

# STATIC

## The Voice of the North Hills Amateur Radio Club

July 2008

### Welcome Back to the *Static*

It has been many months since we mailed a hard copy of the Club's newsletter to its membership. Like other ham radio club's, The ***Static*** fell victim to a declining Club treasury. I spoke with member's of other clubs in the area and found their club also stopped mailing a newsletter due to the costs involved. While we are not unique in this case, not having a printed and mailed newsletter does create a problem or two.

The first problem is not everyone uses the Internet. The second problem is our Club misses out on an effective method to promote itself. The ARRL points out for most club members, the newsletter is the only thing they receive. While I hope our members see a value beyond the newsletter, it is a benefit to being a member.

The ***Static*** received funding from the Club's Board to do two mailings in 2008. It is not ideal but is better than not having a newsletter. The first newsletter will be mailed to all of the Club members, former members, and Hams in selected parts of area. The second newsletter will be mailed to those who wish to receive a printed copy and e-mailed to those who wish to receive it via the Internet. Using the Internet will allow us to save money. We do want to encourage members to sign up for the electronic version. Both printings are limited to a few pages. This restricts the amount of content we can print. I am also using a large font to make it easier to read for some of the older members (like me).

In order to be successful with the Internet mailing, please send e-mail to [wa3yoa@nharc.org](mailto:wa3yoa@nharc.org) and let me know if you are willing to accept the newsletter electronically. Please include your full name, callsign, and the e-mail address you would like us to use. We hope to have a webpage available in the future so you can maintain this information on your own.

**[www.nharc.org](http://www.nharc.org)**

The Club's website is ideal for communicating information in a timely manner. Dennis Woytek, KB3HPC, our Club's Webmaster, has released a new version of the website. To offset the limitations of the printed newsletter, I strongly recommend viewing the website at least once a month. Instead of creating an electronic version of the newsletter, the website will serve that function. Items will be pulled from the website for the printed newsletter. Between the two of us,

we are going to attempt to keep the content fresh. During this past Field Day, both Dennis and I took photos of the event. While we cannot afford to print all of the photos in the newsletter, we are able to display them on the website. A couple of the Field Day attendees also had cameras and asked if we wanted the photos and the answer is yes. If you have photos of a Club event or a Ham radio event, PLEASE send them to Dennis at [webmaster@nharc.org](mailto:webmaster@nharc.org) or to me at [wa3yoa@nharc.org](mailto:wa3yoa@nharc.org).

### **Club Membership**

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, one of the problems the Club is having is a declining membership and bank account. This Club needs your help and it needs it now. Please use the membership form attached to this newsletter and send it with a check as soon as possible. If you are interested in joining the Club, we can use your help too.

We missed the deadline for advanced ticket sales for the Club's Hamfest on July 13<sup>th</sup> so please stop by next Sunday, July the 13<sup>th</sup>. We can use your financial help. The really good news about purchasing raffle tickets is you might just win an Icom IC-91AD HT with D-Star module or an Icom IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF rig.

### **Repeater Committee Report**

The Repeater Committee is holding its annual raffle to raise funds to operate, to expand, and to maintain our repeaters. Your ticket purchases and donations are very important to keeping our repeaters some of the best repeaters in town.

Pittsburgh's first D-Star repeater user community is growing. Coverage has improved with the addition of a pre-amp on the receiver. We are STILL waiting to have the new antenna installed. We finally found a tower climber. We are waiting for the okay to access the tower. WQED does not want more than one tower project at a time so we are waiting in the queue for our turn.

While at the Dayton Hamvention this year, I had a chance to chat with other D-Star repeater owners. One important tidbit of information gained had to do with adding a power amp to the repeater. We need to find an amp that has a very quick startup time. If it does not, the first transmission will have a truncated header packet. This is not a good thing. We have a spare Motorola Micor amp. N3CVL, Bob Hoffman, is researching what happens to the amp when there is no input. If the amp idles itself, it might be a good candidate to use on the D-Star repeater.

We will be selling raffle tickets at the Hamfest and at Club meetings until the drawing at the October activity meeting.

## Field Day 2008



The Club's Field Day event was held June 28 and 29 at the Northland Library. The weather was wonderful. Well, it was nice some of the time. What is a few storms between friends?

While I attended, the Club operated a 10 meter phone station, a 20 meter phone station, and a 40 meter phone station.

The Club President, John Gorman N3RQD sent the following message to those who attended this event:

“I want to thank all of you for your contributions making this year's Field Day a success in spite of the rain!!!!

See you all at the next meeting July 9th, and let's look forward to our Hamfest July 13th.”



We have more photos of this event on the [www.nharc.org](http://www.nharc.org) website. Please stop by to view the other photos.

**NORTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**23rd Anniversary Hamfest**  
**July 13, 2008 from 8AM to 2PM**

It is Hamfest time in the North Hills. I can't believe there have been 22 prior Hamfests. This is an old fashioned Hamfest with features such as FREE admission, FREE parking, and the first flea market space is FREE. Additional spaces are only \$5.00 each. So bring lots of stuff to sell!

There is one restriction: no firearms are permitted. I am guessing that anything that goes boom in a bad way would also not be permitted.

There are two raffle prizes this year. The first is an Icom IC-91AD and the other is an Icom IC-7000. Ticket prices are very reasonable. One ticket is just two dollars. If you buy three, the price is \$5.00. The real bargain is if you purchase seven tickets, the price is only \$10.00. This is a great way to help the Club AND you might win one of the prizes. In addition to the main prizes, there are hourly prizes. Please note: you will need to be present to win the hourly prizes.

Directions to the:

Northland Public Library  
300 Cumberland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

This site is approximately ten miles north of Pittsburgh on route 19. From Pittsburgh take exit 18 on Interstate I-279 to McKnight Road, north to Cumberland Road. Turn left onto Cumberland.

From I-79 take exit 22 to route 910. Go east to route 19 and then go south on route 19 to Cumberland Road. Turn left onto Cumberland.

From the PA Turnpike please take exit 28 (old exit 3) and then onto route 19 south through Wexford. Stay on route 19, turn left onto Cumberland Road at the Sunoco.

If you have any questions, please contact the Hamfest Chairmen:

Rey Whanger W3BIS	or	John Gorman N3RQD
412-828-9383		412-487-9254
w3bis@verizon.net		n3rqd@verizon.net

The Talk-In is on the W3EXW 147.09 repeater. If your Tom-Tom or other GPS does not help, just give us a call on the repeater and we will help you find the Hamfest.

## 2008 NHARC Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (work) \_\_\_\_\_  
License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member: (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Receive Newsletter via E-Mail (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_

Club dues are \$15.00 per year. Your donations are also very welcome. Make check payable to **North Hills Amateur Radio Club**, and mail your check with SASE to the Club treasurer, Cathleen Heiles, 134 Easley Rd, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237 (412-486-2785) or bring your dues to the next Club meeting.

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### NORTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2008 Repeater Dues / Donation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (work) \_\_\_\_\_  
License Class \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray the costs of operation and maintenance of the repeaters. Donations of \$20.00 or more include auto-patch privileges on the 146.88 and 147.09 repeaters. New repeater members must include a copy of their current amateur license. Make your check payable to: **North Hills Amateur Radio Club – Repeaters**, and mail to Repeater Committee's Treasurer William E. Kristoff, Jr. N3BPB, 205 Twin Oak Dr., Wexford, PA 15090-8635 (724-935-3466).

The North Hills Amateur Radio Club  
c/o aspStation, Inc.  
4736 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

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## **Hamfest this Saturday!**

### **ALL NHARC SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2008**

Meetings start at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

**July 13, NHARC Hamfest @ Northland Public Library, 8:00 AM till 2:00 PM.**  
No Activity Meeting in July.

August 13, Business Meeting @ Northland Public Library.  
August 17, NHARC 3rd Annual Club Picnic @ Sesuqi Grove, North Park, 9 am till??

September 10, Business Meeting @ Northland Public Library.  
September 24, Activity Meeting St. John's Lutheran Church. Antique Radio  
KB3LZP.

October 8, Business Meeting @ Northland Public Library.  
October 22, Activity Meeting @ St. John's Lutheran Church. Fall Auction &  
Repeater H/T Raffle.

November 12, Business Meeting @ Northland Public Library.  
No Activity meeting in November.

December 10, NHARC Holiday Party (location and time to be determined)  
No Activity meeting in December.