



The RADIO AMATEURS OF CORRY



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PSK-31 IS NEW DIGITAL MODE

"Ah, there's a new signal just appearing on my screen." Let's click on it and see who it is." CQ CQ DE TF3VS TF3VS PSE K K K.

"Ah-ha! A new country." "Haven't heard a TF before." Let's try him." TF3VS TF3VS DE K3CKO K3CKO PSE K K.

"Where is he? . . . "There's a signal."...K3CKO DE TF3VS Hello my friend and thank you for the call. My name is Villi Villi. Your report is 599 599. My QTH is Kopavogur in SW Iceland. BTU K3CKO DE TF3VS K K...

"Wow! I got him." "A 599 in Iceland on 50 watts." "Unbelievable!"

Well, it's not unbelievable. It is common every day operation on PSK-31. In two weeks I have worked New Zealand, Java, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, St. Helena Island, Most of Europe, Israel, Morocco, and the Ukraine as well as Iceland. I have found this mode to be very addicting. Mary Jane said yesterday "You're married to Ten-Tec." Yes, I guess I have been spending a little too much time on PSK-31.

What is PSK-31? In a nut shell, it is a phase shift keyed upper sideband signal that transmits 31.25 baud or 50 words per minute. What is unique is that PSK-31 utilizes a very narrow part of the radio spectrum. A good signal takes up only 31 Hz. Yes, That's right, you old timers, only 31 cycles per second. All other digital modes take up 300 to 500 Hz and SSB voice takes up about 3000 Hz. PSK-31, unlike other digital modes is a great performer under very difficult conditions. You are able to get solid print on stations that can no longer be heard and are barely visible on the screen's waterfall display. Hence, Most operators in the world run 50 watts or less. I have found no one using an amplifier and only one running 100 watts.

How do you get on the air? You need a computer with a sound card and an amateur radio transceiver. You simply connect the audio output of the sound card to the microphone or auxiliary input of the transceiver. Then connect the speaker output or auxiliary audio out of the transceiver to the line input of the sound card. Connect an RTS signal from a spare serial port, through a transistor or optical isolator chip, to your transceiver auxiliary PTT line. You download a copy of DigiPan from the Internet and install it. You set your transceiver at 14.07000 MHz, Set the AGC to slow, Set your band

pass to as wide as you can get it, and look at your screen. See the blue waterfall display at the bottom? Those white lines starting and stopping as the waterfall rolls down are stations transmitting PSK. Use your mouse to click on one of them. You should be reading print now. To transmit, you click on the "transmit" button, type a CQ, and click the "receive" button.

The interface circuit isn't quite as simple as I describe it. In most cases the sound card audio is too strong for the transceiver. You need a voltage divider in the sound card output line. Some transceivers do not work well with a transistor switching the PTT line. I had to go with the optical Isolator to get the isolation needed. There are several versions of software out there for PSK-31. Each of them shows some interface circuits for sound card to radio. Most of them are very generic and will require a little tweaking. If you don't want to spend the time tweaking, I suggest you look up Buck Rogers Internet page for PSK-31. Most of you know Buck, K4ABT, from his articles on digital radio in QST. Buck collected interface designs for hooking any TNC to any radio and published them. He has now published the interface for sound cards to just about any transceiver on the market. He even sells pre-packaged kits with all the parts and plugs for \$18.00. Buck's Internet page is: www.packetradio.com/psk31.htm.

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OCTOBER ACTIVITY PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Craig Hill, K3PVL, will present the activity program for the October meeting. In June of 1999 and again in March of 2000, Craig spent a week on the Isle of Jersey in kind of a mini Dxpetition. The Isle of Jersey is a tiny island situated about 14 miles west of France and approximately 100 miles from the coast of Great Britain. During WWII, it was heavily fortified by the Germans and used as an observation post. Today the principal industry is tourism and banking with some farming thrown in for good measure. Craig's presentation will consist of a lecture with pictures, logs, and other items. His media is on the computer and will be shown on a computer projector. You won't want to miss this program.

--Bob, WA3HDK

Which software do you use? I recommend "DigiPan." for a start. It is a first class program that is easy to use. It is well documented, and, best of all, it is free. DigiPan has a waterfall display for tuning. It has windows for both received and transmitted text, a mini logging window and a complete setup and control bar. It also has eight macro buttons that can be configured for your call and station parameters, such as CQ, CALL, QRZ, BTU SIGNOFF, BRAG FILE, and Clear. These buttons take care of most of the typing that is repeated many times. This is a great aid for a slow typist like myself. With these buttons and a type ahead buffer, even I can keep ahead of the 50-WPM transmission speed. DigiPan can be downloaded from the Internet web site: members.home.net/hteller/digipan.

There is one other shareware program that I have tried after finding that about half the world was using it. "Zakanaka." Zakanaka is very similar to DigiPan except for two things. 1). It has 32 programmable buttons and an extensive programming script that lets you program the buttons to do everything but feed the dog, (I'm working on that too). 2). It lets you transfer data to a separate logging program that you keep 'on screen.' This logging program, called "LOGGER", will keep track of awards like WAS, DXCC, and IOTA for you. It will also print out labels of the QSO data to stick on your QSL card. This is great for lazy people like me who QSL 100% but don't like to write. I am currently running logger and Zakanaka. However, I recommend you get your feet wet with DigiPan. Zakanaka's setup requires careful reading of the setup and operating instructions. Zakanaka and Logger can be downloaded at: www.chroniclenetworks.com/~dwm/logger.htm There are several other programs on the market, some for free-others with a price tag. Some of these programs will do other digital modes as well as PSK-31. Do an Internet search on PSK-31. You will find them, and a wealth of reading on the subject.

I was in on RTTY when it was new to amateur radio. Some of you remember those days. It was like magic to see print from a station half way around the world materialize onto that roll of yellow paper. I worked the South Pole regularly when my brother was stationed down there. Most of the stations I worked then were military bases or DX. Those days were a thrill, yielding ham radio memories that last a lifetime. My friend, let me tell you, the thrill is back. I now see print from stations half way around the world materialize on a computer screen. The magic is still there. Give it a try.

--Bob Swarm, K3CKO

MEN FROM MARS

Since the MARS system has put the y2k behind it earlier this year, we have moved into a busy spring and summer. Army, Air Force and Navy MARS have become a more integrated unit, working together on different communication needs. The large fires in New Mexico, Arizona and other areas of the Southwest started the activity off in a big way with requests for information needed by the agencies that were coping with the fires. The way the combined MARS services handle the information needed about fires, storms, transportation disruptions and other events is through DOMS (Directorate of Military Support). DOMS requires the information be transmitted using the EEI (essential elements of information) format. When I was wearing the Army green uniform we called the message a sitrep (situation report) which transmitted several key information fields to the collections point. Here in PA Army MARS, we have just finished a training period transmitting training exercise EEI reports using the format shown in the training manual. So, if we have a fire, explosion, highway chemical spill or other emergency, we are prepared to go into action furnishing vital info in support of the Red Cross, Civil Defense, and/or local state and federal agencies.

MARS was well represented at the recent Dayton Hamvention with all three services. Our own Chief Army MARS, Robert Sutton, was there along with the Chief of Air Force MARS and the Deputy chief of Navy MARS, as reported in the World Radio Magazine. The report stated that there was a high amount of interest shown with MARS members signing in from 30 states and Puerto Rico. Also there were 15 new MARS members signed up.

Armed Forces Day has now been expanded to Armed Forces *Week* which occurs the third week of May each year. The highlight of Armed Forces Day in the past has been the crossband military-to-amateur band contest. I might add that if you did work any of the many military stations this past May, you should have received a QSL card from each military contact you made. Mine are all here and they are a real nice reminder of the activity. The next event will be Veterans Day in November with a special message from the President and Secretary of Defense honoring all those who have served in the Armed forces of the United States.

A project of local interest to Army MARS members here in Northwestern Pennsylvania is a link from our 2-meter MARS repeater via high frequency radio to the Johnstown 2-meter MARS repeater. Special permission

has been given to use an Air Force MARS frequency for the link. Arnold, AAT3JG/N3UBZ has been spearheading the project on this end of the link with help from Doug, AAR3IR/KB3BZJ and Bob, AAR3HP/WA3HDK with Jerry, AAR3GF/W3GHO doing the tower climbing for the antenna party.

MARS has also been establishing some digital nets using the new PSK31 Mode. Arnold, AAT3JG/N3UBZ has his station up and running in this new mode and has been checking into an Air Force Net with excellent results--even with summer static conditions. This writer has just acquired a Rig Blaster PSK31 unit that operates through a computer's sound card and keys the push to talk line through a com port. In the next *Men from MARS* installment I hope to report on the operation of the Rig Blaster. As I have said before, if you are interested in becoming a member of MARS and get in on the action (whether you are a tech or an extra class)! All are welcome. Please contact this writer or any other local MARS member for further information and/or an application. Become part of the *Proud, Professional and Ready* team.

Jerry, AAR3GF/W3GHO

RADIO AMATEURS OF CORRY MINUTES 13 JUNE 2000

The meeting was called to order by President, Leonard, WB3AYW at 19:30. There was one officer and seven members present. An additional officer arrived near the end of the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. There was no Treasurer's report as such, but it was noted that there is a positive cash flow YTD.

OLD BUSINESS

Leonard, WB3AYW, turned over three partial (1 gallon) buckets of paint to be used for painting the anti-climb guards at the tower. Bob, WA3HDK, will transport to the repeater site. A painting party needs to be formed to paint the guard.

There was a discussion of the upcoming picnic. Norma, W3CG, reported on the committee's progress. Participants should bring a dish to pass and their own table service. A grill will be burning for those who wish to grill their entrée. The club will provide no beverages this year.

There was an inquiry as to how the Bylaws Committee was progressing. Committee member Ed, N3XBA, reported that the chairman has all the information. Committee Chair was not in attendance. Matter was tabled.

Field Day Chairman, Bob, WA3HDK reported on the planning for this year's activities. Unless someone comes forward with an additional rig, there will be just one transmitter operating. There has been no success locating a generator. Mike, N3GCY will secure the food to be used. Two people have expressed a willingness to operate.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob, N3LBI, had tickets for a 50-50 raffle and for a 10-meter rig being sold by the Erie club. He gave a short presentation of the changes in the repeater systems operated by the Radio Association of Erie. Briefly, the 146.61 repeater will move to the 146.82 site because of additional commercial use of the tower at WQLN. The 164.82 repeater will move to the newly acquired EOC on Wagner Road. The 146.61 repeater will become a 3-site one with the installation of 3 new voters. One of the remote sites may be on Presque Isle. Two additional 70 cm repeaters are being planned.

There was a general discussion of the matter of dues increase. It was tied to the discussion of costs of publishing the newsletter. Newsletter editor/publisher, Bob WA3HDK has purchased Adobe Acrobat software that allows the newsletter to be distributed as an Acrobat Reader *pdf* file. This allows the newsletter to be distributed as e-mail. Seven members have already volunteered to receive the newsletter that way and six more agreed to receive future issues that way. The savings to the club will be in the neighborhood of \$1 per issue per member. Bob urged the members to receive issues that way to avoid a dues increase.

Call for adjournment at 20:09 by W3BZJ. Seconded by N3LBI. Passed

50-50 was won by Norma, W3CG

Respectfully submitted
Robert E, Bair, WA3HDK

Classified Ads

WANTED New ham needs a 2-meter radio. Prefer a handheld, but Mobile rig is OK. Bruce Riccle, KB3EGV. (814) 723-6497

RADIO AMATEURS OF CORRY MINUTES 11 JULY 2000

The meeting was called to order by President, WB3AYW at 19:30. Officers present were Leonard, WB3AYW and Mike, N3GCY. There were five other members present.

The Minutes were read by acting secretary, WA3HDK, and accepted as read. Mike, N3GCY, gave the Treasurer's Report. Mike indicated a positive cash flow.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion of the progress of the Bylaws revisions. Committee chair, Mike, N3GCY is to prepare final copy for presentation to the membership.

After a discussion of the need to increase Dues, the consensus was to continue with the present dues until there was a definite need to increase them. The positive cash flow was the determining factor in the decision.

Committee Report: WA3HDK reported for the Repeater Committee that the single battery powering the 2-meter repeater had been replaced with a pair of batteries in parallel. Paint for the tower's anti-climb devices was donated by Leonard, WB3AYW, has been placed in the dog house and volunteers are needed to paint the devices.

NEW BUSINESS

A letter from Dick, K3AQR, was read withdrawing support for the Duard May Award. Discussion followed. It was agreed to discontinue the Award and possibly replace it with a RAC Ham of the Year award.

Bill for \$58.94 for printing the newsletter was submitted by WA3HDK.

Correspondence from Norma, W3CG indicated two new hams in Elgin: Albert, KB3EWZ and Mary, KB3EYE.

N3XBA, Ed, gave a report on the Union City repeater. He indicated that they now have remote base capabilities. This allows linking to any other repeater. He asked if we would like to be linked on an as needed. At the direction of president, WB3AYW, the matter was tabled and discussion terminated.

Mike, N3GCY, asked for volunteers for the Corry Fly-In. He also asked for volunteers for the Titusville Parade on Saturday, August 19.

WA3HDK, Bob, gave a Field Day Report. He indicated everyone had a good time and over 400 contacts made. Computer logging was used for the first time. Operation was for 24 hours and the rain held off until time to dear down. WB3AYW presented a OO notice for working a station 2050 cycles from the band edge. The required spacing is 3000 cycles. The following members participated: WD4OOX, WA3HDK, N3UBZ, W3GHO, W3BZJ, WB3AYW, N3LXG, N3GCY, KA3RDA, N3WAG, KF3DJ, KB3EMH, and WM3G. Arnold, N3UBZ furnished the generator. N3UBZ and WA3HDK furnished the gasoline. WA3HDK furnished the rig, tuner and antenna. WA3HDK furnished the computer. N3MKV located the logging program. N3GCY did the grocery shopping and the club furnished the food. Thanks to all who helped.

N3XBA, Ed, moved to adjourn. K3PLV, Craig seconded. Carried.

K3PLV, Craig won the 50-50 and donated his share, \$3.50, to the Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert E. Bair, WA3HDK
Acting Secretary

RADIO AMATEURS OF CORRY MINUTES 8 AUG 2000

President WB3AYW called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours. Roll call found Leonard, WB3AYW present. No other officers attended. There were six regular members present. There was no Treasurer's report available. Bob, WA3HDK, read the minutes of the last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Action on the bylaws was tabled because information was not available.

Bob, WA3HDK gave a report on the Corry Fly-In. Mike, N3GCY and Lee, WA3HJC did the setup of antenna on Saturday. Those participating on Sunday included the two mentioned above and: Ed, N3KGD; and Bob, WA3HDK. Ron, KF3DJ was busy at the WWCB console. Jerry, W3GHO stopped by briefly. Arnold, N3UBZ provided the generator, which had the sole purpose of supplying current to the coffee makers. It seems the hangar wiring is inadequate to run the

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coffee pots! Lee, WA3HJC provided his YAESU FT-890 HF transceiver and antenna. Mike N3GCY provided the TV/VCR on which wx info was played.

NEW BUSINESS

Craig, K3PVL will present a slide show depicting his Isle of Jersey Dxpedition at the October 10th club meeting.

The deadline for submitting information for the next newsletter is 22 August 2000.

Bob WA3HDK requested a volunteer to chair the JOTA exercise in October. He will provide the rig and the antenna. He requested the help because of health concerns. No volunteers.

Bob, WA3HDK gave dates of some upcoming hamfests. The Erie club is not holding a hamfest this year. He also reminded the membership of the SET exercise on October 8. The November meeting will see the election of officers for the year 2001. December 9 is the date for the Christmas Party at the American Legion. Other activities include the Titusville parade and old cars in the park.

Bob, WA3HDK reminded the membership of his mailing list for club announcements and invited those who care to submit copy for mailing to members (and a few selected non members) to do so. His e-mail address is wa3hdk@arrl.net.

Move to adjourn by Ralph, N3LXG. Seconded by Debbie, N2QM. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 19:57 hours.

50-50 won by Ralph, N3LXG who donated his winnings (\$3.50) to the club. Thanks Ralph.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert E. Bair, Acting Secretary

J.O.T.A. is October 21

This year, JOTA (Boy Scout's JAMBOREE ON THE AIR) will be held at Elgin Boro Park on October 21. According to Scout Leader, Terry McCray, activities are scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until dusk. We have been asked to demonstrate ham radio at this event.

Since nobody would volunteer to chair the activity, I will probably wind up doing it myself. If you want the pleasure of overseeing JOTA, please let me or Leonard,

WB3AYW know you are interested. I, for one, would welcome you and offer to give you my full support. Unless someone wants to use their equipment, we will set up my ALINCO DX 70 transceiver and couple it to the long-wire antenna tuner that feeds a 50-foot hank of wire. The antenna will be configured as a 'sloper.'

The boys will attempt to contact as many other scout stations as they can. After the initial demonstration and a short instruction period, the Scout will take the mike and talk on any subject they want. It is gratifying to see the kids learn to 'ham it up.'

We are looking for half a dozen volunteers who would like to share the opportunity to work with the approximately 125 boys who are expected to show up for the outing. The ham will be responsible for making sure emissions are within the band and that proper radio etiquette is observed. The boys will do the rest.

We have some new equipment that we expect will make the job of erecting antennas somewhat easier. Jerry, W3GHO, recently purchased the EZ Hang slingshot which has been advertised in the ham magazines of late. That should make the hanging of the long-wire antenna a lot more pleasant.

Here is your opportunity to get involved in club activities and have fun doing it. Please volunteer.

--Bob, WA3HDK

Classified Adds

FOR SALE HEATHKIT SB-100 Linear Amp. 80-10-m, 1000 watt. Cecil Messinger, 1113 Viking Dr., Port Orange, FL 32119-3603. (904) 761-4758.

FOR SALE Various Cameras: (1)YASHICA Mat 124G 2¼" x 2¼" Twin lens reflex w/case. Excellent condition. (2) Supre-Macy 2¼" x 2¼" twin lens reflex w/ case (knockoff of the Roliflex). Good condition. (3) PENTAX ME-F, 35 mm SLR with 35-70 mm f2.8 zoom lens. Excellent condition. GAF L-ES 35mm SLR w/ 50mm f1.4, 35mm f1.4 wide angle, and 135mm telephoto f2.8 lenses. Excellent condition (4) Color enlarger: BESSLER 23C with color head. Will consider trades. Bob, WA3HDK@arrl.net. (814) 739-2206.

I have three wooden garage doors (7' x 8') with hardware that are taking up space. Replaced with fiberglass in order to get bigger vehicle in garage. Two are in excellent condition, one fair condition. Asking \$75 for all three. Bob, WA3HDK@arrl.net (814) 739-2206.



Part of the day crew. Left to right: Arnold, N3UBZ; Doug, KB3BZJ (Logging); Mac, W3BZJ; Hal, WD4OOX (Operating); Lenny, N3XFR; and Regis, WA3WTJ.

FIELD DAY 2000

Well, another field day has come and gone and, I guess we can call it a success. Approximately fifteen hams from around the area participated. We had good weather for most of the time.

But this was a Field Day that almost wasn't. We had difficulty finding a chairperson for the event. The generator that we usually use could not be obtained. Nobody wanted to commit to operating and for a time we considered canceling the activity.

Because nobody would chair the event, I consented to do it. I finally found that Arnold, N3UBZ had a generator and was willing to supply it. Jerry, W3GHO made arrangements to secure Mead Park. Mike agreed to take care of the food stuff that every field day expects. I provided the only rig, tuner and antenna. It was operated from a wet cell battery with the charger floating across it. We did operate for a half hour without the charger and could have probably done so for longer periods but it seemed such a bother. This operation qualified us for bonus points.

John, N3MKV, pointed me to a computer program for logging and I tested it several times to make sure it would do what we wanted. And it pretty much did. I installed the program on a 586 computer, which for safety purposes, we operated from the 120 volt power lines.

Jerry, W3GHO; and Arnold, N3UBZ did a FB job of throwing a channel lock pliers that was clamped to the rope used to pull the antenna over a low-hanging limb. It was unfortunate that we could not get the usual ham to shoot an arrow over the taller limb but the antenna worked pretty well at the 20 foot height that we were

able to achieve. Hal WD4OOX and I set up the rig and we all unloaded the generator. Within the half hour, we were set up and waiting for the 14:00 start time to roll up.

At 2 p.m. we began operations with WD4OOX at the radio and W3GHO logging on the computer. At 3 p.m. Hal moved to the logging position and KB3BZJ, Doug manned the radio. He remained at the radio until relieved by Bob, WA3HDK, at 5 p.m.. Bob had been logging since 4 p.m. At 5 p.m. N3UBZ, Arnold began logging. Between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., N3UBZ, Arnold: WD4OOX, Hal; N3LXG, Ralph; N3GCY, Mike; and WA3HDK, Bob operated. For the same period of time KB3BZJ, WA3HDK, WD4OOX, N3LXG and Jim Froncek, Jr. logged. At 12:30 WM3G, Bill and N3WAG, Chris showed up and took turns operating and logging until 4 a.m. Others operating during this period were KF3DJ, KB3BZJ and KB7EMH. At 4:30 a.m. N3UBZ, Arnold returned to the site and began operating and WA3HDK was logging. WA3HDK operated solo between 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m when Mike, N3GCY returned to the site. It started to rain and a tarp was hung to protect from gusting winds. Some time after noon, KB3DJ and W3GHO arrived to operate for a while and help tear down. This is the first time in recent memory that we operated for the full 24 hour time period.

Just before 2 p.m., the computer suddenly quit. Screen went blank and the computer froze. Nothing could coax that beast to give up it's information! We learned a lesson. What I think happened is this. When I tested the software, I always quit the program before shutting down and then re-booting. The darn thing always remembered what it was supposed to.

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Part of the night crew. Left to right: Chris, N3WAG; Ron, KF3DJ; Dan, KB3EMH; and Bill, WM3G

Field Day

What I think happened is that the RAM (random access memory) filled up and the computer didn't know what to do next. In the future, we will close the program every half-hour. This will force the computer to write its memory to disk and save the information. We learned an expensive lesson and had no logs to submit to ARRL.



Jimmy Froncek, Jr. does some logging while Ralph, N3LXG gets in some operating. This was Ralph's first field day. By the way, the 'supervisor' is Hal, WD4OOX. Jim's dad, KA3RDA seems to have made his way to the 'goodies' table.

The single radio made operations a pleasure. No desense as the other radios on site keyed up! No noise from speakers that get inched up to be heard above the neighboring rigs. Weak signals popped right up. All operators who attended got to operate for just about as long as they wanted. Nobody got turned down. And I for one had more operating that I wanted. We could have used some more operators.

--Bob, WA3HDK

CHRISTMAS PARTY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Mark your calendars now for the 2000 Radio Amateurs of Corry Christmas Party. This year the festivities will be moved to the American Legion Post 365, 1460 Sciota Road.

Much as I would like to tell you more about this party, I cannot because I know nothing else about it. I know the reservations have been made, and that the price is about the same as last year. I do not know who will chair the event or what the menu choices will be. Hopefully this will be addressed at the next club meeting and I will be able to give you more by way of the E-mail bulletin that I send out on an as-needed basis.

We were well pleased with last year's party and hope that Norma, W3CG can again chair the activity.

Don't forget! December 9, 2000 at the Corry American Legion Post 365. Time 1830 hours.

--Bob, WA3HDK

NOVEMBER 14 IS OUR ELECTION, TOO

Just like the Presidential elections, so too is our club elections sneaking right up on us. It is important for you to make an effort to attend the November meeting.

Why not consider running for an office. The people in office now have served their share. I'm sure they get tired of expending that extra effort only to find that half the time nobody seems to notice their efforts. Any club needs new blood now and then.

The president's job is to see that the club meetings continue as smoothly as possible. Aside from a little planning now and again, there is not that much to it. (Oh, I would like to see the president write a small column for the newsletter. But as you can see, that doesn't always happen.) The secretary's major job is to record the minutes and submit them to the newsletter. There is usually not too much correspondence to handle. The treasurer should be able to keep the books (presently set up as an Excel file) and write the checks to pay the bills. And lastly, the Vice -President has a job much like Al Gore. He just has to be there to step in when needed.

We have always had top quality, conscientious officers. There are plenty of you out there who qualify for the positions. How about it, NEW BLOOD, are you up to it?? How about giving some of us tired old fogeys a break.

--Bob, WA3HDK

NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT

Speaking of tired old fogeys—new fogey, John Lis, N3MKV has consented to edit the next issue of the newsletter and give this tired old fogey a rest. Articles can be submitted directly to him or you can continue to send them to me and I will forward them to John. Since I have the color laser printer, I will continue to print the newsletter. If John agrees to do so, we will probably each edit alternate issues of the paper.

We wish John a pleasant experience and hope to continue working with him in this endeavor.

--Bob, WA3HDK



Field Day 2000. Jerry, W3GHO supervises Ron, KF3DJ as he logs and Bob, WA3HDK as he operates.

MEMORABLE CONTACTS--

FROM THE LOG OF RON REIFF KF3DJ

It's not often you get a chance to work rare DX. When you do, it's a great feeling. Particularly when you know that you got a signal from over here, to way over there! One such contact came at the beginning of February. I turned on my trusty DX 10 Radio Shack Mobile, and started tuning while watching the road. I caught the high pitched off-frequency sound of a voice, and tuned him in. I picked up just enough of his call, to hear "S.A., 57" and three more letters. At first I thought it was someone trying to come up with a phony ham call. But when he repeated his CQ, it hit me--S.A. in this case was the prefix for Saudi Arabia! He was in Rhiad. I went back to him, and heard him say--"DJ Disc Jockey GO!" I answered him again with the full call. He called me back, and I heard him confirm my call, then drop suddenly to nothing!

Oh sure, I don't have a QSL to confirming it! But I know I did it, and I did it while going east on route six about 15 miles west of Warren, Pa. with 25 watts! That's why I love this hobby!

--Ron Rief, KF3DJ

OIL FESTIVAL PARADE

Saturday August 19 was a busy day for the Radio Amateurs of Corry. That was the day the city of Titusville celebrated their annual Oil Festival Parade. We assembled at Mickey Dee's in Titusville, PA at 10:00 AM to receive our assignments for our positions along the route. Chairman Mike, N3GCY, printed a map for each station participating in the parade.

Only seven operators were on duty—about four or five less than we would have liked to have. (One additional station showed up after the start of the parade. Net control, N3GCY conducted a roll call that indicated that all was in readiness. Promptly at 12:00 noon, the parade stepped off. The parade was smaller this year and followed a different route. Since this route had no turns, everything worked flawlessly. The efforts of planning and the preparation by Parade Chairperson Sharon Lemley made for a really nice parade this year. Sharon has several years of experience on the job. Most of the crew met at KFC after the Parade where the operation was discussed and suggestions were made to make the communications even better next year. Let's hope we don't have to cancel it due to lack of interest!

Participating in the event were: N3GCY, Mike Chairman; KE3PD, Frank; W3GHO, Jerry; WA3HDK, Bob; N3MBR, Hugh; K3SBU, Bob; N3VHV, Ann; and N3XBA, ED.



Bob, K3SBU and Anne NEVHV take time out to pose for our camera as a unit of the Shriners passes in review. Bob and Ann are the parents of Mike, N3GCY.



Hugh, N3MBR reported on the parade progress from his vantage point. That's another Shriner unit in the background.

A PAGE FROM THE RAC SCRAPBOOK



Scene from the 1000 Corry Air Show: l-to-r are: Ed, N3KGD; Mike, N3GCY; Lee, WA3HJC and Bob WA3HDK



Frank, KE3PD manned one of the post at this year's Oil Festival Parade in Titusville.



Jerry, W3GHO at the Oil Festival Parade. A Juvenile offenders drill team march in the background

