repeater presence at Neumann College, near

Bill's home in Aston. This location was the site of two Amateur Radio repeaters. Taking advantage of the gift of the use of the rooftop, his improvising skills help in this installation. An enclosed equipment rack was heavily insulated to protect the repeaters from the rooftop influences of summer heat and winter cold. While constructed with the skills of an electrician, this installation was also gifted with talents of a creative tinkerer.

Active in his Electrical Union local and also active in local politics and Amateur Radio were also examples of his vocational and avocational activities. While a very loyal and vocal member of Democratic Party in a traditionally Republican area of Delaware County, Bill was highly respected for his views and willingness to be a true community servant.

Many years ago, he spearheaded a weekly, live newsletter of events both local and elsewhere. The interesting weekly airs on the 147.36 repeater were akin to the national offering, *Newsline*. The scripting, format, and presentations were truly professional. The pressures of the necessary preparation and "broadcast" scheduling finally became a challenge that could not be overcome.

RUSS STAFFORD, W3CH, SK

The following information was also included in the informational e-mail supplied by Bob Fields, KC6AOH...

Russ Stafford, W3CH passed away this morning in his sleep. Funeral arrangements are not complete at this time but will be posted when known.

In a collection of memories, Jim Biddle share the following...

Russ was an active ingredient in the wired and wireless alarm field. He also aided in the creation of a local, interconnected network of Amateur Repeaters. Prior to his move to the Carolina area, he served as president of the Philmont Mobile Amateur Radio Club. While in the south, his zest for Amateur Radio help him motivate his setting up a repeater in his southern home.

It appears he missed his northern roots because he came back "home" in this region.

The following obituary information for Russ Safford was provided via the Internet...

Friends may call Monday Jan 29th from 7-9 PM at H. T. Layton Funeral Home; 102 South Main Street, Woodstown, NJ 08098 (856-769-1515). Services will be held at 11 am at St. Luke's Episcopal Church; 37 E Grant St. Woodstown, NJ 08098. Reception will follow the service in the parish hall. Family graveside services will be held later at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Millville, NJ. Directions to St. Luke's Episcopal Church follow. Many of you may be familiar with the church as St. Luke's sponsors FCC Amateur Radio Testing at their location several times a year.

The Code

With the loss of Morse Code in the required activities of an Amateur Radio operator, it seems like a fitting time to revisit another Code. This code dates back to 1928.

With the growing silence on today's Amateur Radio frequencies, there may be some reasons that the "listening-bit-not-operating Ham Radio operators are so silent.

One of the reason's cited by some silent operators is the lack of politeness. If that is true, it is time to return to this 1928 version of The Code. It is good old-fashioned common sense and, when practiced, may help in bring others back to our hobby.

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is...

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and

consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Thoughts for the Day....

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow
2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. It could be a right number.
13. Think about this, no one ever says, "It's only a game" when his team is winning.
14. Some people have reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.
15. Be careful reading the fine print. There's no way you're going to like it.
16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos? (And RAP music will be the Golden Oldies!)

- 18. Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than in a Yugo.
- 19. After a certain age, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead.
- 20. If ignorance is bliss, why aren't there more happy people?

January Absence Explained

There was no edition of the monthly Marple Newtown Amateur Radio newsletter. It was through no fault of the World Wide Web or equipment failure. The January issue of the *eDipole* was not sent to Tom Tenaglia, the talented desktop publisher of this ongoing publication of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club. The problem in the publishing was the result of an illness by the Contributing Editor Jim Biddle.

When the finalization of the largely completed topics should have been finalized and then sent via the Internet, Biddle was a long-time "guest" of the Main Line Health Systems Paoli Memorial Hospital.

With the gradual return to a few of his normal activities, it was too late to complete the started features and send them to Tom Tenaglia.

Thanks to everyone for their understanding. Because of the quest to be current, it is not possible to have an issue of the *eDipole* "in the can" like other information providers often do.

The Missing Issue

All of the non-time sensitive material that was completed or nearing completion will be re evaluated and hopefully included in future issues of the *eDipole*. As has been announced and printed in previous editions, suggestions and topics are always welcomed.

They may be sent to LJamesBiddle@juno.com.

QST OST QST: In Case You Missed the News

For many Amateur Radio operators, a glance at their wall calendar would show that the date Friday, February 23, 2007 was circled on their calendar. It is doubted that any American Ham operator is not aware that this date was the FCC action date for the elimination of the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement. There are mixed camps on this issue.

Regardless of one's stand, the Morse Code will officially disappear on that date. It will no longer be a required part of the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse Code. They will only have to pass the applicable written examination.

This change was cited in the Federal Register publication on January 24. It was then that the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) cite the "Morse Code proceeding,"

The WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

The entire Amateur Radio community does not universally endorse this formal declaration.

Prior to the February 23 elimination date, the former Morse Code requirements, once found in three tiers, was a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

As the longstanding source for applicable data about Amateur Radio activities, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) made available the following information: "The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules. It is on the web in PDF format at,

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>

As a partial explanation of the world wide status of the historic Morse Code, the ARRL added...

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

(VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data sub band be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz sub band.

Readers of the *eDipole* are advised that the ARRL has posted all the pertinent information about the FCC Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's

Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.

Fest Time Approaches

The unusual weather of the winter of 2006-2007 may have altered many of the traditional activities associated with the colder weather. One winter event that is not influenced by this year's warmer winter weather is the 2007 Winter SWL Festival.

This annual convention is truly the largest gathering of listeners to today's radio spectrum. The groups of listeners include those who patiently tune the long wave stations below the US medium wave broadcast band, the collectors of broadcast band DX and the many spectrum areas above the broadcast band.

For many of today's and yesterday's radio listeners, the after-dark monitoring of the broadcast band may have been the source of other radio activities. After all, a twist of the radio dial away from local or regional broadcast band stations would produce strong, after dark signals from Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Nashville, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Boston, and New Orleans to name a few.

Once a listener's appetite was whetted, the hunt for other, harder to hear broadcast band stations would become the next step. The patience, listening skills, knowledge about seasonal and time-of-day propagation learned through broadcast band monitoring became a wonderful foundation for companion monitoring to a growing list of other spectrum areas.

The monitoring of short wave stations produced both entertainment and new monitoring skills. Many of today's middle age Amateur Radio operators may have had their introduction to Ham Radio activities through the short-wave monitoring of AM signals.

The skills and curiosities acquired from below the FM band monitoring were transferable to yet other areas of monitoring. These newer areas include FM, VHF and UHF television, and a large collection of business and public service users in the spectrum regions surrounding or replacing the entertainment areas of TV and FM frequencies.

These foundation areas of today's spectrum and, more recently, satellites will result in several

hundred attendees to the March 8 to 10, 2007 gathering at nearby Kulpville (Montgomery County).

Both skilled organizational managers and the group's historical track record will result in another, well-run gathering.

Readers of the *eDipole* are fortunate. With Delaware County be bisected by I-476, a trip to the Kulpville (Lansdale exit on the Northeast Extension, I-476) Best Western, The Inn at Towamencin, a trip to the gathering is easy.

For those desiring especially specific address information, the event is located at **1750 Sumneytown Pike, Kulpville, PA 19443**. For *eDipole* readers who are **GPS equipped**, the coordinates for The Inn at Towamencin are **N 40° 14e.716', W 75° 20.534'**

Festmeisters Rich Cuff and John Figliozzi have established a Fest Web blog for quick postings of the latest information for schedules, events, and times: [fhttp://swlfest.blogspot.com/](http://swlfest.blogspot.com/)

The 20th edition of the gathering of the faithful will begin on **Thursday**, not on Friday as previously announced. This year's event is planned to be an exciting, well-planned series of activities. The impact of this annual gathering has resulted in many of the attendees adjusting their vacation plans. This year's collection of events promises to provide a good time for attendees. Join this anniversary gathering.

A Mission Looks Up

Hank Greb, N8XX, Rockford, Michigan has shared a story about a Ham Radio operator with a mission. This unusual story tells of Wayne Spires, KF4BJT, a Wetumpka, Alabama Amateur Radio operator whose efforts have taken him to great heights. To be exact, his mission has taken him to 68 feet.

This is the height of Spires Amateur Radio tower located behind his Wetumpka, Alabama home. This temporary home for Spires is his protest of local judge's ruling that has stated the Ham Radio operator must become a member of a local homeowners association.

The deed for his current property, one he purchased 20 years ago, listed his riverbank property as unrestricted.

The recent events and this original deed are opposing. This battle has resulted in the strong statement that was demonstrated through the climb up his 68 feet Amateur Radio tower. He has vowed to stay there until his next court date. This hearing is scheduled to take place on February 5, 2007.

This elevate "statement" has not gone unnoticed. A nationally syndicated show originating in at WZZK, 104.7 MHz, has brought this plight to the attention of a large number of Americans.

The show's team, Rick and Bubba have interviewed Mr. Spires, his wife, and a daughter live by phone. As a radio sidebar to the family radio interview, Rick and Bubba have also talked by telephone to the sheriff. The

The Sheriff has stated that as long as Mr. Spires does not try to hurt himself or somebody else his department will not interfere.

The public did not only hear of the sensationalism spawned by the "tower in." William "Bubba" Bussey (KJ4JJ) the co-host of Rick and Bubba, explained on air the importance Ham Radio can play in a time of emergency and the importance for good towers for hams to own and use. As an active Amateur Radio, operator, Bubba often promotes Ham Radio on their program.)

Mr. Spires has a cadre of supporters. Joining the area Amateur Radio community, his supporters include neighbors, family, and friends.

Hell Explained

With the arrival of winter 2006-2007, some people may be looking for some extra heat. For many, one apparent source of heat may be Hell.

The *eDipole* has two "Hell" topics for this issue. The first is a geographic focus and the second is academic

The initial discussion of Hell is that of a community in the Great Lakes state of Michigan.

When someone is told to go to Hell, they may well indeed be talking about Hell, Michigan. Hell was first settled in 1838 by George Reeves and his family. George had a wife and seven daughters – no reason to call it Hell yet... George built a mill and a general store on the banks of a river that is now known as Hell Creek...

The mill would grind the local farmers grain into flour; George also ran a whiskey still, so a lot of times the first 7-10 bushels of grain became moonshine.

In turn, horses would come home without riders, wagons without drivers. When someone would say to the wife, "where is your husband?" she would shrug her shoulders, throw up her arms and exclaim, "Ahh, he's gone to Hell!"

In 1841 when the State of Michigan came by, and asked George what he wanted to name his town, he replied, "Call it Hell for all I care, everyone else does." So the official date of becoming Hell was October 13, 1841...

Hell is also reviewed in this issue thanks to Paul Vincent, KA3IVN, long known for his association with humor and the fire fighting services. His submission, an explanation of Hell, embraces both of these characteristics.

HELL EXPLAINED BY CHEMISTRY STUDENT

The following is an actual question given on a University of Washington chemistry mid term. The answer by one student was so "profound" that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet. It was through this source that the student's analysis has reached the *eDipole*.

This description of Hell was the result of a bonus question presented to the University of Washington chemistry student. The wording of this bonus question asked, "Is Hell exothermic [gives off heat] or endothermic [absorbs heat]?"

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law, which states that a gas cools when it expands and heats when it is compressed or some variant of this concept.

One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today.

Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more

than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added. This gives two possibilities:

1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.
2. If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

It is felt by experts that the second scenario will prove to be valid.

So which is it?

Since Hell will freeze over, it follows that it will no longer accept any more souls. In time, it will be extinct....

THIS STUDENT RECEIVED A+

Bad Treatment of English

For the readers of the *eDipole* who enjoy language usage, specifically, the severe distortions of our language, the following will be enjoyed.

- *A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.*
- *Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.*
- *Practice safe eating - always use condiments.*
- *Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.*
- *A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.*
- *A hangover is the wrath of grapes.*
- *Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.*
- *Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?*
- *Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.*
- *When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.*
- *What's the definition of a will? --It's a dead give away.*

- *Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.*
- *In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.*
- *She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off*

A Match Between Technology and Wits

In a period when so much of our news and our lives are being influenced by a small, special group of Americans, this is a bit of welcomed, non-partisan humor.

A Montana cowboy was overseeing his herd in a remote mountainous pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sun glasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the cowboy, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?"

The cowboy looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, "Sure, Why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet. He then calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location, which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the cowboy and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take what you wanted from my herd," says the cowboy. He watches the young man select one of the animals

and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then the cowboy says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my animal?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a U.S. Congressman", says the cowboy.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required." answered the cowboy. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You tried to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about cows...this is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog."

Emergency Response Acceptance

It has been a long standing police of **The Dipole** and one that has been extended to the preparation of the **eDipole** that no items are "lifted" from other sources. There are from time to time items that need both immediate forwarding and full assurance that there will be no errors in preparations. Hence, the following is a full copy of a bulletin forwarded to the ARRL membership as the **eDipole** was being prepared for its publishing. The topic of this forwarded bulletin is the following: ARRL Board accepts National Emergency Response Planning Committee report

This is the text of this report...

The ARRL Board of Directors accepted the Report of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) when it met January 19 and 20 in Windsor, Connecticut. Upon dissolving the committee with its thanks, the Board set in motion a process to identify and implement action items in the report as soon as possible. ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, chaired the 13-member NERPC, charged with developing comprehensive recommendations to improve the League's response to regional, national and international disasters. Among other things, panel members evaluated the responses and actions of ARRL and the Amateur Radio

Emergency Service (ARES) during Hurricane Katrina as well as lessons learned.

"If 'lessons learned' are not followed by 'behaviors changed,' then the lessons have not been learned at all," the report concludes. The report describes disaster preparedness as "a moving target, moving faster all the time." No recommendations, plans or systems should be considered "the permanent answers for all circumstances and hazards," the report asserts.

The unprecedented scope of the Katrina response placed ARRL Headquarters into a leadership coordination role through national-level requests for help from served agencies such as the American Red Cross. While the level of expertise in emergency communications and emergency management among US radio amateurs is growing, the report noted, so is the expectation that the ARRL provide first-rate leadership and guidance.

Among the report's wide-ranging recommendations and suggestions...

- Enhance ARRL and ARES training in basic message handling.
- Develop a continuing education course covering installation, configuration, and use of Winlink 2000 for e-mail.
- Formally establish a national ARES volunteer database for use during major disasters and establish training criteria.
- Institute a Major Disaster Emergency Coordinator (MDEC) function to coordinate responses to large-scale national or regional disasters or emergencies.
- Become better acquainted with the emergency response needs of distant ARRL sections, such as Pacific, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Alaska.
- Improve working relationships with national-level served agencies.
- Ensure ARRL staff training in the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) and, as necessary, adapt ARRL's emergency response structure to the Unified Command model.

In addition, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has appointed an ad hoc committee to study issues relating to background investigations as they

apply to ARRL Amateur Radio volunteers and to recommend a background investigation policy.

Future Program

One of the ongoing challenges of any organization is the scheduling of program material. As President Walt Faust, N3FXR, has solicited at meetings, there is an ongoing need for program suggestions. In an unusual manner, the presenter of the February 2007 program volunteered a future program topic.

Tom Tenaglia, K3TAT, has suggested a revisit with newly acquired hypnotic skills.

Tom has suggested this future meeting could even be a family-based program. Stay tuned for more information.

Mailing Assures Full Notification

It has been discovered that not all members of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club have home access to the World Wide Web. Lacking a home-based connection to the Internet, these members are not aware of the topic and any additional program information.

To help in curing this deficiency, Dave Shooster K3OTV, has sponsored the printing and mailing of postal card announcement of the upcoming meetings of the MNARClub. This welcomed outreach by Dave will also provide notification should there be a repeat a "missing" issue of the *eDipole*, such as happen for the January electronic issue.

Flying Blind

This story comes to the eDipole via Charlie Higgins, W3CAU...

Two blind pilots walk down the aisle of the airplane. Both are wearing dark glasses and one is using a guide dog and the other is tapping his way along the aisle with a cane.

Nervous laughter spreads through the cabin, but the men enter the cockpit, the door closes, and the engines start up. The passengers begin glancing nervously around, searching for some

sign that this is just a little practical joke. None is forthcoming.

Leaving the docking area, the plane taxis to the end of the servicing runway. After a pause at the end of runway, the pitch of the engines increases. With the release of the brakes, the plane moves faster and faster down the runway and the people sitting in the window seats realize they're headed straight for the water at the edge of the airport. As it begins to look as though the plane will plough into the water, panicked screams fill the cabin. At that moment, the plane lifts smoothly into the air.

The passengers relax and laugh a little sheepishly, and soon all retreat into their magazines, secure in the knowledge that the plane is in good hands. In the cockpit, one of the blind pilots turns to the other and says, "Ya know, Bob, one of these days, they're gonna scream too late and we're all gonna die."

One Cannot Always Believe What They See

During a flight from Seattle, Washington, to San Francisco, California, a distance of approximately 700 miles, the travel was interrupted. For reasons unknown, the plane was diverted to Sacramento, California. The pilot explained to the passengers that there would be some delay before they would continue their flight. He added that any passengers wishing to exit the plane could do so. This announcement was concluded with the advice that passengers leaving the plane should return to the plane in 60 minutes.

With the exception of one passenger, a blind woman, everyone exited the plane. In their haste to stretch their legs, apparently no one noticed the blind woman's Seeing Eye Dog that was calmly curled up beneath her feet.

Also unknown to the passengers was the fact that this woman routinely used this flight and the crew all knew her. The pilot left the cabin and walked back to his frequent passenger. Approaching her, he addressed her by her name and advised her, "Kathy, I see you elected to stay here in the plane. I thought you might want to get up and 'stretch your legs.'" "

Kathy answered, "Thank you Captain for your concerns. I don't need to get up, but I think my dog would like to take a walk."

What happened next caused quite a stir in the airport. Many of the people looking out the window were in total disbelief as they saw the pilot, complete with his stylish sunglasses walking the dog.

The image, pictured here, prompted scores of people to try to change planes in their attempt to reach San Francisco. Several even tried to change airlines.

REMEMBER, things are not always as they appear.



The New Carrier

The massive size of the aircraft carrier Reagan (CVN 76) creates a special niche in naval history. Equally impressive is the collection of dates that occurred in this ship development. On December 8, 1994 the contract for the Reagan was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding

The Reagan keel was laid on February 12, 1998. A ship of this size and complexity is not built overnight. On October 1, 2000 the pre-commissioning Unit established. President Reagan's widow, Nancy Reagan christened the ship on March 4, 2001.

Commissioning of the Reagan occurred on July 12, 2003. The final step in the Reagan's development took place on July 23, 2003 when this new aircraft carrier at the ship's homeport in San Diego, California.

Unless one were to see the Reagan in person, there is no true way to grasp the impact of the size of the Reagan. Possibly, a few of the statistics

associated with this aircraft carrier may help. The Reagan, named for Ronald Reagan, the 40th US President, towers 20 stories above the waterline. Continuing a longstanding tradition, this naval ship, while bearing the name of a male, is nevertheless referred to as a "she."

She is 1092 feet long; nearly as long as the Empire State Building is tall. Her flight deck covers 4.5 acre. She is propelled by four bronze propellers, each 21 feet across, weighing 66,200 pounds. Her steering is accomplished through the use of two rudders. Each rudder has dimensions of 29 by 22 feet and weighs 50 tons. Unlike the earliest of the nation's aircraft carriers that stowed the aircraft on the flight deck, the Reagan has four high-speed aircraft elevators. Each elevator has over 4,000 square feet of space to bring the aircraft from the secured, below deck storage areas.

One of the fabled descriptions of our nation's aircraft carriers stresses that each vessel is like a city. While automation and modernization achieved through today's electronics, the crew compliment of the Reagan still is a city-like population. She is home to more than 6000 naval personnel. Their sleeping needs are met through 14,000 pillowcases and 28,000 sheets.

The logistics necessary to support this crew compliment includes supplies that are sufficient for the Reagan to operate for 90 days. These food needs amount to 18,150 meals served each day. On board distillation facilities convert seawater to provide 400,000 gallons of fresh water each day. As an FYI, this amount of fresh water equates to meeting the water needs of approximately 2000 homes.

The work and social needs for wiring creates yet another impressive collection of statistics. Approximately 30,000 light fixture and 1325 miles of a cable and wiring are needed aboard the Reagan. Included in the impressive communications tools are 1400 telephones.

Like any activity that is run with business standards, the costs to the US Navy are approximately \$250,000 per day when docked. Including salaries, the costs of underway operations skyrockets to \$25 million per day.



Seeing the USS Reagan as this aircraft carrier passes the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor really puts the size of this new ship into perspective ---- enormous. When the Bridge pipes "Man the Rail," there is a lot of rail to man on this monster: shoulder to shoulder, around 4.5 acres. Her displacement is about 100,000 tons.

FACTS

- Propulsion System: two nuclear reactors
- Main Engines: four
- Propellers: four
- Blades on each Propeller: five
- Aircraft elevators: four
- Catapults: four
- Arresting gear cables: three
- Length, overall: 1,092 feet (332.85 meters)
- Flight Deck Width: 257 feet (78.34 meters)
- Area of flight deck: about 4.5 acres
- Beam: 134 feet (40.84 meters)
- Draft: 38,4 feet (11.7 meters)
- Displacement: approx. 100,000 tons full load
- Speed: 30+ knots
- Planes: approx. 85
- Crew: Ship: approx. 3,200 Air Wing: 2,480
- Armament: four Mk 29 NATO Sea Sparrow launchers, four Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) Systems

REMEMBER

IRLP Refresher

Thursday, February 1st, 7p

Gauntlett Center