

# The *W3PIE* LETTER



Volume 28, Issue 2

February 2005

## UARC 2005 OFFICERS



*Seated, Secretary Tony Alviar, KA3VOR, Treasurer George Syner, WA3OGQ, President Dave Watson, N3QAS. Standing Trustee Dave Kir, WA3DJG, Trustee Paul "Teedle" Renninger, K3ECZ, Vice President Wayne Cavender, N3TRF, Trustee Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO*

Wednesday, January 5, 2005 was the start of a new year for W3PIE. The meeting was well attended and all officers were present at the meeting. Roye Leckemby, N3ROA was so surprised to see all the officers together at once that he felt a picture was necessary. Our organization's officers are looking forward to a successful year and want to thank our membership for a job well done for 2004. Keep up the good work!

*-Uarc Officers*

## UPCOMING FCC CHANGES!

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell announces his resignation!

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 21, 2005—FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell announced today that he'll step down, effective "sometime in March." Powell's resignation comes just one day after President George W. Bush's inauguration for a second term in the White House. Nominated by former President Bill Clinton, Powell—whose father is Secretary of State Colin Powell—joined the FCC in 1997. He became its chairman two days after President Bush was sworn in for his first term in 2001. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, called Powell's performance "a deep disappointment" after some initial optimism. While the League is not unhappy about Powell's departure—especially given his unabashed cheerleading on behalf of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) initiative—there's also concern about whom President Bush might call upon to replace him.

"It's no secret that we thought Chairman Powell was going entirely in the wrong direction on BPL and dragging the

other commissioners and FCC staff along—willing or not—because he was, after all, the chairman," Sumner said. "A new chairman might be a chance for a fresh start."

Last October when the FCC adopted new Part 15 rules for BPL, Powell called it "a banner day." While conceding that BPL will affect some spectrum users, including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there," the chairman implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

Powell listed the Commission's adoption of BPL rules among the "policy highlights" of his tenure. "Broadband to power plugs would lower prices, expand deployment," the chairman's list of accomplishments asserts.

Possibilities to replace Powell include the other Republican members of the five-member FCC—Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a staunch BPL supporter, and Kevin J. Martin. Speculation also has been raised about various candi-

**Next Club Meeting is Wednesday, February 2, 2005 @ 7:30 PM**

dates outside the commissioners. "We look forward to the opportunity to work with the new chairman, whoever that may be," Sumner said.

Powell, in his announcement, said it was "with a mixture of pride and regret" that he informed the president of his decision to step down.

"Having completed a bold and aggressive agenda, it is time for me to pursue other opportunities and let someone else take the reins of the agency," he said. "During my tenure, we worked to get the law right in order to stimulate innovative technology that puts more power in the hands of the American people, giving them greater choices that enrich their lives."

The chairman said the seeds of the Commission's policies under his leadership "are taking firm root in the marketplace and are starting to blossom." He cited the increased use of cell phones, digital TV and other digital technology "increasingly connected anytime, anywhere by a wide variety of broadband networks."

"Our children will inherit this exciting future," Powell proclaimed, adding that he looks forward to spending some time with his wife and two sons "before taking up my next challenge."

As FCC chairman, Powell also has been in the forefront of enforcing the Commission's rules on indecency, largely through imposing huge fines on violators. He also supported changes in media ownership rules that permitted even greater concentration in the ownership of broadcasting outlets.

Powell's formal resignation announcement followed wide-

spread reports in the media that he would be leaving. *Communications Daily* said the chairman's last day would be March 10.

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH!

My website of the month is going to take on a slightly different approach this month. My website of the month is going to be <http://www.washarc.org/> It is the site of The Wireless Association of South Hills. They are located primarily near the South Hills of Pittsburgh. I have 2 reasons for doing this. They have a wealth of information on their website including the "Radio Links" section and the "Fun Stuff" section. Check those out if you can and be sure to check out their newsletter the "WASHRAG". My second reason is that they have the first Hamfest of the year coming up soon! Can you say "cabin fever"? The date is listed as Sunday, February 27, 2005. Check their website for more info and directions. I plan on attending with my usual hamfest crew of Herb (KA3WSO) and Dave (WA3DJG) and I hope to see you there also! Happy Surfing!

-Dave N3LML

## FOR SALE AND WANTED ITEMS

Ralph Bliss has for sale the following item:

Kenwood TS-520S with a Kenwood MC-60 Microphone, and operator's manual. Available for \$250. If you are interested, please contact Ralph Bliss, KB3LBB @ 724-438-5182.

Dave Wadsworth, N3LML has for sale the following item:

President HR2600 All Mode 10 Meter Rig with factory bracket, power cord, and stock microphone. Radio is in nice shape.

I don't have a code ticket and can not use HF. This rig has been sitting in my shack and I don't listen to it anymore and I need a special tool for work to make my life easier. As most of you know, I hate to sell radios off, but, I really need this tool!. I would like to get at least \$100 for it. If anyone is interested, shoot me an e-mail at [n3lml@w3pie.org](mailto:n3lml@w3pie.org) and we'll go from there.

## NEWSLETTER

The newsletter staff would like to let everyone know that some changes are in order for those folks receiving the newsletter electronically.

There has been much trouble in trying to email everyone the link to the newsletter. To help make life easy on the newsletter staff, the newsletter staff has elected to setup a group under Yahoo Groups to host the newsletter distribution list. A few things need said about this Yahoo Groups list created for the newsletter. First, only moderators can post to the list (which means relatively few emails from the yahoo groups newsletter list). Second, the moderators will limit the attachments to pictures only. Newsletters, and any other document will still be posted on the web site and links provided via the yahoo groups newsletter list.

Should you wish to subscribe to receive the email via yahoo groups, you will need an active yahoo groups account. If you do

not have an active yahoo groups account, establishing one is relatively easy.

To establish a yahoo groups account, go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com> and click on either SIGN UP or CLICK HERE TO REGISTER. To create an account you will need to enter your first and last name, gender, a username or id (this will be your yahoo display name), a password (entered twice to verify that it was entered correctly) and a few security parameters in case you forget your password. The "If you forget your password" will ask you for an alternate email, please make sure to enter an email address here. You will also be asked to enter a security code to verify your account setup. Should you not want a Yahoo Mail email address, please uncheck the box that says "Create my free Yahoo! Email address." From this point on, please follow on screen directions for your account creation.

For folks that are either new users or are current yahoo groups users, if you would like to sign up for the Newsletter list please follow these directions.

Return to the web address listed above and select SIGN IN. You will need to enter your yahoo groups id and password. Once you do this a screen will appear that says at the top Welcome, (your yahoo groups id). Part way down the screen you will see a box that appears below "Join a group". Enter w3pie in the search box and click search.

One listing should return that is uarc\_w3pie\_newsletter. Please click on that choice. Please click on the button that says "Join this group". Please select to which email address you would like this

group to send messages. Where the group requests a comment to the owner, please place your name and callsign there. Select how you want your messages delivered and what format to send the messages. You will also need to type in a security word verification then click on Join.

The newsletter hopes that you are successful in signing up for the Newsletter List via yahoo groups. This will allow you to receive notification that the newsletter is ready for viewing, as well as receive notification about upcoming W3PIE events and happenings.

*-Newsletter Staff*

## 145.170 REPEATER

The "folks" that provide the 145.170 repeater with tower space have advised me that they have opened an insurance claim with their insurance carrier and have asked me to get the necessary pricing on the replacement antenna and tower climbing fees. They have advised that the only cost will be the \$500 deductible from their insurance. John Rudik, WB3JNP, owner of the 145.170 has been in contact with the officers regarding this expense. He is able to provide a portion of this deductible. At the January meeting, the membership authorized \$350 from the ticket fund raiser go towards the deductible with the remainder to be paid by John. There have been some delays in getting the pricing from the tower company and we hope to have 145.170 back online soon.

*-Tony, KA3VOR*

### Area VE Exams

20-Feb-2005

**UNIONTOWN ARC INC W3PIE**

2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

LEN F BARON (724)438-7470

SCOTLAND@CHARTERPA.NET

UNIONTOWN ARC CLUBHOUSE

433 OLD PITTSBURGH RD

UNIONTOWN, PA 15401

05-Feb-2005

BEAVER VALLEY ARA

10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

ANTHONY F PETRUCCELLI

(724)774-4173

KE3ED@ARRL.NET

COMM COLL/BEAVER CTY

125 CESSNA

DR (BEAVERCTYAIRPORT

AVIATION SCIENCES BLDG

BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010

12-Feb-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

20-Feb-2005

W3VC

1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

MAYA NIGROSH

(412)901-7446

MNIGROSH@ANDREW.CMU.EDU

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

5000 FORBES AVENUE

HAMMERSCHLAG HALL

ROOM B103

PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

# REPEATER REPORT

As of January 31, 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.

443.750+ Out of service. Replacement equipment has been located and UARC is working on obtaining and getting in service.

145.090 Packet In Service

144.39 APRS In Service

## BLANK SPACE

The Newsletter Staff would like to apologize for the white space remaining here. We are in the process of creating the newsletter in a different software package and by the time the software was figured out, we were cutting it close for time. Upcoming newsletters will be better! Hope to see everyone at the club house on Wednesday Night!

Deadline for March newsletter is Wednesday February 22, 2005 to [newsletter@w3pie.org](mailto:newsletter@w3pie.org)

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

[newsletter@w3pie.org](mailto:newsletter@w3pie.org)

# W3PIE Business Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 5, 2005

**Members Present:** Brenda, N3TRG, Wayne, N3TRF, Tim, W3ZVT, Dave, WA3DJG, Joe, ex-N3IHZ, now W3IR, Herb, KA3WSO, Ron, KE3OH, Dave, N3LML, Teedle, K3ECZ, Roye, N3ROA, Michael, KB3LMT, Keith, KB3IOK, John, K3JAE, Jim, N3EBT, Gregg Welch, N3PJW, Valerie, N3YSX, Bert, WA3WAW, Ralph, KB3LBB, Tony, KA3VOR, George, WA3OGQ, Dave, N3QAS

**Guests Present:** NONE

**Call to order:** The monthly meeting of the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 1932 hours by President Dave Watson, N3QAS with 21 members present. Of the 21 members present, all 7 officers were present at the meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** Printed and in the newsletter, as well as passed out. Motion by Tim, W3ZVT, seconded by Dave, WA3DJG to approve the minutes, Motion so carried.

**Treasurer's Report** was read and approved as read. Motion by Roye, N3ROA, seconded by Ron, KE3OH to approve the treasurer's report, Motion so carried.

## Old Business:

Christmas party was held on December 8, 2004. This was well attended and a fun time had by all.

VE Exam on Sunday, December 19, 2004. 3 people were tested, 3 people passed.

Due to some minor timing issues caused by Sheetz gas station, the \$500 gift card ticket will go off on March 17, 2005 St Patricks Day instead of ValentinesDay. Tickets to be printed and distribution started at the Ways-n-Means Meeting.

Len Baron will be organizing the Club's annual Valentine's Day Dinner

## New Business:

A general report was provided by Tony, KA3VOR regarding the 145.170 antenna. Communication with the company that handles the tower rent for 145.170 has indicated that their insurance carrier will probably handle the claim for the antenna damage. However there is a \$500 deductible that the company will pass on to the owner of 145.170. John Rudik, WB3JNP owner of 145.170 has indicated that he will be able to pay \$150 of this. He inquired of the club officers to know if the club could help with the remainder. A motion by Dave WA3DJG seconded by Keith KB3IOK to pay upto \$350 for the antenna replacement with funds to come from the ticket sale was made. This motion passed.

Wayne reported that he would like UARC to participate in a Ham Radio/Military Appreciation Day. This event will be conducted in May. After much discussion, the club is interested and Wayne will be in contact with the organizers to get more information and to start setting this up.

An inquiry was made at the meeting regarding Field Day activities for 2005. After much discussion a committee head was selected. John Etling, K3JAE will be handling Field Day coordination.

Herb, KA3WSO advised that the WASH Club is hosting a 2M simplex contest on Saturday January 8, 2005/

An inquiry was made regarding hamfest for 2005. During discussion the general consensus was that a committee needs formed to handle the 2005 hamfest. This will be handled and discussed at the February meeting.

Tim Soxman, W3ZVT made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Kir, WA3DJG. Meeting was closed at 2020 hours.

# W3PIE JANUARY 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 John Etling, K3JAE

Dave Wadsworth, N3LML Roye Leckemby, N3ROA

Dave Watson, N3QAS -UARC Officers

Brenda Cavender, N3TRG

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