

# Steel City Amateur Radio Club celebrates 80 years

## TRIBUNE-REVIEW

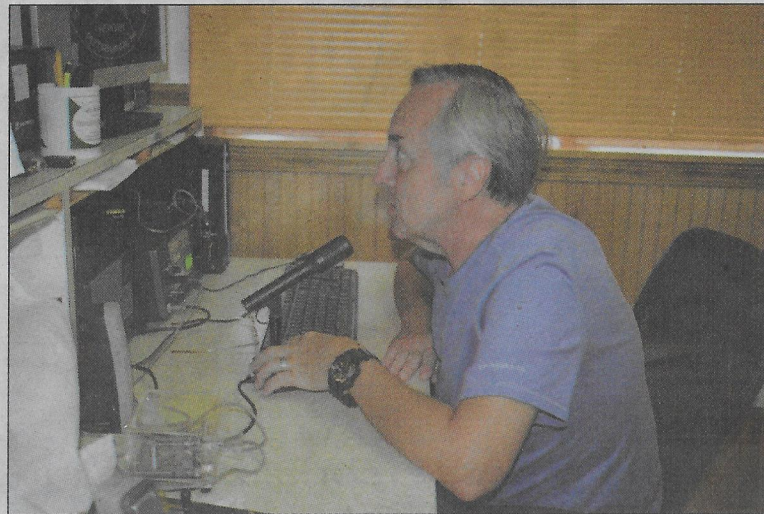
The Steel City Amateur Radio Club celebrated its 80th anniversary Aug. 7-15.

Club members celebrated the milestone anniversary by taking to the airwaves with a special event station.

“Our club members have served the community by providing volunteer communication services to the Pittsburgh Marathon, Komen Race for the Cure, Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure and the Pittsburgh Great Race,” said club president Christine Rial. “Our club is capable of providing emergency communication services to the community if the need arises. We have state-of-the-art radios and antennas at our clubhouse, and have a backup generator to provide power if the main electrical grid goes down.”

The club evolved in concept from 1940 through 1941 – it officially became a club with its own property and clubhouse in 1941. The original building was located in Greentree at a Pittsburgh Plate Glass test site for paint and glass products – the building itself was on a rotating platform.

In 1942, the Collier Township prop-



COURTESY OF BOB MENTE

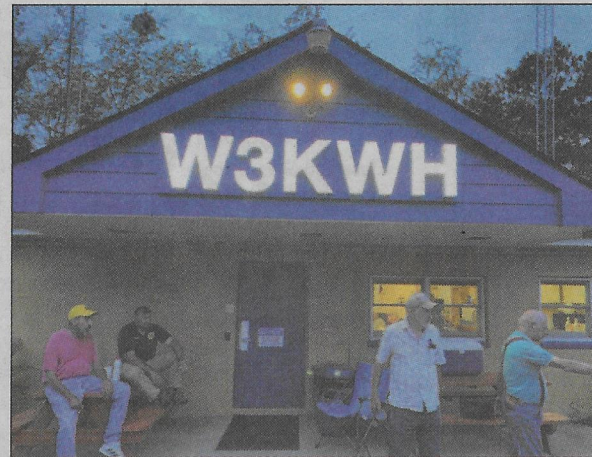
John Jennings on the airwaves at the Steel City Amateur Radio Club in Collier during its 80th Anniversary week-long celebration.

erty — almost two acres — was officially sold to a trustee of the Steel City Amateur Radio Club, even though members had been using the site for a year or more.

The original building was purchased for \$1 from Pittsburgh Paint Glass. It was carefully dismantled and

brought piece-by-piece to the current site and reassembled without the rotating platform. It served the club well for about 16 years.

When the present structure was built in 1957, every piece of material that could possibly be salvaged from the original building was used in



COURTESY OF BOB MENTE

Steel City Amateur Radio Club members socialize outside of the clubhouse in Collier.

the “new” building, including some of the glass block for memorabilia, and the steel I-beams for structural reasons.

“One of the main purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications per the Federal Communications Commission rules,” said

Bob Mente, Amateur Radio Emergency Service emergency coordinator for Allegheny County. “Our trained volunteers are equipped to serve the needs of our partner agencies and our communities. The communication facilities of the Steel City Amateur Radio Club are a great asset to our mission in providing emergency communication services to Allegheny County residents should we be called upon to do so by the agencies we serve here in Allegheny County.”