

Radio Amateurs In DuBois

By JOSEPH J. SHUPIENIS II

There are more than 25 licensed Radio Amateurs in the DuBois Area, each one operating his own private shortwave radio station. These amateurs, commonly called "Hams", communicate with other "hams" in all parts of the world over their stations.

Amateur radio came into being at the turn of the century and has continued to grow ever since. There are over a quarter of a million radio hams in the United States, and over a hundred thousand in the rest of the world.

Most of these hams are members of the American Radio Relay League, the most powerful amateur radio organization in the world. Through this organization, amateurs are encouraged to handle non-commercial messages (those not concerning the exchange of money) to any point in the world free of any charge to the sender, or recipient of the message.

During times of disaster, or emergency, when an area is blocked off from the rest of the world, Radio Amateurs provide vital communications.

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HAMS ARE given government tests to insure they have the ability to operate efficiently during times of need. All hams have the necessary technical knowledge to build transmitters and receivers from "scratch," and many of them prefer to use such "home-brew" rigs over the ready built "store-bought" ones. There are kits also available which are quite popular among many hams who like to build, but not from "scratch."

To get a license, one applies to the F.C.C., takes a test and a few weeks later he receives his license and goes on the air.

In the DuBois area, the Amateur Radio had its beginning back in 1931, when Francis Servais, of Falls Creek, started a radio station - W8BEJ.

Ham radio caught on quickly, and by the next year, there were enough hams to start the Keystone Radio Club. It was started by Bill Todd, W8DYL, and Bill Hahn, W8GBC, and Jim Mauk, W8KWX, way back in 1932. The first officers of the club were Bill Todd, President; Francis Servais, Vice-President and Bill Hahn, Secretary-Treasurer.

In the summer of 1943, the club had a "ham-fest" at the Ground Hog Inn, between Punxsutawney and Indiana. Doc Van Cherry, W8BWH, was the host to nearly a hundred hams from New York, West Virginia and the DuBois area. One of the speakers was the designer and builder of radio station WJAC in Johnstown. Another was Dr. E.C. Woodruff, professor of Electrical Engineering at Penn State.

GVZ, as Secretary-Treasurer.

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HAM RADIO continued to grow and get more new members so that soon every little town had at least one operator. Some members of the "Ham Fraternity" in this area preferred phone, which is speech communication, while most of the others used Morse Code transmission, or CW, as hams call it.

Before World War II, Seymour Hummel, of DuBois, organized the Naval Reserve Communications Unit in DuBois. Seymour, now operating station K40YR in Hollywood, Florida, was previously known as W8MOT. Some of the people in the unit were Bill Hahn, W8GBC, Wes Thomas, W8HBG, Jim Canning, W8EFA; Tom Traczik, W8DKB Merle Owens, W8FZG; Byron London and Homer Hepler who was killed in World War II.

When the U.S. entered World War II, the government took control of radio in the U.S., and silenced the Hams for the duration of the war.

The late Lloyd Mohny, who was Treasurer of the DuBois Courier and Express, was greatly interested in amateur radio and always saw to it that the hams had a place to meet, and that they got publicity in the paper.

WHO WAS WHO

BEFORE WORLD WAR II

W8BEJ — Francis Servais, Falls Creek (Deceased)
W8BWH — Doc Van Cherry, Punxsutawney
W8DKB — Tom Traczik, DuBois (Deceased)
W8DKB — Doc Carmalt, Brookville (moved)
W8DNG — Daniel O'Brien, DuBois (Deceased)
W8EFA — Bill Tod, DuBois (moved)
W8EFA — Jim Canning, Brookville (moved)
W8FE — Ron Drummond, Punxsutawney
W8FZG — Mertle Owens, DuBois (moved)
W8GBC — Bill Hahn, DuBois
W8GYZ — Alex Mauk, DuBois (Non-Active)
W8HBG — Wes Thomas, Clearfield (Non-Active)
W8HMG — Roy Terconi, DuBois (Non-Active)
W8HUS — John Henninger, Reynoldsville (moved)
W8KWX — James Mauk, DuBois (Deceased)
W8MOD — Dr. Poole, Brockway (Non-Active)
W8MOT — Seymour Hummel, DuBois (Moved)
W8NUJ — Guy Yount, Reynoldsville (Non-Active)
W8TJI — Howard Smith, Falls Creek, R.D.

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AFTER WORLD WAR II, the F.C.C. gradually gave the amateur frequency privileges back to the amateur. A few changes in allocations and zoning were made. DuBois, previously in the 8th district, became part of the 3rd call district and many li-

under emergency conditions, should such emergencies ever arise. The date of "Field Day" will be announced in the Courier-Express on the last day of May.

However, if you would like to take advantage of the free message handling service at times other than "Field Day," many amateurs in the area will be glad to send your message via amateur radio to anywhere in the world.

Yes, this is amateur radio in the DuBois Area. Hobbyists, experimenters, home brewers, "D-X. men," "big guns," and "rag chewers" alike, all whose key word is PICON which means that they operate in the Public Interest, Convenience, or Necessity.

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THE FOLLOWING is a list of the known present day active hams in the DuBois Area:

K3AHS — Edward D. Golla, Reynoldsville RD 3
WA3BUX — Dick Flanders, DuBois
K3FOZ — Ed Drass, DuBois
WA3GMT — Edward J. Gulla, Reynoldsville RD 3
WA3GQU — Fred Barr, DuBou RD 3
WA3HPE — Bruce Girrell, DuBois
WA3HSE — Dick Leach, DuBois
WA3HTJ — Paul D. Laman,

Jr., DuBois

WA3IHK — Joe Shupienis, DuBois
K3IQN — George T. Platco, Brockway
K3KYY — Louis Vitarelli, DuBois
K3LIX — Dick Hockman, DuBois
W3LNE — Arthur Kunst, DuBois
K3MFB — Bill Hahn, Brockway
K3MJT — Norris Boucher, DuBois
K3MMW — Lawrence W. Byerly, Falls Creek
W3NUJ — Guy Yount
K3PPX — Bill Lukasavich, DuBois
K3QEQ — Bill Zavatsky, DuBois
K3SAT — Paul Griffith, Rockton
K3STA — Ed Stewart, Reynoldsville RD 2
K3TFL — Jim Albert, DuBois RD 3
W3TJI — Howard Smith, Falls Creek RD 1
K3UZL — Ellery D. Stoughton, DuBois
K3WVR — Mike Domitrovich, DuBois
K3ZDR — Paul Siliaski, DuBois
K3ZVG — Frank Humphrey, Reynoldsville
(Many thanks to Mr. Arthur Kunst for his help in compiling the above list of names.)

In the summer of 1943, the club had a "ham-fest" at the Ground Hog Inn, between Punxsutawney and Indiana. Doc Van Cherry, W8BWH, was the host to nearly a hundred hams from New York, West Virginia and the DuBois area. One of the speakers was the designer and builder of radio station WJAC in Johnstown. Another was Dr. E.C. Woodruff, professor of Electrical Engineering at Penn State.

On January 12, 1933, the club was re-organized with Bill Hahn as President, Bill Todd as Vice-President and Alex Mauk, W8-

W8NUJ — Guy Yount, Reynoldsville (Non-Active)

W8TJI — Howard Smith, Falls Creek, R.D.

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AFTER WORLD WAR II, the F.C.C. gradually gave the amateur frequency privileges back to the amateur. A few changes in allocations of zoning were made. DuBois, previously in the 8th district, became part of the 3rd call district, and many licenses had to be reissued.

A couple of the first DuBois hams who came back on the air in 1946, were Bill Hahn with his new call, W3MFB, and Seymour Hummel, W3MOT.

In 1947, a new radio club was started. It was named the Penn Central Radio Club. It was started by Bob Scott, W3SFK. Other members of the club were Sherman, W3ZOX, and John Guthrie. The club centered in Jefferson County. Later it moved its headquarters to Brookville.

Many thanks are tendered to Bill Hahn, W3MFB, of Brockway and Howard Smith, W3TJI, of Beechwoods for their information concerning the history of the local amateur radio activities.

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A NEW ERA

In 1948, the F.C.C. made an unexpected move by introducing the novice class license. It is obtainable by virtually any U.S. citizen and has slightly restricted operating privileges for the holder of this type of a license. This opened the door of a new era in amateur radio.

Still, this license does require knowledge of code and theory. One person who has done a great deal to help prospective hams get their licenses is James Albert, K3TFL, of Clear Run, DuBois. He is an Art Teacher at the DuBois Area Junior High School, and is the sponsor of the Junior High Amateur Radio Club. He teaches code and theory to interested 8th and 9th grade students. After they get their licenses, he helps them with any problems they may encounter in radio work.

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EVERY YEAR, the area hams participate in a test of emergency preparedness, called "Field Day", sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. During this Test a group of amateurs, or a single ham, is given exactly 27 hours to set up antennae and equipment and to make as many over-the-air contacts as possible with other hams. The station with the highest score (number of contacts and other factors) wins recognition as the station best prepared to serve the public during an emergency.

The public is asked to submit messages to the radio amateurs on "Field Day" to be sent to other localities. The handling of these messages aids in giving experience in message handling