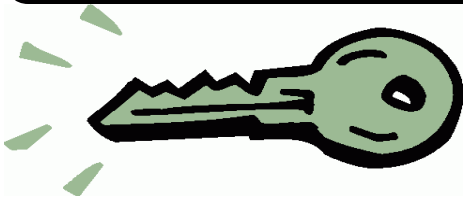


# The *W3PIE* LETTER



Volume 28, Issue 4

April 2005



## UARC BUILDING KEYS!

Recently UARC has encountered difficulty with locks and keys at the PIE Club House. Many years ago, UARC purchased locks that were on a high security key way. This has recently caused us some trouble. One of our locks needs repaired and we need new keys. Unfortunately changes in the lock manufacturer's policy has left us unable to get either our lock repaired or to get new keys made (The lock smith on account for our keys/keyway passed away several years ago).

Due to this problem with keys, UARC is changing the locks at the clubhouse. Any member who has a key and needs a new key is to show up at the April club meeting so that their key can be swapped out. If you are unable to attend the April meeting, please contact George Syner, WA3OGQ, or Tony Alviar, KA3VOR to get your key swapped out (phone #'s for both individuals are on the back cover of the newsletter).

-UARC Officers

**Bring your UARC  
Keys with you to  
the April  
Meeting!**

## 10 METER GROUNDWAVE CONTEST!

On March 19, 2005, eight members of W3PIE descended upon the clubhouse for the 10 meter ground-wave contest. At exactly 7:00 p.m., the Yaesu 990 was fired up and we were off and running. Needless to say, for the first hour or so, the contacts were being made at a pretty good clip, but then slowed way down. No problem !!! It was time to eat !!! The menu this year included some great Chili made by Brenda, N3TRG, and Wayne, N3TRF, hot sausage and buns compliments of Keith, KB3IOK, corn bread muffins from John, K3JAE, and Michael, KB3LMT, and chocolate cake and chips by Herb, KA3WSO. Needless to say, not one participant left hungry. Everything was delicious. Other hams who made it to the contest and helped out this year were Teedle, K3ECZ, Gregg, N3PJW, and George, WA3OGQ. At the end of the evening our tally sheet showed

58 contacts. From listening to other hams on 10 meters discussing their numbers, that seemed to be a respectable total. KB3IOK is working out our total points, and that will be passed along at the next club meeting. Anyhow, at midnight, the contest ended, and as we always say, "A good time was had by all" !!! If you did not make it this year, you are more that welcome to come to the next 10 meter ground-wave contest. We would enjoy seeing you there.  
73

*Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO*

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH!

All this talk of upgrades to your ticket prompted me to post this on. This is the practice exams for the FAA and FCC test sessions. This info was passed to me so I could get ready to upgrade. This is self explanatory so I will not go into too much detail. Happy surfing and Good Luck on your next test session!  
<http://www.aa9pw.com/>

*73, N3LML*

**Next Club  
Meeting is  
Wednesday,  
April 6, 2005 @  
7:30 PM**

# FCC TO DEREGULATE AMATEUR RADIO BY 2008:

Washington, DC, April 1, 2005:

In a bold move the Federal Communications Commission has decided to deregulate the Amateur Radio Service. This comes at a time when budget cuts within the Commission are forcing its Enforcement Bureau to shut down by 1 January 2006.

A spokesperson for the Commission stated that since Amateur Radio operators are supposed to be self-policing that this new move "should not pose a problem". And that it would also "solve the whole issue of restructuring".

This news has come as quite a shock to many in the Amateur Radio community, striking up many heated debates. "Basically we're being told that we're on our own as of 1 January, 2008", said a high-level League staff member.

In the interim between 2005 and 2008 Amateur Radio operators are expected to act just as they do now. "Nothing's changed yet, and all the rules and regulations are still in effect," said a spokesperson for the Commission.

All of this is set to change however, starting in 2008. On 1 January 2008 Amateur Radio in the United States will cease to exist as an official radio service. At that time it will be up to the operators to make up their own rules and regulations and to

enforce them.

To clarify one other issue, "call signs that have not already been issued will all be available on the 'honor system'," said another Commission spokesperson. The band-plans and power limitations are expected to stay the same.

Look for more information on this late-breaking news story as it becomes available.

On another note... If you're still reading this, **April Fools!!!** :^)

-Dave, N3LML

## FOR SALE AND WANTED ITEMS

Uniontown Amateur Radio Club has for sale the following item:

Numerous club members have donated an item to UARC and stated "Get out of it what ever you can get out of it as long as it's gone before Dayton"

Item Description: 59 year old obsolete, antique school teacher talking machine. Item is able to talk for hours about subjects he has little or no knowledge. See attached picture



Ralph's hobbies include: talking for hours on end, amateur radio, lawn care, and surfing the internet. If you are interested, please contact Ralph, KB3LBB or any UARC member. Bids are starting at \$1 on this item. Remember, buy Ralph now before we get him to Dayton!

-UARC Members & Virginia Ave  
Neighbors

## 145.170 REPEATER

The "folks" that provide the 145.170 repeater with tower space have received all paperwork and forwarded the paperwork onto the insurance carrier. At this point we are awaiting insurance carriers decision to decide if payment is going direct to the companies who submitted payment or to the "folks" who handle the tower space and such. We hope to have 145.170 back online soon.

-Tony, KA3VOR

## REPEATER REPORT

As of April 4, 2005 the repeater status is as follows:

147.045+ Repeater operational although with reduced power output due to site problems at the tower from a faulty jumper cable.

147.255+ Repeater fully operational

145.170- OUT OF SERVICE Repeater is out of service due to catastrophic antenna failure. Replacement will occur sometime in the near future.

145.090 Packet In Service

144.39 APRS In Service

# AREA VE EXAMS

09-Apr-2005

BREEZE SHOOTERS/NORTH  
HILLSARC

12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)  
ROBERT W BENNA (412)366-0488  
NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY-  
ROOM 148, 300 CUMBERLAND RD  
(LOWERLEVEL), CALL AHEAD FOR  
ACCOMMODATIONS!  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

10-Apr-2005

WACOM

1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
JACQUELINE Y GOSSELIN  
(724)746-9235  
[N3ZEL@ARRL.NET](mailto:N3ZEL@ARRL.NET)  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER  
WASHINGTON, PA 15301

14-Apr-2005

SALVATION ARMY DISASTER HQS  
7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
JOSEPH D SCIULLI  
(412)952-3834  
[KA3TDQ1@AOL.COM](mailto:KA3TDQ1@AOL.COM)  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY EMERGENCY  
CENTER  
400 N LEXINGTON ST  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15208

21-Apr-2005

WIRELESS ASSOC OF SOUTH  
HILLS  
6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
JACQUELINE Y GOSSELIN  
(724)746-9235  
[N3ZEL@ARRL.NET](mailto:N3ZEL@ARRL.NET)  
PETER'S TOWNSHIP LIBRARY  
616 E MCMURRAY RD  
MCMURRAY, PA 15317

04-May-2005

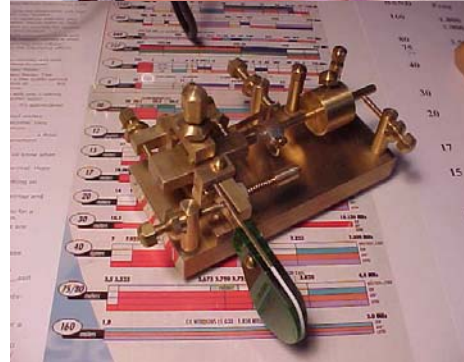
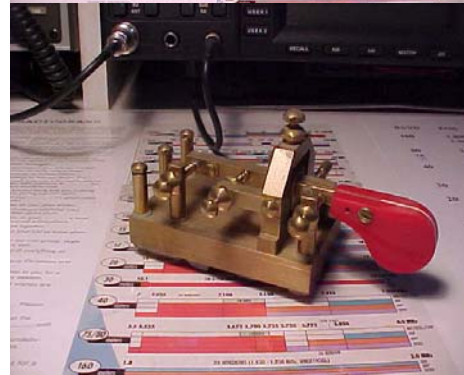
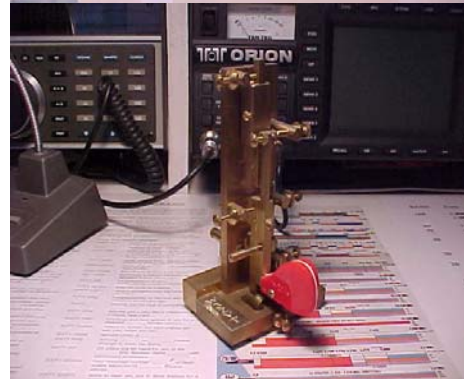
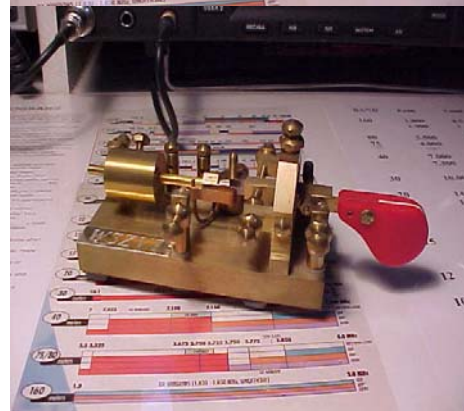
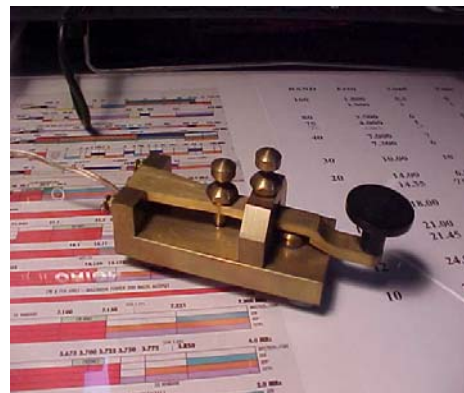
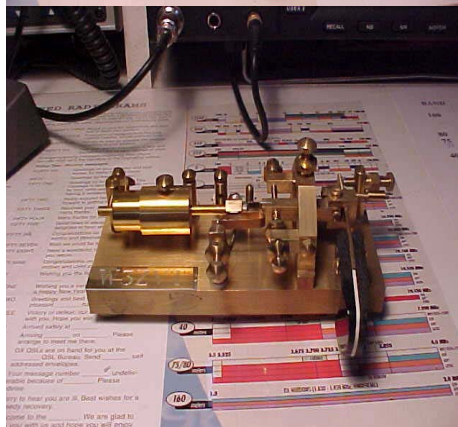
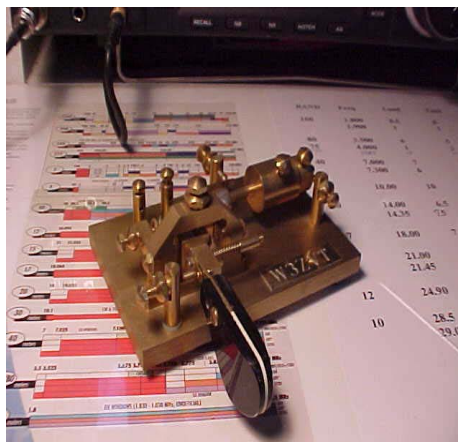
W3VC

4:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
MAYA NIGROSH (412)901-7446  
[MNIGROSH@ANDREW.CMU.EDU](mailto:MNIGROSH@ANDREW.CMU.EDU)  
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY  
5000 FORBES AVENUE  
HAMMERSCHLAG HALL  
ROOM B103  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

# KEY CORNER VE3AWA John Merrick SK

On 3/1/2005 John Merrick passed away in a hospital in Ontario Canada. I had never met John, but our friendship through the mails and on the phone grew over the years.

John was a fine machinist and he and I shared an interest in Morse keys and machine work and swapped ideas back and forth. We shared the machinist magazines I subscribed to and I'd send him tools he couldn't get in Canada. John was especially interested in vertical and right angle keys and had sent me examples of his work. He was eighty eight years old when he passed away. Here are some examples of his work.



## “WHAT A LESSON”

On the evening of March 30, 2005, a number of our club members met at the clubhouse for a HELP session on the material needed for the Extra Class exam. As some of you know, we do have a VE test session coming up on May 15. At any rate, nothing definite was planned. We were just going to go through the study books, and help each other out. Well, to our surprise, in walked Mr. Gregg Welch, N3PJW, and asked if we could use some help in the math area of the material we needed to learn. Of course, we all said yes, and Gregg headed to the chalkboard, calculator in hand. For the next hour and a half, we were all simply amazed. I have seen Math teachers who could not come close to what Gregg did for us. It was awesome!!! Of course, Joe, W3IR, was our main consultant. Boy, do both of these guys know their electronics. Too bad that Tony, KA3VOR, had to leave early due to another scheduled meeting because he missed all the fun. Students attending, but not yet receiving diplomas were Wayne, N3TRF, Brenda, N3TRG, Herb, KA3WSO, John, K3JAE, Michael, KB3LMT, tuning the HF bands for some DX, and Ralph, KB3LBB. Oops!!! Forgot Bruno and Pugsy, but they were not paying attention anyhow. All kidding aside, we all really appreciated the great help from Gregg. It sure was nice of him to give up his evening to assist all of us country bumpkins. A tip of the hat to N3PJW. What a Lesson!!!

- Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO

## UPDATE ON LIZ SHAFFER

Happy to report that Liz Shaffer is doing fine after her “Arnold Chiari Malformation” surgery a couple of months ago. She has been going to physical therapy three times a week, and everything seems to be moving along on schedule. There are still some headache issues to deal with, but that should improve over time. Might take a few more months. Anyhow, she has asked me to pass along a final “THANK YOU” to all the members of the W3PIE family who went above and beyond the call of duty in sending cards, bringing food, and passing along all the kind thoughts and prayers. All those great gestures really helped during a tough time. She says that you guys and gals are the GREAT-EST!!! God Bless and 73 from Liz.

- Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO

**FEEDBACK, FOR SALE,  
ARTICLES, IN SEARCH OF,  
ETC, FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

newsletter@w3pie.org

# W3PIE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike, KB3LMT, Brenda, N3TRG, Wayne, N3TRF, Teedle, K3ECZ, Ralph, KB3LBB, Gregg, N3PJW, Joe, W3IR, Tim, W3ZVT, Herb, KA3WSO, John, K3JAE, Keith, KB3IOK, Bert, WA3WAW, Bob, KA3YRD, George, WA3OGQ, Tony, KA3VOR

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Wayne Cavander, N3TRF, called the meeting to order at 1934 hours with 15 members present.

The Secretary's Report was printed and handed out, Motion by Ralph, KB3LBB, seconded by Tim, W3ZVT to approve Secretary's Report as printed. So Moved

The Treasurer's Report was read, Motion by John, K3JAE, seconded by Keith, KB3IOK to approve the Treasurer's Report. So Moved.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

VE Exam- is at 2 PM not any other time and was conducted on February 20. A brief discussion regarding the start time of the VE Session followed.

Field Day Committee—Preliminary outline is in stage. Any one interested in setting up or participating is asked to contact John, K3JAE

BYLAWS Change—Secretary is to type up the report given at the February meeting and send to UARC solicitor.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

A lengthy discussion on locks and keys was conducted. At this time UARC is having lock problems and unable to get locks repaired and keys copied. Officers will discuss in further detail at the Ways-n-means meeting. A motion by Dave, N3LML seconded by John, K3JAE to table further action pending officer review was made and so moved.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:20 hours with a motion by Dave, N3LML, seconded by Herb, KA3WSO and approved by all wanting to go home.

- respectfully submitted by Tony Alviar, KA3VOR

# W3PIE APRIL 2005 NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE UARC MEMBERSHIP AND INTERESTED PARTIES. CLUB HOUSE IS LOCATED JUST OFF OF RT 119 & RT 51 INTERSECTION IN UNIONTOWN, PA ON OLD PITTSBURGH RD.

CLUB REPEATERS ARE: 147.045+, 147.255+, 443.750+ PL 131.8

AFFILIATE REPEATERS: 145.170- PL 131.8 WB3JNP REPEATER

PACKET NODE: W3PIE-1 145.090 APRS NODE: 144.390

PRESIDENT: Dave Watson, N3QAS 724-438-6208

VICE PRESIDENT: Wayne Cavender, N3TRF 724-329-4098

SECRETARY: Tony Alviar, KA3VOR 724-329-4499

TREASURER: George Syner, WA3OGQ 724-439-1554

TRUSTEES: Dave Kir, WA3DJG  
Paul Renninger, K3ECZ  
Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO

CALL SIGN TRUSTEE: John Rudik, WB3JNP 724-437-2526

The Club holds it's meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club, Club House. All amateurs are welcome!

Newsletter staff for this newsletter:

Tony Alviar, KA3VOR Tim Soxman, W3ZVT

Dave Wadsworth, N3LML Brenda Cavendar, N3TRG

Dave Watson, N3QAS -UARC Officers

Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO

Uniontown Amateur Radio Club  
433 Old Pittsburgh Rd  
Uniontown, PA 15401