



Linear Lines

Trident Amateur Radio Club (TARC) Newsletter
April 2013

From the President

I thought by this time we would be complaining about the heat and humidity but Mother Nature has again shown us who is in charge. I am sure summer is just around the corner. I want to again thank Bryce K4LXF for providing the almost complete J-Pole antennas for the last meeting. All the antenna builder had left to do was solder the coax with the connectors already installed and they had a great antenna for portable or emergency use.

I want to wish Thelma K4MTJ and Jenny WB4GZV a speedy recovery.

Our meeting this month celebrates our 40th anniversary as a club. The dinner meeting will be at Gilligan's in Goose Creek at 6:30 PM on Saturday the 13th of April.

I am very excited and optimistic that the club is on a roll. I look forward to some of the upcoming events such as Operating Day and Fox Hunt in May, the Field Day in June, and the picnic in October. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with any of the activities or events the club is participating in.

73

Tom W4DAX
w4dax@arrl.net
843-442-5650

TARC Tailgate

The TARC 7th annual "Tailgating Party" is held on Saturday, April 13, from 09:00 to 15:00 EDT. We will be located in the parking lot of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 19, located at 1310 S. Live Oak Rd, Moncks Corner, SC. (Hwy 17A North, almost to Moncks Corner). Talk-in Freq: 147.150+ (PL 91.5)

Admission: \$2.00

Table Fee: \$5.00--space only, bring your own table!

This is an ARRL sanctioned event. Door Prizes will be awarded at the event!

POC: Vaughn Duryea, KJ4ZFY

New Texting Application

The Trident Amateur Radio Club has a new way for you to keep advised of events happening with the club. If you have a text capable phone you can text **MEMBRS** to **843-325-2827**. You should receive a message to enter your first and last name. Just enter your First name and call. I will periodically send out reminders of the club meetings and other activities. If you have any questions contact Tom W4DAX.

Field Day

Field Day 2013 is June 22-23. It will be held at the Goose Creek Municipal Center on Highway 52.

Volunteers Needed!

Steven Lamendola is looking for more volunteers to help with setup and operators. Contact Steve KE4THX by email or phone 336-740-4382.

Field Day Apparel

Field Day is coming and the TARC club has a bargain for you. Order your T-shirts, hats, etc and get free shipping paid by the club. Bob NG4R will be your point of contact and will be taking orders till the end of April. Price list is as follows: T-shirt 12.95 in S,m,lg,xlg,2x, or 3x. Hat 9.95 patch 3.00 mug 10.00 pin 5.00.



Trident Amateur Radio Club (TARC) meets the third Monday of each month at the American Red Cross at 8085 Rivers Ave # F, North Charleston at 7:30pm.
Website: www.tridenthams.org

TARC Net:

Every Tuesday, 147.27 MHz PL 123.0
 7:30 PM CW practice
 8:00 PM Net

Upcoming Events:

April 13

TARC Tailgate Moncks Corner FOP
 Contact: Vaughn Duryea

TARC Anniversary Party

Contact: Trudy Lufkin

May 4

MS Walk in Mt Pleasant, volunteers needed
 Contact: Linda Selleck

May 25

Quarterly foxhunt, 1:00 PM
 Contact: Tom Lufkin

22-23 June

ARRL Field Day

Contact: Steve LaMendola

Foxhunt

The next scheduled Foxhunt will be held Saturday the 11th of May. It will begin in Goose Creek at the former JK Harris parking lot on Hwy 176 next to Publix. Hunt frequency will be 146.58. There will be a mini picnic afterward so even if you can't participate in the hunt come join us afterwards for hot dogs and sodas

Operating Day

The next club operating day is scheduled for the 25th of May. It will be at the Naval Weapons Station next to the Bowling Alley. For details and additional information see our website at tridenthams.org

Are you a Club Contributor or Consumer?

A contributor joins the local club or organization and financially supports their projects.

A consumer says they don't join organizations while using the repeaters the club maintains.

A contributor attends the monthly organization meetings and club activities.

A consumer seldom attends club activities and complains he has a hard time getting to know everyone.

A contributor joins in construction activities at the club meetings.

A consumer leaves after the business meeting and complains the meetings are dull.

A contributor checks into the local nets even if just to check in.

A consumer complains he never knows what is going on with the club.

A contributor sends an article or project they enjoyed to the editor of the club newsletter.

A consumer reads the newsletter and complains about the lack of content.

So you decide. Are you a Contributor or a Consumer?

A BELATED HAPPY 65 TO THE TRANSISTOR

On December 16, 1947, Bell Labs researchers William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain created an amplifier from a germanium crystal that boosted the level of an input signal by 100 times.

Various researchers had tried to develop a solid-state alternative to the vacuum tubes during World War II but none had succeeded. The Bell Labs Trio demonstrated it for lab officials a week later on December 23 where Shockley deemed it a magnificent Christmas present.

Bell Labs announced the invention of the transistor six months later. The device went on to become one of the signature scientific achievements of the 20th century, ranking up with splitting the atom, manned flight, and the discovery of DNA. One could argue, in fact, that the transistor was the most important breakthrough of the 20th century because subsequent advances in those other fields relied on the computing power made possible through integrated circuits and semiconductors.

World Amateur Radio Day 2013

<http://www.iaru-r2.org/world-amateur-radio-day-2013/>

Each year on 18 April, radio amateurs around the world celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925 the International Amateur Radio Union was founded.

In 1913 there occurred the first recorded instance of amateur radio being used to provide communications in a natural disaster, during severe flooding in the Midwest of the United States.

Accordingly, the theme of the event for 2013 is "Amateur Radio: Entering Its Second Century of Disaster Communications."

Activities on the occasion of World Amateur Radio Day 2013 can be a great opportunity to spread the word about what the "hams" are doing in the field of disaster communications in the 21st Century.

The Wireless Amateur in Times of Disaster

Modern Electrics, April, 1913, page 218

Mr. B. N. Burglund, whose description of the wireless station at the University of Michigan, appeared in our March number, writes us an interesting letter on the part played by wireless amateurs during the recent floods in the Middle West in March. He has much to say in praise of those who did good work and rendered efficient service; and he also condemns, in no uncertain terms, the meddler who, we are sorry to admit, appears to be always on the job and gets in his fine work at such times. One of these individuals, possessed of a powerful transmitter, and ignorant of the code except to the extent of being able to recognize a few well-known calls when he heard them, persisted in calling the station at the University of Michigan while the operator there was trying to handle messages from the flooded districts. He was told, repeatedly, to keep out, but being ignorant of what was said to him, and thinking his calls were simply being recognized, kept on calling. And he kept it up for over six hours. The wireless law provides a heavy penalty for offenses of this sort, but he did not sign an understandable call and will probably never be caught.

Another instance of wilful interference is reported by the operator at the Ohio State University, who says a so-called wireless school in Columbus allowed its students to practice sending press while the university station was

trying to handle messages from the flooded district and refused to stop them when requested to do so. Mr. Burglund says he heard them at the University of Michigan and couldn't tell whether they were sending Morse, Continental, Greek or Chinese. Imagine anyone being permitted to send out a lot of stuff like that at such times.

But to get back to the bright side of the story. In speaking of the good work of the amateurs, Mr. Burglund says:

"During the night and morning of March 21st the city of Ann Arbor and the surrounding territory were visited by one of the worst wind storms this city has ever experienced. Houses were blown over, roofs taken off, and all telephone and telegraph wires crippled. But the wireless station stood, and the next evening we were able to handle "press" and messages to other wireless stations that were cut off from the world. However, the severest test did not come until the following Monday when an amateur wireless operator at Freemont, Ohio, called me and reported that their city was under water, and the captain of the Port Townsend Life Saving Station was drowned trying to rescue people. He also stated all telegraph and telephone wires were down and the only communication they had with the outside world was through the wireless station. This was the first report we had had that a flood was raging in central Ohio. That same afternoon I received a wireless call from operator D. A. Nichols, at Wapakoneta, Ohio, who has an excellent 1 kw. amateur station. Operator Nichols stated that their city was cut off from the world and that the flood was doing great damage to property, but so far no lives were lost.

"The majority of amateurs within our radius have built their stations with fairly large aerials and power up to 1 kw. and most of these stations were complying with the new wireless law. At the University of Michigan station it was almost impossible to hear the amateur station on 200 metres wave-length, so I sent out a general call to all wireless operators, situated in the flood district, that had important messages relating to flood sufferers, to use the wave-length and power best suited to their sets. This message brought immediate response from Mr. Hyatt, at Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Mr. Umbarger, at Mansfield, Ohio; Mr. McGregor, at Springfield, Ohio, and the "University" wireless station at Columbus, Ohio. There were also a number of smaller stations situated south, east and west of Columbus, that I could not hear; but most of these little fellows were in communication with Columbus, OSU, Ohio State University, and the other large amateurs. All of the large and small stations within a radius of 500 miles of Michigan could hear us, though I could not hear all of them. Though my receiving set was sensitive enough to hear amateurs stations of ½ kw. for a distance of 200 miles overland in daylight, I could not possibly hear all of the

little fellows. Important messages were handled between all of these points for individuals and the Western Union. The Ohio State Signal Corps had its station on the hill top just outside of Dayton and were in constant communication with Ohio State University (O. S. U.). We thereby had wireless communication directly into Dayton and a great many messages were handled over this route. Many an anxious mother and father or son were relieved of their anxiety via wireless. The Western Union offices were swamped with messages, at Columbus and other cities, which were turned over to the wireless stations for transmission; but we were very quickly forced to draw a line on what kind of messages we handled and accepted only urgent messages pertaining to flood sufferers and flood conditions.

"From Monday, March 24th, until Monday noon, March 31st, the wireless station at Michigan was not without an operator; and most of the time newspaper representatives camped with us in the operating room.

"I must not forget to give credit to my three able assistants, namely, Mr. George Norris, of Detroit, who is a Senior E. E. student; Mr. Watts, of Port Huron, who has had wide experience as a commercial operator, and now studying engineering at the University, and last, but not least, Mr. Worth Chatfield, who is a promising young operator, who kept the telephone wires hot and posted the bulletins. Mr. J. A. Mercer, the able operator at the Ohio State University, OSU, stuck to the job for 70 hours, when he collapsed and was temporarily relieved by some of the signal corps operators. As a class I wish to praise the amateurs. They have shown to the world that wireless can be of the greatest service when called upon.

"Wireless has shown itself up so beautifully during this great crisis, that a bill is pending in the State Legislature of Ohio providing for a large central station or stations and each city to have a permanent local station, so in case of need all cities so isolated are in communication with the different central stations. By all means let this bill pass. This is a step in the right direction and it is a good example for other States to follow."

Mr. Burglund's advice to the amateur who is building a station is "Put your aerial up so it will stay up, no matter what happens, and learn to handle messages at commercial speeds, for you may be called on to handle emergency messages when you least expect it." He tells of one young man in a flooded town who had sold his transmitting set when the wireless law went into effect because his aerial was so large that he couldn't cut his wavelength down below about 350 metres, and who, when he was called on to handle messages, went out and borrowed his set from the new owner, reinstalled it temporarily, and though it did not work as well as it did when properly set up, handled

press, private and even Western Union messages in a satisfactory manner.

Wireless, in the hands of the amateur, while it is used by some as a plaything, is capable of doing excellent service in time of need; and we hope the work done by these men who did all they could to maintain communication between the flood stricken cities and the rest of the world, will long be remembered.

Note from the Temporary Editor

My apologies that this installment of Linear Lines was later than my personally set delivery date of the second Monday of the month. My darling harmonic (also known as my 3 year old daughter) was kind enough to share a nasty cold with the family adults. Again, apologies, and I hope to see you all tomorrow at the tailgate.

Linda, KJ4EUV