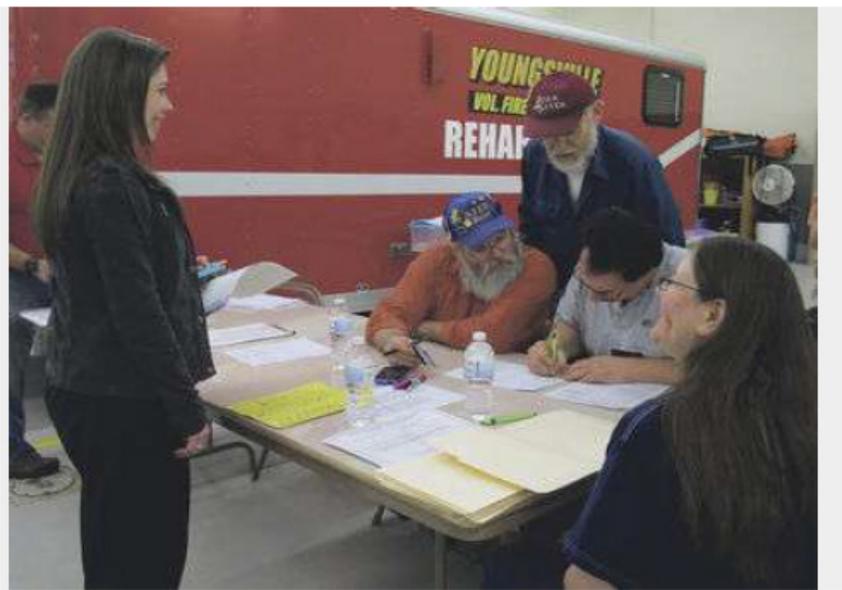


## The Corry Connection



Amanda Clark (left) gets her identification verified by Russ Bush (middle) before taking her amateur radio certification exam. The class drew in nearly 120 people from across the state and even parts of Virginia. (Photo by Brian Collins, Warren Times Observer)

## Ham in a Day Class at Warren

by Brian Collins, Warren Times Observer

The “Ham in a Day” class hosted by the Warren County Department of Public Safety RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) at the Youngsville VFD this weekend was a huge success, according to Terry Carlson, Chief Telecommunicator for the Warren County 911 Center.

The class was originally geared towards local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts but developed into a statewide event

with close to 120 participants. “Never in my wildest imagination did I think we would get that many people signed up in such a short amount of time,” said Carlson.

As testing began late afternoon on Saturday, more than 100 people had attended the class with an additional 15 people walking in to upgrade their licenses. “This is the largest event like this that I know of and definitely the largest Ham in a Day class to be held in Warren County,” reported Carlson.

**Continued on Pg. 3**

## Ham in a Day Class in Corry

The Radio Amateurs of Corry, an ARRL affiliated club, will be holding a “ham in a day” class at the Corry Higher Education Building on 221 North Center Street. (old Corian Hotel)

For more information about ham radio and to do some self-study before the class, visit the club’s website at [www.w3yxe.org](http://www.w3yxe.org) for links to practice tests question pools and more.

Participants do not need their own ham radio.

It will be on March 23, 2013 from 8 am to 4 pm and the test will be given at 4pm.

The cost overall for the class overall will be is \$25.00 This includes the test fee of \$15.00 plus \$10.00 for supplies.

The registration and payment deadline for the class is noon on March 21st. For registration contact the Corry Higher Education Council at 814-664-9405.

Walk in exams will be available.

### 2 Halloween in the Hills

A Ham’s Experience of Hamming it up at Heart’s Contest in Warren County.

### 3 Calendar of Events

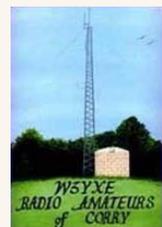
Listing of Club Events and Nearby Hamfests

### 4 Club Event Photos

Pictures from recent Radio Amateurs of Corry Events

### 5 Ham Radio Newsbriefs

Interesting Ham Radio News from Amateur Radio Newsline.



# Halloween In the Hills 2008

(Article Reprinted from December 2008 Portage County, OH Amateur Radio Service Radiogram Newsletter)

Once again it was time to pack all of the essential and non-essential stuff (gotta have lots of toys) for this annual trip to the Hearts Content Primitive Recreation Area. The area is located north and east of Tidioute, PA, a neat little town, where the Pennsylvania Fishing Tourney is held every year, very well known.

Packing for the trip includes everything from shorts and T-shirts to winter weather gear. Over the 25+ years I have been traveling to Hearts Content the weather has been unpredictable, from 75 and sunny to 0 and heavy snow. There are miles of trails so footwear is also very important. This trip..... heavy winter wear and pack boots!!

Packing for the trip also means taking amateur radio gear and back up to the amateur radio gear. No cell phone service from here, so HF and 2 meter equipment is vital. This years list included the backpack radio which is an Icom IC-706 with an LDG tuner, a simple wire antenna setup as an inverted "V", and several VHF/UHF portables. Others along on the trip were Dan, WD8MDF and Larry, WD8MDE. Both had mobile radio VHF/UHF and Larry had an Icom IC-706 with a screwdriver antenna. So one way or another, radio contact could be made.



While driving to Hearts Content, several snow squalls were encountered. In some areas, no snow at all... others had several inches on the ground. When we arrived in Tidioute, PA, we fueled the vehicles and headed for the top.

I was pulling a small 5X8 cargo trailer, so Dan and Larry went ahead to check the road. The closer we got to camp, the more snow on the ground, with the road eventually getting down to one lane. At one point I stopped and waited for a car to pass from the other direction, about a 20 minute delay.

Well, into 4X4 we go. The drive up to camp took much longer than usual. Heavy snow and no plowed roads. At the entrance to Hearts Content Campground, I put the Nitro into 1st gear and held on. The Nitro and cargo trailer made it to the top with a lot of gentle coaxing.... (ha ha, thought I was going to call for rescue shoveling). Up on top, a campsite had been picked. I just gave it the gas and drove straight into the snow pile, hoping the snow would melt enough in a few days to let me get out (it did). The snow pile was my camp for 5 days.

Of course all of the normal camping activities were enjoyed. Campfire chili was in pot cooking only an hour after arrival, the amateur radio HF station was set up and tested, the sleeping area set up and a walkaround camp to recon the area. One

other campsite was in use, but they left the next morning... too much snow I guess.

Several HF contacts were made from close to our area (NVIS) to across the country. Power output was kept at 30 watts to conserve the battery. Adding "QRP" to callsigns on the HF bands certainly helped get the attention of net operators, especially MIDCARS, which we checked into daily. HF signal reports were good from S9 to in the noise. We also made a few VHF contacts while in the area.

Dan, WD8MDF, brought a neat device with him, The Spot (Google FINDMESPOT). This little orange device is a combo GPS unit with the ability to transmit a preset message to a satellite. Preset status messages are used to notify anyone on your pre-programmed list. The messages can be anything from "we are ok" to "send help now". The messages are sent by pushing one of the buttons on the front of the SPOT unit. All messages are sent to email and cell phone text services, with any emergency messages sent to local law enforcement/rescue agencies. All messages include your position by latitude and longitude. If you have a life threatening situation, the emergency button on the SPOT will get you help quickly. Fortunately our biggest emergency was running out of tomato juice, hardly a SPOT emergency. Later in the week, two Youngstown area hams ventured to our area to GeoCache. This is another hobby that lends itself well to ham radio (Google Geocaching for details) ... Yep, outdoors and ham radio. So off all of us went into the forest. Dan, WD8MDF, had hidden a GeoCache last year and the trek to the cache was made to complete repairs and add supplies. We all had a great hike, cooked fried baloney (not those micro slice types of baloney either) sandwiches in the woods, and returned to camp.

Another great trip came to a close. The week went by so fast... but what a fantastic experience! We look forward to the trek to Hearts Content every year... and ham radio is always a big part of enjoying the trip. So.... all of you... put on your winter parkas... and go to the great outdoors.... and take your radios!

73... and look for my next radio adventure article... February 2009 in Central Pennsylvania. Hope there is a LOT of snow!!

**D**ave WB2DFC



# Ham-In-A Day

Continued from Page 1

In addition to the classes and the testing, participants took advantage of the chance to network with other amateur radio operators, enjoyed refreshments provided by the volunteers and support people, and had a chance to win over 80 door prizes at the lunchtime drawing.

"We want to thank our sponsors, including the Warren Times Observer who did a piece on the event leading up to it," added Carlson. 16 radios were donated to the event by MCM Consulting, SBM Communications, and Stat MedEvac out of Pittsburgh as well as Ramco Communications in Warren. WestPA.net was also another large sponsor of the event among many others.

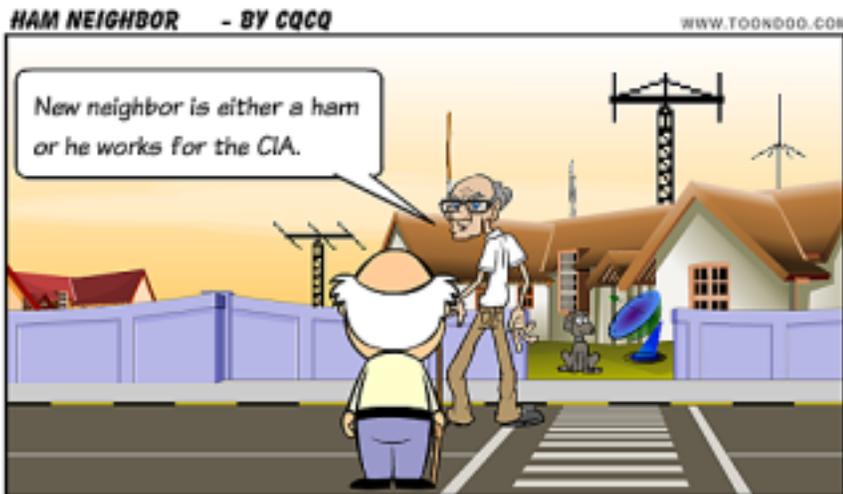
Close to 35 support people helped make the event possible from cooking lunch to the actual teaching of the class and the administration of the exams at the end.

Of the participants, most came from the county but there were several participants from Pittsburgh and as far as Virginia. Randy Nuhfer and his son Randy, Jr. were first-timers at the class. "I thought it would be pretty cool to do," said Nuhfer, Jr. "I take

electronics classes up at the Warren County Career Center and I thought it would be a good thing to be able to put on my resume."

"It's a good way to have a network," Nuhfer, Sr. added. Amanda Clark and her father were also in attendance, proving that amateur radio is for everyone, not just 'the guys.' When asked what got her interested in the event, she laughed "My dad brought me." Still others were spurred by the hopes of extra credit. Jacob Reno and several classmates were inspired by a teacher who was also in attendance of the event. "It's been a great day," concluded Carlson. The success of the class has given him hope that not only will the hobby of Ham Radio continue on but also that membership for RACES will see a boost. At the time, final results of the testing were not available, but Carlson was able to mention that several license tests had been successfully completed and hoped many more would be handed out.

**This article appeared in the Warren Times Observer on December 17, 2012 and was reprinted with permission from Warren Times Observer.**



# Calendar OF EVENTS

## Thursday March 14, 2013

Spring Skywarn Training Session

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: St. Brigids, 383 Arch Street, Meadville, PA 16335

## Tuesday March 26, 2013

Spring Skywarn Training Session

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Hamot Hospital Auditorium 201 State Street Erie, PA 16550

## Sunday April, 13, 2013

59th Annual Hamfest

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

## Sunday April 2, 2013

Two Rivers Hamfest

Location: Boston, PA

## Fri-Sun May 17-19, 2013

Dayton Hamvention

Location: HARA Arena, Dayton, OH

## Sunday June 2, 2013

Breezshooters Hamfest & Computer Show

Location: Butler, PA

## Saturday and Sunday

June 22-23, 2013

Field Day

## Sunday August, 25, 2013

Western Pennsylvania Section Convention

location: New Kensington, PA

Sponsor: Skyview Radio Society

## Sunday September, 22, 2013

Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show

## Saturday and Sunday

October 12 - 13, 2013

PA QSO Party

# Club Event Pictures

2012 Christmas Party & February 2013 VFW Breakfast Fundraiser



Bob W3HDK and Marlene WB3BLN (L Front)



Christmas Party Attendees



Bill Edgar, ARRL Atlantic Director, our speaker



Christmas Party Attendees



Jerry W3GHO and Family at VFW Breakfast



Kitchen Crew L to R:  
John N3NKV, Sue KB3UYP, Jafa KB3VJZ

# Ham Radio News Briefs

## HAM RADIO BUSINESS: HARBACH TO DISCONTINUE PETER DAHL TRANSFORMER LINE

The famed Peter Dahl line of transformers used in many ham radio power amplifiers is going away. According to an announcement on the Harbach Electronics website, the company says that producing these transformers in these hard economic times is simply no longer cost effective.

According to Jeff Weinberg, W8CQ, of Harbach, he is in negotiations with other entities for someone else to take over the manufacture of Peter Dahl transformers and other components in that product line but as of airtime nothing has been decided. Harbach will discontinue the Peter Dahl product line effective February 14th. More is on-line at [harbachelectronics.com](http://harbachelectronics.com). (Harbach Electronics)

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: SDR TOUCH TURNS TABLET OR PHONE INTO SDR RECEIVER

Ham Radio Science reports on an interesting new app called SDR Touch. This is software that allows you to use your Android tablet or cell-phone along with a RTL2832U USB plug in thumb drive as a Software Defined Radio.

All you need do is to plug the relatively inexpensive drive into your Android 4.0 devices USB port and load the SDR Touch app. The combination is reported to allow you to tune and decode the audio from it. Simple, easy and if we may add, cheap.

More about the device itself is on-line at [www.realtel.com.tw](http://www.realtel.com.tw). A video showing it in action is at [tinyurl.com/sdr-tablet](http://tinyurl.com/sdr-tablet). (Southgate, Ham Radio Science)

## HAM RADIO PUBLIC RELATIONS: THAT GUY WITH THE HAM RADIO

Kraft foods has produced a new set of television commercials called the Velveeta-Eat-Like-That-You-Know campaign, and one of the 15 second spots features ham radio in a very positive light.

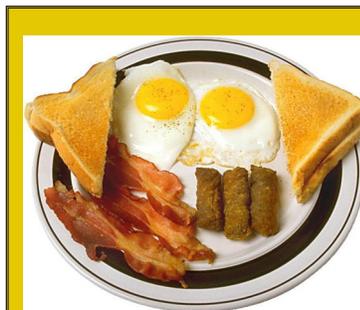
The ham radio spot is titled "That Guy with the Ham Radio" and appears to be one of five new commercials for Kraft's Velveeta Shells and Cheese lunch and dinner product. Others in the series are titled "That Guy That Drives That Limo," "That Guy That Paints Those Landscapes," "That Helicopter Guy at the Mall" and "That Guy That Owns That Aquarium Store."

All are fast paced and fun to watch. You can see them online at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTeAtPFEuyc>

But be forewarned, watching any of these spots may leave you quite hungry. (ARRL PR Remailer)

That Guy with the Ham Radio



**The next Radio Amateurs of Corry VFW Breakfast Fundraiser will be on Sunday March 10.**

**This breakfast will be dedicated in memory of Wilbur Sorenson K4ICE.**

## 2012 MARKS ALL-TIME HIGH FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES

Back in the United States the number of radio amateurs in the United States has reached an all-time high of almost 710,000. This according to figures released last week by ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. Amateur Radio Newsline's Heather Embee, KB3TZD, has the details:

In looking at new and upgraded licenses, as well as licensees per ARRL Division, VEC Manager Somma took a close look at the numbers looking for growth within each license class and all of Amateur Radio over the last 40 years. When looking at the three current license classes, the number of

Technicians, Generals and Amateur Extras peaked in December at 345,369, 163,370 and 130,736, respectively. Somma says that the total number of US amateurs in the FCC database also continues to grow each year. As of December 31, 2012, the number of licensees reached an all-time high of 709,575 as opposed to 702,056 at the end of 2011 and 696,041 for 2010. In other words, the number of United States licensed radio amateurs increased at an average rate of 21 per day.

Somma said that more than 3000 new licenses were issued in 2012 than in 2011, while upgraded license activity remained steady throughout the year. All in all, a very good year for growth in the United States amateur radio ranks. (ARRL)

# Save The Date



Watch for more details in the next issue of  
the Corry Connection and  
at [www.w3yxe.org](http://www.w3yxe.org)

## Club Contacts

- President:** Harold Cole KD3HAL  
**Vice President:** Doug Sipple WA3HRH  
**Treasurer:** Pat Cooney KB3VZ  
**Secretary:** Jim Froncek KA3RDA  
**Repeater Chair:** Ron Prindle N3BXL  
**Webmaster:** Kyle Sipple KB3MNO  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Lis N3NKV
- Club Mailing Address:**  
Radio Amateurs of Corry  
PO Box 362  
Corry, PA 16507

# Become a Member Today!

Annual dues assessment is \$10 per annum and \$5 for each additional family member residing at same address. Dues must accompany membership application. Dues are payable annually prior to January 1st.

Dues can be paid online via the club website or sent to:  
Radio Amateurs of Corry, PO Box 362, Corry, PA 16407.

\* Required

Name \* \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \* Technician General Extra

Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (Home) \* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \* \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member \* No Yes

ARRL Certified Instructor \* No Yes VE Certified \* (ARRL or W5YI) No Yes

Current Club Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Interests in Ham Radio \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \* \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

