



# The **W3PIE LETTER**

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 11

November 2001 EDITION

## W3PIE VE EXAM TESTING DATES

Other future exams: **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.

## VE LIAISON NEEDED

W3PIE is in need of a team liaison for our quarterly testing sessions. As of December 2nd, Joe Stajnrakh WO3V will not be able to continue this position. Qualifications needed would be from someone that has an Extra Class License. If you are interested in taking on this job, please contact one of the officers from the club.  
( Officers Numbers on Page 8 )  
At this time we would like to express our gratitude for Joe Stajnrakh WO3V, for being with us all these years. Great job.. Thank you....

*W3PIE Officers*

## EXAMS AROUND THE AREA



**01-Nov-2001 Sponsor:** WACOM  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** JAMES C BURTOFT (724)228-0546 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC  
**Location:** FIRE HALL #1 SOUTH STRABAIN TOWNSHIP 1696 E MAIDEN ST WASHINGTON, PA 15301

**03-Nov-2001 Sponsor:** WPA HILLTOPPERS & PANTHER ARC  
**Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** DENNIS M TANNER (412)885-8073 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC  
**Location:** CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH 5TH AVENUE @ BIGELOW BLVD PITTSBURGH-OAKLAND PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

**10-Nov-2001 Sponsor:** BREEZE SHOOTERS  
**Time:** 12NOON (Walk-ins allowed) **Contact:** ROBERT W BENNA (412)366-0488

## **Nominations & General Meeting is November 7th 2001**

**VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** PERRYVILLE VOL FIRE CO 985 PERRY HWY WALKINS WELCOME HANDICAP PLEASE REGISTER PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

**15-Nov-2001 Sponsor:** FOOT-HILLS ARC **Time:** 7:00 PM (No walk-ins) **Contact:** RICHARD E BEAVER (724)523-5656 **Email:** N3SRJ@NETZERO.NET **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** WEST-MORELAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM MAIN STREET PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED GREENSBURG, PA 15601

**17-Nov-2001 Sponsor:** BUTLER COUNTY ARA **Time:** 9:00 AM (No walk-ins) **Contact:** GERALD H WETZEL (724)282-6777 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** PRE-REGISTER 48 HRS AHEAD BOY SCOUT CENTER 850 MORTON AVE W3DMB@ARRL.NET BUTLER, PA 16001

**The Monthly Club Meeting is Wednesday November 7,2001**

**Sam Call CD now @ the Club**

# OCTOBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

David Watson N3QAS  
Pat Pallini WB3LUC  
Don Moser WA3DHH  
Paul Renninger K3ECZ  
Leonard Baron WA3EGS  
Hank Duke KE3RS  
Paul Button KB3DLT  
Scott Button KF3CP  
Slim McDonald WA3MJJ  
Bert Sesler WA3WAW  
Mike Kosco KA3WOI  
Tim Soxman W3ZVT  
George Syner WA3OGG  
Carl Chuprinko WA3HQQ  
Butch Blair KB3GPD  
John Wagner N3XMK  
Tina Martin WZ3Z  
Bob Martin KA3YRD

2 **Guests:** Robert Button, Wagner Jr.

# NOVEMBER HAMFESTS

**A good sign winter is soon approaching when you only see a couple of local Ham-fests listed in the news.....!!**

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Garfield Heights, OH  
**November 10, 2001**  
**Contact:** Laura Lonczak  
5417 Turney Road  
Garfield Heights, OH 44125  
Phone: 216-663-3258  
Email: ln4js@visn.net

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Grant ARC  
Georgetown, OH  
**November 10, 2001**  
**Contact:** Dot Silman, KB8TQU  
Phone: 937-446-2234  
Email: Huggee@Bright.net



## **Important (SET) Simulated Emergency Test**

Public service communications have been a traditional responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service since 1913, when amateurs at the University of Michigan and Ohio State University, in conjunction with numerous individual amateurs in and around the region, successfully bridged the communications gap surrounding a large isolated area left by a severe windstorm in the Midwest. In those early days, such disaster work was spontaneous and without previous organization of any kind. In today's Amateur Radio, disaster work is a highly organized and worthwhile part of day-to-day operation, implemented principally through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS), both sponsored by the ARRL. The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), independent nets and other amateur public service groups are also a part of Amateur Radio public service efforts.

Every year the ARRL, in conjunction with the other amateur radio public service organizations mentioned above, sponsors a nationwide drill of communications known as the SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST or (SET). This year the SET will be on the 17th day of November, a Saturday, from 9am to noon. The exact frequencies on the vhf and H.F. bands will be announced closer to the SET date on the 9pm Thursday night net on 147.045... We sure would like to see as many Fayette County hams as possible check in to the SET net on the 17th....." 73 "

**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

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**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

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**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

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**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 BIRTHDAYS



Gary Ronzio K3YYM	11/4
Phoebe Derryberry N3GYJ	11/10
Herb Shaffer KA3WSO	11/10
Tom Gomery KA3WMD	11/14
Rudolf Kolencik WB3JHC	11/15
James DeMarco NN3X	11/18
Jill French KA3RAM	11/23
Richard Sikora KA3WUO	11/29
Phil Hart W3FNY	11/30

## COKE CENTER ARC HAS NEW PRESIDENT

The club W3NAV in Connellsville election results for October 9th.

**President** Glenn Bell W3SKM  
**V-Pres** Art Krumanacker K3FCY  
**Sec-Treas** Gary Ronzio K3YYM  
**Trustee** Bill Warmuth\* K3FQI  
**Trustee** Bob Rose KA3WOH  
**Trustee** Alex Tinker W3ICX  
\*Fayette County Emergency Coordinator [ARES]

Coke Center ARC serves the Community of Connellsville, PA, offering emergency communications to local municipal and civic agencies, as well as county and state agencies, as requested. The Club also provides communications for such events as the local hospital marathon races each year. <http://www.qsl.net/w3nav/>

## **Do You Have Back-up Power for Emergency Use?**

The need for back-up power is something I suspect few Amateurs actually deal with in his/her station. If there is an emergency that causes the local supply of electricity to fail, how many of us actually have a means by which to operate and do so in a timely manner. Yeah ... You could run out to your car and rip out the battery, or use an HT. But what if there is a need for a high power station to be made available for the emergency.

Ham's are arguably the most ingenious bunch of hobbyists in our nation, and can also provide a useful resource in such situations. I am sure that with all the work we do on grounding systems, tower construction, cable runs through our shack walls, and all the other station set-up issues we deal with, how many of us actually have an external, long-lasting source of back-up power? And if we do, does it come on without interruption. We go out and purchase UPS for our computers, but do we do the work to build high capacity energy storage systems for our stations? It is very possible to build such systems, but you hear very little in this area in publications and general QSO discussions.

Several Hams have described to me systems they have designed for regular use, in place of power supplies, utilizing multiple large storage cells, placed outdoors, with plenty of protection from the elements and ventilation. It would be interesting to hear about various high power, high current, large capacity emergency back-up power systems that other Ham's have designed and utilize. Does anyone use an automatic system that kicks on, in a seamless way, when local AC fails?

I think all Ham's should remember their primary responsibility the privilege of having a ticket bears, and consider working on some type of systems for quick and lasting power during a power challenged emergency. I will be ... What do you think?

John LeVasseur - W2WDX

**QRZ Article**

## COLLECTORS CORNER

By Tim Soxman W3ZVT

A key that is easy to mistake for the Vibroplex original is the Vibroplex Junior. The Junior was officially produced from 1934 to 1939 and was called by Martin/Vibroplex a Junior in their 1934 ads. There was a "small based" Vibroplex produced from 1921 to 1934 but it was not at that time called a "Junior". The Junior was produced with a three inch wide by six inch long base. This is one half inch shorter and narrower than the Vibroplex Original. It is very easy to mistake a Junior for an Original so when you're looking at Vibroplex keys it might be wise to have a ruler on hand. The Junior came in a japanned or nickel base and I have on hand a late Junior with a 796 Fulton Street address, 1926 D3 plate, that is black wrinkle finish. The Vibroplex collectors guide lists the Vibroplex Junior as "uncommon".



## 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 October 25th **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 after an Insurance claim. The phone patch codes have changed. (Refer to the September Member Newsletter for all of the new codes) **147.255 +** is up and running good with the same access codes for phone patch. **443.750 +** is not operational at this time

## TRIVIA

Did you know how many hams there are in the United States? Well here is the tally..

95,750 Extra  
90,671 Advanced  
138,786 General  
107,767 Tech Plus  
222,028 Technician  
56,648 Novice

**Total 711,659**

*Taken From QRZ*

## **Super Ham Radio Educational Site**



Frank Pritchett N7UO writes "Dave Funk, WA7RSO has provided the amateur community with an impressive educational site:

Solutions for Education,  
[www.sfe-dcs.com](http://www.sfe-dcs.com).

Included in his site are affiliated topics related to computers. Within this site, the amateur will discover downloadable schematics for power supplies, electronic keyers, succinct discussions on feed line impedance, simplifications of dB computations, and even freeware such as SuperMorse, a CW tutor.

Dave has many years of experience as an educator, design engineer, and radio amateur. His efforts in his site are commendable and clearly evoking knowledge among us appliance operators. There are hints that make learning fundamental skills easy. While the site continues to grow, those completed articles provide us with necessary tools to breadboard, and manufacture equipment fundamental to the hobby. I encourage you to check out his site:

**<http://www.sfe-dcs.com>** and look for "ham radio." You'll be glad you did."

**QRZ Article**

Be an Elmer Not a Fudd...!



# W3PIE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 3rd, 2001

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 20 Members were present: Don Moser WA3DHH, Butch Blair KB3GPD, Paul Renninger K3ECZ, Tim Soxman W3ZVT, Hank Duke KE3RS, Slim McDonald WA3MJI, Pat Pallini WB3LUC, Mike Kosco KA3WOI, Dave Watson N3QAS, George Syner WA3OGQ, Bert Sesler WA3WAW, Leonard Baron WA3EGS, Paul Button KB3DLT, Scott Button KF3CP, John Wagner N3XMK and son, Carl Chuprinko WA3HQK, Tina Martin WZ3Z, Bob Martin KA3YRD.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** 2 Guests were present: Robert Button, John Wagners's N3XMK, son

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Dave Watson, N3QAS, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM with 20 members with 2 guests present

- ◆ Secretary Tony Alviar KA3VOR, had to attend a meeting in Harrisburg. Due to his in absence, the secretary's report will be offered in next month's business meeting.
- ◆ Treasurer George Syner WA3OGQ, gave the Treasurer's report.
- ◆ **OLD BUSINESS:**  
George reported that the VE Exam held on September 16 had 5 candidates participate. Joe WO3V has intended on getting out of the position of heading up the VE team for some time now. As things stand now, the December 2 VE Exam will be the last one for Joe, and the program will be concluded. Discussion continued on keeping the VE program alive at our club.

No further progress has been made on the commercial tower lease deal to date.

The 147.255 repeater is off the air due to a lightning strike. The 147.045 repeater is on and working, but the autopatch has a new procedure due to the ten digit local dialing for our area and the inability for the speed dialer in our controller to handle the extra digits. The old speed dial numbers for the most part do not work because of this. Discussion continued on the future options concerning the autopatch speed dial.

Work still needs done on the roof of the building, and the big tribander antenna. The canopy was picked up. We have nice new chairs in the operating room. George also gave a positive report on the gabfest.

- ◆ **NEW BUSINESS:**  
New full member Bill Jacobs, WA8YCG was voted into the club membership. The Dayton money was sent in.  
Pat reported that Roye Leckemby N3ROA is still taking care of his wife, and Roye told Pat that anyone looking for a 2 meter radio should be advised that T. J. 's is selling both the HT and mobile radios for half the catalog price right now.

Tim Soxman W3ZVT has a A3S tribander (used) and a brand new stainless steel fittings kit for it. If you want it, come get it.

Pat Pallini WB3LUC has a top section of tower he wants to get rid of cheap.

Pat also advises that Kirk Dorn, N3EKP is now back home and recovering. He is getting along fine.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Koosco, KA3WOI at 8:20 PM.

Seconded by Tim Soxman, W3ZVT.

Respectfully submitted by Bert Sesler, WA3WAW

FEEDBACK  
ARTICLES, FOR-SALE,  
ISO, ETC, FOR THE  
NEWSLETTER

SEND TO:  
wa3waw@arrrl.net  
vze27z5x@verizon.net  
talviar@fcema.org

## CONTESTS

November 03 - 05 ARRL  
November Sweepstakes CW  
November 10 - 11 ARRL EME  
Competition  
November 17 - 19 ARRL  
November Sweepstakes Phone

**FCC Stops Accepting  
Filings Enclosed in  
Envelopes**



(Oct 19, 2001) -- The FCC announced this week that, effective immediately, hand or messenger-delivered filings enclosed in envelopes will not be accepted at FCC Headquarters until further notice. The Commission is encouraging everyone to file electronically or via fax whenever possible.

## GABFEST 2001 PICTURES



W3SII



K3YYM



W3TTL

# 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?       Full Membership \*      \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Membership      Sponsor

*\*Requires Sponsor*       Student Membership \*

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 NOVEMBER 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