



# XARC

## Monthly Newsletter

The Voice of the Xerox Amateur Radio Club

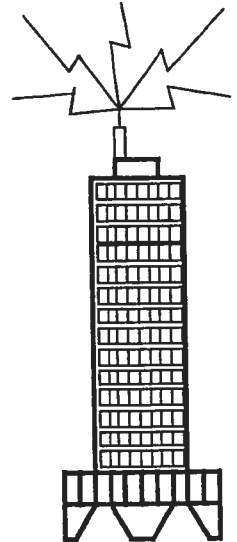
Shannon Wixsom  
Dave Sweet  
Pete Fournia  
Rick LaDonna  
John Wright

WV2J  
N2BHL  
WA2BPQ  
N2IJI  
KE2MK

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Trustee

Xerox  
Amateur  
Radio Club

KE2MK/R  
224.26/444.825  
145.29



February 13, 1993

### Next Club Meeting

**February 18, 1730 hrs**

### Program for Next Meeting: **Getting Started in Satellite Communications**

You may have seen John's satellite station that earned us bonus points at last year's Field Day. Join us to find out more about it. John will be describing what satellite communications are all about and tell us what we need to get started.

### Meeting Dates

Unless otherwise noted, club meetings are **ALWAYS** the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM at the club station (CR "D") in Building 337. There has been a successful effort to limit the length of business meeting in favor of interesting presentations. The club meets monthly except in July and August.

### Upcoming Club Meetings

The March 17 meeting will be about "Digital Signal Processing". If you're in the process of building one of the DSP kits from Spetember '92 QST, why not plan to bring it in.

The April 15 meeting will be by Ed Holsworth, N2EH, on emergency communications.

### Licensing Class Results and Upgrades

#### The Class of 92

On Saturday, Feb 6, the mailman delivered new call signs and upgrades to the students who were in our December exam. The news and congratulations were received as if the mailman was a stork delivering babies. By that evening the airwaves was crawling with these new call signs. That evening KB2PWK (Katie Fournia) and KB2PWL (Rachel Verzulli) were gabbing on 10 meters, then on 223.5MHz and then on the WB2IMT/R repeater using their new found Novice freedom. That evening many of the new hams that had been

accumulating during this winter season were hanging out on the N2HJD/R machine on 146.925 comparing notes who's new and who got what upgrade.

This was the second stork delivery for students in the XARC exam group. The previous wave of infant calls and adopted upgrades were received January 28. The number of calls born to this group was big enough to call a litter. Five hams were effected in all. It was a late delivery. The FCC was running 9 weeks behind the exams but this could be worse... it could be 9 months!

Later that evening, Frank Kress (N2TKT) and Scott Stenlik (N2TRX) checked out the KE2MK/R machine. In that QSO Frank discovered that he could have been using his Tech Plus privileges by signing /KT. The next day he tuned his CB antenna and was using his tech plus privileges on 10 meters. Scott has finished checking out all the 144 and 440 repeaters with in reach and now hangs out on the 146.88 repeater.

For those with call signs, use of the upgrade privileges can come immediately after filing your 610 application and receiving you VE certificate. Those that upgraded used these privileges immediately. Pete Fournia started working for his WAS on the extra class portion of 75meters using WA2BPQ/AE. The ARRL issued his WAS award #1545 the same day his his Extra class ticket arrived in the mail. Ben Piccirilli, N2OPV, was also using his /AA privileges.

The two hang glider plots, Brooks Lyon, N2TRW and Dave Homyk, N2TKS, are itching to use their 2meter HT's on the next hang gliding outing. Dave has already QSO'ed on the 146.88 repeater and plans to use his HT when traveling.

Between the XARC class and the VE sessions, there are 13 new hams and 3 upgrades. Congratulations to all.

Pete Fournia, WA2BPQ

Steve Verzulli sent us a mailnote saying:

"I have never seen my daughter so excited about something. She wants to try packet and I am wiring up some cables now for the 220 radio. Hope to have everything going by this Saturday."

Steve Corona is now N2TLW, Judy Antonelli is now N2TKU, and Ron Pearson is now N2TLX. I was priviledged to give Ron his first QSL card.

Nice going to all the new hams and upgrades. We've had another very successful class. Please let me know if I've missed anyone. Look for all of them on the air, and drop me a line if you know of any new hams or upgrades as they occur.

Bob Karz, K2OID

## JANUARY CONTEST RESULTS

Here is the summary of this years January Sweepstakes effort by XARC.

	1992	1993
Number of logs submitted:	48	37 down 23 %
Percent of participation:	86.76	67.74 down 22 %
Total number of contacts:	6,151	5,460 down 11 %

Contacts X %  
participation: 5,336 3,698  
down 31 %

Total number  
of points: 256,630 1,066,391  
up 316 %

Points X %  
participation: 222,652 722,373  
up 224 %

Following is a list of the individual scores so you can see where you fell:

305,244, 250,312, 211,198, 151,962,  
53,550, 18,906, 17,472, 13,356, 11,275,  
9,996, 6,642, 4,059, 2,816, 1,911, 1,356,  
1,248, 760, 630, 539, 520, 450, 360, 272,  
225, 216, 204, 200, 195, 156, 100, 69, 64,  
60, 48, 18, 1, 1

High Score  
Stan Avery WM3D 2,816

High Score Rover  
Fred Miller WO2P/R 305,244

Most Improved  
Fred Miller WO2P/R  
305,244 - 34,902 = 270,342

Free Lunch for most QSO's  
Fred Miller WO2P/R561

By vote of the participants, we have elected not to go for the Rochester Cup. Our entry has been submitted to the ARRL in the medium club category.

Nice going everybody!

Barry Rickett, N2EZS

## Membership Cards

Your newsletter editor was in such a hurry to get last month's issue out that he neglected to enclose the promised cards with the hardcopy mailing. Every paid up member should have his or her

card now. Please contact Pete Fournia, WA2BPQ, if you do not.

## KARZ's Corner

### Chaos at Grid Square Corners or "What could be simpler?"

Anyone who's thought about the rules for the January VHF contest realizes that the way to score big is to become a rover. That's because it's often easier to work another grid (and thus earn another multiplier) by jumping in car and driving there, especially if you don't have megabucks invested in amplifiers and antennas. For the uninitiated, a grid square is a rectangle two degrees in longitude wide and one degree in latitude high. The ARRL has divided the world into grid squares and numbered them alphanumerically. Rochester and Monroe county is in grid square FN13. In the VHF contest, your score is basically the number of contacts times the number of grid squares.

Because you get one multiplier for each band, they can really add up. Consider Bob Handheld (me) who lives in Webster and hasn't really given the contest much thought. On Friday night before the contest, he borrows a 2 meter and a 440 handheld from a friend who isn't planning to participate as well as a 2 meter amplifier, makes a quick 2 meter ground plane antenna using some leftover house wiring and his pole saw, climbs onto the garage roof and straps it to his chimney using tape and twine (fortunately the weather is good Saturday morning, but more on that later), and starts making contacts. If Bob doesn't rove, he might get grid square FN13 and the three other grid squares to the south, west, and southwest on 2 meters. On 220 and 440, however, he's pretty much restricted to

Webster, so he gets one grid square each there. That's a total of 6 grid squares worked.

Now lets say that Bob decides to rove. He calls a few club members (say John Wright, KE2MK, Shannon Wixsom , WV2J, and Jim Guentner, KB2UW), cons his daughter Lisa, N2LPQ, into coming along, and on Sunday morning they all troop out to the junction of grid squares FN13, FN12, FN02, and FN03 out near Leroy. The plan is exquisitely simple. Position one ham in each square. We all work each other giving us each 4 grid squares per band, then we rotate and do it again from a new square. Lets see, operating out of 4 grid squares with 4 grids worked from each square and 3 bands.....why that's a multiplier of 48 compared to 6 by staying home. Besides, once the "round robin" is finished, you can probably work some of the weaker stations in the western part of the county that you can't even hear back home. What could be simpler?

What could possibly go wrong? Well, for one thing, to get all the multipliers from each square, you really need 8 stations, not 4. That is, you need someone in your own grid square or you give up 1/4 of your multipliers. No problem. After working everyone (but before we rotate) we'll have the people in grid squares FN02 and FN03 cross to grid Squares FN12 and FN13 respectively, work each other FN13 to FN13 and FN12 to FN12, the people in FN12 will move to FN02, the people in FN13 will move to FN03, work each other FN02 to FN02 and FN03 to FN03, the people originally in FN12 will go back to FN12, the people in FN13 will go back to FN13 and THEN we'll rotate. What could be simpler?

Is that all that can go wrong? Well,.... no. As we near the grid intersection, Shannon's car seems to be leaving a trail

of spray. Its raining, but not that hard. Turns our that its transmission fluid and not water that's doing all the spraying. We briefly consider having Shannon walk to each grid square location. After all, what's more important, her car or the contest? Maybe we can push her car from grid square to grid square and at least give her a little shelter. That idea is rejected also, so John and Shannon traipse into Leroy to find a tow truck and Jim, Lisa, and I work a recovery plan. Lets see, Shannon and John are now in FN12. How about starting with you in FN03 and me in FN13 and we'll all work and then you go up to FN02 and then I'll join you there and then.....and then.....and then..... What could be simpler?

As we execute our recovery plan we discover several things. First, Leroy is out of handheld range for FN13 and FN03. Second, paper work in each vehicle is getting out of hand. Third, regardless of how well you think you know your borrowed handheld, you can never figure out how to change frequency. Fourth, at least two of you will have this problem, and both of you will have different 440 frequencies in your handhelds, effectively stopping you from communicating on that band. Fifth, the only hand held battery you don't have a back up for will go dead. Sixth, you'll see several other loonies, some with the most incredible collections of scrap metal on their vehicle roofs (log periodics with rotators, dishes, etc.) doing essentially what you're doing, and finally, suspicious neighbors who have been watching what looks for all the world like a rerun of the Keystone Cops, will stop you and ask what's up. I challenge anyone to briefly (in the rain) describe to a complete stranger exactly "what's up".

What we thought would take about halfan hour ended up taking most of

the day. Lisa and I did get a multiplier of 41 out of a possible 48, and we both beat the highest non-rover score by a good margin. The only casualty was Shannon's car. After we dropped Shannon at her in-laws, I asked Lisa if she had fun.

"Yeah Dad", she replied, "I had fun, but lets not do this more than once a year."

73 and I hope the VHF contest met your expectations.

Bob, K2OID

PS. About my ground plane on the chimney back home held up by tape and twine, of course it snowed Sunday night, preventing me from getting to it for nearly a week. Fortunately, Friday morning at dawn, when most of the snow was gone, I was able to get to it before Mother Nature took it down for me.

PPS. If you think we had "fun", you should have been with the XARC crew (N2EZS, KB2LWT, N2KXS, WA2BPQ, and WO2P) that visited 5 grid square corners!

## VE Testing Session Schedule

Here are the testing sessions planned for '93. With the licensing class testing complete, February 17 would be a good uncrowded time to go for an upgrade. Exams are a scheduled at 7:00 PM at the club station in Building 337. All are welcome.

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

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.

## Want Ads

FOR SALE:

New Yaesu FT470 dual HT (2m/70cm). Bought in January for one-time use in January Sweepstakes, by HF CW lover. Includes 2 battery packs, wall charger, rubber duck, soft case, original packing & documentation. Still under warranty. New, \$380.00. Will sell for \$340.00 or BO. Call Shannon X23788.

## 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.