



The **W3PIE LETTER**

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 12

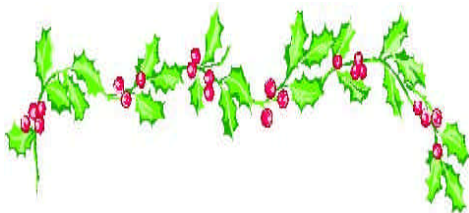
December 2001 EDITION



UNOFFICIAL 10 METER SNOW NET

Have you ever been at home and you look outside and it's snowing to beat the band.? Well fire up the HF rig to the 10 meter portion, 28.440 and give a yell..! You may find that there a few people out there talking about what color the snow is..! There are no awards to be won, just a bunch of Amateurs that just don't feel like shoveling the snow. You can shovel it later, and who knows if you stay on the radio long enough, the snow might melt..! Hope to C'ya there.

David Watson N3QAS



W3PIE VE EXAM TESTING DATE

December 2nd. Plan to arrive at the club before 2 PM, bring a copy of your license and the original, also an additional form of ID such as a driver's license, and two number 2 pencils. The exam fee is now ten dollars. Technician, General, and Extra exams will be available. Walk-ins are welcome.

W3PIE VE Team

VE LIAISON NEEDED

W3PIE recently put out a help call for a team liaison for our quarterly testing sessions. We had a few interested parties that we feel will be able to handle the job as team liaison. We will now have continued testing at the clubhouse. Thank you....

W3PIE VE Team

**Next Club Meeting
is Wednesday,
December 5th**

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS

At he November meeting the annual nomination for officers took place. Although not official yet until voting takes place at the December meeting will the nominated officers hold office. Nominations were as follow:

**President David Watson N3QAS
V. Pres Carl Chuprinko WA3HQK
Secretary Tony Alviar KA3VOR
Treas. George Syner WA3OGQ
Trustee Jay Rudik WB3JNP**

As it turns out, the officers from last year were re-nominated..

Have a safe holiday..!

The Monthly Club Meeting is Wednesday December 5, 2001



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joe Corcoran KA3VPP	12/01
Barry Miller NJ3X	12/02
Andy Hrebнар N3DWU	12/04
Bill Wagner W3OET	12/09
Ed Williams W3GAM	12/17
Royce Lecemby N3ROA	12/23



HOLIDAY HAM RECIPE

Ingredients: car keys, car, cash or credit card, pretty platter.

Directions:

Drive to nearest Boston Market Ham store, pick one up and drive carefully home. Follow the slicing directions Layer nice on a platter and bring to room temp.
yum yum



About the (SET) Simulated Emergency Test

As a lot of you may or may not know, the scheduled SET drill that was supposed to be held Saturday November 17th at 9:00 am had been cancelled. Due to the recent events in New York, Washington DC and Somerset Pennsylvania September 11th, it was cancelled by the SEC (section emergency coordinator) N3SRJ & the STM (section traffic manager) N3WAV for fear of scaring the Short-wave listeners and scanner users with Emergency drill exercises. So a "Short Notice Drill" was held on the 147.045, 147.255, 146.670 and the 146.895 Repeaters, Thursday November 15th at 21:00 during the regular 147.045 RACES net.

The results of the "Short Notice Drill" on 4 Fayette Co. Repeaters are as follows: 127 contacts, 51 hams, 22 were on battery or emergency power, 25 contacts from Fayette, 9 contacts from Westmoreland, 6 contacts from Washington, 5 contacts from Allegheny, 1 contact from Greene, 1 contact from Armstrong, 2 contacts from the state of Ohio, 2 contacts from the state of West Virginia. My thanks to the net controls, WB3LUC, W3ICX, W3SII, KA3WOI, they did a great job. I would like to thank all the stations that participated and request that they do so if called upon in the future..

FAYETTE CO. ARES Emergency Coordinator K3FQI

FOR SALE

For Sale: Alpha Delta VRC speaker console and wall wart. A variable frequency response speaker and amplifier for CW and SSB. **Contact:** Tim Soxman W3ZVT @ tims@hhs.net

For Sale: Kenwood TM-261A 2 meter mobile. NIB. Will swap either item for a Bug or Paddles or possibly an interesting straight key. **Contact:** Tim Soxman W3ZVT @ tims@hhs.net

For Sale: Uniden HR2600 President 10 meter mobile for sale. It is complete in original box. It is in perfect condition. I am selling for \$175. **Contact:** Bernie Meyers @ WA3BM@arrl.net

For Sale: Cushcraft 13B2 - 2 meter 13 element Boomer - clean, good condition, on ground - ready to go. \$65

For Sale: Butternut HF6VX - 6 band hf vertical antenna - still installed but easy to disassemble. Can demonstrate on-air. \$125.

Both come with original manuals. Prefer pick-up at my QTH in White, PA near Acme Donegal

Contact: Gary Weslager, K3GW
724-455-7176 (evenings) or k3gw@helicon.net

NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

The November meeting was nominations night for officers for the year 2002. There were 21 regular members and three guests. Thank you to all who showed up to participate.

David Watson N3QAS
Pat Pallini WB3LUC
Don Moser WA3DHH
Paul Renninger K3ECZ
Leonard Baron WA3EGS
Hank Duke KE3RS
Paul Button KB3DLT
Scott Button KF3CP
Herb Shaffer KA3WSO
Bert Sesler WA3WAW
Mike Kosco KA3WOI
Tim Soxman W3ZVT
George Syner WA3OGQ
Joyce Chuprinko KA3CUT
David Petrovich KA3EBU
David Kir WA3DJG
Ron DeGusipe KE3OH
Kirk Dorn N3EKP
Bob Sova WB3LEQ
Tina Martin WZ3Z
Bob Martin KA3YRD
3 **Guests:** Ray Williams KA3FYN
Shaun Martin
Robert Button

DECEMBER CONTESTS

December 7-9, 2001
ARRL 160-Meter Contest

For rules goto:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-160m.html>

December 15-16, 2001
ARRL 10-Meter Contest

For rules goto:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-10m.html>



INTERESTED IN ATV..?

In the past I have played around a bit with Amateur Television. The idea of broadcasting television still fascinates me. If only I had more time to focus on going to the shack and experimenting more. If anyone has an interest in this facet of amateur radio please feel free to discuss it with me. I also found a great web-page that is nice to browse around and look at. The location is: <http://64.226.145.116/atv/>

David Watson N3QAS

FEEDBACK ARTICLES, FOR-SALE, ISO, ETC, FOR THE NEWSLETTER SEND TO:

wa3waw@arrl.net
vze27z5x@verizon.net
talviar@fcema.org



**THURSDAY
NIGHT 147.045
WB3LUC NET**

As always, please check in to the 147.045 + repeater @ 9:00 PM every Thursday. Try to check into this net to update yourself on W3PIE club activities. How will you know what is going on if you don't listen or check in.?

Pat Pallini, WB3LUC

**REPEATER
REPORT**

As of November 30, 2001 **147.045 +** repeater is up and running. The controller is still on the blink due to a lightning strike in June. Parts have been ordered from the Insurance claim. The phone patch codes have changed. (Refer to the September **Members** Newsletter for all of the new access codes for activation.) **147.255 +** is up and running good. The phone patch is down for now till we do a bit of work to it. (The same access codes for the phone patch as before apply.) **443.750 +** is not operational at this time.

**COLLECTORS
CORNER**

By Tim Soxman W3ZVT

The J-36 series of telegraph keys were produced under government contract for use during the Second World War. Previous to the letting of the contract for the J-36 the Signal Corps and Navy purchased large amounts of the Vibroplex Lightning Bug and militarized the keys by placing a Mil Spec stamp (usually orange) on the bottom of the key.

When the J-36 contract was let the following companies produced keys which were designated J-36:

- Vibroplex
- Lionel
- Bunnell
- Brooklyn Metal Stamping

The J-36 keys produced by Vibroplex and Lionel were both similar to the Vibroplex Lightning Bug. The Lionel key had a plastic tag that had the unfortunate habit of deteriorating and falling off. You can recognize a tagless Lionel J-36 by the five rivet holes on the left side of the key. There are two holes on each end of the missing tag and one in the middle.

The Bunnell J-36 had no resemblance to the Vibroplex Lightning Bug at all and had a yoke similar to the Vibroplex Original while the damper resembled the Speed X damper. Bunnell also made a different J-36 for the Bureau of Steam Navigation which was in the area of about 200 keys. These J-36 keys are rare.

The Brooklyn Metal Stamping J-36 is pretty rare and it appears that the identifying feature of the key is a damper using a ball bearing sliding inside an inclined tube. Here's a photo of the Vibroplex, Bunnell, and Lionel J-36 keys.

Pictures next page right



Editor Note: Tim Soxman W3ZVT Has been writing this article for some time now. Tim is a member of W3PIE and is a dedicated amateur radio buff. Tim invented and builds the "Sox Key". A picture of this key has been used as a logo on the top left of page one of this letter. If you are interested more about this key you can go to the web page to see more. <http://www.mtechnologies.com/soxman>

It Seems to Us . . . Unlicensed to Kill

By David Sumner, K1ZZ
ARRL Executive Vice President
October 29, 2001

Every so often we are forced to use page 9 to issue a "call to arms" to ARRL members to defend amateur spectrum. This is one of those times. We face a grave threat that could kill much of the usefulness of the 70-cm amateur band. Here's the story. A few years ago Congress required the FCC to conduct a "biennial review" of some of its rules to determine whether they should be modified or eliminated. The FCC decided to go even farther and reviewed them all, not just those parts mandated by Congress. Included in the FCC's non-mandatory review was Part 15, governing unlicensed devices that emit RF energy. Part 15 covers a wide range of emitters, from devices that are not intended to emit RF energy such as computers and receivers to short-range communications devices such as garage-door openers and cordless telephones.

In January 2001 the FCC released an "Updated Staff Report" that recommended, among other things, consideration of several modest changes in the Part 15 rules--for example, removing a prohibition on data transmissions by certain remote control devices. These do not pose much of an interference threat to licensed services because they are operated infrequently and the rules require their transmissions to be short. Also recommended was a review of the emission standards above 2 GHz, a timely suggestion in view of the rapid growth in the use of this spectrum by both licensed and unlicensed devices. So far so good.

In October 2001 the FCC adopted and released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)*, OET Docket No. 01-278, to implement the staff recommendations--and more besides. If the NPRM had stopped with the staff recommendations we would not be sounding the alarm. Unfortunately, grafted onto the document are two proposals for far more radical

changes to Part 15, at least one of which should never have seen the light of day in its present form. It represents a grave threat to amateur operation in the 425-435 MHz band. In November 2000 SAVI Technology, Inc. filed a petition, RM-10051, seeking to legitimize a product that it had already developed, inappropriately, for operation on 433.9 MHz. Let's be clear about this: there is *no technical justification whatsoever* for the selection of that frequency. Its selection results *only* from the fact that 433.92 MHz \pm 870 kHz is designated for industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) applications in ten European countries (half of them being the former Yugoslavia and one of the other five being Liechtenstein). Because licensed radiocommunication services must tolerate a certain amount of interference in the so-called ISM bands, it is not unusual for these bands to be designated for use by unlicensed devices with power levels and duty cycles that would be inappropriate elsewhere. So it has come to pass that unlicensed devices have sprung up on 433.92 MHz, with or without regulatory authorization. This has caused nightmares for our amateur colleagues in Europe and Australia and has led numerous administrations to prohibit unlicensed devices with high duty cycles from operating on this frequency.

The product that SAVI wants to legitimize is a RF identification (RFID) tag. There is certainly nothing wrong with the concept; it is easy to see why shipping and warehousing operations would like to identify the contents of a container simply by "reading" such a tag. Had SAVI's designers (dare we say they lacked savvy?) chosen a more appropriate frequency we might have devoted this page to the 80th anniversary of the first successful amateur transatlantic transmissions. Had the FCC staff considered our well-reasoned opposition to the SAVI petition you might be reading here about the 40th anniversary of the first amateur satellite. Instead, we must ask you to join the battle against this potential disruption of the 70-cm band.

How serious is the interference potential? The proposed rules would

permit an average field strength of 11,000 microvolts per meter measured at 3 meters, for continuous periods of two minutes. In the event of a transmission error a retransmission could be initiated immediately; otherwise a silent period of at least 10 seconds would be required. As a practical matter that amounts to continuous operation of a device that could obliterate weak-signal receivers a mile away and cause significant interference to amateur television, FM, and other modes. Among the supporters of the SAVI petition is UPS. Picture RFID in every brown panel truck in the country; nothing in the proposed rules would prevent it.

It's true that in the event of harmful interference to a licensed station the operator of a Part 15 device is required to eliminate the interference, including ceasing operation if that is the only remedy. However, this presupposes that the source of the interference can be easily located and the operator of the offending device understands this obligation.

In the FCC's own words taken from the *NPRM*, "The limits are intended to minimize the possibility of unlicensed Part 15 devices causing interference to licensed radio services." The proposal to permit RFID tags in the 70-cm amateur band clearly fails to meet this standard.

If you care about this band here's what you must do. (1) Read the original. (2) Read the ARRL opposition. (3) Read the relevant parts of the *NPRM* in ET Docket 01-278. All three documents can be found on the ARRL Web site's "Threats to our Amateur Bands" page. (4) File comments opposing the addition of proposed Section 15.240 by following the instructions in paragraphs 51-54 of the *NPRM*.



TESTING

IN THE AREA

01-Dec-2001

Sponsor: WPA HILLTOPERS & BEAVER VALLEY
Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: ANTHONY F PETRUCCELLI (724)774-4173
Location: BEAVER FALLS MUN AIRPORT
125 CESSNA DR
BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010

02-Dec-2001

Sponsor: UNIONTOWN ARC INC W3PIE
Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: DAVID WATSON (724)437-4733
Location: UNIONTOWN ARC
433 OLD PITTSBURGH RD
UNIONTOWN, PA 15401

18-Dec-2001

Sponsor: BREEZE SHOOTERS
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: ROBERT W BENNA (412)366-0488
Location: PERRYVILLE VOL FIRE CO
985 PERRY HWY
WALKINS WELCOME
HANDICAP PLEASE REGISTER
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

19-Dec-2001 (Un-sponsored)

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOSEPH D SCIULLI (412)481-0460
Location: SALVATION ARMY DISASTER HQS
825 PARISH ST
PAGER – 412-786-9514
PITTSBURGH, PA 15220

2001 MEETING PICTURES



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

UNIONTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.—W3PIE
 433 Old Pittsburgh Road
 Uniontown, PA 15401
 724-439-8158



PLEASE PRINT

Name	Call	License Class
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Birth Date	E-mail

Full Membership	Associate Membership	Student Membership	Family Membership
\$2.50 per month And a one time Registration Fee of \$5.00 Cost is \$30/year	\$15.00 per year	\$15.00 per year and one time Registration Fee of \$1.50	\$5.00 per Family Member per year

v ALL THAT APPLY

I am applying for?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Membership *	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Membership	Sponsor
<i>*Requires Sponsor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student Membership *	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Membership *	

Is this application a renewal? Yes No

Are you an ARRL Member? Yes No

May we list your phone number on the club roster? Yes No

Would you like a 2nd AutoDial number? (Full members only) Yes No

If yes, list the optional number _____

Make all checks payable to: **Uniontown Amateur Radio Club, INC**

Total Amount Paid _____

Being genuinely interested in Amateur Radio, I hereby apply for Membership in the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club, Inc. As a Member I will abide by the Constitution of the Club. Also, I will support the Club to the best of my ability.

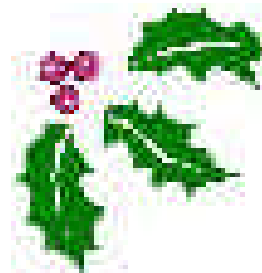
X _____
Signature of Applicant *Date*

W3PIE DECEMBER 2001 NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY FOR THE UARC MEMBERSHIP AND INTERESTED PARTIES. CLUB HOUSE IS LOCATED JUST OFF RT. 51 & 119 BY-PASS IN UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA ON OLD PITTSBURGH RD

THE CLUB REPEATERS: 147.045+, 147.255+, 443.750+ FULL TIME PL OF 123.0
AFFILIATE REPEATER: WB3LUC 145.170- FULL TIME PL OF 131.8
PACKET NODE: W3PIE-1/UARC 145.690

PRESIDENT: DAVE WATSON, N3QAS, 724-437-4733
VICE PRESIDENT: CARL CHUPRINKO, WA3HQK, 304-594-3779
SECRETARY: TONY ALVIAR, KA3VOR, 724-329-4499
TREASURER: GEORGE SYNER, WA3OGQ, 724-439-1554
CALL SIGN TRUSTEE: JOHN RUDIK, WB3JNP, 724-437-2526
TRUSTEES: JOHN RUDIK, WB3JNP, 724-437-2526
TIM SOXMAN, W3ZVT
DAVE KIR, WA3DJG



THE CLUB HOLDS ITS REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 PM AT THE UNIONTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CLUBHOUSE. **ALL AMATEURS ARE WELCOME**

Newsletter staff for this issue

John Cermak, WB3DOD	Dave Watson, N3QAS	Tony Alviar, KA3VOR
Jim Takacs, NC3K	Pat Pallini, WB3LUC	Chuck French KC3YR
Bert Sesler, WA3WAW	Tim Soxman, W3ZVT	Bill Warmuth K3FQI

W3PIE 

Uniontown Amateur Radio Club, INC
433 Old Pittsburgh RD
Uniontown, PA 15401