



The **W3PIE LETTER**

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 8

October/November 2004 EDITION

New Code Class ! Details Inside !

GABFEST 2004

UARC's 55th annual Gabfest was held on Saturday, September 4, 2004. Those that made it can truly attest to this being one of the finer hamfests conducted at the clubhouse. Preparations for the Gabfest started early this year. Members started in May to get the clubhouse cleaned up, fixed up, and painted. The hard work of all the members that helped the club get ready for the Gabfest definitely. Attendees at this year's hamfest were greeted at Old Pittsburgh Road with a new sign advertising W3PIE, then as they head up the driveway, were immediately greeted with a building that looks new with fresh paint, a new porch roof, new siding, and new signs on the front. There were lots of people in the parking lot selling this year as well. Attendance seemed about the same as previous years and it seemed that everyone had a good time.

-Uarc Officers

HAM OF THE YEAR

First, the UARC Officers would like to say that deciding who should be the Ham of the Year this year was one of the most difficult decisions that the Officers made. In the few months between May and September, numerous individuals went above and beyond what the officers expectations are for a person to be "Ham of the Year". Many individuals donated money, time, or stuff to help the club renovate this summer. Each of these individuals again individually went above and be-

yond what the officers expect from any member. From all the people that were on the list of candidates for "Ham of the Year" one couple did an excellent job of organizing people, time, and stuff to get the projects done and to get them done in time for the hamfest. Wayne, N3TRF and Brenda, N3TRG, Cavander are the recipients for the Ham of the Year award. Their hard work and efforts will be seen for many years to come by our membership. The UARC Officers and the UARC Membership appreciate their work and commend them!

**Next Club Meeting
is Wednesday,
October 6th**





OCTOBER & NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen Cermak, KA3EYD	10/7
Bob Rose, KA3WOH	10/7
John Strawberry, WA3AKX	10/8
Brenda Williams, KB3KFS	10/9
Hazel Pallini, WB3LUD	10/11
Jeff Kolesar, KB3KOI	10/16
Bill Warmuth, K3FQI	10/16
John Wagner, N3XMK	10/19
Joe Stajnrhaj, WO3V	10/21
John Rudik, WB3JNP	10/25
Don Moser, WA3DHH	10/27
Jim Takacs, NC3K	10/29
Bonnie Thomas, N3LMH	10/30
Gary Ronzio, K3YYM	11/4
Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO	11/10
Phoebe Derryberry, N3GYJ	11/10
Tom Gomery, KA3WMD	11/14
Rudy Kolencik, WB3JHC	11/15
Brenda Cavander, N3TRG	11/16
Jim DeMarco, NN3X	11/18
Jill French, KA3RAM	11/23
Rick Sikora, KA3WUO	11/29
Phil Hart, W3FNY	11/30

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER AREA TESTING

03-Oct-2004
 WIRELESS ASSOC OF SOUTH HILLS
 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 JACQUELINE Y GOSSELIN
 (724)746-9235
 N3ZEL@ARRL.NET

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 NORTH MAIN STREET
 OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, PA 15301

09-Oct-2004
 BREEZE SHOOTERS/NORTH HILL-
 SARC
 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
 ROBERT W BENNA
 (412)366-0488
 NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
 300 CUMBERLAND RD
 (LOWERLEVEL)
 HANDICAP PLEASE REGISTER
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

21-Oct-2004
 WIRELESS ASSOC OF SOUTH HILLS
 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 JACQUELINE Y GOSSELIN
 (724)746-9235
 N3ZEL@ARRL.NET
 PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
 616 E MCMURRAY RD
 MCMURRAY, PA 15317

21-Oct-2004
 WIRELESS ASSOC OF SOUTH HILLS
 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 JACQUELINE Y GOSSELIN
 (724)746-9235
 N3ZEL@ARRL.NET
 WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 NORTH MAIN STREET
 OFFICE BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, PA 15301

23-Oct-2004
 INDIANA COUNTY ARC
 1:00 PM (No walk-ins)
 WILLIAM C MC MILLEN
 (724)397-2702
 N3QM@MICROSERVE.NET
 IUP UNIVERSITY
 WEYANDT HALL
 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
 UP TO 24 HRS BEFORE TEST
 INDIANA, PA 15701

06-Nov-2004
 WPA HILLTOPPERS
 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 DENNIS M TANNER
 (412)885-8073
 CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING
 UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
 FORBES AVE @ BIGALOW ST
 CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING-G-19A
 OAKLAND, PA 15213

11-Nov-2004

JEFFERSON CTY EMER MGT AGCY
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 DONNA M REID
 (814)752-2937
 ABBOTT_DONNA@YAHOO.COM
 JEFFERSON CTY EMA/911 BLDG
 JEFFERSON CTY EMA/911 BLDG
 BOTTOM FLOOR
 AT EXIT 81 OF I-80
 BROOKVILLE, PA 15825

13-Nov-2004
 BREEZE SHOOTERS/NORTH HILL-
 SARC
 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
 ROBERT W BENNA
 (412)366-0488
 NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
 300 CUMBERLAND RD
 (LOWERLEVEL)
 HANDICAP PLEASE REGISTER
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

20-Nov-2004
 BUTLER COUNTY ARA
 9:00 AM (No walk-ins)
 GERALD H WETZEL
 (724)282-6777
 W3DMB@ARRL.NET
 MORAINETRAILS COUNCIL-
 BOYSCOUT CENTER
 850 MORTON AVE
 PRE-REGISTER 48 HOURS AHEAD
 TEST FEE \$12
 BUTLER, PA 16001

21-Nov-2004
 ELLWOOD CITY ARA
 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 JAMES H KLINGENSMITH
 (724)752-3367
 N3ZJM@ADELPHIA.NET
 TREE OF LIFE WELLNESS CENTER
 EWING PARK
 ELLWOOD CITY, PA 16117

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

newsletter@w3pie.org

INTRODUCTION TO A.P.R.S.

What is A.P.R.S. you may ask?

A.P.R.S., abbreviation for *Automatic Packet* (or in some cases known as *Position*) *Reporting System*, was first developed by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, for tracking and digital communications with mobile GPS (*Global Positioning Satellite*) equipped stations with two-way radios. In the 14+ years since its introduction, it has grown to encompass just about every aspect of Amateur Radio.

Being more specific; A.P.R.S. is a real-time tactical digital communications protocol for exchanging information between large numbers of stations covering a large (local) area. As a multi-user data network, it is quite different from conventional packet radio.

A.P.R.S. is different from regular packet in four ways.

- First by the integration of maps and other data displays to organize and display data,
- Second, by using a one-to-many protocol to update everyone in real time,
- Third, by using generic digipeating so that prior knowledge of the network is not required, AND
- FORTH, since 1997, a worldwide transparent internet backbone, linking everyone worldwide.

APRS turns packet radio into a real-time tactical communications and display system for emergencies and public service applications (and global communications).

Normal packet radio has only shown usefulness in passing bulk message traffic (Email) from point to point. It has been difficult to apply conventional packet to real time events where information has a very short life time and needs to get to everyone.

APRS provides universal connectivity to all stations by avoiding

the complexity and limitations of a connected network. It permits any number of stations to exchange data just like voice users would on a voice net. Any station that has information to contribute simply sends it, and all stations receive it and log it. Secondly, APRS recognizes that one of the greatest real-time needs at any special event or emergency is the tracking of key assets. Where is the Event Leader? Where are the emergency vehicles? What's the Weather at various points in the County?

To answer these questions, A.P.R.S. is a full featured automatic vehicle location and status reporting system as well. It can be used over any 2-way radio system including HAM, CB, Marine Band, and Cellular Phone. Now there is even a nation-wide LIVE APRS tracking network on the Internet! Setting up A.P.R.S. on your computer is fairly simple and takes about an hour to do.

This author recommends the usage of the UI-VIEW 32 program that can be downloaded for free at <http://www.ui-view.com>. The program is designed specifically for Amateur operators and requires you to input your call sign. It is fully functional with some features disabled should you never register the program.

UI-VIEW

UI-View is an A.P.R.S. software application for the Windows[®] operating system. It differs from most A.P.R.S. software in that it is not just designed to be used with TNCs in terminal mode. It also supports TNCs in KISS mode, AGWPE host mode and BPQ host mode. The host mode support means that UI-View can be used with an extremely wide range of packet hardware and allows up to 16 RF ports to be used.

Additionally UI-View has a full-featured internal intelligent

digipeater and full support for connecting to A.P.R.S. servers via the Internet.

UI-View uses a variety of image files including BMP, PNG, GIF and JPG images for its maps. Also, the 32 bit version has full support for Undertow Software's *Precision Mapping* CD atlas, allowing you to zoom to street level or view from afar anywhere in the USA then using the built in "SA Map Grabber," can import the map and the required .INF file into UI-VIEW allowing you to customize or pick and choose any location within the continental USA (CONUS) to monitor. One of the build in features that most interests this author is the almost real time weather reporting around the country. The ability to receive almost instant alerts, advisories, warnings etc. along with the ability to overlay NOAA information is extremely helpful should one be interested in tracking severe weather, helping a family member or friend trek across the monitored area etc.

What Do I Need To Run It ?

PC

Minimum requirement of a 486DX2/66 with 16Mb, Win31 or Win95/8, and a graphics card that supports 256 or more colors.

TNC/RADIO

There are numerous styles and type of TNC's. Pick your poison! Also has support for the Kenwood TH-7DE.

Any radio that can be connected to a TNC

I have touched very briefly some of the features and benefits of A. P.R.S. Next time I will detail specific setup procedures as well as extended features of using A.P. R.S. with UI-VIEW both in radio mode and in Internet mode.

-John, K3JAE

THURSDAY **NIGHT 147.045** **W3PIE 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. If you are available to help run the net, please contact the newsletter staff. Currently we have four individuals that are operating in rotation to keep our net operating. How will you know what is going on if you don't listen or check in?

W3PIE OFFICERS

FROM THE WEB!

Have an interesting web site that you think fellow hams might enjoy? Forward the link and a brief description of the web site to the newsletter staff and we will be sure to get it in the newsletter. Let us know at newsletter@w3pie.org

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

Here's one for you to check out, www.dxzone.com A wealth of information that appeals to any ham! You name it and it's there. Any information about clubs, hamfests, tips, tricks, manufacturers links and the list goes on forever! Check it out and let me know what you think. You can drop me a line at n3lml@verizon.net

Happy Hunting!

David N3LML

REPEATER REPORT

As of October 1, 2004

147.045 + Repeater operational, although reduced power output due to additional site problems.

147.255 + is up and running good. (No Phone Patch)

145.170- is up and running good. (No phone patch)

443.750 + Is not operational at this time.

145.090 Packet

144.390 APRS

FOR SALE AND WANTED ITEMS

Joe Ealy, N3IHZ is seeking the following:

Looking for an HF rig, either an Icom or Kenwood 85-95 vintage w/bells and whistles, prefer rig with general coverage receive in the HF band as well. Please contact Tony, KA3VOR at talviar@fcema.org or 724-329-4499 (evenings) to help establish contact with Joe.

NEW CODE CLASS

If you have an interest in learning the morse code this could be the thing for you.. Bert Sesler, WA3WAW, has volunteered to be the instructor and has proposed Tuesday nights at 7 PM starting October 12 at the club. Bring pen and paper (notebook, etc.), and the classes will hopefully conclude just before the December VE

Exam, for the 5 word per minute exam. Everyone is welcome, even if you know nothing about morse code, or if you have already been practicing and need some help. It's a lot of fun to practice together, and before you know it you will be a great CW operator.

UARC WEBSITE

The Uniontown Amateur Radio Club at the August meeting decided to formalize the newsletter by making www.w3pie.org a reality. The membership present decided that this should be at no expense to the club and the members present passed the hat and collected the funding necessary to purchase web hosting with our organization name as the internet name for our web site. If you have not already done so, please check us out on the web at <http://www.w3pie.org>

IVAN FLOOD DAMAGE

One of our club members, Kirk (N3EKP) and Marian (N3EKM) Dorn were flooded during the recent storm that hit the Pittsburgh area. Reports to UARC indicate that their house had 5 feet of water on the first floor. Just about everything in their house was destroyed by this flood. Their vehicles have been destroyed as well. Please keep Kirk and Marian in your thoughts and prayers. If you need more information regarding this please contact George Syner, WA3OGQ.

CLUB PICNIC

On Sunday, August 8, 2004 at high noon the membership of UARC attended a picnic at the Wharton Township Recreational Park. Hamburgers, hot dogs and a variety of other picnic food kept N3QAS busy in both cooking and eating, as well as keeping the membership fed. A fun time was had by all in attendance. Remember to keep a weekend open for next years annual club picnic!



GABFEST

KITCHEN THANK

YOU

I would like to Thank everyone that donating stuff for the kitchen for the gabfest.

Thanks to the ones that helped in the kitchen and a Thanks to Mike for picking up the rest of the stuff we need. Hope you can help next year.

Brenda N3TRG

UARC LIFETIME

ACHIEVEMENT

AWARD

On Saturday, September 11, 2004 the UARC membership met at the Sun Porch restaurant in Hopwood to bid farewell to Pat and Hazel Pallini. Pat and Hazel have decided to relocate to Central Ohio to be with their son. This has been a hard decision for Pat and Hazel. The membership wanted to say good bye to Pat and Hazel as well as thank them for their service and devotion to the Amateur Radio Community in Fayette County. In recognition of his efforts with

the RACES communications, Emergency Management, Police, Fire, EMS, and Hazmat, as well as his knack for always being there to help, the officers and membership of UARC awarded Pat the UARC Lifetime Achievement award. Pat is expected to move to Ohio sometime during the month of October. Please keep Pat and Hazel in your thoughts and prayers for a safe move.

THE DAY THE

SNAKE DIED

On Wednesday, August 25, 2004 a few of the members were present at the club for a catastrophic event! Wayne, N3TRF, Brenda, N3TRG, Herb, KA3WSO, Teedle, K3ECZ, and Ralph, KB3LBB were at the club house working when they encountered a "Huge" black snake coiled up in the corner of the repeater room. Several frantic telephone calls were made to Tony, KA3VOR to determine

how best to eradicate the snake from the building. After several attempts to guide the snake out of the building and several more attempts to catch the snake, the snake got a little bitter and decided that he wanted to take someone with him upon exiting the building. Ralph wanted to ventilate the snake with buckshot, others wanted to get the snake out and turn to the wild but Teedle decided that enough was enough and sucked the snake up with a shop vac nicknamed R2D2. Despite much rattling and movement from the snake and the shop vac, the shop vac won and the snake was successfully removed from the building. Unfortunately Herb decided to kill the snake while part of the snake was sticking out of the vacuum hose. As a result of flying snake guts and internal fluids, Herb was coated with much snake stuff. As a result of his heroic actions to rid the building of this vicious attack snake, Herb has garnered the nickname "Snake Juice".

W3PIE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 1, 2004

Members Present: Brenda, N3TRG, Wayne, N3TRF, Ray, KB3HQV, Brenda, KB3KFS, Mike, KA3WOI, Joyce, KA3CUT, Teedle, K3ECZ, Herb, KA3WSO, Len, WA3EGS, Ralph, KB3LBB, John, K3JAE, Tim, W3ZVT, Butch, KB3GPD, Pat, WB3LUC, Roye, N3ROA, Dave, WA3DJG, Paul, KB3DLT, Keith, KB3IOK, Bert, WA3WAW, George, WA3OGQ, Tony, KA3VOR

Guests Present: Dawn Etling, Brian Button, Robert Button, One Mouse

The Monthly Meeting of the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 2000 hours by Vice President Mike Kosco, KA3WOI with 21 members, 3 guests and 1 mouse present.

Treasurers Report was read and approved as read. Motion by Ralph, KB3LBB, Seconded by John, K3JAE

Old Business

A tower was removed this past Saturday from one of our donor's., 80/40 M Dipole was setup, signs on the club house are up, ivy around the property has been sprayed and is dying, one snake was killed. The following work still needs completed: Porch, carpet on steps, tree cut down behind building.

Bert reported that an 80M Fat Dipole (2 dipole's in parallel spaced 3 feet apart) has been constructed, tuned/tested, and placed in operation at the club house. This antenna will cover the entire 75/80M ham bands with out an antenna tuner.

New Business

KC3YR's mother passed away last night

Gab Fest Prizes— A motion by Wayne, N3TRF, seconded by John, N3JAE to purchase 4 gift cards in the amount of \$25 each from Walmart and to purchase an inexpensive new Sony digital camera costing less than \$100 from Mike Kosco. This motion carried

ARES Drill—Bill Warmuth has advised UARC that there will be a Simulated Emergency Test Drill (SET) on October 23, 2004.

Gaithersburg/Butler Hamfests— The weekend following our hamfest will have both the Gaithersburg Hamfest in Maryland and the Butler Hamfest in PA occuring.

Constitution and Bylaws— An inquiry was made by the membership regarding Phone Patch operation, number of autodial slots etc, in conjunction with membership level. Secretary to review and report on this item at the October meeting.

50/50 Winner was Roye, N3ROA

A motion to adjourn was made by Herb, KA3WSO, and seconded by Dave Kir, WA3DJG, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 20:54 Hours

—Respectfully submitted, Tony Alviar, KA3VOR

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
--	------------------	---	--------------------------------------

√ 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 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2004 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 145.090
APRS 144.390

PRESIDENT: DAVID WATSON, N3QAS, 724-437-4733
VICE PRESIDENT: MIKE KOSCO, KA3WOI 724-437-3943
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

Dave Watson, N3QAS Tony Alviar, KA3VOR Bert Sesler, WA3WAW
Dave Wadsworth, N3LML John Etling, K3JAE UARC Officers
Brenda Cavandar, N3TRG George Syner, WA3OGQ

W3PIE

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