

# Ham radio enthusiasts play key historical role

By RAY McALLISTER  
Collegian Staff Writer

Whiskey Alpha 3 Hotel Charley Golf. That's "ham" language for W3HCG, the University's amateur radio station on campus. From the station, located in the Service Building, Penn State's hams literally have the world at their fingertips. Amateur radio, in fact, is the only hobby provided for by international law and its enthusiasts number several hundred thousand throughout the world.

Here in the U.S., the federal government, recognizing the role played by the amateur in radio public service, has set aside certain frequencies for the hams. These amateur bands are divided further into AM and CW bands. AM (amplitude modulation) designates phone communications, which are by voice, whereas CW (continuous wave) are code communications.

Something For Everyone There is something for nearly everyone in amateur radio. V. E. Neilly, associate professor of engineering, trustee of the Penn State Amateur Radio Club and a licensed ham for 30 years, specializes in "phone patch traffic."

Phone patch traffic involves hooking up a telephone with a ham's rig which is connected to another rig. This rig, in turn, has another phone hooked up to it. Using this system, two callers in distant countries can talk with each other over their own phones at no charge.

Such "traffic," as the hams call this activity, is permitted only with countries with which the United States has special agreements. These include the Latin American nations, Canada, Israel and Liberia.

South Of The Border Neilly's own favorite area is Latin America. He and his wife have made three mid-winter vacations there, often meeting in person hams he has pre-

viously "met" over the airwaves. Phone patch traffic, however, is merely one aspect of amateur radio. Benny Sterental, vice president of PSARC, is a "DX" enthusiast, or one who contacts foreign nations, especially "rare" ones, such as Liechtenstein and San Marino, on the radio.

There are 330 "radio countries," as Sterental explains, over 160 of which he has contacted. From over 130 of these he has received confirmation cards, imprinted with the contact's call number.

Contest Fan Many hams, Sterental among them, are also contest fans. The goal of a contest is to talk to as many stations in as many countries as possible. Although most such contests last 48 hours, each country sets up rules as to frequencies to be used, the number of operators per station and the number of rigs allowed. The American Radio Relay League, a national organization of hams, governs many of the contests in this country.

In one such contest, Sterental, working with his father, placed 13th in the world, fifth in South America and first in Peru, where he then lived.

Other hams, known as "rag-chewers," simply like to talk and there is bound to be a captive audience somewhere in the world. As Blair Bates, former president of PSARC, has said: "If you can't sleep at night, all you have to do is come down to the station and call another ham." Someone will be listening.

Public Service Amateur radio also provides an important public service through the National Traffic System. The ham sends personal messages through a series of networks until the message reaches a ham who can phone it to the intended recipient. Hams have sent as many as 100,000 messages a month to and from American

servicemen through this third party traffic system.

The history of Penn State radio is an interesting one. Although the Department of Electrical Engineering had done some experimental work in code transmission prior to 1912, that year marks the real beginning of radio on campus. A particularly disastrous sleet storm so hindered the operations of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1912 that it asked the College to carry on investigative work in radio telegraph.

It also provided a 270-foot tower and a spark transmitter to get the College started. The Class of 1912 provided money for a little red-brick building in which to house equipment and Penn State radio had begun. "Calling 8XE"

The station was issued one of the first experimental licenses granted under the new licensing act of Congress. Its call letters were 8XE.

Bigger and more important things followed for the station. In 1934 it served as the official contact with Admiral Byrd's party at Little America. During the Johnstown Flood in 1936, the station took charge of communications while much of the state was under water. On the air continuously for 58 hours, the station received citations from the Navy, the Chief Signal Officer and Western Union.

The 1947 station, under the call letters W3YA-ALMA, was

the official means of communication for "Kon-Tiki," the six-man expedition sailing from Peru for the Polynesian Islands on a raft.

The station has done much service work, especially for the Army and Navy. As The Collegian magazine wrote, the University "can well be proud of the station here, for there are few amateur stations which have merited the confidence of the Army, Navy and Signal Corps."

In February of 1966, the Penn State Amateur Radio Club received its University charter with the late Gil Crossley as adviser. Crossley had worked closely with the station since 1919, when he took charge of operations as an undergraduate student. He was one of the earliest holders of an amateur operator's license.

The following winter the present call W3HCG was issued to the club with Neilly serving as adviser and trustee.

Antenna System PSARC, since the spring of 1967, has operated from the old Services Building, in a room which was once for storing explosives. It had hoped for a station in the HUB, but soon discovered the roof there to be inadequate for the elaborate system of antennas needed.

PSARC is happy to relay personal messages to other parts of the globe — free of charge, of course.

# ARHS told of office revisions

By NANCY LOWRY  
Collegian Staff Writer

Charles S. Spence, director of residence halls programs, last night informed the Association of Residence Halls Students of plans to revise the dean of student affairs office.

"We want to organize the office to better meet student needs," Spence said. "We must let the students know what's happening."

Spence indicated that he was interested in student ideas for improvement of the office.

Organization of Town Independent Students President Jim Rodden submitted a proposal for a Casino Night to take place May 23 in order to raise money for the bail bonds. He encouraged students to think of additional ways in which money could be raised.

Russ Bensing, West Halls senator, was appointed parliamentarian. Brad Johnson, president of the East Residence Association, was named chairman of the ARHS Department of Staffing and Programming, and James Mazza (9th-secondary education-Carlisle) was appointed personnel director. Steve Granger (6th-counseling-Warminster) was named ARHS executive vice president.

Kathy M. Lewis (3rd-science-Camp Hill) was chosen as the ARHS representative for the Parmi Nous Renaissance Festival queen.

Plans were discussed for the possibility of a national ARHS convention to be held at Uni-

versity Park at the end of the summer. Members maintained that more could be contributed and gained through various rap-sessions resulting from a convention. In addition, a convention would raise the student interest in ARHS.

Amendments involving the election of the president, selection of advisors and the duties of the executive board were discussed and tabled until further notice.

In addition, an investigation of local opinion of coed housing

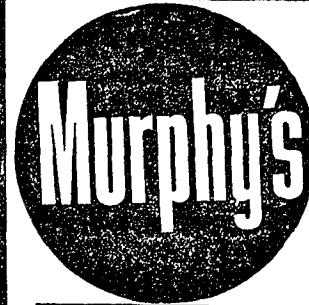
and interest houses was discussed. Plans were made for fall orientation centering on social, cultural, academic and residence hall interests. To increase interests, projects are being planned to coordinate

student energy to the benefit of the campus and residence hall area. Students are reminded to contact ARHS if they are confronted with any problems involving housing; both in residence and dining halls.

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### 2 others hurt seriously

## Coeds die in accident

Two University students were killed and two others injured in a car accident early Monday morning near Stroudsburg.

The victims are Marcia L. Moskovitz (10th-social welfare-Scranton) and Carol S. McCauley (9th-English-Emmaus).

Injured are Thomas M. Dabich (6th-liberal arts-Lebanon), in guarded condition with a lacerated hand and concussion, and Sharon L. Hawkey (8th-psychology-Fairport, N.Y.) in critical condition with a severe head injury. Both are in Monroe County Hospital at Stroudsburg.

According to State Police, Dabich was traveling south on Route 209 near Vacationlands resort near Stroudsburg when he ran off the right side of the roadway and hit a tree. The accident occurred at 6:05 a.m., at which time weather conditions were reportedly very foggy.

The police stated that the exact cause of the accident is still undetermined, and the investigation is continuing. The vehicle, a 1964 Volkswagen was destroyed.

According to friends, Miss McCauley, Miss Hawkey and Dabich were visiting friends in Boston over the weekend and were returning to Penn State when the accident occurred. Miss Moskovitz was in Boston to attend an interview for a practicum she was planning this summer.

Miss McCauley was a member of Delta Gamma sorority. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow in Emmaus.

The Daily Collegian has received no information on funeral arrangements for Miss Moskovitz.

## PSOC member dies in fall

A member of the Penn State Outing Club died Monday of injuries he received from a fall while climbing a cliff in Colerain State Park.

The Huntingdon County coroner pronounced Joseph P. Harmon (13th-English-McKeesport) dead from multiple crush injuries at the scene of the accident.

According to the University Department of Public Information, Harmon was climbing a cliff when he fell approximately 100 feet. Huntingdon State Police reported the death as accidental.

Indiana State Police shot and killed Ronald Wayne Gains, 23, Taylor, Michigan, Sunday as he fled from a car reported stolen from the University Friday.

The shooting followed a high-speed chase after the car was spotted on the Ohio Turnpike near Toledo, Ohio. The chase ended in

LaGrange County, Ind. after police shot out the rear tire of the sedan.

According to Indiana State Police, Gains was shot by the police when he failed to heed an order by the police to halt.

State College police reported the 1971 Plymouth Fury sedan stolen from Brown's Arc Station on College Avenue Friday night.

Two more inmates of the State Correctional Institution at Rockview escaped and were caught Sunday night.

Prison officials said Albert Otto Kuklo and Charles Dailey scaled a fence Sunday night when returning from a movie.

The escapees were caught a half hour later in the underbrush one mile from the main compound. They offered no resistance. Last week three escapees were captured near Indiana, Pa.—MET

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