

PECONIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Vol. X No. 11

"PARC SERVES"

November 2007



December Holiday Party at the QTH of PARC President, Roberta Keis, N2RBU, South Jamesport Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 4:00 pm
This is a "potluck" dinner. Bring a dish or bottle to share. Spouses and children welcome.

Motorola Unit Bids for Stake in Vertex

Monday, November 5, 5:44 pm ET

Motorola Subsidiary Bids for Majority Stake in Japan's Vertex Standard, Manufacturer of the Yaesu Brand of Ham Radio Gear

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. (AP) -- Motorola Inc. plans to spend \$108 million to acquire an 80 percent stake in a Japanese maker of two-way radio equipment, officials said Monday.

MI Inc., a Motorola subsidiary, will launch a tender offer to acquire Vertex Standard Co., parent company of Yaesu, and will form a joint venture with Tokogiken, a privately held company controlled by Vertex Standard's president and chief executive officer.

Tokogiken will control the remaining 20 percent of Vertex Standard. "This joint venture will enable Motorola and Vertex Standard to deliver an enhanced combined product offering to new regions and customers worldwide," Mark Moon, senior vice president of Motorola's government and commercial markets said in a statement.

Motorola shares fell 24 cents, or 1.3 percent, to close at \$17.71 Monday. □

Radio Ham Cracks WWII Code

British computer experts acknowledged defeat on Friday after a German amateur radio enthusiast won a challenge to crack secret messages encoded by a World War II cipher.

Joachim Schueth, DL2KCD, from the German city of Bonn, managed to intercept a special radio transmission and decipher a super-complex code in less than two hours using software he wrote for the challenge.

Britain's Colossus computer, built in the 1940s to break secret German transmissions during the war and painstakingly rebuilt over the past 14 years, was still racing through its computations to come up with a solution.

According to the BBC, the team at Bletchley Park -- the estate northwest of London where British code-breakers worked to decipher German radio traffic during the war -- cracked the first of several messages around 1:15 p.m. local time today.

But before the Colossus reconstruction team could put its vacuum tubes to work, Joachim Schueth of Bonn, Germany, submitted the deciphered text of the test messages to the U.K.'s National Museum of Computing. The museum, which is located at Bletchley Park in the town of Milton Keynes, was running the cipher challenge to mark the end of the 14-year project to re-create one of the original 10 Colossus machines.

As part of the challenge, a team at the Heinz Nixdorf Museums Forum—a computer museum and conference center in Paderborn, Germany—encrypted the test messages using one of the actual Lorenz teletype-connected systems that enciphered high-level traffic between German high command and other headquarters during the war. The enciphered messages were then transmitted by radio, as messages were by the German military in the 1940s.

Schueth, who also is a programmer, said on his Web site that he had written a suite of software to process the radio signals, then solve the starting positions of the 12 rotors, or enciphering wheels, on the Lorenz machine.

He claimed that it took his PC -- a notebook armed with a 1.4-GHz processor and running the NetBSD operating

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Minutes of the PARC Meeting November 2, 2007

Roberta, N2RBU, convened the meeting at 7:00 pm with 16 members and no guests present. She welcomed new member Mike Bianculli, KC2SJK, who earned his Technician license at the last PARC VE session.

Roberta reminded members that the December meeting will be the annual PARC Holiday Party to be held on Saturday, December 15th at 4 pm at her home in S. Jamesport. This is a potluck event with members encouraged to attend with their spouses or significant others and children. Please bring a dish or beverage to share and come early before all the food is gone.

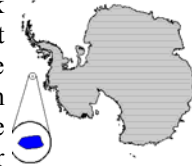
Don, N2QHV, noted that an ARES call-up might be necessitated if Hurricane Noel forces activation of any of the Southold Town shelters. Don also reported he and Charlie, K2GLP, had a good meeting with Supervisor Russell at which they educated him on the details of emergency services provided by PARC and its members. Don stated that two new shelters, Cutchogue East School and Peconic Landing, have been designated and PARC members have been assigned to those locations.

Don announced that a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is planned for Sunday, November 18th. An ARES call-up will be made requesting ARES members report to their assigned shelters to demonstrate their ability to communicate with the Southold Town EOC via the PARC repeater and simplex using low power HTs.

Roberta stated that the annual Hudson Division Awards Dinner will be held on November 10th in Northern NJ. PARC member Van, W2OQI, will be honored at the dinner as Grand Old Ham of the year. Since Van's poor health will prevent him from attending the meeting, the award plaque was presented to him at his home. The PARC ad in the Journal will feature tributes to Van written by

PARC members. (see pg 4)

A video of the 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I. Island in Antarctica was shown. This extremely dangerous and expensive venture by about 20 DXers resulted in almost 87000 contacts and provided hams around the world an opportunity to work a very rare entity. It was noted that more people have traveled in outer space than have ever set foot on Peter I. Island. PARC members Jay, K2OVS, Dick, W1ZC, and Warren, WM2Z all worked 3Y0X on various bands and modes.



Following the video, Jim, W2NSF, read an open letter from an HF newbie ham that contained some sage advice for successful ham operations. The complete text of the letter is available on pg 5.

The 50/50 cash drawing was won by Nancy Kreppien. Additional drawings for goodies provided by Jay were won by Don, N2QHV, Peter, KC2NEX, Nat, N2NEI, and Warren, WM2Z.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm and followed by casual conversation and refreshments. □

*Respectively submitted,
Warren Melhado, WM2Z
Secretary*



Jay, K2OVS, placed first in the 2006 160 M contest, single OP, QRP NYC LI Section. Congratulations!

(Continued from page 1)

system -- just 46 seconds to find the settings of all 12 rotors.

Colossus was the size of a small truck and boasted about 2,400 vacuum tubes -- until 8:15 a.m. Friday. A pair of blown tubes, which are called "valves" in Britain, also delayed the decryption efforts.

The National Museum of Computing hoped that the cipher challenge and the ensuing publicity would spark donations to the museum, which said that it needs to raise about US\$12.3 million to maintain its collection of historical computers. "It's a brilliant piece of work, really really impressive," said Andrew Clark, director of Britain's National Museum of Computing, which designed the challenge and is overseeing the running of Colossus, based at Bletchley Park outside London.

How to defeat a machine

Schueth was not immediately reachable for comment, but on his website he explained in a very low-key way how he had gone about defeating a machine that in its day was the most powerful calculator in the world and the forerunner of modern computing.

"Putting Colossus in a competition with modern computers may be a bit unfair," he wrote.

"Colossus was an ingenious construction and a landmark in the history of computing. But technology has very much evolved since."

The Lorenz cipher is based on wheels that can have an almost infinite range of settings.

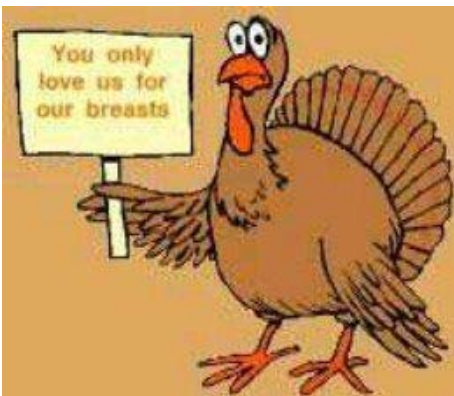
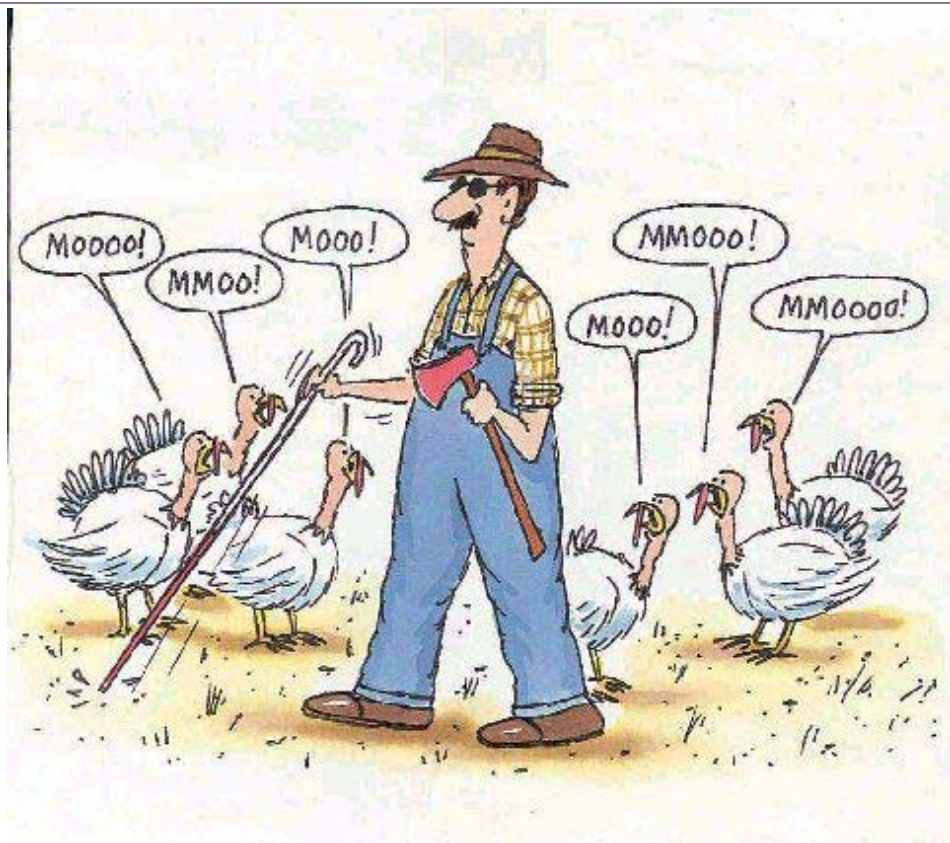
Colossus, a truck-sized computer built in 1943-4 with the help of mathematicians such as Enigma code breaker Alan Turing, has worked out five of the wheel settings so far and is expected to complete the task in about six hours.

Clark was full of praise for Schueth, who German scientists who helped design the challenge said they had never heard of. He hopes Schueth will visit Bletchley Park to receive a reward.

Colossus was a top-secret project during World War II - it only came to light in the 1970s - that helped crack secret German commands on troop movements and supplies. Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime prime minister, credited it with helping to shorten the war by up to 18 months.

Humor, Mostly from the Internet

I love Thanksgiving!
It's the one day that big
thighs are a good thing!



geocities.com/mange1_geo

I meant pass me the
stuffing from the turkey!



Van Field, W2OQI 2007 Grand Ol Ham

Van Field, W2OQI, has been and is the embodiment of amateur radio.

K2LGO, Bob Napoli

Van has always been my mentor when it comes to antennas – nothing goes up in the air unless we talk about it first – sure has saved me more than a few trips to the roof.

PS – I have always suspected him of being Kurt N. Sterba of World Radio Fame – we may never know !!!
K2OVS, Jay Buscemi

Van Field is a radio expert worthy of great honors for his contribution to the art of radio communications, as well as his ability to convey his treasury of information to others as an accomplished educator, Best regards.
W2HFM, Howard Malone, Sr



Van Field is.....
.....to Amateur Radio as a duck is to water.
.....forever a friend to all who know him.
.....the antenna expert for radio amateurs.
.....one of the "greats" in Amateur Radio.
.....one who is always ready to help anyone who calls.
.....a person to know and to have as a friend.
.....a person of vast Amateur Radio experience.
.....among the most knowledgeable in Amateur Radio.
.....one who lives and breathes Amateur Radio.
.....an excellent role model for Amateur Radio enthusiasts.
K2SJO, Stan Zak

A good friend and Elmer . N2QHV, Don Fisher

Van field is one of the real true radio guys amongst us.

N2NFI , Bill Schibel

Historian -- Author -- Teacher -- Sailor -- Friend
Trustee of First on Long Island Wide Area coverage 2 Meter Repeater
that grew to become the First Island Wide Linked Repeater system 1981

K2CX, Steve Barres
Spark Gap ! K2HF Peter Mc Greevy

Long time friend dating back to 1954. The first repeater owner on Long Island
K2GLP, Charlie Burnham,

Van helped our Quogue School students prepare for our ARISS contact ,
an Elmer par excellence.

Roberta Keis, N2RBU

Peconic Amateur Radio Club Celebrates our own "Grand Ole Ham"

The PARC ad in the Hudson Div. Awards Dinner Journal honoring
Grand ol' Ham, Van Field, W2OQI

Letters from an HF Newbie, by Steve Handler, N9ABC

Circulated by Jim, W2NSF

Some of us know code and some of us are “no code.” Some of the latter, including the author, now hold General and Amateur Extra class licenses.

I’m a proud member of the group of people who, since February 24, have become radio amateurs with HF privileges without having to pass a Morse code exam. My adventures in ham radio to date may be both interesting and instructive.

First, the nitty-gritty. My shack qualifies for the worst-case scenario. I have a great rig and tuner -- a Yaesu FT-897 and a LDG Z-11Pro. My antenna, however, is an indoor 33 foot dipole with a balun in the feed line. Because of its substandard location, I somewhat affectionately call my antenna the “Krappo One.”

An indoor dipole? I can hear you snickering. CC&Rs (deed covenant, conditions and restrictions), right? No, much worse. It’s a matter of my wife’s restrictions on what she will tolerate outside. In this case, that means nothing unsightly that the neighbors can see.

With 100 W and my indoor dipole, you might wonder what I’ve been able to achieve. Well, after my first eight months on the air, I’ve worked 97 DXCC entities (formerly called “countries”), and have QSLs from 86 of them. “Not bad,” say I.

Using my tuner and my 20 meter dipole, I can also get on 40, 17 and 15 meters. Most of my contacts have been on 20 meter SSB, although I have started to play with PSK31.

So, what DX does a newbie from the Midwest encounter on HF? If I rounded up the usual suspects they would include contacts with Europe, the Caribbean and South America. Within Europe, Italy,

Spain and Russia seem to be the most plentiful. Their friendly hams appear willing to work with newcomers to the HF bands. Being a glutton for punishment, one day I dropped my power to 10 W and still was able to work Slovenia.

Many Europeans seem to enjoy short QSOs (often just an exchange of signal reports) and then move on. Not so for many of those from the United Kingdom. They love to chat. Bless them for putting up with my low power, marginal antenna and puny signal. Contacts with Africa have been sparse. I’ve worked a handful of Moroccans, Algeria, Liberia, Madeira Island and little else. The Caribbean and South America hold a special place in my heart. Operators in those parts of the world generally seem friendly and interested in working state-side stations.

The lesson here is that even with minimal gear and a compromise antenna, it’s still possible to have a lot of fun on HF, including working DX.

What I Have Learned So Far:

Lesson 1: Courtesy and patience are the golden rules.

Lesson 2: Find an Elmer, someone who can be your mentor. I’ve gone “two better” and have three of them. All have provided invaluable tips and hints. All are long-time hams who have been there and done that. They are patient and more than willing to help me out with problems and questions.

Lesson 3: Not all days are created equal. Propagation at this point in the solar cycle seems to vary not only from day to day but according to the time of day. Find something else to do when propagation is poor, unless you enjoy warming the ionosphere. This brings me to “Steven’s Rule of Woe”: The amount and quality of DX available on the air tends to be inversely proportional to the amount of time you have available to hunt DX.

Lesson 4: Timing is everything. I’m learning to operate like an ant dancing with elephants. Although outgunned in

power (and antenna system) by almost everyone else on the air, I’ve already learned about using timing to break a pileup. One recent evening, I worked Algeria by listening to the pileup and noting a pattern to the QSOs. I determined that after the DX station called CQ, about six seconds into the caterwauling of call signs there almost always was a slight one-second lull before he either answered a station or the bedlam resumed. I timed my call to hit that lull, and, sure enough, I got through and he came back to me.

This method has worked over and over for me. Although each pileup seems to have a different pattern, there is almost always a pattern to be found. If you’re running low power, try timing your calls for the lulls in pileups.

Lesson 5: Every dog has its day, and every region has its time of day. Different regions tend to have better signals at different times of the day. For me, the Caribbean is good in the early morning and late afternoon. South America also is good in the late afternoon. Europe tends to be good from mid morning to mid to late afternoon, while Africa has been good in the early evening hours. Your situation will differ depending on your location, but listen a lot and get a feel for when to expect to hear one region of the world or another.

Lesson 6: Stick to it! Pick a band, and learn it. I have chosen 20 meters and am learning its various ins and outs -- especially propagation and knowing what parts of the band yield the best chance of working DX. For example, I have found that above 14.300 MHz are a number of nets, and my chances of catching any DX there are not as great as in the lower end of the band. Like all rules, however, there are exceptions. Recently on 14.330 MHz I worked a maritime mobile out of Germany and had a nice 10 minute chat.

Lesson 7: Become a contestant. Early on I complained to one of my Elmers that contests clogged the bands on weekends and made it hard for me to DX. He wisely pointed out, however, that contests are golden opportunities. Join the

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(Know code continued from page 5)

contest, and go after the participating stations. I've snagged a number of DX entities this way.

Lesson 8: Listen before you speak! Very early on, I joined pileups even before I had solid copy of the target station's call sign. I figured it if was good enough for others, it was good enough for me. This bad habit ended abruptly. One day using my timing technique, I broke a pileup to work what I thought was a great catch. His exotic DX location turned out to be a neighboring city, and I had to face his question as to whom I thought I was calling. Oops! Never mind!

Lesson 9: I have heard the enemy, and it is I. Using an indoor antenna I have sometimes caused RFI within the house. The Palomar Engineers RFI Kit of toroids and beads judiciously placed on telephone cords, computer mouse, keyboard wires and other key locations have helped me eliminate RFI within the house.

Lesson 10: CQ, CQ, CQ Whirlpool? Household appliances create interference, and having an antenna indoors only makes things worse. My front-loading Whirlpool washer is one of the worst offenders. The faster its high-speed motor whirls, the worse the interference. Let's see, clean clothes or DX? Guess which one wins out? Other offenders include two of our televisions and the fluorescent lights. All of the interference is radiated, not arriving via the power line. Detective Steve found

that if you detach the antenna, the interference goes way. The moral of the story is to DX when no one else is home (or at least [not] doing the laundry), or learn to live with some interference.

Final Observations

New licensees want and need to learn. Most want ham radio to be a great hobby not only for themselves but for their fellow hams. Veteran radio amateurs have a golden opportunity to help educate and teach new hams and shape their operating habits for life.

Unless you enjoy talking to yourself, ham radio will always be a matter of teamwork. Get on the air and join the team, and we're all winners.

73 and good DX!

Steve Handler, N9ABC, lives in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. His interest in ham radio began as a shortwave listener (SWL) using a Knight Span Master. He became a Technician class Amateur Radio licensee in 1991, and he's been involved in ARES and RACES. Earlier this year he upgraded, first to General and then to Amateur Extra, and he obtained the vanity call sign N9ABC. □



Riley changes his mind ... Hollingsworth to stay put at the FCC

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Special Counsel for the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has decided **not** to retire. He had announced last week that he would leave the FCC in January 2008.



Riley Hollingsworth

Riley states, "After spending the entire weekend thinking about the decision [to retire], it became more and more clear to me that it just isn't the right decision for me right now. There are several issues on the table that I want to continue to work through with the amateur community."

The Enforcement Bureau is the primary organizational unit within the Federal Communications Commission that is responsible for enforcement of provisions of the Communications Act, the Commission's rules, Commission orders and terms and conditions of station authorizations, as well as enforcement of Amateur Radio rules (Part 97). □

THE FCC AND 6.25 KHZ NARROWBAND TECHNOLOGY

The Federal Communications Commission has declined to mandate when the Private Land Mobile Service will be directed to adopt 6.25 kHz narrowband spacing between systems, but says that it will eventually happen. And this could be as early as 2011 or 2013. And hams in need of more repeater channels are likely watching to see how it all pans out.

If you own an Amateur repeater on any of the bands between 2 meters and 70 centimeters, a decision by the FCC to force users in the Private Land Mobile Service to adopt 6.25 KHz inter-station spacing at some yet to be determined day could eventually impact on ham radio. This is because the operating standards used in commercial service usually work themselves down to ham radio operations over a period of time.

The FCC says that it plans to have such a transition take place once gear is available and certified for sale. And for that reason, the FCC strongly urges land mobile licensees to consider migrating directly to 6.25 kHz rather than first adopting 12.5 kHz spacing and later making the 6.25 kHz move.

But there are a few caveats. In its announcement, the FCC admitted that 6.25

(Continued on page 7)

Dave Fisher, W2TNI offers the following for sale.
Price is negotiable!

RF Class C Amplifier. Push-pull 813s plus a half-KW power supply. Included are assorted plate coils (not a complete set) for CW.

Contact Dave Fisher
477-2170

Welcome new PARC Member

Mike Bianculli, KC2SJK
450 Saltaire Way, Mattituck, NY 11952
631-298-1005
Class: Technician
E-mail: intherain@verizon.net
Spouse: Diane

Pete's Blog

You may find the following link:
www.techweeklypodcast.blogspot.com/
interesting - it's a weekly update on contemporary technical issues hosted by one of our own -- Pete, KC2NEX, PARC's Master-at-Arms.

Take a listen - Audio only for the moment but I'm sure Pete will be expanding into Video in the not-too-distant future...

73, Jay K2OVS

PARC VE Session

The last PARC-run VE examination session yielded two new hams:

KC2SJK
Michael J Bianculli
450 Saltaire Way
Mattituck NY 11952
USA

KC2SJK
(check him out on QRZ.com)
Kyle T Kratoville
51 Brookhaven
Ave
Riverhead NY 11901
USA



Jay, K2OVS

(FCC continued from page 6)
kHz technology is not mature enough to warrant setting a specific migration schedule. Also, that there are no accepted industry standards for 6.25 kHz, and this could be a problem in regard to interoperability between various users.

But the FCC also says that it will expeditiously establish a schedule for transition to 6.25 kHz ultra-narrowband once the technology matures to the point that sufficient equipment is available for testing.

What does this mean to hams? While the FCC is not likely to tell radio amateurs that they have to adopt the same technology, it is all but inevitable that some hams will begin looking at 6.25 kHz for their own future repeater operations. This might be especially true in the crowded urban areas like the North-East and in California where waiting lines exist for new repeaters with some hams in that line for several years. □



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From the Editor

Contributions to the PARC newsletter may be e-mailed to paul@pbirman.com

Greetings from sunny Florida. Rosemarie and I relocated our QTH on October 25th to our winter quarters on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

We've retrieved our trawler from her winter berth safely up river from the storms which did not materialize this past season. The *Rosemarie 3* is now ensconced in her winter slip at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club.

Most of the past summer we've been pushing to get our little creek at Cedar Beach, Southold dredged. To see if there might be some advantage in numbers, I joined a group called SoutholdVOICE.com and monitored the town's efforts to get permits pried free from the Army Corps of Engineers. Our own Pete McGreevy, K2HF, serves on the Southold Town Dredging Committee.

Literally as we prepared to fly down for the season, after our boat was hauled, shrinkwrapped and stored ashore, the dredge did arrive at Cedar Beach and proceeded to clear away 15 years of accumulated sand! Now, if Tropical Storm Noel did not wash the entrance to our creek away, we should be able to navigate once again next summer! □

73

de Paul, WA2JPJ

Peconic Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

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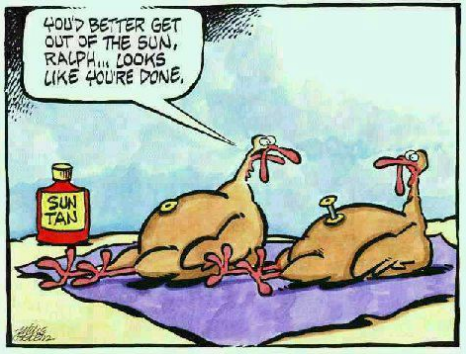
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Issue of
November 2007

Officers of the Peconic ARC

President	Roberta Keis, N2RBU	722-4060
Vice President	Jay Buscemi, K2OVS	298-4084
Secretary	Warren Melhado, WM2Z	734-6929
Treasurer	Jim Baker, W2NSF	734-5121
Chairman/Trustee	Peter McGreevy, K2HF	298-3599

The Peconic Amateur Radio Club, founded February 5, 1993, is an ARRL-Affiliated Club and an ARRL Special Services Club. Its call sign is W2AMC.

Regular meetings: 6:30 p.m., the first Friday of each month at the Southold Free Library, Main Road, Southold, NY — immediately east of the Feather Hill Mall.

PARC's mailing address: P.O. Box 113, Peconic, New York 11958-0113.

Repeater: W2AMC/R, 440.050, up 5.0, PL 107.2.

Web Site: www.peconic-arc.org.

Web Master: Scott Reynolds, KC2JCB (603-203-8569).

VE Exams: Next examination: Friday, January 18, 2008

Held every three months at the Southold Free Library, on the next-to-last Friday of the month. Candidates accepted between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. All classes of license. Walk-ins welcome.

Contact: Warren Melhado, WM2Z.

Liaison with the ARRL: Warren Melhado, WM2Z (734-6929).

Want Real CW Practice? Check with George Morton, KN2GSI, for CW practice. Hear what a good fist sounds like!

Master-at-Arms: Peter Kreppin, KC2NEX. (734-7422)

Net Control Officer for ARES/RACES: Ron Dohert, K2YKH (298-5625).

Official Videographer: Bob Allen, KB2YSM (477-0594).

HF Awards Manager: Warren Melhado, WM2Z (734-6929).

Need help with an antenna? Call The "A" Team.

Contact: Don Fisher, N2QHV (765-2757).

RFI/TVI problems? Call Howie Malone, K2AQ (765-5281).

Need the callsign, name, or address of that ham you contacted?

Call Otto Grube, KF2MU (734-7094).

Membership Chairman: Bob Allen, KB2YSM (477-0594).

Health and Welfare: George Morton, KN2GSI (477-2791).

Newsletter Editor: Paul Birman, WA2JPJ (954-563-7417).

Club Librarian: Jim Baker, W2NSF (734-5121).

Net Control PARC net: Jay Buscemi, K2OVS (298-4084).

Interference Related Matters? Call Mike Malinowski, N2QOY (654-2248).