

W3PIE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

Just some of the things going on in the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club

President's Message – Bunny Horvath, WA3NGA

Well, hello everyone. I am still on my sabbatical in Florida. I must take this opportunity to thank Mark, George, and Angie for filling in for me while I'm away. There doesn't appear to be a whole lot taking place at this time of the year, but I will briefly touch upon the items that I am aware of at this time.

1. Tony (KA3VOR) held a class on Wednesday evening, February 22nd, dealing with "Safety in the Ham Shack". From what I understand and have been told this class had a lot of worthwhile information that the average person may not have considered when dealing with constructing or renovating his or her ham shack. Tony made the class very interesting and informative. A big thank you to Tony for putting a very worthwhile presentation together.
2. Plans are in the works for an upcoming POTA event sometime in April. There will be more discussion at the March meeting to try and decide on a location, as well as a definite date for this activity.
3. As some of you may or may not be aware we had a tractor trailer attempt to turn around on our property just inside of the gate. This action made quite a mess of the property since the ground was wet and very soft. Through the efforts of some of the club trustees and particularly George (WA3OGQ), I guess the appropriate phrase would be "the check is in the bank".

Once the property dries out and we are able to formulate a plan to refurbish the area that was torn up we will get this matter rectified. On a personal note,

I didn't think it would be so easy to get paid for the damage that were done, but I guess persistence paid off.

Ladies and gentlemen that's all that I have for this month. It has been a rather mild winter so far this year and I hope that our luck continues to hold out.

73 for now and don't forget to turn your clock ahead one hour on March the 12th at 2:00 AM.

To all of the members of W3PIE, as well as all that read this message of the President - be safe and enjoy your time on the airwaves.

Bunny - WA3NGA

PIE DAY – Tasty Fun

As part of our commemoration of 90 years since the club was incorporated, the W3PIE/90 callsign can be utilized throughout the year. This includes events such as Field Day.

One other semi-related day that ties engineers, scientists, and mathematicians to a special event is Pi Day, celebrated each year on March 14th, as the 3.14 approximation of the irrational value of Pi: 3.141592653589793238...

In towns such as Princeton, NJ, this is a community-wide celebration (It's also Albert Einstein's birthday), complete with events related to – wait for it - delicious pies. While it's bit of a stretch, we could contribute an on-air presence with W3PIE/90, if just a few members wish to operate on the air that Tuesday, perhaps on 20 meters at 14.31416 MHz.

It could be the start of an annual event for us. Let's discuss it at the upcoming March business meeting.

2023 Calendar – Jim Kenney, KC3BHN

Day	January
1	New Years Day
4	W3PIE Reg Meeting
16	Martin L King
18	W3PIE W&M Meeting
25	W3PIE Workshop
28	Winter Field Day
29	Winter Field Day

Day	February
1	W3PIE Reg Meeting
2	Groundhog Day
5	VE Testing
14	Valentines Day
15	W3PIE W&M Meeting
20	Presidents Day
22	W3PIE Work Shop

Day	March
1	W3PIE Reg Meeting
	Daylight Savings Starts
12	W3PIE W&M Meetings
15	St. Patrick's Day
17	Spring Begins
20	W3PIE Workshop
22	

Day	April
5	W3PIE Reg Meeting
18	Tax Day
19	W3PIE W&M Meeting
26	W3PIE Workshop
TBA	Drill/SET
TBA	DX Road Trip

Day	May
3	W3PIE Reg Meeting
7	VE Testing
14	Mothers Day
17	W3PIE W&M Meeting
24	W3PIE Work Shop
29	Memorial Day
TBA	DX Road Trip

Day	June
7	W3PIE Reg Meeting
14	Flag Day
18	Father's Day
21	W3PIE W&M Meeting
21	Summer Begins
28	W3PIE Workshop
24	Summer Field Day
25	Summer Field Day

Day	July
1-7	13 Colonies Contest
4	Independence Day
5	W3PIE Reg Meeting
19	W3PIE W&M Meeting
26	W3PIE Workshop

Day	August
2	W3PIE Reg Meeting
TBA	DX Eng. Hamfest
12	Gabfest
12	VE Testing
16	W3PIE W&M Meeting
23	W3PIE Work Shop

Day	September
6	W3PIE Reg Meeting
3	VE Testing
4	Labor Day
20	W3PIE W&M Meeting
22	Fall Begins
27	W3PIE Workshop
TBA	DX Road Trip

Day	October
4	W3PIE Reg Meeting
7-8	PA QSO Party
9	Columbus Day
18	W3PIE W&M Meeting
14-15	BSA JOTA
18	W3PIE W&M Meeting
25	W3PIE Workshop
31	Halloween
TBA	Drill/SET

Day	November
1	W3PIE Reg Meeting
11	Veterans Day
15	W3PIE W&M Meeting
23	Thanksgiving

Day	December
TBA	W3PIE Xmas Party
6	W3PIE Reg Meeting
3	VE Testing
20	W3PIE W&M Meeting
21	Winter Begins
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas
31	New Years Eve

VE TESTING RESULTS - NEW HAMS AND UPGRADES

Congratulations to the following on earning their license or upgrading.

David Franks KB3MHG

David Pike KC3QWI

Dawn Martin KC3SRY

Gretchen Sanders KC3VOU

Kevin Tweed KC3VOT

Peter Nelson KC3UVY

We hope to see you at upcoming meetings and events!

FOR SALE - Carl A Chuprinko, WA3HQK

Ten Tec Paragon embassy model that has all filters and options. This radio can transmit from .1 to 30 Mhz. (be careful)

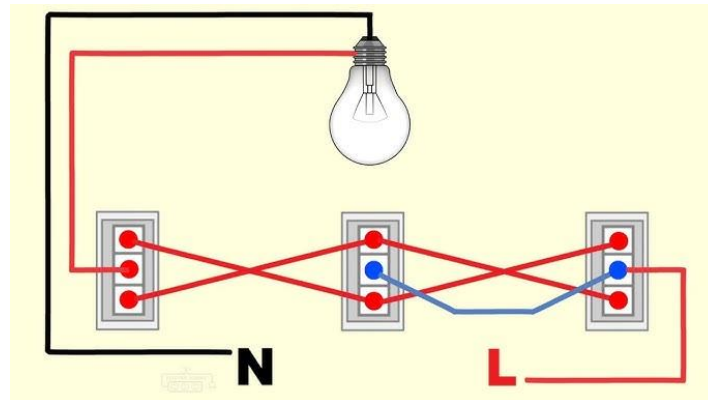
Also included are transverters for 50 MHz, 144 MHz, 222 MHz, AND 432 MHz (432 is only partly built; all others have been on the air.. from Down East Microwave. asking price is \$600.

Contact Carl via email - chuprinko84@comcast.net.

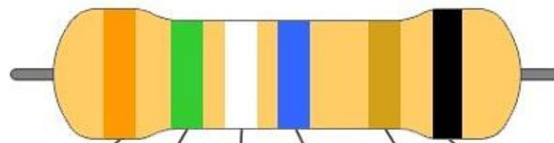
KNOWLEDGE POTPOURRI – Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Here are some images of interest to hams, that may come in handy at various times

Two-Way Switch Wiring with Three Switches



EIA Resistor Color Code



	1 st digit	2 nd digit	3 rd digit	multiply	tolerance	TCR (ppm/K)
Black	0	0	0	1	1% (F)	100
Brown	1	1	1	10	2% (G)	50
Red	2	2	2	100		15
Orange	3	3	3	1K		25
Yellow	4	4	4	10K		
Green	5	5	5	100K	0.5% (D)	
Blue	6	6	6	1M	0.25% (C)	10
Violet	7	7	7	10M	0.1% (B)	5
Gray	8	8	8	100M	0.05% (A)	
White	9	9	9	1G		
Gold				0.1	5% (J)	
Silver				0.01	10% (K)	
None					20% (M)	



38th Annual
Charleston Area
HAMFEST
and ARRL WV SECTION CONVENTION

Saturday, March 18, 2023
9 AM to 2 PM

NEW LOCATION!!
BENI KEDEM TEMPLE
100 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25301
Easy access off the interstates with
FREE PARKING BESIDE THE BUILDING!

Grand Prize: YAESU FT-710 AESS HF RIG!!!!

Plus Hourly Drawings for Baofeng Dual Band Handhelds

Admission: \$10 ("Extra" tickets \$2 for more chances to win Grand Prize!)
Tables: \$10

For table reservations, contact Fred Vickers WV8FV Reserve yours now—limited table space!
fredvickers@gmail.com or 304-421-1707

Load in: Friday, March 17 from 2 to 4:30 PM
Saturday, March 18 from 7 to 8:30 AM

Forums: ARRL 10 AM; ARES 11 AM
ARRL VE Testing at 12 Noon

For More Info: w8gk.org or E mail n8tmw@arrl.net



TWO RIVERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
51th ANNUAL AMATEUR RADIO / COMPUTER SHOW
SUNDAY APRIL 16th, 2023

Elizabeth VFD Bingo Hall – 101 South 1st Ave – Elizabeth, PA 15037
“Elizabeth VFD Bingo Hall” is located off PA Rt 51 in the city of Elizabeth, PA

Directions: 146.73 Repeater
Mobile Check-In: 146.52 Simplex
(Mobile Check-In prize will be awarded. Must be present to win)

Main Prizes: Yeasu FT-DX101D HF Transceiver
Alinco DJ-MD5XTG Dual Band DMR Handheld
Portable Generator

Advanced ticket sales are available to the public and club members at significant savings. Advanced ticket sales form is available the TRARC website <http://www.trarc.net>.

Admission \$5.00

Tables for Rent: \$15 for a single table,
\$12 each for 2 or more tables

Table Reservations: Please fill out the Exhibitors Application form on the TRARC website at <http://www.trarc.net>

Information: Contact Bill Powers (Assistant Hamfest Chairman) at 412-260-5699
Or Del Peterson (Hamfest Chairman) at 412-974-9695
Or email: hamfestchairman@trarc.net

Overnight parking is available

Amateur Radio Exam Testing is Available
Exam Registration: 412-751-9657 email: veteam@trarc.net

Breakfast Available
This is an ARRL sanctioned hamfest



Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club Hamfest / Computer Show – Exhibitor Application

Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club of McKeesport, PA
P.O. Box 225 Greenock, PA 15047-0223

Information: Contact Bill Powers (Assistant Hamfest Chairman) at 412-260-5699
Or Del Peterson (Hamfest Chairman) at 412-974-9695

Or Email: hamfestchairman@trarc.net

Please fill in all the information and return to the address listed above. Thank you

Name of Exhibitor: _____ Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

The **Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club Hamfest / Computer Show** will be held **Sunday, April 16, 2023**, from 6 AM through 2 PM. Doors will open to the public from 8 AM to 12 PM, at the **Elizabeth VFD Bingo Hall, 101 South 1st Ave, Elizabeth, PA 15037**.

I will attend the event and include payment for the requested facilities with a check payable to the “Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.”

Number of 8 ft tables (includes 1 admission ticket):

Single Table \$15		\$ _____
Two or more tables \$12 ea	_____ x \$12 ea	\$ _____
Additional Admission Tickets:	_____ x \$5 ea	\$ _____
Duplex 115/60Hz Electric (limited availability, first come first served)	_____	\$0.00
	Total:	\$ _____

Tables are 8 feet long and includes 1 chair. If you need more chairs, please contact the Hamfest Chairman. Exhibitors using electrical outlets are responsible for providing power strips or extension cords. All locations are based on first come, first served basis.

Exhibitor setup is **from 6 AM to 8 AM on Sunday April 16, 2023**. If you need earlier access please contact the Hamfest Chairman concerning the possibility of Saturday night setup. Exhibitors must **vacate** the Bingo Hall by **2 PM Sunday**. Overnight Parking is permitted.

To assure your desired exhibitor locations please return this application and payment as soon as possible. **Deadline is Friday, March 18, 2023**. By the acceptance of this agreement, the exhibitor releases the Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club, Inc and the Elizabeth VFD from any liability for damage, loss, or injury to any person or goods for any cause whatsoever. Further the exhibitor agrees to return all equipment provided for his/her use during this event.

Signature of Exhibitor

Date:

Note: A “Breezeshooters Hamfest 2023” is being teased for June 4th, 2023 – with “details to follow soon”...

CONTEST CALENDAR – Something for Everyone

Weekly Contests

+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Monday (Feb 27)
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Monday (Feb 27)
+ OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Monday (Feb 27)
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Monday (Feb 27)
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Tuesday (Feb 28)
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Tuesday (Feb 28)
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Wednesday (Mar 1)
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Wednesday (Mar 1)
+ A1Club AWT	1200Z-1300Z, Wednesday (Mar 1)
+ CWops Test	1300Z-1400Z, Wednesday (Mar 1)
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Wednesday (Mar 1)
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Wednesday (Mar 1)
+ CWops Test	1900Z-2000Z, Wednesday (Mar 1)
+ CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, Thursday (Mar 2)

+ CWops Test 0700Z-0800Z, Thursday (Mar 2)

+ NCCC RTTY Sprint 0145Z-0215Z, Friday (Mar 3)

+ QRP Fox Hunt 0200Z-0330Z, Friday (Mar 3)

+ NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, Friday (Mar 3)

+ K1USN Slow Speed Test 2000Z-2100Z, Friday (Mar 3)

February 27 - March 5

+ QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, Feb 27

+ QCX Challenge 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 27

+ RSGB FT4 Contest 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 27

+ QCX Challenge 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 28

+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2100Z, Mar 1

+ UKEICC 80m Contest 2000Z-2100Z, Mar 1

+ AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest 2300Z, Mar 1 to 2300Z, Mar 2 and
2300Z, Mar 4 to 2300Z, Mar 5

+ Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest 0000Z-0100Z, Mar 2 and
0200Z-0300Z, Mar 3

+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Mar 2 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 2 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Mar 2 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Mar 2 (Dig)
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+ SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Mar 2
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+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 4 to 2400Z, Mar 5
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+ Novice Rig Roundup	0000Z, Mar 4 to 2359Z, Mar 12
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+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Mar 4 and 0630Z-0659Z, Mar 4 and 0700Z-0729Z, Mar 4 and 0730Z-0800Z, Mar 4
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+ UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 5
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+ NSARA Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 5 and 1800Z-2200Z, Mar 5
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+ SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 5
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+ Classic Exchange, CW	1400Z, Mar 5 to 0800Z, Mar 6 and 1400Z, Mar 7 to 0800Z, Mar 8
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+ WAB 3.5 MHz Phone	1800Z-2200Z, Mar 5
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March 6 - 12

+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 6
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+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 7
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+ AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 7
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Mar 8
+ EACW Meeting	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 9
+ YB DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 11
+ SARL Field Day Contest	0800Z, Mar 11 to 1000Z, Mar 12
+ RSGB Commonwealth	1000Z, Mar 11 to 1000Z, Mar 12
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Mar 11 to 2400Z, Mar 12
+ EA PSK63 Contest	1200Z, Mar 11 to 1200Z, Mar 12
+ South America 10 Meter Contest	1200Z, Mar 11 to 1200Z, Mar 12
+ DIG QSO Party, SSB	1200Z-1700Z, Mar 11 (20m-10m) and 0700Z-0900Z, Mar 12 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Mar 12 (40m)
+ AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 11
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Mar 11 to 1500Z, Mar 12
+ Oklahoma QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 11 to 0200Z, Mar 12 and 1500Z-2100Z, Mar 12
+ TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest	1800Z, Mar 11 to 0559Z, Mar 12
+ Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 11 to 1900Z, Mar 12

+ North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0359Z, Mar 12

+ UBA Spring Contest, 2m 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 12

+ FIRAC HF Contest 0700Z to 1700Z, Mar 12

+ Wisconsin QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 12 to 0100Z, Mar 13

March 13 - 19

+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Mar 13

+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest 1700Z-2100Z, Mar 15

+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 15

+ Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest 0000Z-0100Z, Mar 16 and
0200Z-0300Z, Mar 17

+ NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Mar 16

+ BCC QSO Party 1900Z-2059Z, Mar 16

+ NTC QSO Party 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 16

+ Maidenhead Mayhem Sprint 0000Z, Mar 18 to 2359Z, Mar 19

+ BARTG HF RTTY Contest 0200Z, Mar 18 to 0159Z, Mar 20

+ SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest 0300Z-0500Z, Mar 18 (6m) and
0501Z-0700Z, Mar 18 (2m) and

0701Z-0900Z, Mar 18 (70cm) and
0300Z-0500Z, Mar 19 (6m) and
0501Z-0700Z, Mar 19 (2m) and
0701Z-0900Z, Mar 19 (70cm)

+ Russian DX Contest 1200Z, Mar 18 to 1200Z, Mar 19

+ F9AA Cup, SSB 1200Z, Mar 18 to 1200Z, Mar 19

+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1400Z-1700Z, Mar 18 (144) and
1700Z-1800Z, Mar 18 (432)

+ Virginia QSO Party 1400Z, Mar 18 to 0400Z, Mar 19 and
1200Z-2400Z, Mar 19

+ Feld Hell Sprint 2000Z-2159Z, Mar 18

+ UBA Spring Contest, SSB 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 19

+ Classic Exchange, Phone 1400Z, Mar 19 to 0800Z, Mar 20 and
1400Z, Mar 21 to 0800Z, Mar 22

+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 2300Z, Mar 19 to 0100Z, Mar 20

March 20 - 26

+ Bucharest Digital Contest 1800Z-2059Z, Mar 20

+ CLARA Chatter Party **Cancelled for 2023**

+ SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Mar 22

+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 23

+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 25 to 2359Z, Mar 26

+ FOC QSO Party 0000Z-2359Z, Mar 25

+ UBA Spring Contest, 6m 0600Z-1000Z, Mar 26

March 27 - April 2

+ QCX Challenge 1300Z-1400Z, Mar 27

+ QCX Challenge 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 27

+ RSGB FT4 Contest 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 27

+ QCX Challenge 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 28

+ UKEICC 80m Contest 2000Z-2100Z, Mar 29

+ Sasquatch Stomp 1900Z, Mar 31 to 0300Z, Apr 1

+ RSGB FT4 International Activity Day 0800Z-2000Z, Apr 1

+ PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest 1000Z, Apr 1 to 0400Z, Apr 2

+ EA RTTY Contest 1200Z, Apr 1 to 1200Z, Apr 2

+ Louisiana QSO Party 1400Z, Apr 1 to 0200Z, Apr 2

+ Mississippi QSO Party 1400Z, Apr 1 to 0200Z, Apr 2

+ Missouri QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 1 to 0400Z, Apr 2 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 2
+ Florida State Parks on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Apr 1 and 1400Z-2200Z, Apr 2
+ SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 1 to 1500Z, Apr 2

Send comments and corrections about this page to [Bruce Horn, WA7BNM](mailto:Bruce.Horn@WA7BNM.com)

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Cricket 20 – QRPp CW TRANSCEIVER KIT

Recently, I was looking for something to build. As I have received much enjoyment from my other purchases from the Four States QRP Club, I checked out www.4sqr.com to see what might interest me. They have a series (80, 40, 30, and 20 meters) of Cricket transceiver kits that are patterned after the None Simpler transmitter line.

The Crickets offer $\frac{3}{4}$ Watt output and a direct conversion receiver with -110 dBm sensitivity for the CW enthusiast at a price tag of only \$30, plus shipping. The coils are etched into the PC board, so none to wind. Just a handful of through-hole components to solder and you are on the air. The whole thing took about an hour to slap together and there's no alignment needed, so you can immediately hook it up to an antenna and start pounding out CQs.

The rig can be powered from an on-board 9-volt battery or external source. The transmitter only pulls 80 mA, so a good battery lasts for quite a while. If you don't already have a straight key, a piece of the PC board is designed to be snapped off, in order to from one that sits on the radio.

I already have a good amount of 40M QRP-related stuff so I chose the 20 meter kit which includes crystals for 14.030 and 14.060 MHz. I have already made a number of contacts using a minimal antenna setup, as an additional challenge. Next, I plan to acquire a 30 Meter version.

Give low power a chance. When I was first licensed, I thought you needed a lot of power to make contacts. As club member Delbert Fullem, W3RUC (SK) challenged me to build a 5W 6AQ5-based transmitter, my eyes and ham radio experiences were open to additional levels of fun, with lower and lower power settings.

As a side note, additional crystals for radios like this can be purchased from www.expandedspectrum.com



THE END HAS COME to this month's newsletter. As always, your contributions and feedback are very welcome -- Cory, WA3UVV