

The **W3PIE LETTER**

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2002 EDITION



Happy Valentine's Day

VALENTINE LADIES NIGHT OUT DINNER

The scheduled date for the W3PIE Valentine Ladies Night out Dinner is **February 15, 2002**

Time to be there is **7:00 PM**
The Shady Side Inn has been chosen for our night out.
The dinner choices are:
Ham for \$15.00
Stuffed Chicken Breast \$16.50

Also included with the meal is a Salad, Stuffed Potato, Green Beans, Rolls, and a Fruit Cup. Everyone is invited to participate in this dinner. You don't have to be a member of W3PIE to be part in the festivities.

Reservations have been set up by **Leonard Baron WA3EGS,**
724 438-7470

scotland@charterpa.net
and he would like to have an **RSVP by February 8th, 2002**

Other contacts are:
Mike Kosco KA3WOI
724 437-3943
mikeko@bellatlantic.net
Rick Sikora KA3WUO
724 437-4779
trainman@lcsys.net

2002 CLUB DUES ARE NOW DUE

On the table at the January Ways and Means meeting, the officers were discussing the payment of dues for the club. As it turns out there are many of our members that are in the rears in the dues department. We discussed how we have been very lenient in our dues collection process. There are some of our members that are delinquent almost two years. If you were a dues paying member, with good standing with the club, you should consider paying the back dues. How this works is not complicated, you pay dues for 20 years and you are then a life member. If you stop paying your dues consecutively year to year you may have to start fresh from point zero. However, members who have fallen behind and on notice should have a chance to pay the back dues. If all past dues are paid current as soon as possible, these members will not have to start over from point zero.

Thank you.. **W3PIE Officers**

**Next Club Meeting
is Wednesday,
February 6th
2002**

W3PIE VE EXAM TESTING DATES FOR 2002

**February 17th, May 5th,
September 15th, and
December 1st.**

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



The Monthly Club Meeting is Wednesday February, 6 th 2002



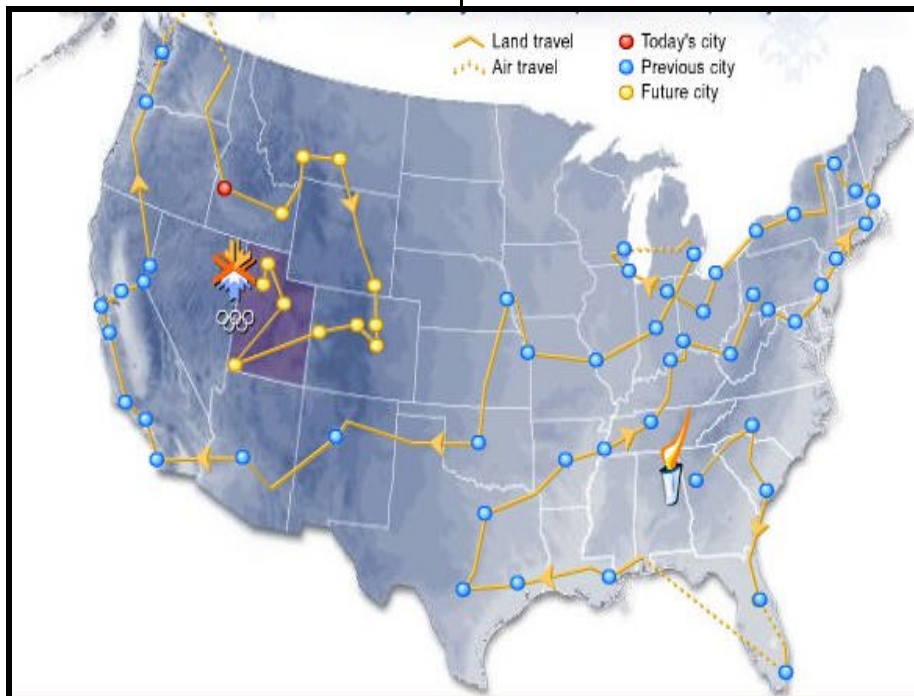
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Henry Duke, Jr. KE3RS	Feb-07
Laura Pyzdrowski N3KTE	Feb-08
James Keffer KA3VGM	Feb-09
Noel Ball N3EHH	Feb-11
Charmaine McDermott - WB3BWA	Feb-14
Charles Bell KA3WBW	Feb-21
Charlie French KC3YR	Feb-22

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

As you know for the past year or so we have not had much snow. But when we do have a considerable amount it creates havoc getting into our clubhouse without a snow removal process. The club officers would like to extend our gratitude to Robert Martin, KA3YRD for his snow removal efforts, making our club assessable for meetings. Without even asking, Robert went up to the club grounds and plowed a very nice path for us to gain access into the building. Also wishing to thank Robert would be the Apple Computer Club, as they hold their meeting the 2nd Friday of each and every month. Thank you Robert..!!

W3PIE Officers



Thank You Letter From Uniontown Police

UNIONTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

KYLE W. SNEDDON
CHIEF OF POLICE

80 N. Deason Avenue
Uniontown, PA. 15401



Office: (724) 430-2820
Fax: (724) 430-2832

JANUARY 7, 2002

UNIONTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
433 OLD PITTSBURGH ROAD
UNIONTOWN, PA. 15401

RE: 2002 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

THE 2002 OLYMPIC RELAY OPERATION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!
THE MISSION TO ENSURE SAFETY OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND PUBLIC WAS WELL ORGANIZED AND EXECUTED. TRAFFIC CONTROL WAS HANDLED WITH THE UPMOST EFFECTIVENESS.

THE SALT LAKE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THIS, ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT, WHICH CERTAINLY ENHANCED THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN DURING THE CELEBRATION.

THE ABOVE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE, WITH OUT THE HELP OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, THE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AND THE NEW SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT.

I WISH TO THANK EACH AND EVERYONE WHO ASSISTED AND PARTICIPATED IN THIS EVENT, MAKING IT A WONDERFUL HISTORICAL MEMORY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN.

SINCERELY,

CHIEF KYLE W. SNEDDON
UNIONTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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: 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

Prefer pick-up at my QTH in White, PA near Acme and Donegal

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

For Sale: HTX 202 2 meter Mobile, with antenna and owners manual. \$125.00

Contact: John Martinelli,
N3RNU 724 437-3427

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted: AM broadcast transmitter. Prefer a complete tube type unit 1 KW or less as removed from service. Also looking for Amateur tube type AM transmitters, tube type receivers, 1970's and older QST magazines and unwanted tubes. **Contact:** Bob Sova at (724) 966-2746 (evenings before 10 pm) or 966-3065 (days Mon-Fri), or by email at: WB3LEQ@alltel.net

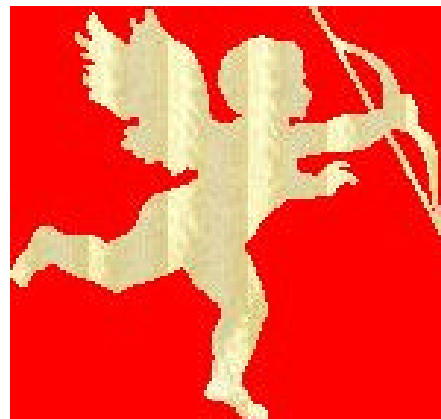
FEBRUARY ARRL CONTESTS

February 16 - 17, 2002
ARRL International DX
Contest CW

BREEZESHOOTERS 10 METER CW CONTEST

This year the Breezeshooters 10 meter groundwave contest is divided into 2 parts, CW and SSB. The CW contest on February 23rd. The SSB contest is on March 23rd. As of print for this Newsletter no plans have been made for either of these contests. This should be discussed at the February meeting. The Breezeshooters contest has been a very, very fun contest for our club to participate in and I do hope we n this on the dates mentioned.

David Watson N3QAS



FEEDBACK
ARTICLES, FOR-
SALE, ISO, ETC, FOR
THE
NEWSLETTER
SEND TO:
wa3waw@arrl.net
vze27z5x@verizon.net
talviar@fcema.org

JANUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

There were fifteen regular members present for the January meeting.

Thank you to all who showed up to participate.

David Watson N3QAS
George Syner WA3OGQ
Tony Alviar KA3VOR
Carl Chuprinko WA3HQK
Pat Pallini WB3LUC
Paul Renninger K3ECZ
Steve Holowach K3SDH
Chuck French KC3YR
Tim Soxman W3ZVT
Kirk Dorn N3EKP
Bob Sova WB3LEQ
Slim McDonald WA3MJI
Leonard Baron WA3EGS
Tom McDermott WB3BVZ
Bert Sesler, WA3WAW

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.?

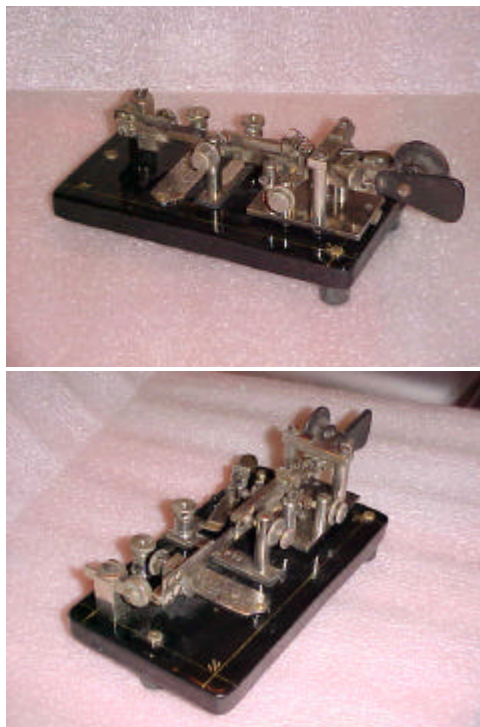
Pat Pallini, WB3LUC

COLLECTORS CORNER

By Tim Soxman W3ZVT

The Vibroplex Model X key was a departure from the norm for Vibroplex. Rather than having a separate dot and dash contact there is just one contact that handles both dots and dashes. This required a complex mechanical design and was a bear to adjust. The Model X was produced from 1911 to 1923 although very few Model X keys were sold after 1921. Most operators preferred the Original or Double lever keys. The Model X was manufactured in two versions. The first version used a square pendulum arm and weight. The second version used a round pendulum arm and weight and was referred to as the "Improved" Model X. The Model X keys were the only ones to carry the Vibroplex B2 and B3 nameplates and the original Model X carries the serial number on the metal strip between the hot terminal of the key and the dot/dash contact. Model X keys came in black japanned and nickel plate bases. The later Improved version is the rarer of the two models since it was introduced in 1919 and few Model X keys were sold after 1921. In order of scarcity the Model X ranks fourth behind the Midget, Upright, and Double Lever.

Pictures top 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 for W3PIE and is located 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 about the "Sox Key"

<http://www.mtechnologies.com/soxman>

FROM THE ARRL

Vanity call sign processing--an unintentional anthrax scare victim--may soon resume. The FCC has not processed any vanity call sign applications--paper or electronic--since October 14. Vanity applications received after that date remain on hold, although all vanity fees have been collected. If any application is on file, or if no Web access is available, applicants should telephone the FCC Call Center, toll-free 888-225-5322; e-mail rtaylor@fcc.gov or fax 717-338-2696.

Copied from ARRL by NJ3X

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Tawas City, MI: ICARE, Iosco County Amateur Radio Enthusiasts, W8P. 1200Z **Feb 1** to 0200Z **Feb 3**. Celebrating the 52nd Year of the Perchville USA Festival on Tawas Bay. 28.350 14.250 7.250 3.950. QSL. ICARE, c/o KB8ZYY, PO Box 271, Oscoda, MI 48750.

Punxsutawney, PA: Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. 1400Z to 2100Z **Feb 2**. Commemorating Groundhog Day 2002. 14.240 7.240 7.125. Certificate. Sherman Hollopeter, W3QOS, Box 20 216 E Main St, Big Run, PA 15715.

Saranac Lake, NY: Tri-Lakes Amateur Radio Club, W2C. 1500Z **Feb 2** to 2000Z **Feb 10**. Celebrating the 105th Annual Winter Carnival. 14.257 14.045 7.250 7.045. QSL. Tri-Lakes Amateur Radio Club, Box 95, Saranac Lake, NY 12983. See <http://home.adelphia.net/~tlarc/news.html> and ad in this issue.

Houghton, MI: Husky Amateur Radio Club W8YY, W8C. 0300Z **Feb 6** to 0300Z **Feb 10**. Celebrating Winter Carnival 2002. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Husky Amateur Radio Club, W8YY EE Dept MTU, 1400 Townsend Dr, Houghton, MI 49931.

Orlando, FL: Orlando Amateur Radio Club, K4H. 1300Z **Feb 7** to 1700Z **Feb 10**. Celebrating 55 years of Orlando HamCation. 28.405 21.275 14.320 7.275. Certificate. Quentin Jones, KU4WD, 1802 Colleen Dr, Orlando, FL 32809.

Washington, PA: Washington Amateur Communications, W3C. 1600Z **Feb 7** to 2000Z **Feb 10**. 2002 Washington County Sportsmen's Show. 28.460 21.375 14.270 7.270. QSL. Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI, Washington Amateur Communications, 1696 E Maiden St, Washington, PA 15301.

Grantsville, UT: West Desert ARC (W7EO), W7U. 0000Z **Feb 8** to 0000Z **Feb 24**. 2002 Winter Olympic Games. 28.400 21.300 14.250 3.768. QSL. W7EO, PO Box 98, Grantsville, UT 84029.

Myrtle Beach, SC: Grand Strand ARC, W4GS. 1130Z to 1900Z **Feb 9**. Celebrating the 6th Annual Myrtle Beach Marathon. 28.365 21.265 14.265. Certificate. Glen Bowden, 703 Connie Ct, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588-6003.

Chicago, IL: Metro Amateur Radio Club (MAC), K9Y. 1800-0002Z **Feb 9-10** to 1800-2400Z **Feb 10**. The Activation of Chicago Harbor Lighthouse (USA 171). 21.370 21.030 14.270 14.030. QSL. Michael Dinelli, N9BOR, 9423 Kolmar Ave, Skokie, IL 60076-1321. See <http://www.qsl.net/mac> for times and more information.

Ft Myers, FL: Ft Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc, W4LX. 1500Z **Feb 11** to 2100Z **Feb 15**. The Edison Festival of Lights and Thomas Edison's Birthday. 28.430 21.330 14.230 7.230. Certificate and QSL. FMARC, PO Box 61183, Ft Myers, FL 33906.

Marquette, MI: Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, K8LOD. 2000Z **Feb 15** to 2000Z **Feb 17**. Celebrating the 13th running of the UP 200 Sled Dog Championship. 21.300 14.225 7.225 3.850. Certificate. Rich Schwenke, N8GBA, 21 Smith Ln, Marquette, MI 49855.

Alexandria, VA: Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. 1600Z **Feb 16** to 2100Z **Feb 17**. Commemorating George Washington's Birthday. 18.080 14.240 10.110 7.240. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307.

Rapid City, SD: QCWA Dakota Chapter 102, WØDAK. 1500Z **Feb 23** to 0300Z **Feb 24**. Commemorating the 25th anniversary of Chapter 102. 21.375 14.275 7.240 3.889. Certificate. Frank Shaw, WØDAK, 118 E Van Buren, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Round Rock, TX: Cen-Tex Contest Group, WA5DTK. 0001Z **Feb 23** to 2359Z **Mar 6**. Commemorating the siege days at the Alamo. 28.465 21.265 14.265 7.265. QSL. Barry Brewer, WA5DTK, 603 Broken Bow Dr, Round Rock, TX 78681-7401. For more information, e-mail jbrewer@constant.com.

**One for the Thumb
Go Steelers...!!**

W3PIE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 2nd, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT: 15 Members were present: Dave Watson, N3QAS, Chuck French, KC3YR, Steve Holowach, K3SDH, Tim Soxman, W3ZVT, Slim McDonald, WA3MJI, Tony Alviar, KA3VOR, Pat Pallini, WB3LUC, Kirk Dorn, N3EKP, Tom McDermott, WB3BVZ, George Syner, WA3OGQ, Bob Sova, WB3LEQ, Len Baron, WA3EGS, Carl Chuprinko, WA3HQK, Bert Sesler, WA3WAW, Teedle, K3ECZ

CALL TO ORDER: President Dave Watson, N3QAS, called the meeting to order at 1933 with 15 members present.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS:

VE Exams: The VE Liaison Team is still looking for a member to coordinate the efforts of the VE Team. If interested please contact the Club. Len Baron, WA3EGS may be interested in taking over this position. Several other club members have indicated that they are awaiting their VE Tester packet from the ARRL to receive VE Accreditation to assist the VE Team on test days

Lightening Damage—The check arrived from the insurance company and replacement equipment for the 147.045 repeater was ordered and initial programming started. In the near future expect significant changes to the repeater. When changes are complete, new users manuals, reference cards, and control operator information will be printed and distributed.

Several members have reported paging interference to 147.045 and 147.255. After quick review the interference these folks are receiving may be a problem with intermod into the particular radio or receiver used to monitor the repeaters.

Crown Communications was contacted regarding the tower lease, a meeting between Crown and their attorneys was scheduled for mid January and we are awaiting notification back.

A Valentines Day Dinner will be held at Shadyside Inn on February 15, 2002 at 7 PM. Choices for dinner are: Virginia Baked Ham (\$15/person) and Stuffed Chicken Breast (\$16.50/person). Meal includes Fresh Fruit Cup, Baked Potato, Vegetable, rolls, beverage and dessert. Please contact Len Baron, Rick Sikora, or Mike Kosco for more information or to reserve your spot.

NEW BUSINESS:

A donation was presented to the club membership by Bob Martin, KA3YRD to plow the driveway in the event of snow prior to meetings.

Membership is reminded to check their dues status. Several members are behind in their dues payments and need to contact George Syner or other club officers to maintain current membership. Notification will be made via e-mail and US Mail for folks that are behind.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim, W3ZVT, and seconded by Teedle, K3ECZ. Meeting was adjourned at 2001

- respectfully submitted by Tony Alviar, KA3VOR

TESTING IN THE AREA

Feb-09-2002

Sponsor: NORTH HILLS ARC
Time: 12NOON (Walk-ins allowed) **Contact:** ROBERT W BENNA (412)366-0488 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** NORTH-LAND PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM #3 300 CUMBERLAND RD HANDICAP PLEASE REGISTER PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

Feb-17-2002

Sponsor: UNIONTOWN ARC INC W3PIE **Time:** 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) **Contact:** DAVID G WATSON (724)437-4733 **Email:** VZE27Z5X@VERIZON.NET **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** UNIONTOWN ARC 433 OLD PITTSBURGH RD UNIONTOWN, PA 15401

Feb-23-2002

Sponsor: CANTON ARC/MASSILLON ARC **Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) **Contact:** GARY L KLINE (330)837-2927 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** STARK CNTY EOC OFF RT 62E 4500 ATLANTIC BLVD NE 5 MI E OF US RT #77 CANTON, OH 44705



ORIGINS OF VALENTINES



As early as the fourth century B.C., the Romans engaged in an annual young man's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The names of teenage women were placed in a box and drawn at random by adolescent men. Thus, a man was assigned a woman companion, for their mutual entertainment and pleasure (often sexual), for the duration of a year, after which another lottery was staged.

Determined to put an end to this 800-year-old practice, the early church fathers sought a "lovers" saint to replace the deity Lupercus. They found a likely candidate in Valentine, a bishop who had been martyred some 200 years earlier. Traditionally, mid-February was a time for Romans to meet and court prospective mates. Young men offered women they admired and wished to court handwritten greetings of affection on February 14. The cards acquired St. Valentine's name.

As Christianity spread, so did the Valentine's Day card. The earliest one was sent in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was a prisoner in the Tower of London. It is now in the British Museum.

The first American publisher of Valentines was printer and artist Esther Howland. Her elaborate lace cards of the 1870s cost from five to ten dollars, with some selling for as much as thirty-five dollars. Since that time, the Valentine card business has flourished. Except for Christmas, Americans exchange more cards on Valentine's Day than at any other time of the year.

Excerpted from "Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday things," Charles Panati, Harper & Row, NY 1987 pp 50-52.



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 FEBRUARY 2002 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
GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Newsletter staff for this issue:

John Cermak, WB3DOD	Dave Watson, N3QAS	Tony Alviar, KA3VOR
Jim Takacs, NC3K	Pat Pallini, WB3LUC	Barry Miller NJ3X
Bert Sesler, WA3WAW	Tim Soxman, W3ZVT	

W3PIE

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