



XARC

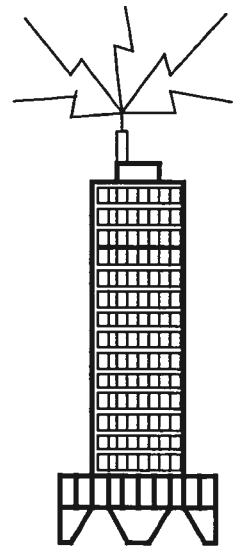
Monthly Newsletter

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



January 16, 1993

Next Club Meeting January 21, 1730 hrs

Program for Next Meeting: **Maximizing Scores for the January VHF Sweepstakes**

The January VHF Sweepstakes and the Rochester Cup are less than a week away. Barry Rickett, N2EVS, and Gene Parker, KE2T, will discuss all aspects of the contest, given pointers on how to increase your score, and coordinate the club effort. Whether you're new to the contest or an old hand, you should find meeting interesting. Be sure to see the article on the contest elsewhere in this issue.

Upcoming Club Meetings

In February, John Facci, WK2N, will speak on "Satellite Communications", and in March, the meeting is tentatively scheduled to be on "Digital Signal Processing".

Licensing Class Results and Upgrades

Warren Boudrie's upgraded to Extra. His new call is AA2LQ. Nice going Warren!

Please contact Bob Karz, K2OID, with new 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.

JANUARY CONTEST IS UPON US:

January 23/24, 1993

XARC Shows Good Potential for ARRL Win

You folks are probably tired of having N2EVS harangue you every year (and who can blame you), so I will take upon myself the pleasure of haranguing you. Rank has its privileges.

As many of you may know, XARC came in second in its category nationwide for

last January's contest - and that was after our club Big Guns gave up their scores to Rochester VHF Group. It shouldn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that, with a little extra effort from ALL members, we could very well win an ARRL gavel this year - and we'd get to keep it!

(Time out: all other competitive arguments aside, do you realize just how good your dearly beloved Prez would look with a gavel at the monthly meetings? Ravishing! I can see myself already.)

Our club scores have improved year over year in the January contest, and this may be our golden year - but not without participation from all of you. So dust off those VHF/UHF rigs, both mobile and base (on Icom, on Yaesu, on Kenwood and Alinco! Oh sorry, holidays are over, right?), and look for your contesting package via internal mail, or come to the club meeting this month and pick it up.

You say you don't have any VHF/UHF equipment of your own? Not to worry! Once again this year, we will be operating our club station in Building 337, under the competent direction of our competent treasurer, Mr N2IJI himself. New hams from last fall's licensing classes are especially welcome to come in for your first taste of contesting. You do not need your pending license in hand, as you can operate under the guidance of N2IJI. All club members who don't have their own equipment are urged to come in and operate at the club station during the contest.

Do you still need more details and encouragement? Come to the January meeting on the 21st of this month, when Barry, N2EZZ, and Gene, KE2T (everybody's favorite call sign), will be finalizing our grand club strategy.

Remember, every point counts this year as we go for the big one: ARRL winner. So get out there on the weekend of the 23rd and QSO, QSO, QSO!

Good luck to everybody in the club and see you on the high bands.

Dues Reminder

For those of us who haven't paid '92/'93 dues yet, your dues must be in for you to be counted as a club member for the upcoming VHF contest.

As of January 5, we had 57 full members and 5 associate members paid up.

Membership Cards

Membership cards have been issued to all paid up XARC members. They have been sent by internal mail to all active Xerox employees and are included with this newsletter for everyone else. The cards contain helpful autopatch codes used on the KE2MK repeater. Thanks to Ray Crandall for the design and printing of the cards. Please note that our secretary, Pete Fournia's extension (listed on the back of the cards) should be 24863.

Contact Pete if you haven't received a card.

KARZ's Corner

The Urge to Create

The ARRL likes to emphasize that radio amateurs come to our hobby from all walks of life. Hams are lawyers, politicians, history professors, and ranchers as well as electrical engineers. Nevertheless, most of us are in one way or another technically inclined. In my case, I've loved to tinker - to build things

- as long as I can remember. In high school it was rockets and radios. In college it was assorted lab projects. When I started at Xerox it was new fusers. As time has passed, however, I have found myself doing more and more pencil pushing (or more accurately keyboard pounding) and less and less on what you would call "hardware".

Somehow task plans and spread sheets aren't quite as satisfying as things you can touch and feel. Every so often, I just have to build something. From what I've seen, lots of us, both hams and non-hams, have similar needs. That's why you see people knitting sweaters or building furniture, clocks, cars, model airplanes, and the like.

Being a ham, most of my projects are radio related (or at least electronic). I had some extended time off over Christmas, and used some of it to build the digital signal processor from the Sept. '92 QST. Several club members have either bought kits or downloaded the DSP software, and we plan to make it a meeting topic later this year.

My original plan was to simply duplicate what was in QST, and I stopped off at my friendly Radio Shack dealer to buy the recommended steel case. The article said the fit of the printed circuit board in the case was "tight". Well, "tight" doesn't quite describe it. In fact the board is larger than the case. The article talked about filing the board or bending the case, but when I've spent over \$100 for a kit, I don't like the idea of using files, saws, and vice grips on it. Back I went to Radio Shack and exchanged the case for a larger one.

Now I had too much space in the box - I like my projects "cramped" - so I began thinking about "improvements". One that came quickly to mind was a built-in power supply. I've got plenty of DC supplies lying around, but having a self

contained DSP unit seemed attractive, so it was into the Amateur Radio Handbook to refresh myself on power supply design and down to the basement for parts. I found just about everything I'd need, but the smallest transformer in the junk box (oops I mean components box) was 1/16 inch taller than the case (Murphy strikes again). I glanced at my watch. It was 8:45 PM, plenty of time to make it back to Radio Shack before closing 9:00. One of the reasons I spend so much money at the shack is that, like Wegman's, it always seems to be opened. Twenty five minutes and one disgruntled clerk later, I had my new transformer. It was actually 1/16 inch shorter than the case, and the price, while not exactly "surplus", wasn't too bad. I hasten to add that I didn't actually "need" the transformer for about a week because I had plenty of other parts to mount first. Still, I needed the "security" of having all the parts I'd need in hand, so I guess the trip was worth it for my sanity if nothing else.

Another "improvement" required a 12V relay to automatically bypass the unit if the power is off and another trip to Radio Shack. This time the idea hit at 4:45 on Sunday (the shack closes at 5:00 on Sunday).

I expect to finish the project in about a week, and I'll be sad when it's done. It's not that I don't expect the DSP unit to be a great toy. I'm sure I'll have lots of fun using it. But for me, a major part of the gratification in building something comes from the challenge of making it your own. It's looking at an article and saying to yourself "that's nice, but I can do better" and then figuring out exactly how to do it. When I finish, my DSP will have the same circuit board and software as hundreds - even thousands - of others, but it will be uniquely mine, and in my opinion, the very best.

No mater how big or small I hope you get the same satisfaction from your projects.

73 and good hamming.

Bob, K2OID
Bob Karz, K2OID

VE Testing Session Schedule

Here are the testing sessions planned for '93. If you'd like to upgrade in February, now's a good time to start studying. 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.

NOTICE OF BYLAWS CHANGE

A proposal to change the bylaws was submitted is writing at the December meeting by Barry Rickett. The proposal was amended during discussion and is stated below. This proposal will be put to a vote at the January 21 regular business meeting.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3 of the current BYLAWS:

A quorum for a business meeting shall consist of at least three officers plus the members in good standing, present.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3 as currently proposed:

A quorum for a business meeting shall consist of seven (7) members in good standing including one officer.

73,

Peter Fournia, WB2BPQ

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, N2EVS

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.