

The Dipole

Radiating the News of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club

March 2008

Next Club Meeting: Thurs. March 6th, 7 p.m. at The Gauntlett Center

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YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW: THE PROGRAM

Amateur Radio has undergone a strong collection of changes within the past 50 years. In fact, one need not look back that far to feel the impact of the growing number of changes in technologies, changes in rules, and changes in the outlook for the future.

One of the steps into the future will be found in the growth of the digital aspects of domestic, commercial and our hobby of Amateur Radio. For these changes to take root, there must be an orderly, but efficient transition. For example, one need only look to the methods of the telling of time.

Anyone who learned to tell time through the position of the hands on a clock or watch feels more comfortable in understanding the time in his or her analog mind. Yet, when that same person needs to document the time, damn the hands. Looking at numbers and automatically parroting these numbers either via a keyboard or by writing them on paper is far more efficient and accurate.

Wise time piece makers found a way to combine the best of both worlds. Early transitional watches that met both demand of analog and digital time recognition or documentation employed the comfortable hand positions and a second display of digits or numbers.

A second example of a transitional time piece is that watch that employs moving hands for time recognition, but the position of the hands on the watch or clock are controlled by digital circuitry.

The advances in timekeeping and time-telling has been successful because there has been a transition that has been painless as well as not abandoning the past as these advances have been employed.

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

PAWS Are More Than Scratching

While our area is neither currently in a subject area, other Amateur Radio operators find themselves under a governmental looking glass. It has been reported that the United States is blaming more West coast 70-centimeter repeaters for interference to PAVE PAWS radar. ** In an attempt to provide a uniform voice for the Amateur Radio community there has been some

intervention by the American Radio Relay League's General Counsel. One of his goals is to assure that the rights of two sighted Amateur Radio operators are protected. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has stressed that any specific enforcement action or any shut down orders will be done under the guidelines of due process.

Mr. Imlay is a communications law specialist in the Washington D.C area. He explained that while the Amateur Radio activities in the 70-centimeter band is done with the full understanding that such activities are done on a secondary allocation identity, the Department of Defense still has the burden of proving that specific repeaters are causing harmful interference. He added that this burden of proof must be done on a case-by-case basis.

This stand was offered during a recent teleconference meeting between the ARRL, the FCC and the U-S Air Force, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay. Imlay's statements were made public in a recent ARRL communication.

Comments have also been offered that states a second round of testing by US Air Force engineers has resulted in the identification of an additional seventy-five repeaters on the 70 centimeter band in Northern California. This generated a report stating these repeaters must adjust their operations. The communiqué stated this must be done to eliminate harmful interference to the PAVE PAWS Updated Early Warning Radar located at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento.

Dan Henderson, N1ND, the ARRL's Regulatory Information Manager has stated that in order to expedite any new mitigation actions due to the enlarged list, the FCC has now taken on the lead role of making initial contact with the owners of these newly identified repeaters. Henderson also said the FCC has asked the ARRL to continue its work of aiding affected repeater owners with suggested mitigation actions. Henderson also added that because any mandatory enforcement action would have to come from the FCC, it is natural for them to take the lead at this time.

During a mid-January conference call, FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth, verified he had been in contact with repeater owners from the first Department of Defense list who had not indicated their compliance with mitigation numbers provided by the ARRL in early Fall 2007. Hollingsworth reports stated that he

has had a positive response from each owner with whom he had spoken so far. There were several who had to be contacted via regular mails that have not yet responded.

Hollingsworth added that he would begin making contact with the owners of repeaters on this second list and initiate the process that leads to compliance within a short period of time. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI has advised that once a repeater owner has been contacted, the ARRL is ready to support their efforts in meeting the mitigation requirement.

The actions by the ARRL in their aid to the affected repeater owners have been very welcomed. These members, as well as the general membership now know they have a friend in Washington; one who is looking out for their rights

The Fest Data

There are only a few days before the start of the annual convention of the largest gathering of listeners to the radio spectrum — longwave, medium wave, short-wave (broadcast, utilities, pirates), VHF/UHF, FM, scanners, television and satellites. While the sponsoring group can truly attest that they are the largest group of its kind in the United States, it is possible they can in all sincerity make the same claim for the world.

Projections based upon advanced registrations and the attendance figures from past gatherings point to approximately 200 persons attending the March 7 and 8 gathering. If this year is a repeat of previous years, there will be attendees from throughout the world.

This annual meeting is a great way to escape from the daily routines of this season. In addition to “us listeners,” there will other attending this year’s event. Broadcast representatives, clubs, and vendors all help make this convention a time to remember. North American Short-wave Association (NASWA) sponsors the gathering.

The Convention will once more be held at The Inn at Towamencin, a member of the Best Western family of Inns. It is located at Exit 31 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. This is the segment of the Turnpike that was formerly known as the “Northeast Extension.

The street address for those with GPS capabilities is 1750 Sumneytown Pike, Kulpville PA 19443. The coordinates are the following: N 40° 14.736', W 75° 20.342'. The communications links are 215 368 3800, voice, and 215 368 7854, fax.

Anyone attending both days of the convention, remember room reservations are your responsibility and are not included in the festival registration fees.

Registration may done via a download of the [2008 registration form in PDF](http://swlfest.com/2008_registration_form_in_PDF) format at the convention’s Website, <http://swlfest.com/>

The following the announced schedule for the upcoming March 7-8 SWL FEST...

Friday, March 7

9:30 - eBay Trends - Fred Zalupski

11:00 - Scanning - Scanner Scum

1:30 - Linux and the SWL - Tim Lemmon

3:00 - Tools for Portable Listening in a Digital World - Richard Cuff

4:30 - Pirate Radio - George Zeller

8:30 - Listening Lounge - David Goren

Saturday, March 8

9:00 - Offshore Radio - Andy Walker

10:30 - Hidden Antennae - Skip Arey

Lunch - DXing and the Grim Reaper - Sheldon Harvey

1:30 - Eton E1 - Adrian Camponera

3:00 - C.M. Stansbury - Jack Widner

A Reason to Upgrade

European Reciprocal Licenses Now Limited to Advanced and Extra Class Licensees: The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has revised its table of equivalence between FCC amateur licenses and the CEPT license.

Effective February 4, 2008, Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended) now grants full CEPT

privileges only to those US citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra or Advanced class license. This means that those US licensees who hold an FCC-issued General or Technician license are no longer eligible for full operating privileges in countries where CEPT-reciprocal operation had previously been permitted.

US Novice class licensees have had no reciprocal operating privileges under the CEPT provisions.

These changes are the result of a re-evaluation of US and CEPT license classes equivalence by the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group at its meeting January 29-February 1, 2008 in Basel, Switzerland. The Working Group deals with numerous areas of concern including Amateur Radio, and is responsible for applications from countries to participate in T/R 61-01, as well as other Amateur Radio related issues.

"Changes in the US license structures and examinations often have ancillary implications beyond the immediate impact upon the US licensees," said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager. "While this CEPT change affects several classes of US licensees when they visit Europe and other CEPT signatory countries, it has no effect on their operating privileges at home."

Meters Matter

The quest of becoming more economically efficient has fostered an increases use of RF devices in the collection of data by utilities. This concept of data gathering appears to in use in both the United States and Canada.

The choice of the operating frequencies for the current generation of US meter reading, RF devices is in the 900 MHZ segment of the spectrum. Several area Amateur Radio operators were concerned about this use of frequencies.

One local Ham Radio operator made repeated attempts at communicating with AQUA PA when they made their requests for property access. The Amateur Radio operator was concerned about the possibilities of Ham Radio transmissions effecting water consumption readings as well as the possibility of a requested transmission of data for a

meter reading causing interference with Amateur operations.

The water utility was either not knowledgeable about either form of interference or they were too busy to answer communications. This lack of communications was changed when correspondence was begun with the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission.

What followed was correspondence whereby the utility agreed to the concerns and the installation was begun and quickly completed.

Communications from Canada points to such feared interference. Radio Amateurs of Canada says that it has become aware of increasing levels of interference to Amateur Radio operations on the 902 to 928 MHz (33 centimeter) band. This interference is originating from wireless power meters. The Canadian group is asking for all Canadian Radio Amateurs who use that band to provide any information to document the problem by identifying the extent and nature of the problem.

In installations similar to those in the United States, electrical power utilities in a number of Canadian cities, are installing wireless meters that operate in the 33 cm band. Canadian Amateur Radio operators have use of this band on a secondary basis. This means that Canadian Ham Radio operators may not cause interference to, nor be protected from interference by licensed Primary users of that spectrum, which are stations in the Fixed and Radiolocation Services.

In Canada, there is a special twist that in user identities. Under Canadian law, these wireless power meters are operating legally, but as unlicensed devices. Therefore they are legally subordinate to Amateur Radio and Ham Radio operations can claim protection from these devices.

Radio Amateurs of Canada says that it intends to raise this issue with Industry Canada, but requires more information on the effect these meters are having on ham radio operations. This will be an interesting legal tug of war...a war that may set some forms of precedence.

What Happened to Channel 1?

While the original broadcasts of NTSC television was begun prior to World War II, there was development of experimental operations. They

became the foundation for the current, and soon to be eliminated form of television broadcasting. All but the low power television stations are being transformed to the United States form of digital transmissions.

The now power station will be given a prolonged life because of the expenses needed for the transition from NTSC to US digital broadcasting. Some sources are saying these low power stations may possibly be aided by Federal funding. In the greater Philadelphia viewing area, some viewers still using non-cable or not-satellite services for their television reception may have viewed low power television transmissions on Channel 7 and Channel 14.

In the original scheme of channelizing television broadcasts, the FCC had an allocation for Channel 1. There were a collection of stations having this assignment. They included WNBT, today WNBC-TV on Channel 4 in New York City; KTSN, today KCBS on Channel 2 in Los Angeles, California; KARO, Riverside, California and having no current VHF allocation; and WSBE, South Bend, Indiana and having no current VHF Allocation. WNBT (today's WNBC-TV), now on channel 4, 1938–1946. It should be noted that WNBT began broadcasts on Channel 1 in 1938

One of the post World War II relocation of television channels saw in 1945 an FCC decided to reserve Channel 1 for low-power community television stations. Existing stations that had previously been assigned and using Channel 1 were granted newer channels in the VHF band. Just as today, community television stations granted less radiated power than stations in the other remaining VHF channels. This 1945 era concept also called for these community television station stations to be assigned to smaller cities.

The 1945 era assignments for the low power, Community Television Channel 1 assignment were assigned, but not granted to the following communities:

- Bridgeport, Connecticut
- Canton, Ohio
- Fall River-New Bedford, Massachusetts
- Manchester, New Hampshire
- Racine-Kenosha, Wisconsin
- Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania
- South Bend, Indiana
- Springfield-Holyoke, Massachusetts

- Springfield, Ohio
- Trenton, New Jersey
- York, Pennsylvania

In May, 1948, the FCC established a new set of rules for television band allocations. One of the contributions to this new set of rules was the propagation information obtained during the prior use of this part of spectrum during that time period between 1945 to 1948. During that time span, the 44-50 MHz collection of frequencies was used by both fixed and mobile services and a few television stations that operated under the identity of Channel 1.

The FCC's study of the formerly shared VHF (low) frequencies demonstrated that the VHF spectrum would require that television needed the use of its frequencies on a primary, or non-shared basis. In May 1948 formally changed the rules on TV band allocations based on propagation knowledge gained during the era of shared-user allocations.. Except for select VHF frequencies in Alaska and Hawaii and some overseas territories, the FCC-administered VHF band continues to be used for television broadcasting to this day.

Currently, portions of this VHF television spectrum may be reallocated following the 2009 change from analog to digital television transmissions.

At the time the frequencies used by the former television Channel 1 (44-50 MHz) were reassigned to fixed and mobile services, it was also decided that instead of a renumbering of the television channels, Channel 1 would just disappear.

The following table provides both an informative list of television frequencies for the historic periods of 1938-1940, 1940-1946, 1946-1948, and 1948 to 2009.

Channel	1938-1940	1940-1946	1946-1948	since 1948
1	44-50	50-56	44-50	
2	50-56	60-66	54-60	54-60
3	66-72	66-72	60-66	60-66
4	78-84	78-84	66-72	66-72
5	84-90	84-90	76-82	76-82
6	96-102	96-102	82-88	82-88

7	102-108	102-108	174-180	174-180
8	156-162	162-168	180-186	180-186
9	162-168	180-186	186-192	186-192
10	180-186	186-192	192-198	192-198
11	186-192	204-210	198-204	198-204
12	204-210	210-216	204-210	204-210
13	210-216	230-236	210-216	210-216
14	234-240	236-242		
15	240-246	258-264		
16	258-264	264-270		
17	264-270	282-288		
18	282-288	288-294		
19	288-294			

It is interesting to see that changes other than the elimination of the frequencies for television use for Channel 1 occurred during the various periods of FCC planning. The first set of changes took place in the period of 1940 to 1946. While maintaining a Channel 1, there was a change in the assigned frequencies for that time period. The changes in this era created a television spectrum that began with a Channel 1 assignment of 50-56 MHz. Also in this time period of television planning, there was an elimination of a Channel 19.

In the time period of 1946 to 1948, the spectrum alignment was once more altered. While still retaining a Channel 1, its frequency and the frequencies for Channels 2 through 13 returned to those allocated in the 1938 to 1945 era. Notices, however, the channels of 14 through 18 were eliminated.

It appeared, not unlike today, the FCC had other uses for these frequencies. In time the frequencies of 216 through 294 MHz have been allocated to other uses. These replacement users now include the 220 MHz Amateur Radio band.

As cited earlier, the elimination of Channel 1 and its frequencies of 54 MHz and below were also reassigned. From this chunk of the spectrum the United States' Amateur Radio community was assigned the six-meter frequencies of 5- to 54 MHz

One man's problem can be another man's happiness. The propagation history obtained in the earlier days of a television Channel 1 demonstrated the "skip" properties of portions of this part of the spectrum. The assignment for six meters has been a benefit for DX hunter working in this Amateur Radio band.

The use of SSB and CW contributes to this success. In other parts of the six-meter spectrum, the use of FM creates a repeater world that also exhibits its own thrills through extended propagation. More HF rigs are now including 6-meters for both convenience and the hoped-for DX windows.

What Is Up There?

Some newer Amateur Radio operators may ask, "What is above HF communications frequencies?" The simple answer is, "A lot of different users are busy occupying the frequencies above 30 MHz. This list is currently changing and this pace of change with the change in television transmission modes in February 2009.

30 to 50 MHz: This is known as the "VHF low" band. Most transmissions will be in narrow band FM with channels spaced at 20 kHz intervals. Classes of users in this group of frequencies include business, some classes of industrial radio services, and governmental users for local governments, state governments, and the federal government.

50 to 54 MHz: Of interest to Amateur Radio operators is this six-meter band collection of frequencies. The first megahertz is mainly used for USB, AM, CW and other digital modes and FSK. The remainder of these frequencies are used for narrow band FM. The FM communications are done through both repeaters and simplex types of operation. There also exists a simplex and calling frequency of 52.525 MHz.

54 to 72 MHz: While only one of the television channels assigned within this group is assigned to the Philadelphia area, Channel 3 (KYW), other areas have television stations using the other channels of 2 and 4. In this area, VCR and other devices normally select TV channel 4 an input to the television. The audio in this mode is wide band FM and the video is AM mode.

72 to 76 MHz: This collection of frequencies is often ignored. These frequencies have many applications; some include remote control signaling for model airplanes and boats as well as some garage door opening systems.

Short-range, two-way communications inside industrial facilities, warehouses, and factories have frequency allocations in the part of the spectrum. Wireless microphones used by law enforcement officers and others frequent these frequencies. In many applications, the users are spaced at a 20 KHz intervals.

76 to 88 MHz: These frequencies are assigned to television and they are used by television Channel 5 and Channel 6.

88 to 108 MHz: The United States and Canadian FM broadcasters populate these frequencies. Until the demise of the NTSC television system in less than a year, astute listeners also listen to audio from television Channel 6 at 87.75 MHz on the lower end of the FM band.

108 to 136 MHz: This band is used for civilian aeronautical communications and all transmissions are in the AM Mode. Aeronautical beacons are located in the lower end of this assignment. Heard on frequencies between 108 and 118 MHz; these continuously transmit a station identification and are used for navigation. The balance of these frequencies are used for communications between aircraft as well between the aircraft and air traffic control towers. Many airlines maintain communications that firm's aircraft and airline ground facilities. Additional communications can be heard between independent servicing firms and individual aircraft. Both medical and newsgathering helicopters use this band for aircraft communications. News reporting communications are done of specific newsgathering frequencies in the other parts of the spectrum.

The traditional spacing for aircraft frequencies is done at 25 kHz intervals.

136 to 138 MHz: Weather satellites mainly use this segment of the spectrum. These earth-orbiting satellites capture images of weather patterns images, which are then relayed to earth users. It was in this part of the spectrum that Bill Richards, W3FTZ-SK, constructed his own satellite dish for his first receptions of raw weather data. This data and other sources helped him in preparing his daily morning forecasts for visitors to the Newtown

Square Weather and Information Net. As a sidebar, this net continues weekdays and weekends at approximately 8:25 a.m. on the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club's 147.195 repeater [PL 100].

138 to 144 MHz: Each of the military services has traditionally been the biggest users of frequencies within this part of the United States frequency allocations. The Military Affiliate Radio Service (MARS) also has been a user of these frequencies. The majority of the transmissions is narrow band FM and spaced at 5 kHz intervals.

144 to 148 MHz: This segment of the United States' spectrum is allocated to Amateur Radio. For many reasons, this is one of the most heavily used Ham Radio bands in the United States. Segments within this band have been established for specific uses. In the lower segments of this band, one will hear CW, USB and other non-FM modes. FM users populate the remainder of this band. While a great portion of the FM use is done through repeaters, there is a growing use of simplex transmissions. There has been established a calling frequency of 146.52 MHz.

148 to 150.8 MHz: The activities in this segment of frequencies are similar to those occupying the 138 to 144 MHz portion of the spectrum.

150.8 to 174 MHz: These frequencies are often referred to as the "VHF high" band. Its many users are in many ways the same as those using the 30 to 50 MHz, "VHF-low" band.

174 to 216 MHz: This collection of frequencies is used for television Channels 7 through 13.

216 to 220 MHz: In the United States, this band has undergone some changes. One of the early-change users was the automated maritime telecommunications system. (AMTS). Used on major inland waterways such as the Great Lakes and the Mississippi river, this form of communications is done via FM on channels spaced at 12.5 kHz intervals.

The FCC has allocated 219-220 MHz to amateur use on a secondary basis. This allocation is *only* for fixed digital message forwarding systems operated by all licensees except Novices. Amateur operations must not cause interference to, and must accept interference from, primary services in this and adjacent bands. Amateur stations are limited to 50 W PEP output and 100 kHz bandwidth. Automated Maritime Telecommunications Systems

(AMTS) stations are the primary occupants in this band. Amateur stations within 398 miles of an AMTS station must notify the station in writing at least 30 days prior to beginning operations. Amateur stations within 50 miles of an AMTS station must get permission in writing from the AMTS station before beginning operations. ARRL Headquarters maintains a database of AMTS stations. The FCC requires that amateur operators provide written notification including the station's geographic location to the ARRL for inclusion in a database at least 30 days before beginning operations.

220 to 222 MHz: This range was reallocated a few years ago from its use by Amateur Radio to land mobile radio. There is no finalization to the use and modulation concepts that will be used in this segment of the spectrum.

222 to 225 MHz: This is the "220-" or "1 1/41-meter" Amateur Radio band. While the majority of the communications in this Ham Radio allocation is done by FM communications using repeaters, there are other uses growing in popularity.

225 to 400 MHz: This wide chunk of the spectrum is used for military aviation communications. Using the AM mode, most of the channels are 100 KHz apart.

400 to 406 MHz: This range is used primarily by both government and military communications. The users primarily use FM.

406 to 420 MHz: In the United States, users of frequencies in this segment of the spectrum are, with few or no exceptions, the organizations within the federal government. Currently, all transmission employ the FM mode with channels spaced at 25 kHz intervals.

420 to 450 MHz: Known by the Amateur Radio community as either the "UHF-band" or the 70-centimeter band, this band ranks second to the two-meter band in popularity. With more and more Amateur Radio equipment now being "dual band," the popularity of this band will grow. The 420 to 444 MHz range is used for USB, digital modes, ham television, and ham communications satellites. The 444 to 450 MHz range is used for FM communications. The majority of this type of operation is done through range-extending repeaters.

450 to 470 MHz: These UHF frequencies are currently assigned to a collection of users that

parallel those also assigned to the frequencies associated with the 30 to 50-MHz and the 150.8 to 174 MHz bands.

470 to 512 MHz: This segment of the spectrum has undergone a series of changes. Borrowing from a concept of sharing of frequencies by television channels with non-television users, this is a return to a concept that was once considered for the historic television Channel 1 (see separate story in this issue of the *eDipole*).

The shared frequencies used for segmented, or channeled communications is often called the "UHF-T" band. These shared frequencies currently occupy television channels 14 to 20 in this shared concept.

In Delaware County the majority of the local fire and police are assigned frequencies in this segment of the T-Band. This is done in this area because the nearest television stations sharing these frequencies are in Baltimore or Harrisburg.

512 to 825 MHz: This part of the spectrum was once the limits of UHF television Channels 21 through 72. This segment is being reassigned in the upper frequencies. The realignment has already meant the actual or planned losses of TV channels in this part of the spectrum.

Current plans call for uses of the 700-MHz frequencies in groups of users similar to those in the former areas of the 800-MHz band that are no longer used for television.

Frequencies above 825 MHz. Because of possible realignments fostered by interference and re alignment for other reasons, this part of the spectrum is undergoing a log of changes. As an example of the interference considerations readers of the *eDipole* may remember local stores on fire and police interference problem within the Philadelphia Police and Fire communications. Another media collection of stories has cited cellular interference disrupting emergency services communications. Nextel is in the process of relocation from this part of the spectrum.

Prior to this ongoing re assignment of users within the following groups of frequencies, the users within the following segments are listed.

825 to 849 MHz: This range is used for cellular telephone communications. Federal regulations prohibit monitoring of these communications.

849 to 851 MHz: Following tests for possible interference to onboard and ground communications, the segment of the formerly exclusive UHF television band is now being used for a cellular type telephone service from aircraft. This service currently supports SSB. The same prohibitions about monitoring exist with this service.

851 to 866 MHz: In a way, this segment of the former UHF television band is a parallel to the groups of users sharing the 450 to 470-MHz band. The channels in this segment are spaced at 25 kHz intervals.

866 to 869 MHz: This allocation is used by law enforcement and other public safety providers.

869 to 894 MHz: This range is used for cellular telephone communications. Federal regulations prohibit monitoring of these communications

894 MHz and above: Used for new and developing technologies, these frequencies support some wireless local area networks, spread spectrum telephony, and direct satellite broadcasting. The "above" element of this part of the spectrum will continue to move upward. Sometime in the future, the *eDipole* will explore this expanding area of communications.

The following Amateur Radio spectrum assignments were obtained from the ARRL

902.0-928.0 MHz (33 Centimeters)

All Amateurs except Novices

CW, Phone, Image, MCW, RTTY/Data

1240-1300 MHz (23 Centimeters):

All Amateurs except Novices

CW, Phone, Image, MCW, RTTY/Data

1270-1295 MHz

Novice class: CW, phone, Image, MCW, and RTTY/Data (maximum power, 5 watts PEP).

Other spectrum assignments

All modes and licensees (*except Novices*) are authorized on the following bands [FCC Rules, Part 97.301(a)]:

2300-2310 MHz

2390-2450 MHz

3300-3500 MHz

5650-5925 MHz

10.0-10.5 GHz

24.0-24.25 GHz

47.0-47.2 GHz

76.0-81.9 GHz*

119.98-120.02 GHz

142-149 GHz

241-250 GHz

All above 300 GHz

** Note that Amateur Radio operations at 76-77 GHz has been suspended until the FCC can determine that interference will not be caused to vehicle radar systems*

Overseas Frequency Grant

The Amateur Radio operators in the Czech Republic have been granted a new collection of frequencies. This former segment of Czechoslovakia has granted its Amateur Radio operators access to the 70 MHz band. This announcement from the Czech Telecommunication Office (CTU) has announced that Czech Amateurs will soon have access to the 70 MHz band. The announcement stated that there will be issued 20 special permits for 70.2-70.3 MHz with 10 Watts ERP.

The permits will be valid until 31 Dec 2008.

The chances of working Czech Amateur Radio operators on these newly crated slice of frequencies within the 70 MHz band are currently impossible. Even if one were to be blessed with superior (probably impossible) propagation and limit of 10 Watts ERP, there is one additional hurdle to overcome. Here in the United States, the frequencies selected by the Czech government, 70.2-70.3 MHz, are currently not available.

United States VHF television embraces these frequencies. Channel 4 NTSC is assigned the frequencies of 66 to 72 MHz, with the video at 67.25 MHz, the chroma at 70.8295 and the audio at 71.75.

For those not familiar with the US, NSTC frequency assignments, there is a gap between US NSTC channels 4 and 5. This gap between the Channel 4 Audio center frequency of 71.75 MHz (FM) and the Channel 5 video with a frequency of 77.25 MHz (AM) is occupied with a collection of users.

In the United States, the closest spectrum use to the 70 MHz band is the allocation for the **72 to 76 MHz:** In this allocation the uses include remote control applications (model aircraft and some

garage door openers) and wireless microphones, including some used by law enforcement organizations.

Additional uses included limited range communications in industrial applications. Most channels are spaced at 20 kHz intervals.

Countries other than the Czech Republic have had this authorization made available when the European television stations moved from the VHF television spectrum. The UK has had this capability for some time.

This growth began slowly, yet its growth has continued. Termed the 4-Meter band, it has unique characteristics and a loyal following.

Because very few countries have an allocation in the 4-Meter band, there is very little commercial equipment available. This has resulted in most Amateur Radio operators using this band have resulted to home construction. This characteristic has resulted in a lot of camaraderie and long rag chews. Another result is DXing as well as the local activity.

The United Kingdom has available for its 4-Meter operations the frequencies between 70 to 70.5 MHz. Other countries traditionally have a smaller allocation within this window. The 4 Meter band shares many characteristics with the neighboring 6-Meter band.

Because the 4-Meter band is a bit higher in frequency, it does not display the same type of propagation characteristics as 6-Meters. Lacking to some degree is the propagation fostered by the F2 ionospheric layer that helps HF, as well as an occasional boost to 6 Meter. It should be noted that during the summer, Sporadic E propagation is common.

On the plus side of propagation, tropospheric propagation is somewhat more successful on 4-Meters than on its neighboring 6-Meters. Also, Aurora Borealis- and meteor scatter-based propagation is highly effective.

In Europe, the Sporadic E openings can be a mixed blessing. In some parts of Europe there still exists some high power FM broadcasters. While the use of this part of the spectrum for FM operations, the entertainment use of this band can still cause considerable interference to both local and DX operations.

The UK has its own collection of DX opportunities. Because of its overseas operations, 4-Meter communications with DX potential include near to home the dependencies of the Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, and Gibraltar. Adding more geography between England and her dependencies on Sovereign Base Areas, adds to available DX.

Former ties as either an over-seeing power or through economics with other areas of the globe have prompted similar DX opportunities. It is common for UK 4-Meter activities to provide DX contacts with the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa and Namibia.

New players in this 4-Meter club include Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Greece, Greenland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Slovenia, and Somalia.

Other nations are in the process of possibly adding 4-meters to the spectrum allocated for their Amateur Radio operations. They included Portugal, Hungary, Germany, and Italy.

In addition to the experimental activities in the Czech Republic, both Romania and Serbia are planning to discuss the addition of a 4-Meter allocation.

The Radio Society of Great Britain, the UK counterpart of our American Radio Relay League has worked with the development of that country's 70 MH Band.

United Kingdom 70 MHz Band Plan

[complete with the UK spellings of our common language]

70.000 - 70.050	Beacons only	70.030	Personal Beacons
70.050 - 70.250	Narrow Band modes	70.085	PSK31 centre of activity
		70.185	Cross-band activity centre
		70.200	SSB/CW calling
70.250 - 70.300	All modes	70.260	AM/FM calling frequency
70.300 - 70.500	All modes channelised operation with 12.5 kHz spacing	70.300	RTTY/fax calling/working
		70.3125	Digital modes
		70.325	Digital modes
		70.3375	Digital modes
		70.350	Digital modes
		70.3625	Digital modes

	70.375	FM Simplex
	70.3785	Internet voice gateway
	70.400	FM Simplex
	70.4125	Internet voice gateway
	70.425	FM Simplex
	70.4375	Digital modes
	70.450	FM Calling frequency
	70.4625	Digital modes
	70.475	FM simplex
	70.4875	Digital modes

W1HQ Come Alive

For longtime members of the ARRL, there have been some very welcomed changes in the League operations and their publications. The ARRL has made one additional change that surely must be welcomed by the League's licensed employees. W1HQ COMES "BACK TO LIFE" AT ARRL HQ

The following has been supplied by the ARRL:

Since the mid-1930s, W1INF, the ARRL HQ Operators Club, has been available to ARRL employees. During the flood of 1936, W1INF handled a great quantity of flood relief traffic after the headquarters was destroyed. At the time, W1INF was located at the League's West Hartford headquarters.

In 2002, former QST Managing Editor Laird Campbell, W1HQ, became a Silent Key; with his family's blessing, W1HQ became the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club, replacing W1INF as the employees' club station. According to ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, who serves as trustee for both W1INF and W1HQ, W1INF is now used by the ARRL Laboratory staff for on-the-air operations and tests, while W1HQ is for ARRL employees to enjoy during non-work hours.

Both call signs are housed in a station adjacent to the ARRL Lab. "Employees are free to use their own call sign while operating W1HQ, or they may use W1HQ," he said. Of course, employees are not allowed to use the station during their working hours, but may use it on their free time, such as lunch hour and weekends.

Breathing new life into W1HQ, ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, and Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, gave the room a much-needed coat of new paint. Hare put his woodworking skills to use and constructed all-new desks and cabinets.

Building Manager Greg Kwasowski, W1GJK, installed new carpet and ceiling tiles and Test Engineer Mike Tracy, KC1SX, and Lab Assistant Anthony Nesta, AA1RZ, ran new antenna cables to the roof and rewired the entire room with a new antenna patch, W1MG, built a trap vertical.

W1HQ provides ARRL employees who do not have an amateur station of their own a place to get on the air. "I'm thrilled to have this station here," said Kutzko. "I live in an apartment and can't put up antennas outside at home. W1HQ gives me a way to chase DX and be active in contests on both HF and VHF."

Breen said, "I live in a condo and don't have a lot of availability to get on the air at home. With the revitalization of W1HQ, it's now a homey, comfortable place to get on the air. I've had my license nearly two years, but in the last two months I have finally been getting really active on the air, working on my Worked All States and chasing DX. It's inspired me to study more to upgrade my license and learn CW."

W1HQ is equipped with transceivers that were brought over from W1AW. Mike Mertel, K7IR, of SteppIR, donated a 3-element 20-6 meter Yagi to W1HQ that was placed on the roof of the Headquarters building in November 2007. Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound donated two new Pro Set 4 mic/headsets, a PR781 Proline microphone and a topless boom to the station. Nema Electronics Inc and Times Microwave Systems jointly donated two 500 foot rolls of LMR-400.

Weather Radio Unique Backup

The concept of Amateur Radio being of assistance to the National Weather Service is not an

unusual concept. As readers of the eDipole know, SKYWARN is the most vivid form of backup that is being provided by the Amateur Radio community. On Tuesday, February 12, a series of natural events in Florida created a most unusual form of cooperation between Ham Radio and The National Weather Service.

The event was a tornado that touched down in the area surrounding Cocoa Beach, Florida. This event would not have had the massive effect that followed had there not been an additional, associated problem. The unexpected side-event was the failure of National Weather Service (NWS) alerts. This unique failure was caused by problems with phone circuits connecting the NWS facility with its outside world.

Reports from NWS-Melbourne, Florida facility made by Dennis Decker, the faculty's Warning Coordinator Meteorologist stated that two of their four transmission lines went down that afternoon around 3:30, but were back up five hours later. He added that messages are carried to towers via telephone.

A statement of extreme importance was shared by Brevard County Emergency Management Director Bob Lay. He stressed. "That's a big issue when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather alerting radio is not working."

The county went into its backup mode when they implemented their volunteer emergency alert system. This was done by the NWS when they activated Amateur Radio operators to help them 'get the word out about the tornado warning.'

Decker explained, "We have ham operators to tell us when they see something."

Explaining explain how much the loss of the normal alerting faculties, Dan Fisher, AI4GK, of Palm Bay, Florida, said he tried to tune into a weather frequency on his radio, but had no reception. In frustration, he said, "I couldn't pick up anything. the [station out of] Melbourne has a loud hum on it and nothing else."

Fisher and John Weatherly, AB4ET, Emergency Coordinator for the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society, said the group participated in an emergency drill just a week before the real emergency. That exercise had as its scenario a tornado. "We're there when we're needed," Weatherly said. "We give the

meteorologists a warm and fuzzy feeling of what is really happening."

The following is background information about the series of events that provided weather personnel that they had a problem.

Although Tuesday's storms were dwarfed by the massive 2005 hurricanes, records demonstrate that warning transmitters were rendered useless in both events. In reviewing these emergencies, Dave Jacobs, Data Acquisitions Property Manager at the NWS office in Melbourne stated that when problems do occur, it is usually something to do with the telephone lines. In providing more details, Jacobs stressed, "It's our Achilles' heel." he said.

Jacobs oversees the radio system for Melbourne where one of his ongoing responsibilities is checking this system to assure they are working.

The timeline for this storm activities demonstrated that the Weather Service officials in Melbourne knew the 2:25 p.m. alert announcing the first tornado watch was aired by the radio system. When another weather alert was sent at 3 p.m., the officials determined they had a problem with the Melbourne and Orlando transmitters.

Jacobs said he had just listened as the computer system read the entire message in the Melbourne office. This is a stage in the alert process that occurs before the message reaches phone lines. This potential problem was verified when Jacobs received a telephone call from a county official. In that call Jacobs was told only half of the second weather alert was broadcast.

Visiting the Land Down Under

For many, any information about Australia will prompt a keen interest. It is truly about as far one can go and still not "be on the way home." More and more person immigrating to the United States from may differing countries have a common thread. They also have family that has continued the migration to Australia.

If any readers of the eDipole are intending to visit Australia a new policy that took place on February 15, 2008 will be welcomed news. The new policy, one that has come from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), states that Amateur Radio operators traveling to Australia who wish to operate in that country do **not** need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license.

This new policy permits Amateur Radio operators who possess a non-Australian Amateur Radio license to operate up to 90 days under a classification that does not necessitate applying for an Australian Amateur Radio license.

If however, an Amateur Radio operators who will be in Australia in excess of 90 days, he or she will need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license.

Field Day Thinking Time

The ARRL in its useful and usual good timing has once more begun the process for the annual, last full weekend in June Emergency Communications preparedness operation. Forgetting the protracted verbiage, the League is helping us get ready for Field Day. Please note that there are some changes for this year's operations. For those who are interested, the Drexel Lodge Park has been secured for this year.

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rules changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks.

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams

designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only one band, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time.

Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via e-mail <fdinfo@arrl.org>.

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said.

The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit, thanks to the work of ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Included in this expanded portion of the packet is a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location.

"We are excited that historic station K6KPH will once again participate transmitting the W1AW special Field Day Bulletin on the West Coast," Henderson said. More details are available in the Field Day Packet.

Information concerning the popular Field Day pins and T-shirts will be announced in the next few weeks.

Henderson said that those wishing to obtain a complete Field Day Packet via US mail need to send a 9 x 12 inch self-addressed, stamped manila envelope with 5 units of postage to Field Day Packet Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

If people wish to order display kits for their tables at Field Day, please contact Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Manager, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, tel 860-594-0296. The cost for the display kit ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To ensure having the kits in time for Field Day, you are encouraged to order them no later than June 13.

CQ, CQ, CQ Phone

One of the joys of winter is the possibility that the weather prevents outdoor activities. If this occurs, there is an enjoyable alternative to outdoor work. Why not “work” some DX? To help in this task, remember that the ARRL International DX Contest is coming up! This is one of the ARRL's oldest operating events. Its roots go back to the days of the International Relay Party in 1928.

As stated in promotional announcement, “The objective is simple: U.S. and Canadian stations work only DX and DX stations work only U.S. and Canadians.” The goal is to seek as many different stations you can contact in as many different geographical entities as possible.

Scoring is accomplished by U.S. and Canadian stations successfully working different DX countries. From the DX station’s standpoint, they will try to make contact with US states and Canadian provinces. For this contest, Alaska, Hawaii and all U.S. possessions and territories are considered DX.

Amateur Radio operators from the U.S. and Canada will send a signal report and their state or province; DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power.

This is a contest that does not require a massive equipment layout and the biggest beam in the world. With this contest and its simplicity, an Amateur Radio operator with 100 Watts and a simple dipole or vertical antenna will have a good chance for both fun and an opportunity to increase your DXCC Award totals with a small investment of time.

Many contesters will be traveling to foreign locales to participate, so listen for lots of good DX countries on the bands. The ARRL will once again be offering participation pins for those who make more than 100 QSOs in the event. Pins are \$7 (including shipping) and are a nice memento of your achievement in the contest.

The CW portion of the ARRL DX Contest was previously held on Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17. The Phone portion of this special contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 1 until 2400 UTC Sunday, March 2. For complete rules, visit <<http://www.arrl.org/contests>>. If you are new to the ARRL DX Contests, look for a primer on the event by ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, in the Radiosport area of the March issue of QST.

All Ends Well in ARRL EPA Section

There were a series of messages touring around the League’s Eastern Pennsylvania Section in late January. The topic was “Pirate in and around EPA.” There was a lot of good old fashioned mystery that followed, but, giving away the ending, “All ends well in ARRL EPA Section.” o All,

Please refer to the information below on a POSSIBLE pirate who may be operating on 2 meters in the EPA area. Anyone able to provide additional information on the subject is urged to contact WB3FPL as soon as possible.



Jack(OOC) and Eric(SM),

Riley Hollingsworth passed along a report he received from a station in Jim Thorpe, PA saying that a station was heard on 2 Meter SSB over the weekend (KE3IK) who claimed to be in Allentown.

(License information shows that call was changed to K3PM in Pocono Lake.)

When asked what grid square he was in (KE3IK), there was no response.

Evidently this happened to several other hams working him (KE3IK) and the person making the report wanted to alert others in the Allentown area.

...

Fri, 25 Jan 2008 13:03:05 -0500 (EST)

Subject: There is NO Pirate!

To All,

I am most happy to report that the inquiry into the possible misuse of a callsign is complete with a very up-beat ending.

In response to yesterday's Section wide e-mail I received a number of e-mails from interested and concerned Hams in EPA. I want to thank those persons for their thoughtful assistance.

The final contact regarding this matter was a telephone call that I received from a friend of mine. I was the person we are looking for is undoubtedly him, Miguel, KE3JK. Miguel felt that due to the low number of KE3 calls it had to be him rather than the misinterpreted call of KE3IK. Miguel felt that his accent might have caused the misinterpretation.

Our humble apology to Miguel for the confusion, and a very big THANK YOU for being caring enough to help bring this matter to a successful and happy conclusion.

73,
Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section
Section Manager: Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL
wb3fpl@arrl.org

Contester's Rate Sheet

CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET
Edited by Ward Silver N0AX

Published by the American Radio Relay League
Free to ARRL members - tell your friends!

(Subscription info at the end of newsletter)

NOTE: The timing of this release from the ARRL was in advance of the release date of the eDipole. Because of this, the lengthy details of mid-to-late February items have been omitted. This feature is available to members of the ARRL. This ARRL offering is just one of many reasons why League membership is a valuable tool in the responsible activities of an Amateur Radio Operator.

SUMMARY

- Talk Till Ya Drop - ARRL DX Phone
- Digital Delights - NA QSO Party, Open Ukraine, DARC Corona
- CQ 160 & ARRL CAC Leadership Changes
- VHF Weak Signal Group, Four Days In May, TAPR Conference
- Silent Keys - K5WP and AC6V
- Updated SO2R Web Page by K8ND
- WA1ZMS Sets Another Record
- Tribander TLC and Google Sketchup
- Have a Good Time!

NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

If you tried the ARRL DX CW, give the Phone version a try. Remember that you can't work mainland US and VE stations, but KL7 and KH6 count as DX multipliers in this one.

BULLETINS

Until the DXCC Desk rules on the matter, YU8/YT8 QSOs still count for Yugoslavia. Don't count YU8/YT8 QSOs as a multiplier in the ARRL DX contest until a ruling has been posted. If those QSOs will result in a new multiplier, it will be correctly noted by the log checking software.

BUSTED QSOS

Several pointed me to the correct URL for TK5EP's "soft-start" circuit:
<<http://tk5ep.free.fr/tech/PA2m/datas/HV%20supply.gif>>. Merci beaucoup.

CONTEST SUMMARY

(Rules follow Commentary section)
March 1-2

- ARRL DX Contest, Phone
- Open Ukraine RTTY Championship
- DARC 10-Meter Digital Corona

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**NEWS, PRESS RELEASES,
AND GENERAL INTEREST**

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From John Dorr, K1AR - "I am writing to inform you of a significant change in the CQ WW 160M Contest. Effective immediately, Dave Thompson, K4JRB, is retiring from his leadership position as contest director. Taking over the reigns will be Andy Blank, N2NT. Dave has been director of CQ's 160M contest for 16 years, stepping up and taking charge after former director, Don McClellon, N4IN (formerly W3EIS and W3IN), passed away. During Dave's watch, the contest has grown by over 300% in terms of entries, but more importantly has become one of contesting's top tier competitions. The task of contest director is a tiring and sometimes thankless job. Over the years, Dave has performed his job with quiet reserve and a smile on his face. His reliability in delivering the results to CQ and to the contest community at large will always be appreciated. As we move forward, Andy, N2NT, has some big shoes to fill. However, his contesting experience and organizational skills will prevail--we can all count on it. I encourage you to take the time to thank Dave for his faithful, 16 years of service. We wish both Dave and Andy the best. Dave will continue to support the contest behind the scenes as the transition to Andy takes place. In the meantime, I want to personally thank Dave for his commitment and dedication to our sport. Well done, OM, 73"

The ARRL Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) has a new seat in the Chair - Dick Green WC1M, New England Division representative. Dick has accepted the position following the end of the two-year term of outgoing Chair, Ward Silver N0AX, Northwestern Division representative. Please congratulate Dick on accepting the position! If you don't know your CAC representative, check the list at <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/cac.html>>. They are there to hear from you.

Tony WA8RJF, Tom WA8WZG and the VHF Weak Signal Group would like to invite all Weak Signal VHF, UHF and Microwave enthusiasts to the 15th Annual VHF Weak Signal Group banquet to be held on Friday evening May 16th - at the Holiday Inn Dayton North, 2301 Wagner Ford Road, Dayton OH 45415. Reservations are required. Cost per person is \$35.00 and includes dinner and prize ticket. Seating is limited to 125 and spouses are welcome to join us and are eligible for the prize drawing. For tickets please send \$35.00 per person and an SASE to: Tony Emanuele WA8RJF, 7156 Kory Court, Concord, Ohio 44077-2221. Please include the names and calls of all attendees as well as an email address. For more information contact Tony at wa8rjf@arrl.net.

Steve G4GLF reports that the Four Days in May Web site <<http://fdim.qrparci.org>> is open and ready for business. This event runs on Thursday before the Dayton Hamvention and includes a lot of topics that QRP contesters will find interesting.

Thomas KN4LF has founded a new radiowave propagation email reflector, "LF/MF/HF/VHF Frequency Radiowave Propagation". You can sign up at <<http://montreal.kotalampi.com/mailman/listinfo/kn4lf>>. It is hosted by Risto Kotolampi W6RK founder of the HC-DX website and more. This reflector is a vehicle for hams and SWL's to be able to ask questions about and become better educated concerning solar, space and geomagnetic weather, as well as radiowave propagation. Posts on any topic that involves Radiowave Propagation from DC to daylight are welcome. He will also be posting the free KN4LF Daily LF/MF/HF/6M Frequency Radiowave Propagation Forecast here.

The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation (TAPR) has announced that he 2008 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference will take place September 26-28 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, near O'Hare airport. The conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental

results and practical applications. Forums will feature the latest developments in Amateur Radio digital communications, as well as demonstrations of emerging digital technology. More information is available on the ARRL/TAPR DCC Web site, <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>

Two Silent Keys to report. First, Lanny K5WP - a long time member of the Lone Star DX Association and an active amateur radio contester, he was also an ARRL Volunteer Counsel with particular expertise in PRB-1. Many Texas hams owe him a debt of gratitude for his efforts on their behalf. Second, Rod AC6V, whose great Web site <http://www.ac6v.com> is the "Google" of Ham Radio, passed away, as well. Both of these gentlemen contributed a lot to amateur radio. (Thanks, Tom WW5L and Dennis N6KI)

The next issue of "PileUP!" by Contesting Club - Finland (CCF) will see daylight around March 15. Please send any contributions you might have to oh1wz@sral.fi. (Thanks, Ilkka OH1WZ)

In the 15 February edition of the ARRL Propagation Bulletin <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/2008-arlp007.html>, editor Tad K7RA follows up on a rather alarming article suggesting another Maunder Minimum http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maunder_minimum is imminent. Tad finds that while conditions may be execrable, our purgatory isn't expected to be perdurable, pestiferous prognostications to the contrary.

It won't be long before the thoughts of radiosport turn to Moscow in 2010 for the World Radiosport Team Championship. In the meantime, Carl N4AA sent a link to "Russian Phrases for Amateur Radio", created in the 1980's by W6JHK to help radio colleagues communicate citizen to citizen across political borders and help build a world beyond war. The 20-page booklet and audio pronunciation examples are now offered on-line <http://traubman.igc.org/russian.htm> and free of charge by the author.

URL of the Week - Those that dawdle amongst the illustrations in math books will enjoy the Exhibition of Mathematical Art <http://www.bridgesmathart.org/art-exhibits/jmm08>. It's not all cardioids and limacons, either, Bub! There is some amazing

beauty that arises from the simplest of equations married to the imagination of the human mind!

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Aficionados of historic QST style should be thrilled to learn that the "Gil Cartoon Book", out of print for years, is once again available from the ARRL Bookstore <http://www.arrl.org/catalog> - select "What's New" to find it. Phil Gildersleeve W1CJD's cartoons certainly captured the spirit of ham radio - if we ever had a Norman Rockwell, he was it.

Jeff K8ND reports, "I've cleaned up the SO2R Resources Web page http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/SO2R/K8ND_SO2R.htm and made it quicker to load and more user friendly. Photos have been presented as thumbnails, and large photos and links to more information (where known) available by clicking. There are currently 73 station-operating desks represented. Additional photos are welcomed, 800x600 sized images are preferred.

For those of you that participated in the Freeze Your Butt Off (FYBO) contest (<http://www.azscqrptions.org/FYBO2008.htm>) you can find more fun with QRP in the field at <http://n7un.blogspot.com> or with John N0HJ and his QRP pack animals <http://www.angelfire.com/planet/goatman>.

Speaking of freezing - bundle up before you watch some ham radio from the coldest places on the planet at <http://www.waponline.it/Default.aspx?tabid=138>. (Thanks, Tim K3LR)

John K6MM has a nice online QSL menagerie, searchable by prefix at <http://www.k6mm.com/pages/gallery-prefix.html> and by DXCC Entity at <http://www.k6mm.com/pages/gallery-entity.html>. There are over 1,000 QSL cards, including many from DXpeditions during the last 12 months. (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

RESULTS AND RECORDS

All 2007 ARRL DX award certificates have been mailed. Thanks again to all the envelope stuffers! Final totals for 2007 Sweepstakes pins and mugs have been determined and the orders have been placed, including extras to help cover the inevitable late requests. They should be in stock in about 3 weeks and we will begin sending them out upon their arrival. The ARRL had the pleasure of hosting the Yankee Clipper Contest Club on Feb 9. About 70 YCCC members were in attendance. (Thanks, Sean KX9X, ARRL Contest Branch Manager)

In the February 2008 edition of the Mt Airy VHF Club's "Cheese Bits", Brian WA1ZMS reports on his single QSO during the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. And a World DX record-breaker, too, covering 114.4 km on the 241 GHz band! The QSO between WA1ZMS/4 and W4WWQ/4 used CW. (The former DX record was 79km.) Way to go, Brian!

The current Digests of 3830 Soapbox comments at <<http://www.eskimo.com/~mwdink/3830>> now include:

- ARRL DX CW Soapbox Feb 17 2008.txt
- CQWW WPX RTTY Soapbox Feb 17 2008.txt
- CQ160 CW Soapbox Feb 17 2008.txt
- (Thanks, Dink N7WA)

And the next time you encounter someone that thinks radiosport is strange, point them in the direction of "Speedcabling" at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/7240939.stm>. (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

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OPERATING TIP

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Many new contesters, HF or VHF+, are looking for those elusive secrets of the Big Guns that will magically propel them into the Top Ten boxes. What is it that makes these stations stand out? George K5TR contributes a few simple observations:

- They stay in the chair.
- They tune the bands.
- They move or switch between antennas for different directions.
- They call a lot of CQs.
- They have better antennas and signals.

- They have operated many, many contests and learned from their experiences and gained knowledge of call signs and operating habits of the other stations.
- Much of what they have learned has become second nature to them. Don't be seduced by the latest gadget or short-change the honing of your own skills in favor of relying on the Internet. If the magic of radio happens between the headphones, the achievement of that magic must be done there, too.

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TECHNICAL TIPS AND INFORMATION

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I asked a leading question about methods of waterproofing coax pigtails for outdoors connections. I got many useful suggestions, for which the ham radio community is known. Mark K6UFO says "pigtails require barrier waterproofing to the open end and connector "after the fact" by sticky mastics like rubber tape or "coax seal" or liquid applications to flow in/on like liquid electrical tape, Scotchkote, non-conductive silicone sealant or dielectric grease as described at <<http://tinyurl.com/yvf85v>> or <<http://www.paigewire.com/wireconnectors.htm>>.

More information is available from the experts at <http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/3M/electrical>, an interesting article "WATERPROOFING 101" at <<http://www.directivesystems.com/waterproofing%20tips.htm>>, and a nice set of pictures at <<http://www.groundcontrol.com/galileo/ch3-waterproofing.htm>>."

At the risk of doing a little self-promotion, your editor is pleased as punch to tell you about the ARRL's release of the "Hands-On Radio Anthology", a collection of the first 61 experiments from the QST column. The book is available via the ARRL Bookstore at <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog>> by selecting "What's New".

Nelson KU0A recommends another coax connector sealing option -- ComfortSeal Rope Caulk manufactured by Dennis & Company for coax connectors and coax pass-throughs. It's hydrophobic, easy to work at temperature ranges

above 50 degrees F, won't stick to your fingers, is easy to remove after years of service. Nelson finds it at home supply stores.

If you're confronted with an old tribander that needs some TLC, you should browse through this project of refurbishing a TA-33 that had been on the ground 15 years. The photos and text <<http://www.mindspring.com/~vibroplex/FD/fd1.html>> show one group's step-by-step restoration of the beam including cleaning the aluminum tubing/trap covers, etc. Nice job, including putting up the tower! (Thanks, Derek WB0TUA)

I'm sure we've all imagined using a balloon antenna on Top Band. George K8GG points us to the Web site of Hans, PA1HR who used such an antenna for 160 meters in the Dutch PACC-Contest. You can see the antenna at <<http://www.remeus.eu>> by clicking on "Ballonantenne".

The feed line is window line and the balloons are each about 1.5 meters diameter - 5 feet. The antenna is about 82 meters tall with an end feed at the bottom.

The long-out-of-print, highly-recommended, and hard-to-find "Radio Antenna Engineering Handbook" by Edmund Laport is now available from the print-on-demand publisher LuLu (<http://www.lulu.com>> for under \$20 -- almost 600 pages! Other downloadable versions (not printed and bound) are available on-line from other sources. (Thanks, Warren KH6WM)

Bob W6RJC sent this handy link on the right way to do things with the standard international (SI) units - <<http://lamar.colostate.edu/~hillger/correct.htm>>. This should make your technical documents look better by avoiding grammatical errors.

Paul WA1GHZ reports (also in the Feb 2008 issue of "Cheese Bits" referenced above) that all of his QEX articles on microwave operating and technical topics are now available on-line at

If you have an antenna analyzer that displays reactance, but without a positive or negative sign, Bob N7XY handed out a handy and simple tip: "Change the frequency slightly. If the reactance

goes up with frequency, it is inductive. If it goes down, it is capacitive."

Digital communications often uses "quadrature" modulation and demodulation. For the technical among us, RF Design magazine has published a tutorial on the subject at <<http://tinyurl.com/yv76ht>>. (Thanks, Steve NU5D)

Words to live by on the tower on in the electrical box - "safety", "quality of work" and "quantity of work" in that order. (Thanks, John KE7JGB)

TECHNICAL URL OF THE WEEK -- While there are many excellent CAD (Computer-Aided Drafting) programs out there, many of us just need a convenient way to make a few straight line and shape drawings on a computer. Terry KK6T recommends Google Sketchup <<http://sketchup.google.com>> as easy to learn and it's free. Another of Google's many useful service applications.



CONVERSATION



Have A Good Time!

By now you've heard an earful or more from the irascible operators that slogged through the solar-ly minimal conditions on the HF bands during the ARRL DX CW contest last weekend. Your editor was amongst those a-laboring, holding down one end of 15 meter duties at K3LR with N6MJ. As Dan and I struggled through the ennui of 200-and-change QSOs at one of radiosport's premier stations, I was tempted at times to question my sanity!

But why didn't we just pack it in and wait for the sunspots? Well, it's too much fun to go to Tim's and slug it out with the crew, that's why! As the 3830 post-contest report <<http://tinyurl.com/2y7bjb>> should indicate, the team pulled together. Led by station-master Tim's positive mien and drive, it was just too much fun not to have a good time. Even on a dead band, as 10-meter scouts N3GJ and N3SD can attest, every weekend has its moments!

You don't have to be operating at a huge multi-multi to have a good time, either. Just put together a crew, keep the filaments on, and enjoy operating for the sine qua non of radio; the thrill of the hunt in the magical land of radio. Listen to the world turning as only HF operators can. Somebody will do something amazing, you'll work something unexpected, at some point a joke will be made and take over the conversation for the weekend.

When confronted with aberrant conditions, there's no sense in caterwauling - extemporize! Just do the best you can with what you've got. Leave as little on the table as possible. Learn for yourself and congratulate others on their successes. Help the neophyte learn the ropes. Take a moment to just listen to the canorous tones of a particularly good signal or to the rhythmic excellence of a top operator. Consider why bean-less chili is preferred at team stations.

Like fishing is not always about fishing, team operating is not always just about operating. Wherever you finish in the results and whether the station is grand or modest, you will find it time well-spent, especially the next time you find yourself "in the chair" at home by yourself or with your compadres, spinning the dials and heating the antennas.

.....
CONTESTS -- THROUGH 4 MARCH 2008
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Note that the following abbreviations are used to condense the contest rules summaries: SO - Single-Op; M2 - Multi-Op - 2 Transmitters; MO - Multi-Op; MS - Multi-Op, Single Transmitter; MM - Multi-Op, Multiple Transmitters; AB - All Band; SB - Single Band; S/P/C - State/Province/DXCC Entity; HP - High Power (>100 W); LP - Low Power; QRP (5W or less)

An expanded, downloadable version of QST's Contest Corral in PDF format is available at <<http://www.arrl.org/contest>>.

HF CONTESTS

ARRL International DX, Phone, 0000Z Mar 1 - 2400Z Mar 2, Frequencies: 1.8-28, Exchange: RS and state, province, or power, Logs due: 1-Apr, Web site: <http://www.arrl.org/contest>

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, 2200Z Mar 1 - 1200Z Mar 2, Frequencies: 1.8-28, Exchange: Regional abbreviation and serial, Logs due: 2-Apr, Web site: <http://www.ucc.zp.ua>

DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona", 1100Z Mar 1 - 1700Z Mar 1, Frequencies: 28, Web site: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm>

VHF+ CONTESTS

No VHF+ contests are scheduled.



**LOG DUE DATES...
20 FEBRUARY THROUGH 4 MARCH 2008**



March 1 - BARTG RTTY Sprint, email logs to: ska@bartg.demon.co.uk, paper logs and diskettes to: (none). Find rules at: <http://www.bartg.org.uk/contests/08sprintrules.htm>

March 1 - Feld Hell Sprint, email logs to: (none), post log summary at: <http://www.wa6l.com/contests/autolog.html>, paper logs and diskettes to: John Graf, WA6L, 23085 Old Ranch Rd, Alpine, CA 91901, USA. Find rules at: http://feldhellclub.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=71

March 1 - Vermont QSO Party, email logs to: tinker@madriver.com, paper logs and diskettes to: Allen Tinker, W1AAT, Vermont QSO Party Coordinator, PO Box 888, Waitsfield, VT 05673, USA. Find rules at: <http://www.w1bd.org>

March 1 - YL-ISSB QSO Party, SSB, email logs to: ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca, paper logs and diskettes to: Jim Flowers, VE1JIM, 13 Rufus Ave, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3N 2L4, Canada. Find rules at: <http://www.ylssystem.org/qsoparty/qsodates.htm>

March 1 - YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW/RTTY, email logs to: ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca, paper logs and diskettes to: Jim Flowers, VE1JIM, 13 Rufus Ave,

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3N 2L4, Canada. Find rules at: <http://www.ylssystem.org/qsoparty/qsodates.htm>

March 3 - ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint, email logs to: contest@qrparci.org, paper logs and diskettes to: Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 139 Elizabeth St W, Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada. Find rules at: <http://www.qrparci.org/>

March 3 - FYBO Winter QRP Sprint, post log summary at: http://www.azsqrptions.org/FYBO_Entry_Form_Instructions.htm, paper logs and diskettes to: Mike Baker, K7DD, Attn: FYBO, 8845 W. Diana Ave, Peoria AZ 85345, USA. Find rules at: <http://www.azsqrptions.org/FYBO2008.htm>

March 4 - Mexico RTTY International Contest, email logs to: de Concursos FMRE, Clavel 333, Colima, Col. 28030, Mexico. Find rules at: <http://www.fmre.org.mx/concursos/2008/rtty/rules-rtty-2008-english.doc>

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
& SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**

The Contester's Rate Sheet wishes to acknowledge information from the following sources: WA7BNM's Contest Calendar Web page - <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> SM3CER's Web site - <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest>

ARRL members may subscribe at no cost by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet>.

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An Update

Neil Blaho, AA3EO, has submitted the following to the eDipole. This is a small, but significant contribution to our publication as well as a way of assuring our practices are current.

Dit-Dah-Dah-Dit-Dah-Dit

How many operators were not aware of the February 2004 introduction of a new Morse Code

element? It was then that a unique Morse Code for the now popular computer-based character '@' was introduced:



Dit-Dah-Dah-Dit-Dah-Dit

This was the first addition to the alphabet since World War I.

The addition was to satisfy the need to exchange e-mail addresses. The '@' character in Morse code is a combination of the letters 'a' and 'C'. It has been thought by some that the combination was a possible mimicking the look of an '@' (the 'a' inside the 'C').

It has been noted that this actually created a combination of beats that is significantly longer than what Ham Radio operators had been using to transmit email addresses. Previously, '@' was spelled out as 'at', -- (Dit-Dah Dah).

The latter "at" is 11 beats long, while it requires 17 beats to produce the special '@' code.

EPA News Update

The following is a collection of communications from Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL. Our Section Manager, Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL, may be reached via: wb3fpl@arrl.org

To All,

Pennsylvania's tower legislation is still languishing in committee. It is imperative that legislative action be taken on this important legislation before it dies in committee.

Please contact you state legislators and seek their support for this legislation. For State Senators it is Senate Bill - SB-884. For State representatives it is House Bill - HB-1777.

Please feel free to pass this information along to other Hams who may not receive Section wide e-mail. Also recruit other interested persons to contact their state legislators asking for support on this legislation.

Thank you all for your efforts and your concern on this issue.

73,
Eric, WB3FPL

NOTE: THERE IS A LISTING WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION OF THE NAMES OF AREA MEMBERS OF BOTH THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PENNSYLVANIA SENATE. THIS LIST WITH LINKS MAKES A CONTACT A LOT EASIER.



To All,

With our previous TC having resigned (AA3PX) I was faced with posting another vacancy for our Section Cabinet. I have to admit that I was thrilled when two well-qualified and excellent choices emerged.

The selection for our new TC is Carl Stevenson, WK3C from Emmaus, PA.

wk3c@wk3c.com

Carl has been serving as one of my Assistant Section Managers (ASM) and was anxious to take a more active role in EPA Leadership. I am sure that Carl will do much to bring the TC position "out of retirement" here in EPA. Congratulations to Carl and thank you for your willingness to help lead the EPA Section.

73,
Eric, WB3FPL

You Might Be the Winner

As announced in this issue of the eDipole, the American Radio Relay League will be sporting a new Amateur Radio Facility, W1HQ, the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club. This second feature about W1HQ is an important added bit of information. This renewed facility now has a mascot in need of a name. Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, purchased the six-foot long stuffed yellow-green toy snake as a way to make the refurbished station a bit friendlier.

In a mood understood by most Amateur Radio operators, Breen said, "In addition to the physical upgrades to W1HQ, we realized that it is our club -- therefore it should be fun too! It just seemed so natural to have a mascot for our club station. " She

added, "The snake comes in handy when stressed out trying to get that DX that is just out of reach! With all the serious sides of ham radio, it's important to remember that it is fun -- and not to take ourselves too seriously sometimes!"

The following is the full announcement about how someone will become a winner in this ARRL contest:

Breen and the rest of the W1HQ team are calling on the Amateur Radio community to help give the as-yet unnamed snake a name: "We encourage all amateurs to submit a name for the snake. We will get together and go over all the entries to choose the best one and announce the winner at our W1HQ special event around the first of April."

"I will be blogging again and posting YouTube videos of the event," Breen said. "We'll announce the winner over the air, on the blog and in video, too." She previously blogged the Hello-Live! event and the W1AW HF Open House.

The contributor of the winning entry will receive their choice of a current edition of "The ARRL Operating Manual," "The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications" or "The ARRL Antenna Book." All entries should be family-friendly (G-rated) and sent via e-mail <w1hqsnake@arrl.org>.

Tower Legislator Contacts

The following information may a motivation to help readers of the eDipole make contacts with their member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania Senate, and if needed in the future, the local governments within Delaware County.

These names are listed in the following order:

- Pennsylvania House of Representatives for Delaware, Chester, and Montgomery counties.
- Pennsylvania Senate for Delaware, Chester, and Montgomery counties.

Additionally there is a list of the municipalities within Delaware County.

**PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Delaware County

[William F. Adolph](#) 610-544-9878 (R, District 165)
[Stephen Barrar](#) 610-485-3038 (R, District 160)
[Mario J. Civera](#) 610-853-4115 (R, District 164)
[Robert C. Donatucci](#) 215-468-1515 (D, District 185)
[Thomas H. Killion](#) 610-325-1541 (R, District 168)
[Thaddeus Kirkland](#) 610-876-6420 (D, District 159)
[Bryan R. Lentz](#) 610-544-7301 (D, District 161)
[Nicholas A. Micozzie](#) 610-259-2820 (R, District 163)
[Ron Raymond](#) 610-534-1002 (R, District 162)
[Gregory Vitali](#) 610-787-7647 (D, District 166)
[Ronald G. Waters](#) 215-748-6712 (D, District 191)

Chester County

[Stephen Barrar](#) 610-485-3038 (R, District 160)
[Tim Hennessey](#) 610-380-8600 (R, District 26)
[Arthur D. Hershey](#) 610-593-6565 (R, District 13)
[Thomas H. Killion](#) 610-325-1541 (R, District 168)
Barbara McIlvaine-Smith [Email not published] 610-696-4990 (D, District 156)
[Duane Milne](#) 610-251-1070 (R, District 167)
[Chris Ross](#) 610-925-0555 (R, District 158)
[Caole A. Rubley](#) 610-640-2356 (R, District 157)
[Curt Schroder](#) 610-524-5595 (R, District 155)

Montgomery County

[Lawrence H. Curry](#) 215-572-5210 (D, District 154)
[Michael F. Gerber](#) 610-832-1679 (D, District 148)
[Robert W. Godshall](#) 215-368-3500 (R, District 53)
[Kate Harper](#) 610-277-3230 (R, District 61)
[George T. Kenney, Jr.](#) 215-934-5144 (R, District 170)
[Daylin Leach](#) 610-768-4200 (D, District 149)
[Kathy M. Manderino](#) 215-482-8726 (D, District 194)
[Bob Mensch](#) 610-287-4181 (R, District 147)
[Jay R. Moyer](#) 610-584-0070 (R, District 70)
[Thomas J. Quigley](#) 610-326-9563 (R, District 146)
[Carole A. Rubley](#) 610-640-2356 (R, District 157)
[Joshua D. Shapiro](#) 215-517-6800 (D, District 153)
[Rich Taylor](#) 215-441-1030 (D, District 151)
[Mike Vereb](#) 610-409-2615 (R, District 150)

PENNSYLVANIA SENATE

Delaware County

[Edwin B. Erickson, \(R\)](#)
[Dominic Pileggi, \(R\)](#)
[Anthony H. Williams, \(D\)](#)
[Constance H. Williams, \(D\)](#)

Chester County

[Michael W. Brubaker, \(R\)](#)
[Dominic Pileggi, \(R\)](#)
[John C. Rafferty, Jr. \(R\)](#)
[Andrew E. Dinniman, \(D\)](#)
[Edwin B. Erickson, \(R\)](#)
[Mike Folmer, \(R\)](#)

Montgomery County

[Leanna M. Washington, \(D\)](#)
[Stewart J. Greenleaf, \(R\)](#)
[Constance H. Williams, \(D\)](#)
[John C. Rafferty, Jr. \(R\)](#)
[Robert C. Wonderling, \(R\)](#)
[Andrew E. Dinniman, \(D\)](#)
[Vincent J. Hughes, \(D\)](#)

Delaware County’s government is based in Media Borough, which has served as the county seat since 1850. County government traces its origin to 1789, when Delaware County split from Chester County. It was the first county in Pennsylvania to approve a Home Rule Charter form of government. It has 49 municipalities including 27 boroughs, 21 townships and Chester City. An elected council or a board of supervisors or commissioners, consisting of three to 11 members, governs each municipality. **Delaware County is represented in Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania by four state senators and 11 state representatives.** In Washington, D.C., two U.S. Senators and 2 US Representatives represent the county. The county has a legislative delegation that has years of seniority, guaranteeing that Delaware County’s voice is heard in Harrisburg and Washington.

The Municipalities of Delaware County

Aldan Borough (610) 626-3554
Aston Township (610) 494-1636
Bethel Township (610) 459-1529
Brookhaven Borough (610) 874-2557
Chaddsford Township (610) 388-6368
Chester City (610) 447-7700
Chester Heights (610) 459-3400

Chester Township (610) 494-4149
Clifton Heights (610) 623-1000
Collingdale Borough (610) 586-0500
Colwyn Borough (610) 461-2000
Concord Township (610) 459-8911
Darby Borough (610) 586-1102
Darby Township (610) 586-1514
East Lansdowne (610) 623-7131
Eddystone Borough (610) 874-1100
Edgmont Township (610) 459-1662
Election Bureau (610) 891-4673
Folcroft Borough (610) 522-1305
Glenolden Borough (610) 583-3221
Haverford Township (610) 446-9403
Lansdowne Borough (610) 623-7300
Lower Chichester (610) 485-1472
Marcus Hook (610) 485-1341
Marple Township (610) 356-4040
Media Borough (610) 566-5210
Middletown Township (610) 565-2700
Millbourne Borough (610) 352-9080
Morton Borough (610) 543-4565
Nether Providence (610) 566-4516
Newtown Township (610) 356-0200
Norwood Borough (610) 586-5800
Parkside Borough (610) 876-3659
Prospect Park (610) 532-1007
Radnor Township (610) 688-5600
Ridley Park Borough (610) 532-2100
Ridley Township (610) 534-4800
Rose Valley Borough (610) 566-2040
Rutledge Borough (610) 544-1028
Sharon Hill Borough (610) 586-8200
Springfield Township (610) 544-1300
Swarthmore Borough (610) 543-4599
Thornbury Township (610) 399-8383
Tinicum Township (610) 521-3530
Trainer Borough (610) 497-3838
Upland Borough (610) 874-7317
Upper Chichester (610) 485-5881
Upper Darby (610) 352-4100
Upper Providence (610) 565-4944
Yeadon (610) 284-1606

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run - - anywhere.
4. People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now, won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 4 pm.
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.

Perks of Being Over 60

12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
19. You can't remember who sent you this list.

20. You notice these are all in **Big Print** for your convenience.

A Math Quiz and Head Scratcher

Here is a math trick so unbelievable that it will stump you. If there are any readers of the eDipole who would like to volunteer the concepts behind this math mind bender, please contact LJamesBiddle@juno.com

It is suggested that this quiz be done with a calculator. It is doubtful if this can be easily done with no mechanical aids.

1. Key in the first three digits of your phone number (NOT the Area code)
2. Multiply by 80
3. Add 1
4. Multiply by 250
5. Add the last 4 digits of your phone number
6. Add the last 4 digits of your phone number again.
7. Subtract 250
8. Divide number by 2

Do you recognize the answer?

How Times Change 1967 vs. 2007

Scenario: Jack goes quail hunting before school, pulls into school parking lot with shotgun in gun rack.

1967 - Vice principal comes over to look at Jack's shotgun. He goes to his own car and gets *his* shotgun to show Jack.

2007 - School goes into lock-down, and FBI is called. Jack is hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in for traumatized students and teachers.

Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fistfight after school.

1967 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up best friends.

2007 - Police called. SWAT team arrives. Johnny and Mark are arrested and charged with assault. Both are expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario: Jeffrey won't be still in class, disrupts other students.

1967 - Jeffrey sent to office and given a good paddling by the Principal. He returns to class, sits still, and does not disrupt class again.

2007 - Jeffrey is diagnosed with A. D. D. and given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. School gets extra money from State because Jeffrey has a learning disability.

Scenario: Billy breaks a window in his neighbor's car and his dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1967 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2007 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy is placed in foster care and joins a gang. State psychologist convinces Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself, and their dad goes to prison. Billy's Mom has affair with psychologist.

Scenario: Mark has a headache and brings some aspirin to school.

1967 - Mark takes aspirin in lunchroom and headache goes away.

2007 - Police called. Mark is expelled from school for drug violations. Car is searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario: Pedro fails English in high school.

1967 - Pedro goes to summer school, passes English, and goes to college.

2007 - Pedro's cause is taken up by state. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that teaching English as a requirement for graduation is racist. ACLU files class action lawsuit against state school system and Pedro's English teacher. English banned from core curriculum. Pedro is given a diploma anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from 4th of July, puts them in a

model airplane paint bottle, and blows up a fire ant hill.

1967 - Ants die.

2007 - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Homeland Security, and FBI called. Johnny is charged with domestic terrorism. The FBI investigates parents; siblings are removed from home; computers are confiscated. Johnny's dad goes on Terror Watch List and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario: Johnny falls while running during recess and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher who hugs him to comfort him.

1967 - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

2007 - Teacher is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces three years in state prison. Johnny undergoes five years of therapy

AND PEOPLE WONDER WHY THIS COUNTRY IS SUCH A MESS ...

DUHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Rules in a Collection of Western States

1. Pull your pants up. You look like an idiot
2. Turn your cap right, your head ain't crooked.
3. Let's get this straight: it's called a 'gravel road.' I drive a pickup truck because I want to. No matter how slow you drive, you're gonna get dust on your Lexus. Drive it or get out of the way
4. They are cattle. That's why they smell to you. They smell like money to us. Get over it. Don't like it? I-90 and I-84 goes east and west, I-15 and I- goes north and south. Pick one
5. So you have a \$60,000 car. We're impressed. We have \$250,000 combines that are driven only 3 weeks a year.
6. Every person in the Wild West waves. It's called being friendly. Try to understand the concept.
7. If that cell phone rings while a bunch of geese/pheasants/ducks/doves are comin' in during the hunts, we WILL shoot it outa your hand. You better hope you don't have it up to your ear at the time.

8. Yeah. We eat trout, salmon, deer and elk. You really want sushi and caviar you can get them at the bait store on the corner.
9. The 'Opener' refers to the first day of deer season. It's a religious holiday held the closest Saturday to the first of November
10. We open doors for women. That's applied to all women, regardless of age.
11. No, there's no 'vegetarian special' on the menu. Order steak, or you can order the Chef's Salad and pick off the 2 pounds of ham & turkey
12. When we fill out a table, there are three main dishes: meats, vegetables, and breads. We use three spices: salt, pepper, and ketchup! Oh, yeah.... We don't care what you folks in Cincinnati call that stuff you eat... IT AIN'T REAL CHILI
13. You bring 'Coke' into my house, it better be brown, wet and served over ice. You bring 'Mary Jane' into my house, she better be cute, know how to shoot, drive a truck, and have long hair
14. College and High School Football are as important here as the Lakers and the Knocks and a dang site more fun to watch.
15. Yeah, we have golf courses. But don't hit the water hazards -- it spooks the fish
16. Colleges? We have them all over. We have State Universities, Universities, and Vo-techs. They come outta there with an education plus a love for God and country, and they still wave at everybody when they come home for the holidays.
17. We have more folks in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines than all of you put together, so don't mess with us. If you do, you'll get whipped by the best.
18. Turn down that blasted car stereo! That thumpity-thump crap ain't! music, anyway. We don't want to hear it anymore than we want to see your boxers! Refer back to #1!

The Check Will Be in the Mail

The following is the current distribution schedule for the "Tax Relief Checks." The following is the current distribution schedule for the "Tax Relief Checks." This information has been

supplied via the Internet from the Internal Revenue Service.

This is the funding that is meant to provide an upswing in the American economy through increased consumer spending.

These checks will BE mailed to the recipients in weekly distributions that are currently scheduled to begin so the first recipients will receive their check by the week of July 23, 2008. If this mailing from the IRS follows the normal tax refund mailing schedules, the receipt may be on the Saturday of the intended week. Time will tell.

The timing schedule for the mailing of these checks is being done by a simple formula. The last two digits of a person's Social Security number are the determining factor for the mailing date. For example, those persons having the last two Social Security digit of 00-09 will be the initial recipients. They are scheduled to receive their check by the week of July 23, 2008. At the end of this massive distribution, individuals having the last two Social Security Number digits of 90-99 will receive their economic stimulation checks by the week of September 24, 2008.

This information has been supplied via the Internet from the Internal Revenue Service.

The Check Is in the Mail		
Week	Last 2 digits of your SSN	Receive your check by week of
1	00 - 09	July 23
2	10 - 19	July 30
3	20 - 29	August 6
4	30 - 39	August 13
5	40 - 49	August 20
6	50 - 59	August 27
7	60 - 69	Sept. 3
8	70 - 79	Sept. 10
9	80 - 89	Sept. 17
10	90 - 99	Sept. 24

For married taxpayers who filed a joint return, the first Social Security Number on the return determines the mailing date. *Source: Internal Revenue Service*

The Bank Job

Many years ago, Amateur Radio had an important role in a novel and a television mini series as a sea-mystery called "French Atlantic Affair." This 1979 television drama won the hearts of the Amateur Radio world and also won a primetime Emmy.

The inclusion of Amateur Radio has once more made its way into the world of entertainment. There is some mystery about how large the Amateur Radio role will be in this new movie scheduled for release in either late winter or early spring. This latest movie with a connection with Amateur Radio is The Bank Job.

This British movie is inspired by a daring, unsolved robbery, which took place more than 35 years ago.

The Plot

A car dealer with a dodgy past and new family has always avoided major-league scams. But when a beautiful model from his old neighborhood offers him a lead on a foolproof bank hit on London's Baker Street, our car dealer recognizes the opportunity of a lifetime. The target is well defined. It is a roomful of safe deposit boxes worth millions in cash and jewelry.

Unknown to our gang of thieves is the boxes also contain a treasure trove of dirty secrets - secrets that will thrust them into a deadly web of corruption and illicit scandal that spans London's criminal underworld, the highest echelons of the British government, and the Royal Family itself...

As one commenter stated, this is a true story of a heist gone wrong... in all the right ways

An important part of his true, 1971 bank robbery is a government gag order that prevented this story from being told for over thirty years. Another important fact about this story is the reality that one of the biggest robberies in British history has never been solved. Also, there have been no

arrests and none of the money has ever been recovered.

How this caper was accomplished and the ties with the Royal family are an important part of the storyline in this movie. In September 1971, the thieves tunneled into the vault of a bank in London's Baker Street. Once inside the vault, they looted safe deposit boxes of cash and jewelry with a value of more than three million pounds.

The film opens the topic that had been silenced by a Government as the result of what the British call a 'D' Notice. Because of the government gag, nothing has been recovered and no one has been arrested.

The story behind the soon to be release British film involves corruption, murder and a sex scandal having links to the Royal family.

In a way, this is a story where the thieves were the most innocent of all the people involved in this incident.

Where is the Amateur Radio? Communications between members of the gang of thieves were monitored by an Amateur Radio operator. The Ham Radio operator "does the unthinkable" by becoming involved in the attempt to catch the 'bad guys.'

There is a collection of five movie clips, which can be viewed at <http://www.bankjobmovie.co.uk/>

The information supplied to the *eDipole* reported that the handheld radios being used by the thieves can be seen in the movie clip two, "No Names Eddie." The Amateur Radio equipment is seen about halfway through clip 5, "Tightening The Net" The apparatus appears to be an HF rig of the type available in the 1960s or 1970s. It was thought Yaesu might have made this equipment.

The USA MPAA Rating for this movie is an 'R.' This rating is traditionally given for sexual content, nudity, violence and language.

**** REMEMBER ****
 Club Meeting
 Thursday, March 6th
 7:00 PM
 The Gauntlett Center