

The Paper QSO



Volume 4, Issue 8

August 2002

Meetings

Set your calendar for this Thursday, August 15th at 7:00pm.

We will be talking about amateur radio emergency communications in the McKean County area. We'll talk about the difference between ARES and RACES and how they should really work.

The special event is the 70th anniversary of Zippo Manufacturing Company in Bradford.

We'll talk about some of the skills that we all should have and exercise in order to be prepared to help communicate in an emergency.

Amateur radio has played an important role in local disasters and emergencies. We will hear about those times that our area benefited from amateur radio presence.



Western PA Section Manager, John Rodgers N3MSE had appointed Chris Mincemoyer KB3GGP as the ARES Emergency Coordinator for McKean County.

Club News

Our club secretary, Chris Mincemoyer KB3GGP has been called up by his National Guard unit to serve eight to nine months in Germany with his unit.

Chris left in the later part of July. He will be forwarding his email address and post office address so we can send him mail from home.

Chris was recently appointed as the Emergency Coordinator for the McKean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Chris has appointed Ken Waid KB3GGR as his assistant.

Our club provided several operators to assist in communications for the Kinzua Classics Bike Race on Sunday, August 11th.

It was a perfect day for a bike race and ended in a picnic in Jake's Rocks. Loads of good food and good company!

We've been asked to provide communications for the Majestic Trails Benefit Ride for Shriners Hospital for Children on Saturday, August 24th

Preliminary plans are for us to be in the Rew, PA area around 8:30AM.

We'll need to have some freshly charged batteries and equipment to operate in the woods.

More information will be available at our club meeting this Thursday for those people interested in helping out.

VE Testing

The next ARRL VE session will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd at 7pm at the American Red Cross Chapter at 302 Congress Street, Bradford, PA.

We will offer the Technician, General and Amateur Extra written exams and the 5 wpm Morse Code exam.



The exam is \$10.00.

Candidates will need to bring with them:

- Two forms of ID, one being a photo ID.
- Licensed hams will need to bring their original license with a copy of their license
- Those with Certificates of Successful Completion (CSCE) being used for credit will need to bring the original copy of each CSCE plus a copy of each CSCE being used for upgrading.
- Calculator for math problems
- Two pencils and a pen.

Although, we'd like people to let us know in advance that they plan on attending, walk-ins are certainly welcome.

Wet-Forest Radio Effect

I received this email on July 10th from Berj Ensanian KI3U, who recently moved back to Eldred. Berj had been a ham radio instructor and VE in our area a while ago.

Here's a very unusual effect:

This morning I experienced an extremely interesting and very rare (first time for me), though well-known, radio effect. You may be familiar with anecdotes to the effect that tooth-fillings have acted as radio receivers, and on rare occasions, trees with wet leaves. It's the latter case I experienced.

At 10 am (1400 GMT) this morning I went outside the cabin. I was immediately surprised to hear radio music. It was not very loud, and it was soft-sounding, but unmistakable. Most interesting, it was coming from 360 degrees around me. I knew I had no radios etc. turned on. I checked to be sure there was no possibility of a source from anywhere within a half mile radius - nothing. It was coming from all directions, in other words the forest around me (which in places has its edge just fifteen feet away from the cabin).

What finally convinced me that it was the wet-leaf effect, and not my imagination, was a honeybee flying by and hearing the beating of its hum with the music. The effect lasted a couple of minutes, but I don't know how

long it was going on before I went outside.

Some background info:

Yesterday, here at elevation 2000 feet (all forest) we had rain lasting from mid-morning until around 7 pm - this was the first rain after nearly two weeks of no rain. This morning the ground was still wet, but not very.

At the time of the effect the temperature was 59 degrees F, barometric pressure 30.14 inches Hg, scattered clouds, and quite breezy - refreshing. I had nothing to measure the humidity with (humidity feels moderate or low). The leaves on the close by trees were not wet with droplets, but did have that fresh look which is typical after a good rain.

It is a really unique sound - I knew immediately I was hearing something new for the first time. I'm glad it was nice music (some sort of easy-listening) and not a depressing newscast. The sound is unmistakable but soft. It's easy to imagine that someone unfamiliar with unusual radio effects encountering this could flip out.

73

Berj / KI3U / OOTC #4114

MCARC Club Info

Club Address: McKean County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 107, Bradford, PA 16701
 Internet Address: mcarc @ bfdin.com
 Web site: www.mcarc.net

Club Call: W3VV

Club Officers: President - Bill Edgar N3LLR
 Vice President - Bob Trask KD3JD
 Secretary/Treasurer - Chris Mincemoyer KB3GGP

Newsletter Editor: Bill McCloskey NJ2V

Club meetings are the third Thursday of each month at the Bradford Area Public Library on West Washington Street in Bradford, PA. Meetings start promptly at 7:00PM and end at 8:30PM.

VE testing held the 1st Wednesday of even months at the American Red Cross Chapterhouse at 302 Congress Street in Bradford. VE Sessions held promptly at 7:00PM.

Club repeater: 146.850 -

All interested people are cordially invited to our meetings.

Field Day Travels (or Bill's & Chris's Most Excellent Adventure)

On June 23rd, Chris KB3GGP and I decided to visit several Field Day sites in Western Pennsylvania to see what they were doing and most importantly, to sample food at the various sites...

First stop was the Field Day site in Huntingdon, PA. We chose that site first as they have their own club house that the club members built themselves. This club holds meetings and classes in their club house. They also have several operating positions in their club house. (see picture below)



The last time I visited with this club, they had a propane gas generator to provide non-commercial mains power. This year one of their members built a generator that should be able to power a radio or two. The generator also has two light poles on the sides to provide lights at night time. This generator is gasoline powered. (see picture below)



They also had a grab & go kit that looked extremely interesting, but also traveled well keeping everything secure

and within reach. The grab and go kit was made of wood and would withstand some heavy use. (see picture below)



By the way, if you're like Fred Siggins and me, this group had deep-fried turkey for a meal. And yes, this was the best turkey Chris and I had this trip!

Next stop was the Foothills Amateur Radio Club Field Day site near Greensburg where we were called in to taste-test their hamburgers and chili. It was a hot day and was even hotter after the chili!

Foothills was more of a social event, but Chris and I worked Field Day for them for a little bit so they'd at least have a good showing. Hi-

Last Field Day site we visited was the Butler County Amateur Radio Club site near Moraine State Park. This club had a station set up for kids to operate, they had a licensed young person who was the control op to keep them legal. (see picture below)



- Bill N3LLR

More Co-Sponsors Sign Aboard CC&R Bill, HR 4720

Additional cosponsors have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs in erecting antennas. The list of 18 members of Congress who have agreed to cosponsor the measure includes two amateurs. They are Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE--one of the two original cosponsors of HR 4720 with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR.

Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the US House of Representatives.

New York Democrat Steve Israel introduced HR 4720--the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act"--on May 14. The measure would require private land-use regulators--such as homeowners' associations--to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

In addition to Walden, Sessions and Ross, the list of HR 4720 cosponsors now includes Representatives JD Hayworth (R-AZ), Patrick Tiberi (R-OH), Patsy Mink (D-HI), Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rick Boucher (D-VA), Joseph Hoeffel (D-PA), John Duncan Jr (R-TN), Dennis Moore (D-KS), Charles Stenholm (D-TX), David Price (D-NC), Bob Schaffer (R-CO), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Bart Gordon (D-TN), Charles Taylor (R-NC), and Ralph Hall (D-TX).

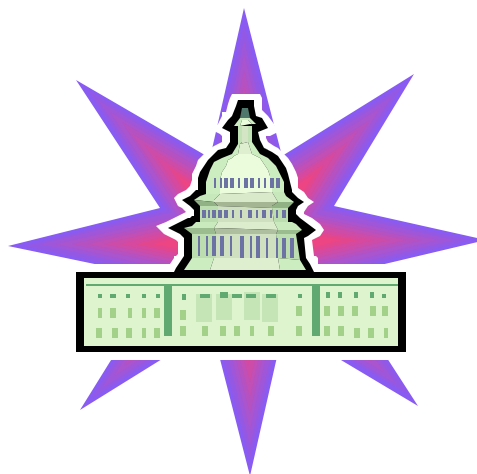
Visit the US House of Representatives Write Your Representative Service Web site at <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> for information on how to contact your

representative.

The ARRL requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress--whether or not they are supporting this legislation--to copy ARRL on their correspondence--via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to: CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Correspondents should include the bill number, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

Please write your Federal Representative and ask him or her to co-sponsor bill HR4720. In your letter you should state several things that amateur radio has done for our local community.



HAM RADIO INSTRUMENTAL IN MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Two stranded mountain climbers--one of them injured--have Amateur Radio to thank for helping to rescue them from Montana's highest peak August 1. For 32 hours, hams and scanner buffs across Montana witnessed first-hand the harrowing rescue operation, which was coordinated through Amateur Radio--the climbers' only means of communication.

Sixty-one-year-old Roger Kaul, K3TM, of Maryland and his 35-year-old nephew Clint Kaul of California--both seasoned climbers--were within 200 feet of the 12,799-foot summit of Granite Peak when a rock pulled loose, sending the younger man down an extremely steep-faced slope of jagged rock, injuring him. Stranded precariously on a ledge and without ropes some 35 feet above his nephew, Roger Kaul used his hand-held transceiver to call for help through a repeater in Billings.

High winds on the mountain prevented an immediate helicopter rescue attempt, so two search-and-rescue teams began the arduous trek up the mountain (a third eventually headed in from the other side of the mountain). In the meantime, Roger Kaul was able to maneuver himself and his nephew to a more favorable rescue location.

After the second failed attempt, a crack team of rangers from Grand Teton National Park was called in from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to take the pair off the peak. At around 6:30 PM on August 1, the rangers' helicopter was able to land a rescue team near the stranded pair, remove them from the mountainside and transport them to medical treatment.

PA Governor (con't)

(Continued from page 6)

* Making homes safer by developing a family emergency plan and practicing it regularly; and

* Assisting local Emergency Management Agencies as amateur radio operators, planners, businessmen and volunteers.

Pennsylvania's homeland security efforts have gained national recognition. In January, the National Governors' Association selected Pennsylvania as one of only a handful of states to participate in the first-ever Homeland Security/Bioterrorism Policy Academy. The Academy will study the homeland-security plans of leading states like Pennsylvania in order to assist other states in the development of their own plans.

In addition, Gov. Schweiker called for, and the General Assembly approved, an unprecedented \$200 million investment in homeland security for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. It includes funding to deploy a second Urban Search and Rescue team for use strictly within Pennsylvania; upgrading security at Commonwealth-owned buildings throughout the state; completing the Statewide Public Safety Radio Network; and forming and training Community Emergency Response Teams.

The state also is redesigning driver's licenses to reduce the possibility that identities can be stolen or forged, and is putting in place nationally acclaimed biological, chemical and radiological surveillance systems.

ARRL Training Grant (con't)

The ARRL will receive a \$181,900 homeland security grant from the US government to train Amateur Radio operators in emergency communication. The League was among several dozen nonprofit organizations designated to receive some \$10.3 million in federal money to boost homeland defense volunteer programs. The grant, from the Corporation for National and Community Service special volunteer program, will provide free ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training to 5200 volunteers nationwide, starting in 2003.

"ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio and is the national leader in emergency communications by volunteers who operate their own equipment on their time at no cost to any government, organization, or corporation," said the announcement July 18 from Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge. The ARRL plans to revise and update the emergency communications curriculum to incorporate additional elements of emergency preparedness and homeland security.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was extremely pleased by the news. "This adds legitimacy to the public service work Amateur Radio has been doing for years," he said.

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, applied for the funding in May. "I think this is an extraordinarily exciting day for Amateur Radio that the role of Amateur Radio in homeland security is recognized at the highest levels of government," Hobart said upon learning of the grant.

Citing Amateur Radio's response in the aftermath of the

September 11 terrorist attacks, Hobart said the federal grant "will help continue our work in providing public service and to protect lives, homes, businesses and our frequencies, as we have for decades."

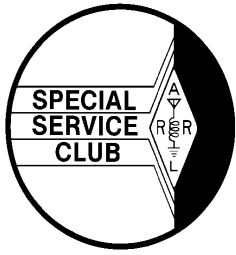
ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was pleased that the League would be able to extend its Amateur Radio Emergency Communications program to thousands of amateurs who might otherwise not be able to afford the program. "We hope all who are interested will get on board," he said.

The grant announcement said that "expanding the opportunities for Americans to participate in meaningful volunteer service" is at the heart of President George Bush's USA Freedom Corps, of which the Corporation for National and Community Service is a part.

"We are deeply grateful to Tom Ridge and to the Corporation for National and Community Service for providing Amateur Radio with a unique opportunity to serve our country," Hobart said.

In June, the ARRL and United Technologies Corporation announced a partnership to provide free ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training for up to 250 Connecticut amateurs.





McKean County Amateur
Radio Club
PO Box 107
Bradford, PA 16701



In This Issue...

Congratulations to Bruce Manning NJ3K for 25 years as an ARRL member!

PA Governor Calls upon Citizens to Protect Neighborhoods

PHILADELPHIA (Aug. 2) -- Reaffirming his commitment to the safety and security of all Pennsylvanians, Gov. Mark Schweiker today urged all Pennsylvanians to become the "eyes and ears" of their neighborhoods in the war against terror.

In his August radio address, Gov. Schweiker said security efforts in the state's neighborhoods can complement the work of the state's "hometown heroes" - local police and firefighters, 911 dispatchers and emergency medical technicians, members of hazardous materials response teams, and the men and women of regional counter-terrorism task forces -- in fighting terrorism.

"It's important that Pennsylvanians understand that the battle we wage against the enemies of our homeland will be won or lost in our neighborhoods," Gov. Schweiker said. "Each Pennsylvanian -- mom, dad, son, daughter, grandparent and neighbor -- is part of the team who will help us win these battles.

"Our hometown heroes need your help in this war

against terror. They need the eyes and ears of neighbors who will see and hear danger before it strikes -- neighbors who will keep watch over one another and act decisively to report threats before they're realized."

Gov. Schweiker said the spirit of community was evident in Somerset County last week, when an entire community banded together to save nine heroic miners who were trapped 240 feet below the earth's surface.

Gov. Schweiker said Pennsylvanians can take a number of steps in their communities to help in the fight against terrorism, including:

- * Enrolling in community emergency-response teams and learning how to help local emergency services in times of crisis;
- * Joining local Neighborhood Watch teams;
- * Offering to help local volunteer fire companies or ambulance services;