



The RADIO AMATEURS OF CORRY

VOLUME 4 No. 2

JUNE 1998

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

SUMMER PICNIC - JUNE 14

FIELD DAY - JUNE 27 & 28

TITUSVILLE PARADE - AUGUST 15

Hi Fellow R.A.C. Members, It seems like summer is approaching much too fast and will be gone before we know it. In the mean time we have two very important dates in June. The picnic on the 14th at 13:00 local time at Red Top in Mead Park, our favorite spot. Hope to see a good turn out. Also we are busy making plans for field day on June 27th & 28th. We will be needing the same things as previous years, such as help installing antennas (are you reading this Cecil?) Someone to donate a rig or two and lots of operators. They have made quite a few changes in the rules this year also. If you have any questions call Mike N3GCY, Harold WD4OOX or myself. Remember, this is not a work project, it's a fun project. We plan to have plenty of refreshments and lots of good snacks so you all can enjoy them while making lots of contacts. The bottom line is to remember Field Day is our way of proving our ability to operate under emergency conditions to the public. Invite your non ham friends and relatives and maybe we will get some one interested in our wonderful hobby.

--73 Jim WT30

The Titusville parade is August 15. We are going to need at least eight to 10 operators which will be spread out along the parade route. A hand held is not a necessity, but is desirable. Last year we summoned help for two emergency calls. One was a fainting victim and the other an injury. The team also had some excitement as a storm downed a large tree limb and held up the parade. Please contact Mike, N3GCY to volunteer and to get the latest details. The team will meet at McDonald's at 11 a.m. The route will be a little different--there will be no turns. It will be on entirely Main Street, starting at one end and ending on the other.

--Mike N3GCY

SOME MAJOR CHANGES FOR FIELD DAY!

From ARRL Letter Volume 17, Number 12

Some new rules go into effect this year for Field Day. The popular summertime operating event takes place each year on the fourth full weekend in June. This year, it will be June 27-28.

A major change this year is the elimination of bonus-point credit for packet and VHF/UHF contacts. Field Day stations no longer will be allowed to count contacts via digipeaters, packet nodes, or similar arrangements. Class 2A and higher Field Day stations still may operate a "free" transmitter exclusively for VHF or

UHF operation (i.e., above 50 MHz) without changing their basic entry classification, but not for bonus points. "It's better than bonus points, and groups are likely to spend more time on VHF and UHF because of that," predicted ARRL Membership Services Manager Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH. As in the past, crossband and repeater contacts other than via satellite do not count for Field Day credit.

Field Day stations now can earn point credit for digital (i.e., non-CW) contacts on each band. The phone, CW, and non-CW digital segments are considered separate "bands" in the Field Day rules. This means, for example, that you now may work the same station for point credit on 40 meters three times: once on SSB, once on CW, and once on RTTY, packet, or one of the TOR modes. SSB contacts count one point, and CW and non-CW digital contacts count 2 points apiece, so adding non-CW digital capability presents a real opportunity to rack up substantial additional points! "We're expecting an interesting year because of the digital modes," Hutchinson said.

The complete, official Field Day rules will appear in the May edition of QST. Basic Field Day rules have remained unchanged for several years now. The new rules undoubtedly will generate a flurry of computerized contest logging program revisions as developers scramble to incorporate the changes into their software.

--Forwarded By: Bob Ferrey, Jr. N3DOK

Who's in Control of Your Field Day

By John Hennessee, N1KB, Regulatory Information Specialist

About a month or so before Field Day, ARRL is inundated with questions about FCC rules as they apply to Field Day. Of course, every station must have a control operator (97.103). You normally operate your own station, but on Field Day, you often operate using someone else's station. You, the licensee, are responsible for all transmissions from your station. During Field Day, many amateurs often use a single call sign, so the station licensee must designate a control operator(s). Both the station licensee and the control operator are equally responsible for all transmissions (97.103(a) and (b)). When you, the station licensee, designate others as control operators, you should make a note in the log. You are no longer required to carry a photocopy of your license whenever you are the control operator of a station, but it's still a good idea. For a detailed look at this topic, see The FCC Rule Book (available from HQ).

Q. My call is being used for Field Day, but I can't be at the station for the duration of the contest. I like sleeping in my air

conditioned house, even during Field Day. Do we have to take the transmitter off the air when I am not present?

A. No, because your appointed control operator should fulfill your duties as the station licensee. In fact, you don't have to be there at all, but you must make sure that your appointed control operator is capable of carrying out your wishes (97.103(b) and 97.105).

Q. Can KA1UFZ, a Novice, operate the station of NU8X, an Extra Class operator, during Field Day and can she operate in the Extra class segment even though she holds a Novice class license?

A. The answer is "yes" to both of these questions, but a control operator must be on duty whenever she operates outside of her Novice class privileges using the call of NU8X. FCC rules state that "A control operator must insure the immediate proper operation of the station..." (97.105(a)). The rules go on to say, "A station may only be operated in the manner and to the extent permitted by the privileges authorized for the class of operator license held by the control operator" (97.105(b)). "If no control operator is present, the Novice is limited to the Novice class segments. Use of an Extra class call does not automatically authorize the operator additional privileges without the presence of an Extra class control operator."

Q. I am an Extra class licensee, but I am going to use a Novice class operator's station and call sign during Field Day. Can I legally operate her station and use her call outside the Novice subbands?

A. You, the Extra, can be designated as the control operator. If you are authorized by the licensee, you may use the call sign of the Novice class licensee and operate only within the Novice class privileges. However, if an Extra Class control operator wants to operate outside the Novice class operator privileges, he may do so, but he must identify by appending his call to that of the Novice, such as signing "KA1UFZ/NU8X" on CW or separating the calls by the word "stroke" on phone (97.105(a) and (b), 97.119(d)). True, this is a long identification procedure, but it is the only way to identify in this case. Why would an Extra want to use a Novice call, you ask. Well, that may not always be the case, but it clearly illustrates the point.

Q. What about a club station call sign that has a General class trustee? There are lots of Extra Class amateurs in our club. Can we go outside the General class subbands using the club call?

A. Yes, but only if you append your Extra Class call to that of the club call as stated in the previous question, and provide a duly licensed control operator who is willing to provide the control operator functions. Remember that the club station trustee and the control operator share responsibility. If the club station trustee doesn't have Extra Class privileges, he can't assume responsibility outside his General class operator privileges.

Q. Are there any exceptions to the FCC rules for Field Day?

A. No, all FCC rules apply 365 days a year. Of course, Field Day participants must also observe additional Field Day rules as set forth by the ARRL.

Q. During Field Day, members of the public wander through as we operate. Many times, these unlicensed individuals want to operate. Can they legally operate our Field Day station?

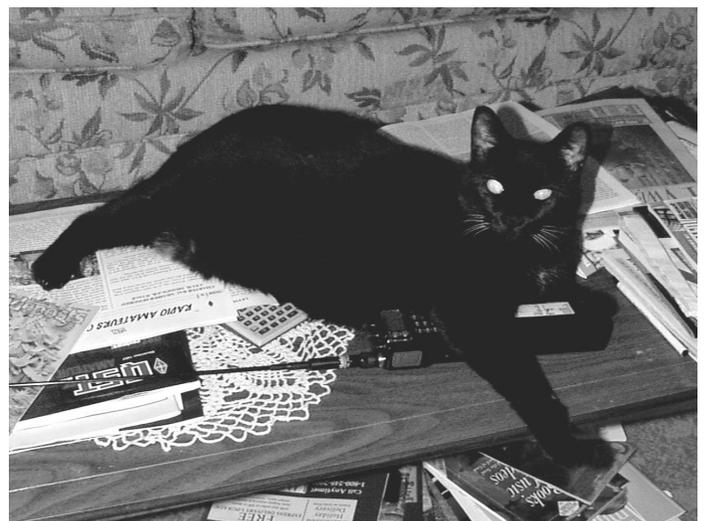
A. Yes, but only a licensed amateur is eligible to be the control operator, and obviously an unlicensed person can't be the control operator of an amateur station, but they may participate. In cases when a third party is participating, the control operator must be present at the control point and must be continuously monitoring and supervising the third party's participation. Third parties may only communicate directly with countries with which the US has signed third-party agreements (97.115(a) and (b)).

Q. During Field Day, our club uses the call of one of our Extra class operators and we generally operate in the Extra class subbands. One of our Technician operators made contacts last year with several countries with which the US does not share a third party traffic agreement. Is that legal?

A. Even though Field Day is primarily an event for US and Canadian stations, an occasional foreign contact may be made. Part 97 states "[The prohibition on third party traffic] does not apply to a message for any third party who is eligible to be a control operator of the station (97.115(a)(2))." In this case, the is not eligible to be a control operator of a station which is operating outside the Technician class segment.

The FCC doesn't expect us to carry The FCC Rule Book along on Field Day, but they do expect us all to abide by the rules at all times. It is the hope of the ARRL that everyone will do lots of operating during Field Day, demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public, practice our emergency communications capabilities, eat lots of good Field Day cooking and most of all, have a good time doing it.

--Submitted by Bill N3LLR



CHANNEL GUARD. Here's my cat, Bear, guarding the handheld. Thought you might get a kick out of this new operator. Sometimes we call her Bearcat - in honor of the famous scanner.

ZELINSKI'S CAR CARE

R. D 2, Box 177A
Route 426 at Colza Corners
Corry, PA 16407
663-0712

General Repairs

PA State Inspection

HAMS CALLED TO HELP IN ICE STORM '98

Up to 18 inches snow blanketed parts of the Northeast on Friday, January 16, 1998, hampering efforts to restore electrical power that's been off since the ice storm from the previous week. and further dampening the spirits of winter-weary residents.

About 59,580 customers were without power Friday January 16 in Maine. About 51,000 customers from Niagara Mohawk and 11,800 customers of New York State Electric & Gas were also without power. The ice storm also knocked power for about 87,570 customers in Connecticut.

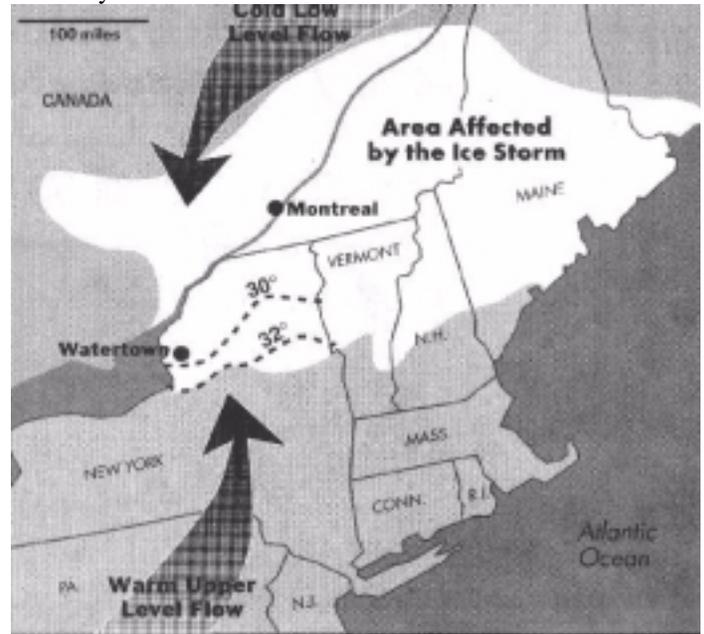


A Highway worker stands on the back of a snowplow to trim branches hanging over Dodge Avenue in Sackets Harbor.

Snow plows were difficult to use because of downed tree limbs and downed lines. Hospitals noticed an increase in heart attacks and other stressed related health problems.

Forecasters in the United States knew the storm would be big, however they did not know big. El Nino weather patterns set up the explosive ice storm in the north country, much of New England and Canada, said Barry C. Lambert of the National Weather Service in Buffalo. El Nino had spawned two jet streams across North America, one to the north along the U. S. & Canadian border, the second flow was across the southern

United States. Because of it, the Northeast had basked in relatively warm weather.



Map showing the collision of fronts that created the ice storm

As the southern jet stream had arched its back, allowing warm air to flow north, wind swept up from the Gulf of Mexico, where it had sucked up moisture. At virtually the same time, the northern jet stream drooped, allowing the cold air from the Quebec high pressure system to go south. The arctic cold air crept along the ground, just a couple thousand feet deep, just under the warm air that was well above freezing, forming an inversion. Because of the warm air layer, any snow above the surface had melted, and then refroze as ice at the surface.

--Mike N3GCV

RADIO AMATUERS OF CORRY

Minutes
March 3, 1998

WB3AYW opens meeting @ 7:30. Introduction of members by call/name. Secretary read minutes from Feb 3.

WT3O gave Treasurer's report. (Treasurer not present) collected \$250 from VFW breakfast. Most successful breakfast to date. Also mentioned success of ads for newsletter which were obtained in part from local business establishments. Made note of membership number as 66-same as last year.

Committee reports:

Bob WA3HDK (awards committee) mentioned that three committee members were no longer members of the club, Bob and Craig, K3PLV are the only member of awards committee and problem needs addressed in the future. WB3AYW Leonard suggested next month. No objections.

K3CKO Bob reported on the new packet node which have presentation on in May 1998.

(Continued on page 4)

(March 3 Minutes Continued from page 3)

Repeater:

Bob WA3HDK reported continuing problems with Corry Repeater and believes it is caused by condensation in the feed line & connector. Source of problem questionable. But result is loss of contact. Not sure of what is going on but suggested looking into it and might involve replacing feed line. Noted expense of this. Also noted there is definitely a problem in the connector. K3CKO offered to donate a sealer for a coax. WA3HDK noted that it was probably condensation & not a leak. Bob Swarm also noted that the ground needs replaced and brought up a co. that makes O rings for same. Further discussion will probably come up at next meeting until problem is resolved.

Jim WT3O passed around flyers for hamfests:

Monroeville frequency for the Monroeville Club hamfest 146.13/73, 147.72/12 & 146.520 simplex

Two Meters Radio Club hamfest: Crunnock, Pa

Baltimore Radio Amateur Club hamfest: 2 days

Pa Repeater Council Brookville, PA April 9, 1998

Bob HDK noted that all this information could be looked up on the Internet under ARRL bulletins on hamfests etc.

Jim WT3O asked about membership status w/ the ARRL

Discussed newsletter and WB3AYW brought copier paper and idea of using the copier @ Red Cross. N3TYF Don Swarm, made a personal donation for the cost of the paper to the club.

Bob WA3HDK passed around a final amplifier from a 2 m radio.

Leonard requested volunteers for the next "ham" breakfast at the VFW on Apr 5th.

Jim WT3O asked members about sending a card or flowers to acknowledge the loss of Bob Fullers' (N3LBI) father-in-law . Unanimous agreement to send card from the club in lieu of small attendance at meeting. (all members were not present to sign)

Finally, Quentin McCray is to contact for Red Cross matters related to 2 meter and club.

WB3AYW passed around a QSL card from a contact he made w/ an 8 yr. old extra class ham (mode: CW) on 2/10/98. Her call: KB0VVK and her name was Rebecca Rich of MO.

N3TYF Don Swarm won the 50-50 drawing and donated it back to the club.

Move to adjourn by Don Swarm N3TYF and seconded by Patty Sarver N3XFQ. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Sarver N3XFQ Secretary

**Radio Amateurs of Corry
Minutes
7 April 98**

The Meeting was called to order by President WB3AYW. Other officers present were Vice President W3GHO and Treasurer N3GCY along with 8 members and one visitor.

There were no minutes available from the March Meeting because no one seemed to know where they were.

The Treasure's report was read and approved showing \$587.97 in the Club checking account, \$1770.12 in Savings and \$44.77 in petty cash. The Bills were read and ordered paid. Motion and Seconded. \$40.84 to WA3HDK for Newsletter Printing and Mailing.

Old Business

President WB3AYW appointed two new members to the award committee and they were W3AHH and W3BZJ, this was approved by a motion from the March meeting.

Field Day: WT3O needs picnic tables (WB3AYW & W3GHO) have them, Port-a-potty, tent, generator and forms needed. Ron WB3DOM to ask National Guard for GP Medium tent & N3GCY has the Field Day Rules already.

WA3HDK needs Newsletter articles by May 15 deadline. Wants news, and Pix of old time radio shacks.

Motion made by WT3O Seconded by WB3DOM to give Peggy, the Kitchen manager a the VFW, a \$50.00 Gift Certificate a Restaurant of her choice to show our appreciation for all the help she has given the Club during the Breakfast fund raisers. WT3O also urged all Club Members to support the VFW Breakfasts and other activities because of our fine treatment.

New Business

President WB3AYW announced that 14 June was the date of the RAC Picnic this year to be located at RED TOP in Meade Park at 1:00PM.

WB3AYW now has a copy of Club by-laws from ARRL copies are to be made for interested members and Officers.

Motion was made to send a Thank You card to the six Shooters Club from North East, PA for coming down and supporting our Breakfast Fund raiser. N3GCY was appointed to make card and send it to Joe N3MLX.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM motion by N3GCY and W3CG.

50-50 winner ticket # was 263058 with \$7.00 in the pot.

Craig Hill then Presented a fine Program Video showing the DXpedition to Easter Island which ran approximately 30 minutes and was enjoyed by all present. Thanks Craig.

Acting Secretary,
Jerry W3GHO 9:10PM

**Radio Amateurs Of Corry
Minutes
May 5, 1998**

Meeting called to order by President WB3AYW, Leonard @ 7:30. Officers present N3GKY and N3XFQ.

N3XFQ read minutes from previous meeting N3GKY gave Treasurer's report.

Jim WT3O noted that club needed new can of coffee.

Old business:

Decided to move field day back to Mead Park. Conclusion: repeater site-expenses would be too high Unanimous agreement to move field day back to Mead Park

Brought up condition of repeater site.

Mention of by laws.

New business:

Jim brought up publicity kit for field day 1.20 +SASA and will be ordered. Unanimous agreement to print out club bylaws but to hold off printing in newsletter until new rules are decided on. Volunteer committee to study and recommend new by laws: Norma W3CG, Ed N3XBA and Mike N3GKY. Discussion of by laws will be in July.

Quentin McCray cannot take position with Red Cross for a year because of Red Cross rules and Bob K3CKO volunteered to take the position.

Jim suggested reading May issue of QST for new field day rules because of changes.

Repeater site:

Needed concrete sealer and cement N3XFQ volunteered to put together mowing crew and will check with WT3O. Grass needs mowed and repairs done.

Need to contact Mead Park to reserve area for field day brought up by Jim WT3O.

Leonard motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:30 for packet presentation by Bob Swarm K3CKO to permit time-motion moved by Patty N3XFQ...2nd by Ed N3XBA.

Quentin McCray W3AHH won the 50-50 drawing. He donated the proceeds to cover cost of newsletter.

8:30-9:00 terrific packet presentation by Bob Swarm.

* sorry to see Mac W3BZJ could not be present at meeting. We hope he gets well soon!

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Sarver, N3XFQ

The BREEZESHOOTERS hamfest is this Saturday, June 7, at Butler Home Show grounds. See you there!

LOOK—UP IN THE SKY . . .

No, it's not a plane, not a comet, not 'Superman.' In fact, you can't see it with the naked eye. But there is lots of activity up there, and you can find out what is going on up there with your computer. There is a new program sponsored by NASA, on the internet. It's a program that can't be downloaded, it can only be run from the internet. It's real time tracking of MIR, weather satellites, emergency beacons, spacecraft, and amateur radio satellites. It is called; **J-Track**. No more downloading Kepler elements; no figuring. It's live tracking. Want to see all the weather in the whole world on one picture as its happening? It's there! You can watch space station MIR or the space shuttle, or locate all amateur satellites and predict when they will be usable by your station!



MIR space station with earth in the background

Sound interesting? You bet it is! Would you like to try it? Then point your browser to my new homepage--http://members.tripod.com/~radio_2/index.htm. All links for J-Track are on this page. It also has pictures of the Corry/VFW breakfasts, and of other hams. Take time to try it, you won't regret it.

--Gary N3WNP

*The Radio Amateurs of Corry would
like to extend our appreciation to*
Clark's Glass
13080 ROUTE 6
and
Steve Tinko
for
Their assistance in connection with the 147.09 repeater

Information pertaining to the new threat to the 70 cm band was presented at the club meeting by WA3HDK. Because it would take 4 pages of the newsletter to reprint it, the information could not be presented here. For additional information, you might try the following internet address: <http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/>. You owe it to yourself and you hobby to find out about this serious matter.

Corry Fly-In is July 26

The Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Corry are once again planning a Fly-In Breakfast to be held on Sunday, July 26th. This Fly-in Breakfast will raise money for a scholarship to be awarded to a Corry Area High School Graduate or Senior accepted to a college or technical school. The radio Amateurs of Corry will again have a display at this event. We are planning to set up a 2-meter packet station, provide information on ham radio, and perhaps a HF station. Mike, N3GCY is handling the arrangements for this event. If you can help with the activities or can supply a HF station, please contact Mike ASAP. The packet station will be provided by Bob, WA3HDK. We hope to see you at the Fly-In to support this worthwhile cause!

The following information was taken from the airport's web site: (www.tbacc.com/cacc/airport/htm). There is also some nice photos including one of the B-17 which is to arrive here.

B-17 VISIT RESCHEDULED. Last month, we indicated our plans to get the National Warplane Museum's Boeing B-17 Bomber to stop in Corry. We got a thumbs up on our request, however the date has changed. Conditions permitting, the B-17 is now scheduled to arrive in Corry sometime between June 22nd and June 25th. We should have more firm details to post in the June Newsletter - so check back then. This is a chance to get a rare glimpse into aviation history and something you won't want to miss out on.

AIR MAIL CELEBRATION. Also talked about last month, is our celebration commemorating the 60th anniversary of the first Air Mail Flight from Corry, which took place on May 19th, 1938. The celebration is scheduled for Saturday, May 16th, beginning at 10 AM. We are trying to get a very special guest for the event - Mr. Charles Pierce, one of the first air mail pilots who flew from Corry Airport. Quite a bit is planned for the celebration, including displays of newspaper clippings and the air mail wings and certificate given to Mr. Pierce. Airplane rides will also be offered. We hope you will be able to stop by for a visit and join us in this commemorative celebration!

--Suggested by Mike N3GCY

70 CM BAND UNDER ATTACK – AGAIN

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 30 ARLB030
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT May 7, 1998
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB030
ARLB030 LMCC petition opposed

The ARRL is organizing opposition to a new threat to the 70-cm Amateur Radio band. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) has asked the FCC to immediately reallocate 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) on a primary basis. Amateur Radio now enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis, and the 430 to 440 MHz segment is

an international allocation. The 70-cm band is the second most popular of the hobby's VHF/UHF allocations, with substantial FM repeater and other operation in the 440 to 450 MHz segment and a variety of uses in the 420 to 430 MHz segment.

The LMCC request, based on "additional spectrum needs of the PMRS community," acknowledges Amateur Radio's use of 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz, and suggests that ham radio applications can remain secondary to PMRS in those segments, but offers no explanation of how sharing could be accomplished. The LMCC says it believes the 430 to 440 MHz subband "is more important to the amateurs for use in emerging technologies such as links with spacecraft and amateur television applications."

The petition also suggests that equipment availability and technology resulting from an expanded PMRS presence on 70 cm would benefit hams "pursuing such applications as compressed video television in the 430-440 MHz band." The LMCC concedes, however, that its "most urgent need" for PMRS is voice and low-speed data applications, not advanced technologies which might come later on.

The petition also notes that PMRS already uses 420 to 430 MHz in three Canadian border cities (Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit) and a "reduction in military use of this band is foreseen."

The LMCC also seeks allocations at 1390 to 1400 MHz, 1427-1432 MHz, and 1670 to 1675 MHz as well as 85 MHz at 960 to 1215 MHz by 2010.

Comments are due on the LMCC's Petition for Rulemaking, RM-9267, by June 1. Reply comments are due by June 15.

HOW TO GET YOUR WALLPAPER DX-ING PACKET GETS YOU QSL CARDS

What makes packet interesting is not the bulletins. You can read those anytime. It is the DX, in a matter of speaking anyway.

To start the ball rolling, connect to your bbs. Then type *SB ALL@WW*...this will send your request worldwide. If you want to be a little more cautious, you can send one to all packet bulletin boards in the United States by typing *SB ALL@US* or (USA)

You can also narrow it down to a particular country. There is a list that can be obtained to contact specific countries. then you would want to put *CQ Poland*, *CQ Russia* etc. or the state if you wish to contact a particular state in the United States.

Type in any subject title that pertains to making a contact. I usually use something such as *CQ CQ CQ*. Another good title is *CQ World* or *CQ US* or *Would like to meet*. As long as the subject pertains to making a contact it will do but *CQ* of some kind is best.

The message should be short and sweet with basic information. I use something like this: *Name here is Patty and my call is N3XFQ. I want to exchange QSL cards. I QSL 100%.*

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Then I give my packet address, home address (postal) and email address. That's about it. I may throw in a word or two about wanting to meet people or make friends.

The advantage of such a short message is that people will generally be more apt to read and respond to a message that gives useful information. The other advantage is that sometimes people in another country don't have a real working knowledge English but they can catch on to addresses and basic words such as CQ.



--drawing by Gary N3WNP

Once the contact is made you will have an idea of how well the other party speaks English. If the two of you wish to continue writing.

You can always give out other information as you get to know each other. I usually send a letter of introduction along with my QSL card. It's a matter of preference though.

Make the QSL card snappy...I appreciate that my husband Gary is both artistic and computer literate. Homemade cards are great. They have a personal touch and give an idea of what the person is like who sends them. They are very individualistic. Gary makes mine for me. I can get as many as I need rather than have to order too many or too little.

The next step is VERY important: better to send the card in an envelope to overseas contacts, not so much here in the states. A nice card in an envelope usually gets a QSL card back. Your card will arrive at it's destination in better condition although it costs more.

We take for granted a good postal service here. Do not take that for granted in other countries. **DO NOT PUT CALL SIGNS ON ENVELOPE.**

A final note is this: it is only for fun. Unfortunately you can work all states and work all countries through packet but there are no awards. It is only for the sheer enjoyment of making a new friend. Note this too. Some contacts just like to exchange cards, especially if they don't speak English well enough to write. Others like to continue writing on an ongoing basis.

I love ICQ and email. In fact, ICQ is a new way for me to meet people world wide. But packet is the only way through computer to obtain a QSL card and meet other "hams." I have to make mention of one very special contact. His name is Maurice. His call G3SBW and he is the ham from Sherwood Forest. He will always be my favorite packet contact.

Packet is so easy to learn and so much fun. There's nothing to it. A TNC can be as simple as the little BAYPAC or an all mode like the PK232 with mailbox.

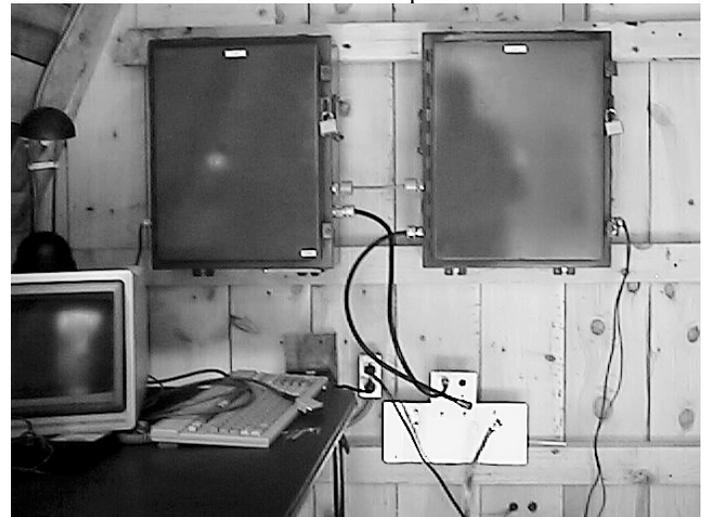
My husband picked up a little BAYPAC at a ham flea market for \$3.00! Unbelievable! However, my favorite program is PaKRatt II. It is simple to run and I especially like the PK 232 but the BAYPAC will do the job too.

One final thought: you will be surprised at the response from a WW CQ. We tried both foreign and domestic CQ's. The overseas response was terrific in comparison to the one from states. Not sure why, but we received QSL cards back from half of the CQ's to US states and nearly 100% from overseas CQ. Countries that seem to respond especially well are England and Germany. I've had cards from S. Korea, Philippines, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, S. America, Italy, France, Azores, Canada, Mexico--that's to mention a few. I like to see people get into packet and have a lot of fun.

--Patty N3XFQ

CORRY2 ON LINE

Since I last wrote about packet much has happened. We have accomplished some of our objectives but others have fallen behind. Our highest priority was to get the CORRY node out of Lee's house and hooked up to a good lightning arrestor system before the thunderstorm season was upon us.



Equipment in the dog house: foreground a dumb terminal, background (left) Corry node equipment cabinet and (right) Corry2 equipment cabinet. Below cabinets is a grounding plate and lightening arrestor.

The Node System runs 24 hours a day unattended and we didn't want a lightning hit while no one was there leaving Lee to come home to a pile of ashes. It looked pretty gloomy for a while but at the last minute plans fell together and Lee got his Amish-built shed which was to be the home of the Node stack. The first Saturday after it arrived, was a warm bright day, perfect for Ham Radio outdoor work. We had a crew of four working on the node. There was AA3NY, WA3HDK, WA3HJC, and myself. How we accomplished what we did in one day's work I don't know. But then hams have long been known to work miracles when it comes to their hobby even though they can't find time to replace a faucet washer in the kitchen sink for the XYL.



Bob WA3HDK and Lee WA3HJC shown here securing Corry2 equipment cabinet

Greg and Lee strung up 50 yards of steel cable from the eaves of Lee's house to the utility pole that holds the 3 element beam aimed at Franklin. This line was used to support the hard-line coming from this beam and also the hard-line from the omnidirectional antenna 40 feet up the tower in the front lawn. While the hard-line project was going on, WA3HDK and I laid out and drilled pilot holes that were used to mount the CORRY node on the rear wall of the shed.

By lunch time we had CORRY mounted, hooked up to its deep cycle battery and the charger installed. After a pause to eat lunch, courtesy of WA3HJC and the Golden Arches, we rescued CORRY2 from beneath the canoe in Lee's back yard where it had survived for a month and two major snow storms. Thanks to duct tape it was still dry inside. We mounted it beside CORRY and hooked up its deep cycle battery and charger. Next came the lightning arrestor and ground system. We drove a 6 foot ground rod just outside of the rear wall of the shed. This was connected to an aluminum plate with two Polyphaser surge protectors mounted through it. Two holes through the back wall brought in the two antenna leads and by 4:30 in the afternoon the two nodes went on the air in their new home.

The following week brought rain. Outside work was out of the question. But the weather was warm enough Saturday to do some inside work in the shed. I built an interface cable to tie the two nodes together via their RS232 ports. After running back to Corry and testing the link out I found they were not communicating. Back on site I found I had one of the baud rates set at 1200 and the other set at 9600 baud. After I set them up correctly, I went back home to test them again. Bingo! CORRY2 now has a nodes list of 15 stations to which it can connect. Step two of the Corry node stack was on line and operational.

Last Saturday I activated the K3CKO-7 personal mail box which resides inside the CORRY2 node and uses the same transceiver. It may be reached on 145.690 MHz by connecting to the CORRY2 node and issuing the "BBS" command. It can also be reached by directly connecting to K3CKO-7. anyone in Corry/Union City area is welcome to send or receive mail at this box.

Unfortunately, there are no network nodes between here and Pittsburgh. You can connect to the N3BAT callbook server at Franklin and Digi through him to a number of individual mailboxes in Clarion, New Bethlehem, Mercer, and Oil City/Franklin. To find out who, connect to N3BAT-1 and use the "J" command to get a list of who he has heard.



The crew take a break for pictures at the end of the work party. Photos by WA3HDK

The next step is a 440 MHz backbone. We have not been able to get the two free Regencies to operate so we are still in the market for a 440 transceiver. The TNC for the backbone is on hand and the EPROM for it is burned with its operating data and is ready to install. Incidentally, I can now burn EPROM's if anyone needs it done. Lee is waiting for quotes on hard-line connectors. I would like to have the backbone in place by the end of June.

I also have an overhead projection transparency talk made up as a teaching aid in Packet Radio Networking. I will give the talk again to whomever wants to hear it.

--Bob K3CKO

K3CKO GIVES PACKET PRESENTATION AT MAY MEETING



Bob had a fine presentation, but the crowd was small. Shown here are Craig, K3PLV; Debbie, N2MQ; Norma, W3CG (BEHIND THE PROJECTOR) and Leonard, WB3AYW.

THE RADIO AMATEURS OF CORRY SALUTES **N3UBZ ARNOLD SMRCKA**

In this issue, we feature a rather new ham operator who has come a long way in the few short years he has been a ham. Arnold Smrcka, N3UBZ, has been active in local ham radio, and with Army MARS.

Arnold graduated from the Union City school system 1960 and then went to work for John Boleratz Potato farm where he drove truck and served also as mechanic. He later went to work for Paul Skelton Trucking as a driver and mechanic. He married the former Nancy Black from Sherman in 1967. The couple have three grown children—Arnold Jr., Eric, and Scott. He is employed by Troyer Farms in Waterford and is their chief diesel mechanic. He puts in a 60- to 70-hour work week so it is a wonder that he has any energy left to be a ham.

His radio shack is set up in a small bedroom and he has outfitted it with an Icom IC-735 on HF and an Icom IC-271H on 2-meters. When he wants to get on 70-cm., he uses his Icom IC-Z1-A handheld. His shack also includes an IBM PS-2 married to an AEA PK232-MBX set up as his packet station. He works packet, amtor, rtty and pactor on 160- to 2-m. His shack also includes an IBM Clone 80486DX-120 computer.

In his automobile—a 1974 half-ton Chevy pickup—is an older Kenwood 2-meter rig, a Uniden 2600 ten-meter rig, a scanner, and a CB rig. At times, he puts his spare Icom IC-735 rig in and does HF mobile. His vehicle, which he affectionately calls, “old yellow,” looks kinda’ like a porcupine. It wouldn’t surprise me if a dual band UHF/VHF rig shows up in there one of these days! He has had exceptional success with his new HF antenna—KH-600 which is similar to the Hi Sierra ones that are advertised in the ham magazines. This antenna tunes continuously 160- thru 10-meters. His signal reports with this antenna are always good.

Arnold can also be heard on the 147.09 repeater six days a week shortly after 5 a.m. and again just after 6 p.m. Also look for him at noontime. He spends his lunch time playing radio.

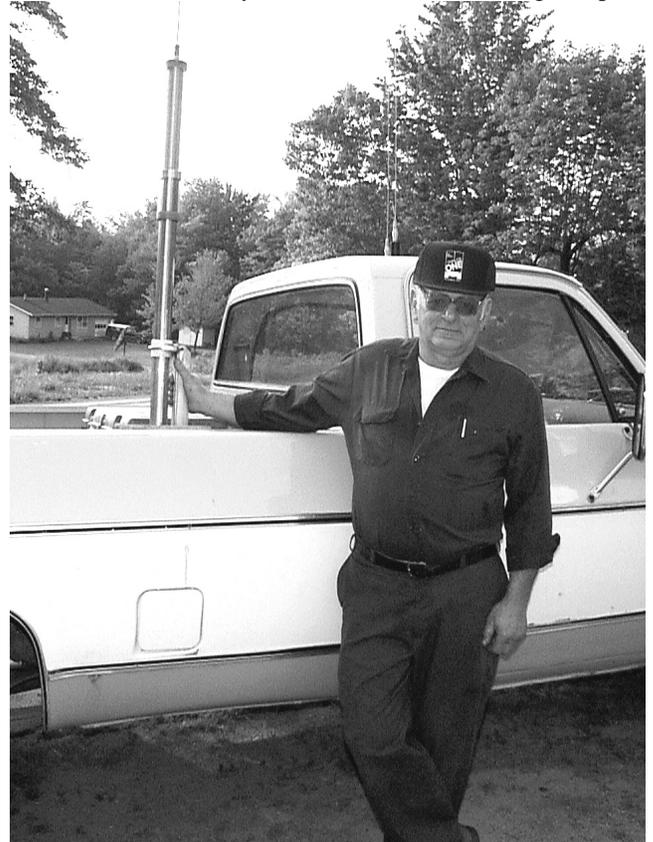
How he finds time to do projects is beyond me, but he is building a TenTec 1220, thirty watt FM 2-meter rig. He is also working on a 70 cm repeater. The repeater will be on 443.5 Mhz. as soon as we get the thing repackaged. Look for it shortly.

Much of Arnold’s operation is on Army MARS. He is net control at least six times a week (mostly on the weekends) and checks into at least that many other nets. He is charged with planning the training for Pennsylvania Army MARS.

When I asked him if he had any memorable contacts, he said that he “got excited” when he worked Germany on pactor. His favorite band is 75-meters, but 10-meters runs a close second. I asked him if he remembered anything that stood out in his mind he said, “Back in the early 1960’s—almost 35 years ago, it seems like last week—my dad sent me to Mac’s place to pick up a TV that Mac had repaired. When I arrived at Mac’s place I saw the antennas by the building. Back then the TV repair shop and

Mac’s shack were in the old barn behind the house. Mac met me at the door and I told him who I was and that I came to pick up the TV. From the back I heard the HF rig talking and guess Mac realized that it caught my attention. I asked him what that was and he said, ‘come in and I’ll show you how it works.’ Seeing that I was always fascinated by radios I followed him to the rig and he said, ‘sit down and we’ll see if we can talk to some one.’ Mac turned the dial and heard a station calling CQ. Mac called him and on the first try the station from Denmark answered. I never forgot that experience. Mac told me to study the book and learn the code and that I would be able to do the same. Many things happened in the next 30 years. I tried to learn the code but gave up. I still had the desire to get a ham license but the code hurdle seemed insurmountable. I built a Heath-Kit short-wave receiver. When I turned it on, I heard CW and always wished I could know what they were saying. Then I built a Heath-Kit GW-10 eleven- meter rig. At least I was on the air! By the early seventies 11-meters was a waste—just a lot of noise.

The sound of Mac’s station rang in my ears for 20 years while I believed I couldn’t learn the code. I used to drive by my neighbor Bob, WA3HDK’s place and saw the antennas and wished that I needed one. Then at work, Jerry, W3GHO and Dave, WX3E had 2 meter rigs in the 18 wheelers which caught my interest. By then you could get a no-code license. Dave got me a book and after some procrastinating, one winter day I started reading it. To make a long story end, on December 21, 1994 I got my first ham license. I never stopped studying till I passed the 20 wpm CW test and on August 8, 1996, my extra. so its never too late and you’re never too old. Don’t give up.



Arnold and “old yellow.” He is holding the KH-600 mobile antenna. Although the mount is available from the maker, he built this one from scratch. The home-brew mount is an example of his craftsmanship.

Membership update: Since the last issue was printed, we have enrolled six new members. They are:

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(814) 664-2696

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Naylor, GA 31641-2512 ARRL

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The **RADIO AMATEURS OF CORRY**
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Submit material for the next issue to hdk@erie.net
on/or before August 20. Next issue is September 7

Club Officers--
President, Leonard Shick WB3AYW (438-7199)
Vice President, Jerry Owens W3GHO (664-7502)
Secretary, Patty Sarver N3XFQ (665-8012)
Treasurer, Mike Dziubkowski N3GCY (664-7189)

In order to produce a quality newsletter, we need your input. All of you have your favorite activity. It could be dxing, or ATV, or contesting, or--well, you get the picture. The rest of us may not be particularly knowledgeable in your "favorite" and would like to know more about it. We could learn from your experience. Would you consider submitting an article for the newsletter? You can submit *anything* for the newsletter. I prefer that the material be typewritten, but I'll take anything. If you are on the internet, you can submit it to me on e-mail. Or use packet. Or regular U. S. Mail. **IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS for articles, please let me know.**

--Bob WA3HDK

