



The **W3PIE LETTER**

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1

January 2005 EDITION

Next Club Meeting is Wednesday, January 5, 2005

2005 OFFICERS!

UARC would like to advise the membership that the following officers were elected into office at the December Election. This years lineup of officers for the 2005 year is as follows:

President Dave, N3QAS
Vice Pres Wayne, N3TRF
Treasurer George, WA3OGQ
Secretary Tony, KA3VOR
Trustee Herb, KA3WSO

-UARC Officers

UARC CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 8, the annual PIE Christmas party took place. For a real change of pace, the festivities were held at the club house this year. Almost 40 attended, including club members, family and friends. In the words of Dave, WA3DJG, "A good time was had by all"!!! The club was beautifully decorated outside and inside, including a fiber optic tree shining through a front window, and even Christmas lights on the outside. The food was terrific. The menu included pizza, hot wings, potato salad, deviled eggs, vegetable tray, meat and cheese tray,

buns, cheese ball, Christmas Jell-O, punch, and an unbelievable assortment of cookies, candy, cakes and pie. Everyone went home with a homemade Christmas ornament compliments of Brenda, N3TRG. She also made sure that all the little ones who were there received a special package. What a super nice gesture on her part. From the comments heard during and after the party, it was a great success. Several members said that we should plan on doing the same thing again next year. As with all activities, this great party would not have been possible without a planning, cleaning, and decorating committee. A "Tip of the Hat" goes out to the following folks for putting it all together: Brenda, N3TRG, Wayne, N3TRF (our new vice president), Herb, KA3WSO (our new trustee), and Liz Shaffer. Thanks, and a Healthy and Happy New Year to all!!!

Herb Shaffer (KA3WSO)

145.170 REPEATER STORM DAMAGE

During the early hours of Wednesday, December 1, 2004 a wind storm swept across Southwestern

Pennsylvania. This storm left minor damage in most areas that consisted of nothing more than some trees down and some lawn ornaments scattered. In one area the wind caused the repeater antenna for the 145.170 repeater to be blown off the tower. Our repeater maintenance staff noticed that the 145.170 repeater was offline on Thursday, December 2 and paid a site visit to 145.170 on Tuesday December 7 in the middle of yet another windstorm.

Inspection of the 145.170 antenna system revealed that the antenna snapped midway between the first and second dipole. (The 145.170 is a 4 bay folded dipole antenna and is approximately 24 feet long, weighing approximately 50 pounds) Further inspection from the ground revealed that the mast pipe that makes up the antenna was broke in two and that the coax was still holding the antenna together. During the site inspection, the wind was blowing heavily. Each time the wind gusted the top 16 feet or so of the antenna would blow out from the side of the tower. This is definitely one site you never want to see.

The UARC membership may not be aware, but the 145.170 is on a commercial two-way radio tower and an organization that is a "Good Friend of W3PIE" pays the monthly rent for this repeater.

When 145.170 was relocated in 1995, this same Friend of W3PIE paid for the antenna and new hard-line on the tower. (It was decided that when antenna damage occurred that our friends would decide who would pay for replacement equipment etc. . . .) Currently our friend is checking with the insurance carrier and determining how the claim needs to be filed. It may be some time until the 145.170 repeater is back online.

Should you need more information regarding the 145.170 repeater or the damage present from this storm, please contact Tony Alviar, KA3VOR at talviar@fcema.org or via the 147.045 repeater. See the pictures of the damaged antenna.

-Tony, KA3VOR

145.17 Antenna Damage



147.045 W3PIE WEEKLY 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 five 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

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

newsletter@w3pie.org

REPEATER REPORT

As of December 31, 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 currently out of service due to an antenna failure. (No phone patch)

443.750 + Is not operational at this time. (Equipment to replace this repeater has been located and we are currently waiting for this equipment to be surplused to UARC)

145.090 Packet
144.390 APRS

A note is necessary regarding the 145.170 repeater. Around July, ownership of the 145.170 repeater transferred to John Rudik, WB3JNP. John has allowed the repeater to remain as a UARC controlled & affiliated repeater. If you have noticed a change to the call sign on the repeater, this is why.

SNOWBIRD NET

You may ask, what is a snowbird net? Well, several years back, a number of PIE members would get on 28.440 around 8 PM in the evening after any sizeable snowfall, and have a fun QSO. By no means is this net anything official. It used to be a lot of fun, but kind of faded out of the picture. A few of our PIE gang voted to start it back up again. So, if you decide to check in on the SB net, everyone is more than welcome. Stop by, complain about the weather, tell us about your new antenna or snow shovel, and have some fun. Hope to hear you on 10 meters this winter. May all of you have a healthy and happy new year!!!

Herb (KA3WSO)

PS: Must be around 2 inches on the ground here in the lowlands, not where Tony KA3VOR and Wayne N3TRF live, for the net to be called up.

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145.090 Packet
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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

For latest Amateur Radio happenings, please check this site:
<http://www.arrl.org>



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tina Martin	WZ3Z	1/3
Slim McDonald	WA3MJI	1/6
Ray Williams	KB3HQV	1/12
Ron DeGusipe	KE3OH	1/13
Mike Kosco	KA3WOI	1/19
Bill Dickinson	N3OVV	1/24

W3PIE

WHO'S WHO

Name: Wayne Cavender
Call Sign: N3TRF
License Class: General
Licensed since: 10-26-1994
Place of Birth: Baltimore MD
Date of Birth: 9-6-58
Hometown now: Ohiopyle
Dream Vacation: Hawaii
Spouse: Brenda N3TRG
Children: Tony and Stephanie
Hobbies: Hunting, Fishing, Camping, Computers
Most memorable Ham moment:
The night I was at the club after passing my general class test and hearing the Battleship Missouri in Pearl Harbor and trying to make the contact.
Favorite Hamfest: W3PIE
Favorite Radio: Kenwood & Yaesu
Favorite Band: 2 Meter
Favorite Mode: Voice
Most used frequency: 147.045
Another Ham you would like to see interviewed: Brenda N3TRG
Future plans as new vice president of W3PIE: Try to get more people active in the club and increase membership.

UARC WEBSITE

Perhaps you have noticed that www.w3pie.org is now host to UARC's web site. At the November meeting, a motion was passed that will make available e-mail addresses to our membership at a cost of \$5 per annual period of the w3pie.org website. What this means is our renewal term is August 2004-August 2005. Paying \$5 now will provide you an e-mail

address through August 2005. Your \$5 contribution will go to help provide the longevity of the W3PIE Web site. Should you purchase this email now, we will get you set up and notify you in July for your renewal of your e-mail account.

If you would like to have an email address (such as your_callsign@w3pie.org) with a mailbox size of 10 MB, a web interface to check your email, and limited spam filtering, please contact Tony, KA3VOR talviar@fcema.org, or John, K3JAE, k3jae@w3pie.org for more information.

The goal of this email service is to allow us to provide for w3pie.org long term at little or no expense to the club.

Website Committee

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.

AREA EXAMS

08-Jan-2005
Sponsor: BREEZE SHOOTERS/NORTH HILLSARC
Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: ROBERT W BENNA (412)366-0488
Location: NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY-ROOM 148
300 CUMBERLAND RD
(LOWERLEVEL)
CALL AHEAD FOR ACCOMMODATIONS!
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

16-Jan-2005

Sponsor: ELLWOOD CITY ARA
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JAMES H KLINGENSMITH (724)752-3367
Email: N3ZJM@ZOOMINTERNET.NET

Location: TREE OF LIFE WELLNESS CENTER
EWING PARK
ELLWOOD CITY, PA 16117

20-Jan-2005

Sponsor: WIRELESS ASSOC OF SOUTH HILLS
Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JACQUELINE Y GOSSELIN (724)746-9235

Email: N3ZEL@ARRL.NET
Location: PETER'S TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
616 E MCMURRAY RD
MCMURRAY, PA 15317

27-Jan-2005

Sponsor: MONONGALIA WIRELESS ASSOC
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: ALFRED L HECK (304)296-5176

Email: ALH@AOL.COM
Location: WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
WVU CAMPUS
ENGINEERING & SCIENCE BLDG
ROOM G84
MORGANTOWN, WV 26505

06-Feb-2005

Sponsor: MOUNTAIN STATE VE TEAM
Time: 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: MAURICE G BROWN (304)636-0147

Email: N8VA@ARRL.NET
Location: DAVIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD ROOM
REED ST & GORMAN AVE
ALSO: AB8E@HOTMAIL.COM
ELKINS, WV 26241

REPEATER PRACTICES:

The Repeater Staff would like to remind everyone a few things regarding repeater operations. Some notes have been put together to help you as a user of the repeaters.

Identification:

When first establishing contact, it is good practice to identify yourself as well as the station you are calling. When calling another station, you should give their call sign first, followed by the word FROM, followed by your call sign. Some examples are: W3PIE listening, K3ECZ from W3PIE. . . .

The FCC Rules and Regulations call for identification at the end of each communication and at least every 10 minutes. When operating on a repeater and you hear the repeater ID, it is probably a good idea for all the operators on the channel to ID as well.

Transmission Time:

Transmissions should be kept as brief as possible. Remember, the repeater has a time out timer set at three minutes. If you have kept your radio keyed long enough to time out the repeater, you have probably talked too much in one transmission. The duty cycle for most radios is 20% (meaning 1 minute of transmit time for every 4 minutes of standby time). Some time when you are using your radio to talk, put your hand on the heat sink or case of the radio and see how hot things get. That's why it is an excellent idea to keep transmissions brief.

Gaps between transmissions:

Remember, when you unkey your radio there will be a brief delay then you will hear a courtesy beep on the UARC repeaters. Once this beep has completed, another brief delay will follow before the repeater unkeys. A couple of things happen in this brief time. One, the time out timer for the repeater has a chance to reset. Two, this allows other users an opportunity to "Break In" should they want to jump in to the conversation or should they have an Emergency. Good practice while using a repeater is to wait a second or so after the courtesy beep is done prior to keying back up and talking.

(147.045 currently keeps the repeater keyed up for 3 seconds after the courtesy beep completes to allow someone to wait briefly after the courtesy beep and keep the repeater keyed up without the repeater transmitter dropping)

Other users may need to contact someone, or may have an emergency and need assistance. These are a few of the reasons our repeater network exists.

Repeater Coverage:

If you are operating a mobile radio or a base station and can hear the repeater, you are more than likely making the repeater without any problem. If you are on a handheld, you may have trouble getting into the repeater. Remember, what you are hearing on the repeater output is what the repeater is hearing. If you are in a weak area trying to talk to someone in a

weak area, you are going to have trouble. UARC's 147.045 repeater has handheld coverage exceeding 60 miles, mobile coverage exceeding 90 miles, and base station coverage exceeding 110 miles. Although the 147.045 repeater has good coverage, it is not possible to cover 100% of the geographic area in Western PA, Panhandle of Maryland, Northern WV, Panhandle of WV, and Eastern Ohio with one repeater.

Doubles & Triples & More, Oh my. . . :

Please see the information regarding gaps between transmissions. Although it is not possible to eliminate the occasion where two or more people key up at the same time, as an operator you can do a few things to ensure that you are not doubling. When you key up, immediately unkey and if you don't hear anyone, key back up and start talking. When talking with a group of people (2 or more stations) it may be useful to "pass" the next transmission to a particular person. Ex. And I'll Pass it to Herb (unkey) Next transmission everyone knows should be from Herb and helps reduce the amount of doubling

Interference to the Repeater:

Repeaters are normally put into places that can cover geographically large areas for communications purposes. This can be a good thing. This can be a bad thing. (See comments on repeater coverage). The 147.045 repeater provides communications to Western PA

(North almost to Erie), Panhandle of Maryland (to the top of the mountain prior to dropping into Cumberland), Northern WV (Not quite sure where it drops off but stations have been farther south than Clarksburg and getting into .045), Panhandle of WV (I think most of it), and Eastern Ohio (mobiles drop off around 20 miles into Ohio while base stations as far west as 20 miles east of Columbus routinely make it to our repeater.) Our repeater has areas on the fringes that border the coverage areas of other repeaters. (147.045 near Youngstown, Oh, and Girard, Oh) Periodically, stations from another repeater key up and over power people trying to use our repeaters. Remember, our repeaters operate on FM. This means that strongest signal wins. This does not mean that the geographically closest station wins. As an example, a handheld radio on 147.045 in Monroeville can come in overtop of a station using a 50 watt mobile at the

Uniontown Mall staring at the repeater 6 miles away. This will yield heterodynes and other squeals as people try to talk over the "interference". Many things can cause this interference. Our interference is caused by two different repeater councils whose rules vary on coverage of repeaters. As well, our interference is caused by some stations running excessive power. To help with limiting interference to other repeaters, please keep your power to a minimum, and if using a directional antenna, pointing towards the repeater and not towards another one on the same frequency. It doesn't help when interference occurs to egg on the other station. Remember, when interference is occurring, the goal is to get rid of it not to encourage it! When interference is occur-

ring it may be best to switch frequencies or ask the station to repeat their information. Lately many stations have been guilty (including myself) of not operating in a manner best suited for repeater operation. Remember we are all just trying to have some fun enjoying radio and in this case radio via repeaters. Following some of the good repeater practices mentioned above will help everyone to have fun. . .

Tony, KA3VOR

UARC Christmas Party Pictures



W3PIE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

Members Present: Brenda, N3TRG, Wayne, N3TRF, Tim, W3ZVT, John, K3JAE, Herb, KA3WSO, Keith, KB3IOK, Teedle, K3ECZ, Valerie, N3YSX, Bert, WA3WAW, Don, WA3DHH, Dave, N3QAS, Henry, KE3RS, Ralph, KB3LBB, Rick, KA3WUO, Joyce, KA3CUT, Pat, WB3LUC, Tom, KA3WMD, George, WA3OGQ, Tony, KA3VOR, Mike, KA3WOI

Guests Present: Michael Etling, KB3LMT, Joe Ealy, N3IHZ, Keith Chaney, N3JBE

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 20 Members and 3 guests present.

Secretarys Report: Printed and handed out for October and November 2004.

October 2004 Report, Motion by Ralph, KB3LBB, seconded by Wayne, N3TRF, so carried

November 2004 Report, Motion by John, K3JAE, seconded by Keith, KB3IOK, so carried

Treasurers Report was read and approved as read. Motion by Ralph, KB3LBB, Seconded by Hank, KE3RS, so carried

Old Business:

Jim Takacs', NC3K mother passed away since our last meeting.

Skyview Radio Club Visit: Mike, KA3WOI reported that himself and a few other PIE members met with the Skyview Amateur Radio Club on Sunday, November 14, 2004 at the W3PIE Club house to provide a tour of our facilities, Construction projects: Ceiling renovations cost a total of \$176.70 while approximately \$87 was donated to fund the project. Balance to be paid by UARC.

Christmas Party: Final approximation of guests was estimated at 50 people. Meat/cheese and vegetable trays will be ordered from Pechins Deli on Main ST in Uniontown, cost is estimated at around \$80. Party will be conducted on Wednesday, December 8, 2004 at 6 PM at the Club House.

New Business

Gregg Welch was approved for membership

Mike Etling was approved for membership

VE Exam will be conducted on Sunday 12/05/2004 at 2 PM. Anyone wishing to test is welcome.

A report on the Code Class was made by Bert, WA3WAW

Election: The votes were counted by the trustees and final vote reported: Officers for 2005 will be as follows:

President, Dave Watson, N3QAS; Vice President; Wayne Cavendar, N3TRF; Treasurer, George Syner, WA3OGQ; Secretary, Tony Alviar, KA3VOR; Trustee, Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO

A Thank You letter was received from Uniontown Police Department regarding our communications assistance for the November 11, 2004 Parade in Uniontown.

A lengthy discussion regarding 2005 fund raising was conducted. At the end of this discussion a motion by Brenda, N3TRG, seconded by John, K3JAE was made to run a \$2/2 number ticket (500 tickets to be sold) raffling off a \$500 gift card to Sheetz to go off on February 14, 2005. Approval is also required by Sheetz Corporate office and dialog started. Motion so carried.

Ohio Department of Taxation: Our most recent notice of assessment regarding overdue sales tax to the State of Ohio was cancelled.

50/50 was won by Tim Soxman, W3ZVT who donated his winnings back to the Club.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20. Motion by Dave, WA3DJG, seconded by Herb, KA3WSO to adjourn the meeting, so carried.

—Respectfully submitted, Tony Alviar, KA3VOR

W3PIE JANUARY 2005 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: WB3JNP 145.170- FULL TIME PL OF 131.8
PACKET NODE: W3PIE-1/UARC 145.090
APRS 144.390

PRESIDENT: DAVID 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
CALL SIGN TRUSTEE: JOHN RUDIK, WB3JNP, 724-437-2526
TRUSTEES: DAVE KIR, WA3DJG
PAUL RENNINGER, K3ECZ
HERB SHAFFER, KA3WSO

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
Dave Wadsworth, N3LML John Etling, K3JAE UARC Officers
Brenda Cavender, N3TRG Herb Shaffer, KA3WSO

W3PIE

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