



XARC

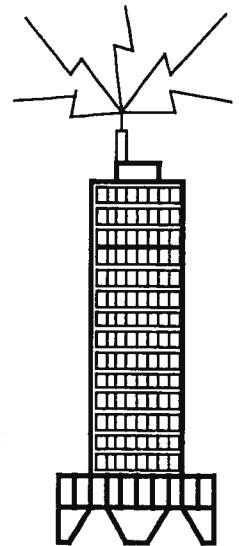
Monthly Newsletter

The Voice of the Xerox Amateur Radio Club

Shannon Wixsom	WV2J	President
Dave Sweet	N2BHL	Vice President
Pete Fournia	WA2BPQ	Secretary
Rick LaDonna	N2IJI	Treasurer
John Wright	KE2MK	Trustee

Xerox
Amateur
Radio Club

KE2MK/R
224.26/444.825
145.29



December 11, 1992

Next Club Meeting

December 17, 1730 hrs

Program for Next Meeting:

Antenna Project Night

Barry Rickett, N2EZX, Jim Guentner, KB2UW (and possibly one or two others) are going to show us their homebrew VHF/UHF antennas. Barry has a combination Cubical Quad and Yagi (a Quagi?) for 1296 and Jim has a 2 meter Log Periodic antenna. With the VHF Contest coming up, this is a great time to get antenna ideas.

Election Results

The votes are in, and Shannon Wixsom WV2J, is our new club president. Other officers are Dave Sweet, N2BHL, as vice president, Pete Fournia, WA2BPQ, as secretary, Rick LaDonna, N2IJI, as treasurer, and John Wright, KE2MK as repeater trustee. Please welcome Shannon and the rest of her team.

Licensing Class Results and Upgrades

Licensing classes are over, and we now have several new hams anxiously awaiting their licenses. Katie Fournia and Rachel L. Verzulli, both daughters of club members, will be new novices while Judith Antonelli, Dave Homyk, Scott Stenlik, and Tony Werdein will be new technicians. That makes the Anotnelli's a 100% ham family! Frank Kress, Steve Corona and Ron Pearson will be new technician pluses.

Congratulations to all the new hams and thanks to the instructors, Mike Ishler, KE2LU, Shannon Wixsom, WV2J, Pete Fournia, WA2BPQ, and Bob Karz, K2OID.

Incidentally, Pete, WA2BPQ took the opportunity during the testing of his students to upgrade to extra. Next time you see Pete, offer him your congratulations. Then ask him if he's filled in the paperwork to become a volunteer examiner yet.

Ben Piccirilli, N2OPV, continues to move rapidly through the amateur ranks. On

November 18, Ben earned his advanced ticket. Nice going Ben.

Please contact Bob Karz, K2OID, with a few calls and upgrades so they can be published in the newsletter. We'll be listing the calls of the new hams as soon as they receive their tickets.

Dues

'92/'93 dues have been collected from 51 regular members and 4 associate members. There are about 30 regular members and 4 associate members who have yet to pay. Thanks to the many of you who have renewed your memberships. For those that haven't, there is an application in the back of this newsletter.

Emergency Preparedness

We continue to have periodic skeds with the Xerox emergency preparedness station in El Segundo. The QSO's are normally scheduled for noon Eastern Time on the second Wednesday of each month, but due to temporary equipment problems, the October sked was held on Oct. 28 when we made a difficult but successful contact. The November sked was cancelled, but the December sked was held Wednesday, December 9 where we had our first successful QSO with the emergency station at PARC (the Palo Alto Research Center) operated by Eric Rawson, WB6DDE. Unfortunately neither Eric nor I could copy WB6LIE in El Segundo.

There has been some discussion about trying HF Packet to see if it can provide reliable communications to California.

Anyone in Monroe County wishing to help out with these QSO's please contact Bob Karz, K2OID, at X29530 or via E Mail (K2OID:Wbst311:Xerox).

Bob Karz, K2OID

VE Testing Session Schedule

We've just completed two well attended and quite successful VE examination sessions on November 18 and December 9. Between the two sessions there were 13 new hams and 3 upgrades. Five VE sessions are planned for 1993. All are on Wednesday's and start at 7:00 PM at the club station in Building 337 (the XRA). The exams are opened to all and will be announced on the local repeater nets as well as in this newsletter. Please look for the announcements in case there's a change in time or location. The examination dates are:

- 1 February 17, 1993
- 2 May 5, 1993
- 3 Sept 15, 1993
- 4 November 17, 1993
- 5 December 8, 1993

The last two dates are timed to coincide with the end of the 1993 XARC licensing classes.

If you hold an extra class license and would like to help with the exams, please contact either Lou Kohnen, K2ANC, or Ray Crandall, WR2T so you can fill out the necessary paper work. The club participates in the W5YI program.

The XARC Repeaters

XARC REPEATER SYSTEM....from a trustees point of view:

The following has been taken from the budget proposal submitted today. You will be asked to consider budgets in the near future.

Philosophies and assumptions:

The repeater system is the most universally used piece of equipment and other than the ethernet, it is the center of our clubs communications system.

The system should not an experimenters sandbox, but should be always be ready to serve as reliably and as non intrusively as possible. My personal interpretation of club priority based on members equipment as well as my own is 2 meter. That is followed by 220 because of our novice community and the continual flow of novices generated by the club's excellent instructional programs. 440 is the lowest since much of the member equipment has dual band capabilities shared with 2 meter.

Our VHF/UHF strong point is the "square" which has its own problems but is enviable by the rest of the radio community. Our equipment (particularly the 220, 440 radios and the system controller) is old and its design is limited and flawed due to its vintage and economies of its market place. The transmission lines also bear watching. We have excellent cavities on all the systems. The antennas are new and while now it seems like that they may have been a poor choice, our in house re-engineering and retrofits may have made them a good buy for the buck.

F. Miller, R. Crandall and I have review this "budget" and are concerned with the bottom line. While some of the line items are contingencies and some may not get done this year, it does illustrate the need for the club to save some money if it wants to support three repeater systems.

Some of the problems encountered this year (in no particular order):

1. The controller was spontaneously opening and holding the transmitters on.

2. The phone patch and other controls didn't always work.
3. 2 meter power supplies (blue box and a lambda supply) failed.
4. 220 transmitter stability (external complaints) and 220 receiver if alignment.
5. 440 transmitter interference including severe over deviation (external complaints)
6. 2 meter transmitter interference with the E. Rochester Fire Dept. Resolution was ERFD's over driven Uniden scanner and no fault of ours although we purchased and installed a transmitter cavity (filter).
7. Failure of the original 2 meter radio's internal B + supply. The radio is scrap.
8. Degradation of the 2 meter antenna system which was fixed by heliarcing (welding) parts of the antenna. A new RG-8 jumper between the hard line and duplexor. Rework of the outside connector of the hard line. These problems contributed to the strong desensitization of the receiver.
9. Degradation of the building 120 volt power system. As additional equipment was added to the building circuit, the problem became more severe. The voltage would routinely fall to less than 100 volts. That may have been the cause of other problems particularly item 1 and possibly item 2. The situation has been brought to the attention of the facilities people and problem was temporarily fixed by a long heavy duty cord.

John Wright, KE2MK

Technically Speaking

Most of us who work here at Xerox and read this newsletter are involved in some line of technical work. We are engineers, computer technicians, service technicians, technical writers, technical managers and so on. Possibly it's this technical vocation which led you to become an amateur, or maybe your interest in ham radio led to your career in a technical discipline. We have a lot of members in the club who have a technician or higher class license.

Wait a minute, hold the phones, stop the trains. It just occurred to me that if you have at least a technician class license, you can operate and compete in the annual January Sweepstakes VHF Contest. I don't know why I haven't thought of this before, but you can help the club to win the Rochester Cup and help us in the national level ARRL standings. This is exciting! *Why hasn't anyone ever brought this to my attention before?* The possibilities are endless. You can use your HT to make a couple of contacts and turn in a log for the club. The club, I'm certain, will authorize you to use ALL of your equipment, if you have more than an HT, and make lots of contacts and score lots and lots of points to help us win.

Here's a wild idea, if you don't have any equipment or have a novice or no license, you could force yourself to participate in all the fun and excitement of helping to operate the club station in building 337. I will add one note of caution here, sometimes people have so much fun at these things that they then are compelled by some inner drive to attend other club functions, such as field day, and to actually plan ahead to be sure they don't miss the next annual event.

I'm not sure if I can contain myself much longer. The incredibly creative burst of ideas I just outlined will have to satisfy you for now. I'm exhausted. If you'd like more information, please call myself at 23788, or Gene Parker at 22245. I've got to take a nap now.

Barry Rickett, N2EZS

Letters

Note: I received the following note in response to last month's Karz's Corner from Ed Kessler, W2EQW, that I think you will find interesting.

Bob, K2OID

Enjoyed your article about magic in the Newsletter. Back in the mid-60's, I use to run a net on 6 meters AM. In order to help some of the techs get their code speed up, we use to operate MCW (modulated continuous wave, A2) by placing a CPO in front of the mike or feeding the audio directly into the mike connector on the rig.

When we (you and I, back in the mid 50's early 60's) became interested in radio there were no acronyms such as SSB, TNC, AMTOR. There were terms that we never hear mentioned anymore (What is a Gilbert, micro micro farad, temperature tolerance of a xtal?)

My first experience with ham radio was when I was 12 years old. We had an old Zenith radio with a short wave band. I was tuning around and heard someone mention mobile. I thought the person was in Alabama.

Good article about the use of jargon in the presence of non-jargon speaking people.

Ed

KARZ's Corner

Lessons in the Repair Game

The long dry spell is over, and I'm back on the air. I got my TS-930 back just in time for the CQ Worldwide DX contest (CW of course) and had an absolute blast. There's a folk song from the '60's with the refrain;

"Don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. Take paradise and put up a parking lot."

If you're about my age, you may remember it. Well, it perfectly describes the way I think about my gear. Its not that I used it so much. In fact, when I look over my log, I find that I haven't done all that much operating since April. But boy did I miss the old 930 once it taken away.

With the bands wide open, a DX contest raging, and my cherished 930 back in the shack where it belongs, operating Thanksgiving weekend was a dream come true. I even picked up Angola and Mozambique, two new countries for me. I also worked several I haven't heard in a while such as Saudi Arabia, Lethsoto, and Guam, and there was good propagation to just about everywhere except Asiatic Russia. Now I find myself listening several times a day just to see who's on. I've even been inspired to get caught up on my DX QSLing.

As for East Coast Amateur Radio, who made the repairs, I think they're a first class outfit. They're friendly and responsive, and the 3 weeks it took to fix my rig (on account of their backlog) which was just as promised. I felt the \$70 bill was more than reasonable. Its been a long time since I've had anything repaired for that little, let alone something as complex as a solid state tranceiver.

I am kicking myself, though, because it turns out I could have fixed the 930 myself. You will recall from my column 2 months ago that I was having trouble isolating the trouble on a block diagram. The crux of the problem was that the symptoms were both on transmit and receive, but there was virtually no common circuitry for the two modes except the filters and the power supply. Since I doubted it could be the power supply and since I had no way to check the filters, I felt I had no choice but to bring it in. It turns out that if I'd even bothered to take the covers off and look at the filters, I would have seen the diode that was bent up against printed circuit board causing the problem. I guess that it must have been nearly shorting out ever since I bought the rig in '85. The lessons I've learned from all of this are first, never assume that because the gear is complex, the problem must be complex also, and, second, check all you can before bringing the radio in for service. You never know what you'll find.

73 and good hamming

Bob, K2OID

Equipment loans

As many of you know the XARC has recently increased its equipment inventory by leaps and bounds over what we had just a short time ago. I have been asked, as the chairman of the station committee, to publish a list of equipment which is available for short term loan to members of the club. When borrowing a piece of equipment, a note should be left in the club station with the item borrowed, the date borrowed, the anticipated return date, and the borrowers name and call. The following is a list of equipment located at the station in building 337

which is available for lending per the above guidelines. All other items are not to be removed from the station for personal use.

Heathkit HW101 transceiver with speaker and power supply
KDK 2 Meter FM transceiver
12 volt power supply (blue box type)
Bird wattmeter, 3 - 30 Mhz, up to 100W
Kenwood VHF/UHF watt/SWR meter, 140 - 500 Mhz
Headphones
ARRL Handbook
ARRL Antenna book
US and Foreign area call books (1988 issue)
Software library disks, Amateur related, (5 1/4 and 3 1/2 DSDD disks)

All of the equipment located at the station is, of course, there for the use of all our members at any time. I would strongly encourage you to use the station. The performance of the station is better than most would imagine.

Thanx Barry, N2EZS

Do you have QSL cards to send?

As a club we are entitled to combine ARRL members cards in one mailing. Just order your outgoing cards as always, include a current mailing label from QST and give them to Peter Fournia in bldg 311-02J.

Is your ARRL membership up for renewal?

If so remember to renew through the club. See Rick LaDonna for details.