



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc. W3HZU Founded 1955 – York, PA

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June/July/August, 2013

Field Day - 2013

On June 22nd & 23rd (Saturday & Sunday) the Keystone VHF Club and the Hilltoppers Transmitting Society of Red Lion held a combined Field day at our clubsite. Members from both clubs worked both Friday and Saturday morning to set up antennas and get the operating positions ready.



The gang erecting the triband beam provided by the Hilltoppers Club on Saturday morning.

On Friday evening, new club member Martin Bayes, AA1ON climbed to about the 40 foot level on our 60 foot tower and attached the center support of a 80 meter dipole antenna which was provided by the Hilltoppers. As well as the two antennas detailed above, we also had a 40M Vertical antenna provided by the Hilltoppers and a 3 band Inverted Vee provided by Dick, WA3USG.

Dave All, N3XUD coordinated activity from both clubs in regard to setup of both antennas and operating positions.



We had three operating positions and a Gota station set up under the pavilion. There was plenty of room to operate and serve food. At the height of our operations, we had about 20 folks present. **Continued on Page 3**

Happenings at the Clubsite



Shown here is our HyGain TH-7DX Triband Beam ready to go up. This antenna was donated to the club by Jim Walsh, K3JIM. I have never seen a HF beam with as nice a set of SWR curves as this one!

Over the Summer an incredible amount of work has been going on up at the club. Tim Beck, KB3OFE is making enormous progress with the ATV repeater (but that's a separate article). Dan Melato, KB3JSV has donated an Internet Access Point to the club and between Dan & Tim, have reconfigured the clubs computer network with additional security and have greatly increased it's efficiency.

Tim Beck continues to make even more tweaks on our Weather Radio system interfaced with the 97 machine. It's great having those non-invasive weather alerts on our repeater. The 6 meter machine has been re-crystaled and is now spot on frequency. Bob Poff has AllStar working on the our 70CM machine. There is an antenna problem with the 10 meter repeater transmit antenna but that's in the scheduled pipeline to be repaired.

In the December 2012 issue of the VHF transmitter there was a "Project status listing" on page 1 ... almost everything on it has been completed. We have three antennas to put up yet but when that's done we might (and I say "might") be caught up. **Continued on Page 6**

Another Station Now Receiving ATV



Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT is the next station in the club to be able to receive the ATV repeater. Jeff picked up a cheap second hand color TV set at the Salvation Army thrift store, connected the TV's antenna jack to his 2 meter/440 beam, switched to cable channel 60, and got the picture that you see here. It was that easy!

Continued on Page 5

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, August 1st, at the Clubsite
Don't forget the Cornroast on August 17th!



This has been a busy Summer for YARS. We have installed equipment and antennas at four area Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs). The first was Fairview Township where we installed two dualband antennas, A J-pole and an AR-270. We also installed a Yaesu FT-8800 dual band rig. Club member and Fairview Township employee Chris Shover, KB3TWW supervised and performed much of this work assisted by Dick, WA3USG.

At Newberry Township, we installed a dual band J-Pole and an AR-270. In addition, we ran the coax for these antennas across the entire building in an attic area that had no floor. Rich Reese, KR3EE and Dick Goodman, WA3USG were both up in this area gingerly walking on 2"X4" roof trusses while trying not to fall through the insulation and drop ceiling tiles into the offices below. That would be a surprise!

At the Conewago Township EOC, we made the determination that a coax drop that we thought was connected to an Amateur antenna was in fact connected to something else (at this time we don't know what). We installed a dual band J-Pole and an AR-270. We really need to get back and find out what that original feedline drop is connected to (if anything). We identified where the new coax drops are terminated for future operations.

We visited Memorial Hospital in order to determine why the dual band Comet antenna was displaying an extremely high SWR. An antenna analyzer in the conference room where the coax is terminated displayed a SWR of about 10 to 1. We made a trip to the roof and measured the antenna directly. The SWR there was less than a 1.5 to 1. The problem seems to be in the coax somewhere between the conference room and the antenna ... a run of several stories. We would like to return with a TDR and attempt to resolve the location of this problem and possibly repair it.

At the new Hallam Township EOC, we provided a dual band J-Pole and an AR-270 antenna to be mounted on their new tower by township employees. We also made up feedlines for these antennas and installed all necessary connectors. Upon completion of mounting the antennas, we installed connectors on extension feedlines to enable the antennas to be used in an office approximately 150 feet from the antennas themselves. We terminated the feedlines to bulkhead connectors and installed a plate with the bulkhead connectors in a box provided by Hallam Township. After this was finished, we swept both antennas from the bulkhead connectors to test the integrity of the whole circuit.

While we were at Hallam, we offered to sweep two antennas that were connected to a VHF repeater. The repeater offered extremely poor coverage and there was a question as to the integrity of the antennas. The antennas swept well but we noticed that the receive & transmit

antennas were located about 10 feet apart and the repeater had no duplexer. We informed Hallan that this was not a good thing. At a follow on visit, we were told that a duplexer was going to be added.

At the York County EOC, we have four UHF omni antennas on 70 cm and four VHF omni antennas on 2 meters. These are broken down into 2 UHF and 2 VHF antennas at the 80 foot level, and 2 UHF and 2 VHF antennas at the 100 foot level. We have noticed that on 2 meters switching between the VHF antennas yields very different results in accessing some repeaters. For some reason, the antennas mounted at the 80 foot level performed better than the ones mounted at 100 feet. We swept all 8 antennas and found that all of the UHF antennas had an SWR of less than a 1.5 to 1 across the whole band. The 2 VHF antennas at the 80 foot level were less than a 1.5 to 1. Both VHF antennas at the 100 foot level however had an SWR of over 2 to 1 across the entire band. While not a terribly high mismatch, the fact that we are running well over 200 feet of coax will most likely result in a good bit of loss for a run this long.

Since this mismatch will not damage any equipment, we are not taking any action at this time. The antennas at the 80 foot level will access anything we need to talk to.

The YARS folks in conjunction with the Keystone club have also been very active in several public service events over the last three months. The Bob Potts Marathon on May 26th, the Gettysburg 150th Re-enactment on July 4th - 7th, and the MS Bike Tour in Gettysburg on July 13th. We also helped out at the Camp Muckleratz Competitive Trail Ride, a 2 day event up in Wiser State Forest on July 27th & 28th. To do yet is the KTA Superhike on September 7th & the Hershey Half Marathon on October 20th.

Local area nets:

Capitol Area Traffic Net starts **Monday at 8 PM** on the South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) repeater on 145.46 (67.0 tone), 1 MHz offset. All properly licensed radio amateurs are invited to check in.

The Combined Club ARES/RACES Net meets **Monday at 8:30 PM** on the Keystone 147.97 Repeater (Tone: 123 Hz).

South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) Net on **Monday at 9 PM** on the 145.43 (Tone: 67 Hz) repeater located in Mt. Holly Springs. *After the normal FM net, a group moves off to 144.210 MHz and operates SSB.*

The Keystone VHF Club Digital Net on **Tuesday at 8 PM** on the York 146.97 Repeater.

The Keystone VHF Club Digital Familiarization Net on **Wednesday at 8 PM** on the York 146.97 Repeater.

The Keystone 75 meter net on **Tuesday at 9 PM** on a frequency to 3820 to 3840 KHz (+ or - the QRM). In the Summer, the net is suspended.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) net meets on **Wednesday at 9 PM** on the York 146.97 repeater.

A local FM Simplex Net runs **Thursday at 8:30 PM** on a frequency of 146.55 MHz.

The Digital Roundup Net **Friday at 8 PM** on the 146.610 (Tone: 131.8 Hz) repeater in the Lancaster/Lebanon area.

WLO Marine Radio in Mobile AL has begun broadcasting a RTTY news service on 8473 kHz. It appears to run continuously. They alternate between 45 Baud Baudot and SITOR Mode-B FEC ("AMTOR" to we hams). Its kind of fun to copy, and a good way to test out your RTTY setup.

**** Listed below are some local 10 meter nets ****

Ham Shack Talk Net - Monday at 9 PM: 28.335 MHz.

South Central PA SSB Net - Friday 8:30 PM: 28.495 MHz.

Delaware Lehigh Valley ARC Net - Sunday 4:00 PM: 28.430 MHz

Do Drop In net - Sunday 8:30 PM: 28.450 MHz

Penn- Mar Club net - Tue. 8:30 PM: 28.495 MHz.

10 Meter Ragchew Net - Every evening starting 7:30PM: 28.600 Mhz



Larry, N3LED



Thierry, KB3TPX



Jeff, KB3RC1

Trustees Report - The Summer is going great. We've had lots of rain and could sure use some help in keeping the lawn cut but it's something that we all really enjoy doing! Matter of fact, it's quite an honor! We also just sprayed the parking lot with weed killer. We just stocked up the reefer with over \$100 worth of candy & other goodies. Stop on by and bring your weed wacker... HI HI!

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2013

- * Sept 7 - KTA Superhike (Ken Wiggins, N2DYK)
- * Sept 15 - Three Creek Century Bike Tour (Dick, WA3USG)
- * Oct 20 - Hershey Half Marathon (Marty, KB3BAA)
- * Oct 27 - Michaux Team Challenge (Dan, KB3MUN)
- * Dec 24-25 Glen Rock Carolers (Stan, AB3EM)

FOR SALE/WANTED

The VHF Transmitter

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During Field Day, club member Micah Neff, KB3TGY was in the club house practicing her soldering skills. Over the course of the last several weeks, Micah had purchased a soldering practice kit consisting of a circuit board and multiple components. This is a frame of video taken by a reporter from the York Daily Record as she assembled the circuit board. **Continued on Page 4**



One of the highlights for Field Day this year was the banner that Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT designed and had made. Above is a copy of this cool work of art. It is 3 by 5 feet in size and is made out of weatherproof vinyl. Jeff paid for this and donated it to the club.

Jeff's banner was displayed outside in the front of the club using a framework that Larry Frey, N3LED constructed in hopes that it would attract the public. Unfortunately, this is harder to do then it would seem. On the Field Day weekend, the traffic past the club to Rocky Ridge Park seemed light and we didn't snag any visitors.

Field Day operations themselves went quite well despite some limitations with our antennas. With all of the existing antennas and guy lines running around the club property, there simply was not enough room to get adequate separation between the antennas that we put up. The three band Inverted Vee that Dick, WA3USG erected for the PSK-31 station was located too close to the metal roof of the pavilion and performed poorly. We only made 30 PSK-31 contacts, in the two years prior using the same antenna, we have made 100 PSK-31 contacts over each Field Day. The PSK-31 station consisted of a Yaesu FT-897 running as much as 100 watts. There were several instances where I know I was interfering with the SSB & CW operating positions, or I was getting interference from them.

There was also a VHF station set up by Dave All, N3XUD using a Yaesu FT-897 and 2 HF stations provided by the Hill toppers (an Elecraft K-3 and a Yaesu FT-450). The Gota Station was provided by the Hill toppers and consisted of a Yaesu FT-746). All of the HF stations were networked together for logging using the N3FJP's Field Day logging suite.

Even with the antenna problems, we fared pretty well. I believe that we made over 840 contacts. **Another highlight of our effort was that we had the media up at the club for several hours!**



Dave All, N3XUD logs the contact while Bea Walton, K4JLD operates SSB or 20 meters.. Below - Craig Dowling, WA1HEW operates CW

The media interviewed several Keystone & Hilltop members over the course of this time. They seemed to really be interested in Amateur Radio and I got the impression that this was their first exposure to it. There were two reporters & a photographer present ... all very young. They had no idea of our capabilities and I think that we impressed them with everything from erecting our antennas, operating, and describing what other events we take part in!

If you would like to see the article written about us (including videos) in the York Daily Record Website, go to the URL below:

http://www.ydr.com/rss/ci_23519219?source=rss



I think that most of us now realize that the Keystone Club does not make an ideal Field day site ... it is simply too crowded with existing antennas to make installing additional ones practical. I believe that many of us also thought that we would draw in the public due to our proximity to Rocky Ridge Park ... and this didn't happen.

We have discussed moving next years Field Day to Sam Lewis State Park but there are issues there of spending the night. Another possibility that Tom Graybill, KB3ETG made us aware of is Highpoint Scenic Vista and Recreational Area located in Wrightsville. This park consists of 79 acres of scenic meadowlands located on top of a hill overlooking the Susquehanna River. This park was created in 2007 and provides spectacular views of the Susquehanna River. We probably have a good point of contact there via the county and could get permission to spend the night.

If you so desire to take a drive out to experience this park on your own, you will be nothing short of amazed at the sheer beauty of this local treasure. Susquehanna Heritage Park is located at 1199 Hilts Road in Wrightsville, again, where you will find 79 sprawled out acres of meadow, along with a gorgeous overview of the Susquehanna River.



Highpoint Park - Possible location for next years Field Day



The following is a list of folks who attended the Field day event or helped us to set up. Considering our limitations, we had a great turnout and made a very respectable score. Perhaps next year, holding the event in a county park will net us some interested folks from the general public!

Martin Bates, AA1ON - Thanks for climbing our tower Martin!!

Jim Thompson, K3JPT

Ken Ness, KA3FNH

Kip Glunt, WB3AFL

Brad Tracey, N3NRN

Tim Beck, KB3OFE

Dave All, N3XUD - With Guest Bell All

Angel All, KB3STA

Cameron Bailey, KT3A - With his bicycle powered generator!

Andy Hertz, KB3RFH

Dale White, KB3WKO

Mike Sullivan, WS3C

Chad Mitzel, N3UOO

Al Frame, WB3FTD

Brad Kline, KO3T

Larry Price, KB3ZYM

Dan Melato, KB3JSV

Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH

Jim Walsh, K3JIM

Craig Dowling, WA1HEW

Bill Edgar, N3LLR - ARRL Atlantic Division Director

Pamela Edhgar, KB3SVG

Al Goldman, K3CMD

Steve Steffan, WB3EFA

John Elicker, W3ADE

Jim Muller, K3NK

Bea Walton, K4JLD - With two guests

Dick Goodman, WA3USG

Larry Frey, N3LED

Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT

Annie Zalenga, KB3ZLJ

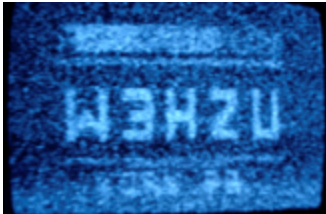
Tom Graybill, KB3ETG - York County EMA

Micah Neff, KB3TGY

Dale Miller, K3PXC



Left - ATV Repeater received in Mechanicsburg by Dick, WA3USC
 Right - ATV received by Tim, KB3OFE from his car



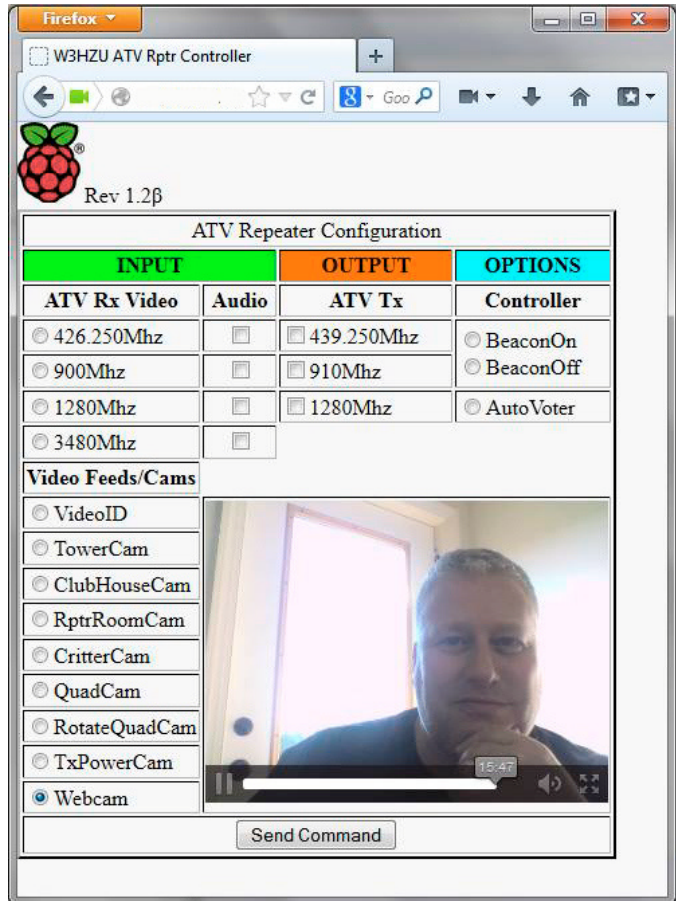
To the left is how the repeater is being received by an ATVer Fred, K3TAZ in Finksburg, Maryland ... a distance of about 40 miles. Fred is using a state of the art ATV station with a large antenna, a mast mounted UHF preamp and a dedicated receive downconverter.

Currently there are several local members who have the capability to receive on 439.25 MHz . If you would like to try receiving, we can turn on the ATV repeater for you in one of the beacon modes. You need any kind of TV set (an older one with a CRT rather than a flat screen is better). Set it to cable channel 60 and connect an antenna (not the cable) to the connector on the back of the TV where the cable would normally go. If you live really close to the club (less then 5 miles) a set of rabbit ears might allow you to see something. If you have an outdoor TV antenna, aim it at the club. If you have a 440 MHz antenna, this will work even better. There is a directional antenna known as a "Quagi" that may be constructed for about \$15 that is optimal for ATV. It is very easy to build and it will also work on 432/440 MHz SSB and FM.



Our ATV repeater in its current state. Tim Beck, KB3OFE has instigated a total rebuild of it. It now may be completely configured over the Internet. This repeater has been around for over 10 years and there has always been some minor (but frustrating) problems with it. Tim has resolved most of these. If you haven't seen the repeater, stop up to the club on a meeting night (or during Thursday tech session) and check it out.

Tim developed a system to modify the repeater configuration on line. At the heart of this is a small microcomputer known as a Raspberry Pi. Programming this required a lot of work with HTML and a language known as Python. This is the page that is presented when connecting to the Pi.



Input: Allows the selection of one of four different receivers.
426.250 MHz- Normal input with AM modulated NTSC video
900 MHz- Frequency Modulated (FM) NTSC video
1280 MHz- Frequency Modulated (FM) NTSC video
3480 MHz- Frequency Modulated (FM) NTSC video from White Rock
Audio: Enables the audio from any of the receivers to be repeated, Also enables the audio from more then 1 receiver to be mixed.
Output: Determines which of the four transmitters will be used to transmit the input from the selected receiver or video source.
439.250 MHz- Normal output AM modulated NTSC video
910 MHz- Frequency Modulated (FM) NTSC video
1280 MHz- Frequency Modulated (FM) NTSC video
Options: Determines what "mode" the repeater is in
Beacon On - With no activity, the repeater will video ID every 10 minutes
Beacon Off - The repeater will only video ID when there is ATV activity.
AutoVoter - Repeater will automatically repeat whatever receiver is active.
Video Feeds/Cams (What video source the repeater will transmit on the selected output - this over rides receiver selection)
VideoID - W3HZU video IDer
TowerCam - steerable camera mounted on the 180 foot tower
ClubHouseCam - Camera in main room of clubhouse
RptrRoomCam - Overview camera in the repeater room
CritterCam - Critter camera in woods behind clubhouse
QuadCam - composite of four cameras at club
RotateQuadCam - To be determined
TxPowerCam - Camera aimed at repeaters wattmeter
Webcam - If you have a web camera connected to your PC, selecting this option will allow your web camera video to be sent out on whatever output transmitter is active on the repeater

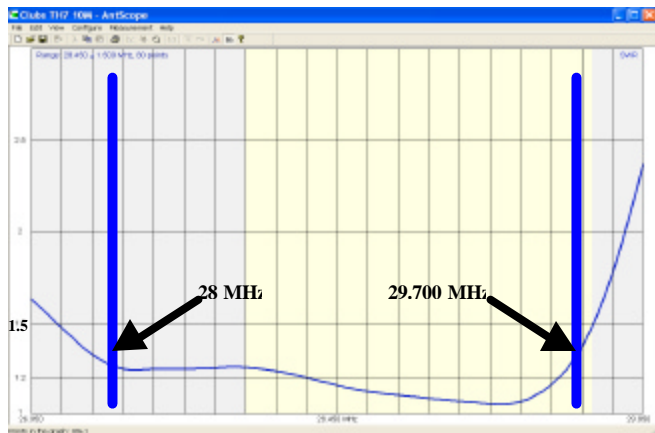
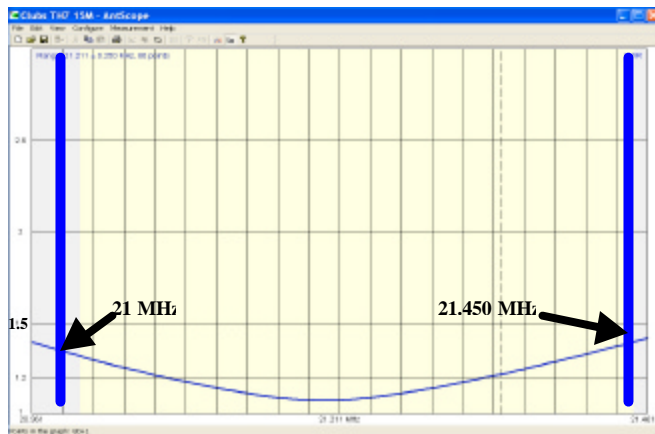
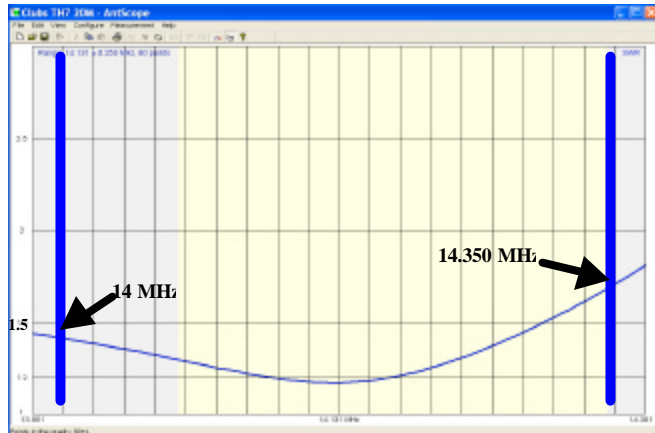
While functional, this system is currently under beta testing. For a more comprehensive brief of this system, please talk to its developer, Tim Beck. KB3OFE.

Happenings at the club ... continued from page 1

Over the course of the last year, we have been preparing to install a TH-7DX beam up on the clubs 60 foot tower. Getting this beam ready has been a concerted effort by Tim Beck, KB3OFE; Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH; Mike Sullivan, WS3C; Jack Dellinger, KC3JD, and Dick Goodman, WA3USG. Larry Frey, N3LED has also been a big help in ensuring that the antenna is securely mounted to the table out front.

Tim, KB3OFE has provided guidance and has coordinated the efforts of this entire gang of cut throats and we have mounted the antenna in what we call a safe storage location until we can get it hoisted to the top of the tower.

If you have ever looked at the characteristics of a Triband beam, in most cases, they are not resonant across their entire design frequency with an SWR of less then 2 to 1. Check out this antenna below!



The SWR plots shown at the left are not advertised claims, they are the actual plots of the clubs TH-7DX as it stands. Basically, the antenna has less then a 1.5 to 1 SWR across the entire band ... both CW and phone! In most places, it's considerably below a 1.5 to 1!! I would really like to have one of these myself! When this antenna goes up, it's going to play well.

Tower Work Projects

Tower	Description	Prep Work required
Control	Adjust 440MHz Contest Antenna physical alignment	New Nylon - ready
	Replace 2m Contest Antenna (replace antenna & add new pigtail)	New Nylon - ready 2M32 M2 needs final re-Asay & tuning.
	Re-Install Contest Pre-Amps (2m, 220MHz) & relocate 440MHz.	Pre-Amp Wx protection box ready.
Big Tower	Replace Tower Security Camera with new one	Replacement Cam Purchased Ready
	Install (Swap) ATV dish on tower.	ready
	Strip out 2m repeater antennas and label coax in repeater room	Ready
	Install new 220MHz Receive antenna on tower for 2 nd remote link	New 3rd antenna for 2 nd remote link - ready
	Install new 220MHz boom on Big Tower - done, but had SWR.	Not used but not operational
	Install WiFi Bullet for link to Greys.	KB3OFE to program unit, cable & ports ready
HF Tower	Install New TH7DX HF Boom & Resistor/controller.	Antenna for 170' - complete. New H101107 - ready. New Resistor Cable ready. Remove old Resistor, install new Control cable & Coax. Resistor for new 5m & HF coax (done 12/09)
	Check Satellite antennas for correct zero elevation calibration	No Prep needed
Satellite	Install Pre-Amp & power wiring to new 900MHz Satellite antenna	Coax & Power Cable needed (W3TW5) KB3OFE to package Pre-Amp in Wx box.
	Install new gnd 900MHz ATV Yagi on Satellite Boom (part pd)	Ready
Grey Tower	Install WiFi Bullet	Bullet Programmed, Cable & Connections Ready
	Remove old ATV Camera.	Ready for Removal
	Repair & Install Tower cam from dubsite on Brigs tower	Requires Removal then Repair of old Dubsite TowerCam.

Gang,

Please think about writing a monthly column for the newsletter! I need articles. What interests you? What could you contribute that you think everyone would enjoy? This is your chance to become a top notch Author! Weather it be a controversial "soapbox" article or a technical masterpiece, we will print it! This is your club and YOUR newsletter. There are a lot of new members that I'm sure have varying interests, please make yours known! Drop me an e-mail at wa3usg@verizon.net. 73, Dick, WA3USG

Schedule of Keystone VHF Club Sponsored VE Testing for 2013

Laurel VE Group Testing sponsored by Keystone VHF Club are held the second Saturday of the odd months. All tests are at 10 AM, pre-registration is appreciated except the Hamfest. Contact, Ralph Brandt at ralph.brandt@comcast.net or phone 717-792-1017.

Locations are York EMA Office at 120 Davies Road, York, or Keystone VHF Club on Deininger Road, York, near the Rocky Ridge Park

Testing dates:

Sept 14 at York EMA Office
November 9 at York EMA Office.

The Gettysburg 150th Anniversary and Reenactment



THANKS SO VERY MUCH for a job very well done!

The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee (GAC) extends their appreciation for those who worked at the reenactment site and Gettysburg Hospital. John Eline, Adams County EMA Director, asked I pass on his appreciation for those who staffed the ACS stations during activation of the MACC and Adams County EOC last Thursday and Friday. He was very glad ACS was there "In case all else fails".

Our hats are off to all those who worked at the reenactment site, several for multiple days. We know how each of you endured the heat, humidity, dust, long days, long walks and, for some, the heavy rain late Sunday afternoon. We cannot say enough about your dedication and professionalism. It was *superior!*

Thanks to Tom Williams, KB3IQH, for organizing the Gettysburg HEARS deployment. Tom kept the HEARS stations well-staffed and all assigned performed the task well. And, from Don K3DCS, to the Deputy Coordinators. A special thanks to Sandy Goodman N3ECF for handling all the scheduling and recruitment along with handling reenactment site operations on Saturday and Sunday. Without her efforts we wouldn't have been able to handle the tasks before us. And to Marty Gutekunst KB3BAA for supervising and handling the operations on Thursday and Friday,

Thanks to our COMT's, Brian Koenig K3BMK and Perry Wood WB3JKT for getting and keeping all the equipment up and running between the three locations, the set up tasks last Tuesday and doing the "grunt" work necessary to get the infrastructure in place, then working hard taking it all apart Sunday night. Thanks also to Joel Ruth K3SUN, help much welcomed during the wet and muddy teardown.

Thanks to Phil Theis K3TUF for arranging use of the LEMA ACS Communications trailer. It proved to be a valuable operational resource. And to Jack Reed N3BBC for his assistance in helping us to get the trailer set up and running.

Over the next few weeks we'll be assembling an after action report (AAR). Should you have suggestions for the report, positive or negative, please drop them to Sandy. Our coordinator team will review them as input for the report.

Again, thanks so very much. What a terrific team effort!

Don Schmitt K3DCS
Emcomm Coordinator, GAC 150th Reenactment
Sandy Goodman, N3ECF
Deputy Coordinator & Personnel Chief
Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA
Deputy Coordinator

Muckleratz Competitive Trail Ride Summary

On July 27 - 28, the following members of YARS and the KVHFC assisted Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA and his crew to provide full communications support for the Muckleratz Competitive Trail Ride in Wisner State Forest:

Sandy Goodman, N3ECF
Dick Goodman, WA3USG
Ralph Brandt, K3HQI
Dan Melato, KB3JSV

Sandy, N3ECF was net control at the start/finish, Dick, WA3USG and Dan, KB3JSV attempted to sweep behind the last horse on Mountain bikes but were not too successful, and Ralph, K3HQI was the communicator at Check Point 4.

As a summary (from the website), horses can be entered for either Saturday or Sunday, or for both days. Each day there are 2 loops, each loop about 12.5 miles. There will also be a few riders ("C" suffix) who will only do 1 loop as a "CDR" (Conditioning Distance Ride).

Riders will begin from the start in groups of 2 to 4 or 5 riders, in intervals of about 5 minutes (sometimes less, sometimes more depending on how quickly the group gathers and heads out). From year to year the courses are about the same, with some minor changes in looping some of the adjacent trails.

We had radio operators at 4 checkpoints, plus the Start/Finish. Start/Finish is at Camp Muckleratz, Checkpoint 1 was near the Hang Glider Launch, Checkpoint 2 was at the intersection of White Oak Road and Rim Trail, Checkpoint 3 was at the Minnich Hit Picnic area, where some light snacks were made available, Checkpoint 4 was at the intersection of Wolf Pond Road and Iron Mine Trail.

Estimated times for the trail ride to cover each section:

- ** Start to Checkpoint 1 -- about 30 minutes -- this includes the major climb up to the ridge.
- ** Checkpoint 1 to 2 -- about 30 minutes --
- ** Checkpoint 2 to 3 -- 10 to 15 minutes, depending on which loop, either 0.7 miles or 1.3 miles
- ** Checkpoint 3 to 4 -- about 25-30 minutes
- ** Checkpoint 4 to Finish -- 20 to 30 minutes -- this goes downhill. cooler temps on Sunday morning riders did it in 20 minutes

For overall event times:

Saturday, 7/27 First loop (41 horses) started at 7 AM and completed about 09:55 AM (last rider back to finish). Second loop (29 horses) started about 09:20 AM and completed about 12:30 PM. Note: there is an overlap where the first riders back to finish will be starting out on 2nd loop prior to the later riders arriving at the finish from the 1st loop.

Sunday, 7/28 First loop (30 riders) started at 7 AM and completed about 09:45 AM. Second loop (26 riders) started at 09:20 am and completed at 12:00 PM.

For 2013, the temps got into the low 80s on Saturday. Sunday started cloudy with occasional sunshine with temp only in upper 70s. Both days riders encountered swarms of gnats both days. On Sunday, at least 1 set of riders contended with a horsed spooked by a rattlesnake. (other years they've contended with swarms of bees).

Hope this is of benefit. *Sandy Goodman N3ECF*

The MS Bike Tour 2013

This years MS Bike Tour held in Gettysburg went quite well. It consisted of basically the same course as last year with some minor changes on the southern end of the bike route.

I believe that this is the 25th or 26th year that we have supported this event so I won't go into too much detail here. This year nobody messed around with the route markings and only a couple of people got lost. We did have one very serious incident where a rider was struck from behind by a car. The rider was hospitalized but was later released with relatively minor injuries. Dan Shortencarrier, N3EEI was a SAG and arrived on the scene shortly after it happened.

Every year we have an absolutely incredible slate of volunteers for this event. Thanks for another job well done and we hope that you will come back next year!

2013 REST STOP ASSIGNMENTS

REST STOP	NAME & CALL	ROUTES	TIME
Fairfield Fire Co	Bob Gundlach, N3NBT Mary Gundlach, N3RBT	ALL	0700-1030
Mt. Joy Lutheran	Valli Hoski, N8QVT Harry Fascick, K3EYL	ALL	0900-1600
Emmitsburg Park	Don Schmitt, K3DCS Bob Single, N3ACP	64 & 100	0730-1130
Loy's Station Park	Jack Dellinger, KC3JD Kathy Dellinger, KA3THC	64 & 100 64 & 100	0830-1300 0900-1430
Apple United Church	Allan Frame, WB3FTD Kip Glunt, WB3AFL	64 & 100	0900-1430
(LUNCH)			
Tom' s Creek Church	Tom Williams, KB3IQH Barb Baller, W3AVQ	64 & 100	1030-1500
Bethel Assembly Of God	Stan Walters, AB3EM Dan Melato, KB3JSV Patrick Walters, KB3THA	100	1130-1600

2013 SAG ASSIGNMENTS

DRIVER	NAVIGATOR
Dick Goodman, WA3USG	Donna Souders
Franz Niedermeyer, N3HFS	Walt Bilous, K3DQB, Jonathan, KB3MOF
Lillian Wong	Tom Graybill, KB3ETG
Dave Payne, N3LOM	Chris Wyman, KB3SSU
Dan Shortencarrier, N3EEI	Lorrie Shover, KB3ZLO
Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX	Chris Shover, KB3TWW
Scott Kennymore, KB3PYC	Perry Wood, WB3JKT
Chris Venghaus, K9FXV	Ann Kemper
Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN	Bob Hale
Gerald Rosenberry, KB3GBF	Kathy Hale
Jason Meyer	
Medic driver	Donna Lee Hoover N3VPJ
Sandy Goodman, N3ECF OPERATIONS (SAG master & director liaison)	
Steve Steffan WB3EFA	NET Control
Patti Single	Operations assistant



Above - Net Control Station at the College
Below - Aftermath of the bike accident with bike on Dan's, N3EEI truck



Dan took this picture of the car that struck the bicyclist. The rider was ejected from the bicycle and impacted the cars windshield breaking it. Fortunately the driver stopped and gave assistance. The ambulance was there and was loading the injured rider when Dan arrived. Dan got permission from the police to bring the severely damaged \$4,000 bicycle back to the NCS at the college. Unfortunately the driver was driving with a suspended license and had no insurance.



Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
May 2nd, 2013
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Dick WA3USG at 19:00. There were 32 members present and 3 guests.

Guest Chuck Martin, AA1ON, is new to the area, he's from Britain, and is applying for membership.

Greg Hagens, KE3CW, was selling sandwiches as a fundraiser for his brother who has leukemia. Those who signed up can collect the subs on May 23.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: The Wednesday Night Familiarization Digital NET will be moving to 145.43 MHz. There are several operators in Cumberland County who are trying to start up digital transmitting. The SMRA club from Carlisle is interested in doing some activity with us. Something will be advertised in the future. The 75 meter NET is finished for the summer.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Paul, N3VI, moved to accept the April minutes as published, 2nd by Brad, KO3T. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Linda, KB3EBV, reported for April: Income: \$560.11; Expenses: \$539.63; NET Total gain of \$20.48. Balances: Club CD \$7,607.41; Bill Hurst CD \$2,516.36; Checking Acct \$2,239.37; Trustee Acct \$668.55; Total \$13,031.69. Jack, KC3JD, moved to accept the report; 2nd by Ralph, K3HQI. Motion carried. Linda advised that our checking account is at the lowest it has been for sometime, and cautioned that we should be careful about spending for a few months.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Jeff, KB3RCT, reported the Spring Clean-up is scheduled Saturday, May 5th. Breakfast will be at Stoney Brook at 8 AM, meet at the club at 9 AM. Jack, KC3JD, also announced that Bethany United Methodist Church is having a breakfast on Saturday. Let Kathy, KA3THC, know if you're coming (Sandy sent email with details).

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Tim, KB3OFE: The 10-meter Allstar PC has been changed. He's looking at the schedule for tower work. Tim talked about plans for the ATV repeater, including video splitters. Tim, KB3OFE, moved to spend up to \$500 to upgrade and rebuild the ATV system. Mike, N3VQH, seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion was approved. Tim also advised that a Scope meter (\$1500 value) belonging to Tim Barefoot, W3TWB, is missing. It disappeared from the club one evening, but the power supply for that is still here.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF, reviewed all the recent events: TMI Drill, April 16 & 17, March of Dimes and MS Walks, and the Iron Master Hike. All were covered in excellent detail in the newsletter. There was also an article by Anne, KB3ZLJ, on the CERT Team response for a Search and Rescue, supported by several of our members. Excellent job done.

VE/ED REPORT - Ralph, K3HQI, said that 3 are signed up for testing on May 11th. There is also a Tech Class May 11 & 12 at the South Middleton Twp building in Boiling Springs.

Lee, WB3HNA, encouraged members to try Digital on Wednesday evenings, now on the 145.43 repeater

CONTEST REPORT - Mike, N3VQH: June Contest is 8th and 9th. Field Day is June 22-23. A planning session needs to be set up. 10-12 members showed interest, with 1 additional if Field Day is held at the Keystone Club.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG, got the newsletter out on time.

OLD BUSINESS:

The second reading was done for John Ronan, K3ZJJ, and Chuck Courtney, KB3ZZP. Joe, KB3TCM, moved to accept them into membership, seconded by Paul, N3VI, and Dan, KB3JSV. Motion carried.

Depending on the weather, on Thurs May 9 about 2 PM, Tim and Greg plan to take the 2 meter antenna down, with follow on work on Saturday. Keep a watch for emails with details.

Help is needed on June 1st to take down Charlie Byers's tower, probably around 1 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

First readings were done for new applicants: Chuck Martin, KC3ALH, Dennis Wennerstrom, KI0PN, and Martin Bayes, AA1ON. It was noted that Martin shows interest in TOWER CLIMBING.

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

QCWA picnic is scheduled for June 29 at the Keystone Club. The date was moved to avoid interfering with Field Day.

Lew Prince, K6LAP, showed some equipment he is selling.

Mary, N3RBT, reported that Ruthanna Pearson is back in Country Meadows after a fall that broke her arm. Ruthanna was the Queen of DX, and had been President of the Keystone Club (she ran fast meetings). Her mind is fading, but she still asks how the club is doing. Please keep her in your prayers.

There are new treats in the fridge for your pleasure. New prices are posted.

Ralph, K3HQI, is looking for any used ATV equipment if anyone is selling.

50-50: Ralph, K3HQI, won \$18 and donated that towards the Hagens fundraiser. Adjourned at 18:02.



Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
June 6th, 2013
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Dick WA3USG at 19:00. There were 25 members present and 2 applicants for membership. Tonight's meeting was under heavy rain which made for rough hearing. The meeting was kept short.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: The Wednesday night digital NET will stay on 146.97 for now awaiting fixes on the 145.43 machine. If you didn't get your certificate from the last Adventure Days, or need it signed, contact Dick. The next Adventure Days is being planned for early October with a trip to Mount Davis. Don Landes, WX4C, will be at Spruce Knob, WV that day.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. A correction was made for the guest who was new to the area. The correct call sign was listed, but the name is Martin Bayes (not Chuck Martin). Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the May minutes as corrected, 2nd by Jack, K8UYC. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Linda, KB3EBV, reported for May: Income: \$617.01; Expenses: \$516.78; NET Total +\$100.23.

Balances: Club CD \$7,607.41; Bill Hurst CD \$2,516.36; Checking Acct \$2,339.60; Trustee Acct \$546.37; Total \$13,009.74. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the report; 2nd by Mike, N3VQH. Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Jeff, KB3RCT, bought cable which reduced the trustees checking account, so additional money has been transferred. Anyone can help mow. Jeff will post a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Larry and Thierry have mowed recently.

The neighbors across the street thanked us for being good neighbors after the crowd that attended the luncheon following Fred

Hagens' funeral. They will keep an eye out for unknown cars and contact the police.

Note: a groundhog is been spotted. Dan, KB3JSV, has offered to catch it.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Tim, KB3OFE, report

Dan KB3JSV donates and installs a KVM for combining both Linux machines onto one Keyboard, Mouse and Screen in the Allstar Rack.

KB3OFE ordered and received the new Cables, Connectors, Distribution Amp & Patch Panels for the ATV repeater, (also a new \$7 screen mount for the side of the Allstar Rack).

KB3OFE removed the excess Cat5 cable and the "ugly splice girl" from the repeater room using the new crimps tool purchased for the WiFi bullet install project – our Download Speed Test shows Double performance.

Everyone is requested to please log out after using the club live video camera feed so that we don't lose all the bandwidth for the Internet connected Allstar & EchoLink machines.

Continued migration of the old network to "behind the router" for firewall protection and QoS control.

Dan KB3JSV relocated the new Wireless AP to the repeater room, should help provide stringer signal and more coverage in the Pavilion.

Dan KB3JSV & Jeff KB3RCT purchased new LMR400 ultraflex cable at a great price for HF tower (new 6m and HF antenna) remaining cable will suffice for second remote receive link on 220Mhz.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS –

Jack, KC3JD, reported on the Bob Potts Marathon: 426 runners participated. 30 HAMS did a good job with communications. There was one injury to Perry Wood, WB3JKT, took a fall and had to be patched up. The event will take place on the same weekend next year, the Sunday before Memorial Day.

Sandy, N3ECF, reported on the plans for the Gettysburg 150th Re-Enactment July 4th -7th. Adams Cty Amateur Radio Society, W3KGN, is running a Special Event Station during the event, so anyone not helping with EMMCOMM who might be interested in working that, please contact Perry Wood at pwwood@ieee.org. Also, 1 more volunteer is needed for the MS Bike Tour in Gettysburg on July 13th. One rest stop was moved to a new location, and a new rest stop added. One loop for the 100-mile course was moved from below Thurmont to go east toward Littlestown and back. We will also be looking for volunteers for the KTA Hike on Sept. 7. Sandy will send an email for that.

Dick, WA3USG, is seeking volunteers to help with the Harrisburg Bike Club's Three Creek Century Ride. Most of that course copies the area that used to be covered by the Tour De Cure Ride (before they moved to Dauphin county).

VE/ED REPORT - Steve, WB3EFA, reported that 7 upgrades to General and Extra were achieved at the last testing. There were no new Technicians tested.

CONTEST REPORT - Mike, N3VQH, mentioned the June VHF contest this coming weekend (Jun 8-9). Field Day will be Jun 22-23 and will be here at the Keystone Pavilion

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG

OLD BUSINESS: Second readings and vote into membership were done for: Martin Bayes, AA1ON, Chuck Martin, KC3ALH, and Dennis Wennerstrom, KI0PN. Welcome to the club gentlemen.

NEW BUSINESS: First reading was held for Jim Irish, N6CAZ.

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

Alan Frame, WB3FTD, mentioned that Rep. Seth Grove will be visiting the Mobile Vet Center on Friday June 21st, from 10 am to 3 pm at 1954 Carlisle Road in York. VETs who are in need of benefits assistance, medical referrals, or counseling can attend.

50-50: Kip Glunt won \$14 Adjourned at 7:30 pm



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
July 11th, 2013
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary**

The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Dick WA3USG at 19:03. There were 32 members present and 1 member applicant.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: Bob, K3DJC, displayed and talked about his 75 meter transceiver kit. Dick, WA3USG, talked about his Rig-Expert antenna Analyzer. We will close the meeting with a demo of the ATV repeater that Tim, KB3OFE, has been working on.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Brad, NO3T, moved to accept the June minutes as published, 2nd by Dan, KB3JSV. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Linda, KB3EBV, reported for June: Income: \$514.11; Expenses: \$164.19; NET Total \$349.92 to the good. Balances: Club CD \$7,615.66; Bill Hurst CD \$2,516.36; Checking Acct \$2,689.52; Trustee Acct \$377.87; Total \$13,199.41. Steve, WB3EFA moved to accept the report; 2nd by N3LED. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Jeff, KB3RT, reported that the parking lot will be sprayed sometime this month. They will also add a latch to the shed door to keep the wind from blowing it open.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Tim, KB3OFE, reported progress on the ATV repeater. Some camera feeds have been swapped. \$400 of the approved \$500 has been spent on ATV equipment. The receiver will be at Greg's site. Also, WIFI access point has been adjusted. Tim and Bob Poff, WB3AWJ, have worked on the Linus machines. The 10 Meter repeater is off-line. It needs some work. Bob Poff got a donation of a big UPS unit from his employer (WGAL replaced theirs). Those need to be put into service.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF, reviewed public service events. We completed the Gettysburg 150th Reenactment. A briefing of that will be done at the YARS meeting on July 17th. The MS Bike Tour is July 13th. Volunteers are being sought for several other events (Greencastle Antrim Bike Tour Aug 13, KTA Hike Sept 7 filled, Three Creek Century Bike Sept 15, Michaux Team Challenge in Caledonia Oct 27).

VE/ED REPORT- Steve, WB3EFA, reported for Ralph that there will be no July testing because the VEs are operating at the MS Bike Tour.

CONTEST REPORT - Brad, NO3T, reported that we had about 870 contacts for Field Day. We got 79 of 83 sections. For next year, we're looking into moving to either Sam Lewis or High Point Park. Keystone club is not such a good place because of so many antennas. It's too cramped. The CQ VHF Contest is July 20, for 6 meter and 2 meter only.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG, advised that the newsletter was OBE. Too many other things were going on to get it out. Next month should be a big one.

OLD BUSINESS:

The second reading was held for Jim Irish, N6CAZ, who was then voted into membership. The Corn Roast will be August 17th at 4 PM. Sign-ups will be taken at the August meeting for chicken halves.

NEW BUSINESS:

An application from Field Day was read for Lawrence Pontius, W8ZZZ (first reading).

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

At Field Day, media attended and resulted in mention about amateur radio on blogs with video online. Jack, KC3JD, sent out a newspaper article with Cam's (KT3A) bicycle powered set up. Bob Riese, K3DJC, advised that Jim, K3JFL, from JRS distributor has been in and out of nursing home, suffering from depression. He now lives in Florida. Dick, WA3USG, mentioned his purchase of a box of old tubes that he got from Charlie Byers's yard sale. Dick is refurbishing an old radio. 50-50 – not held
Adjourned at 19:45 with the ATV repeater demo held after the meeting.

KEYSTONE VHF CLUB OF YORK, PA



W3HZU



Membership Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____ - _____

Address: _____ Callsign: _____ Expires: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Lic Class: _____

Occupation: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Desired

Full → Full Club Privileges
\$20.00 annually & one time \$5.00 Application fee

Family → Sponsoring members call: _____
Privileges same as Full membership
\$5.00 annually & a one time \$5.00 Application fee

Associate → Repeater Support
\$20.00 annually & a one time \$5.00 Application fee

Are you a member of:

ARRL Y-N

ARES Y-N

RACES Y-N

QCWA Y-N

Special Areas of Interest (circle all that apply)

AM Antenna building ATV Contesting CW Digital (Packet, RTTY, PSK-31, etc)
DX FM HF QRP Satellites SSB SSTV SWL Tower climbing LF DSP
UHF/Microwaves VHF Astronomy Photography Other: _____

Application & Dues Mailing Address:

Make checks payable to: *Keystone VHF Club Inc.* Mail to: *PO Box 20143*

York, Pa. 17402-0140

FOR CLUB USE ONLY

First Reading Date: _____ Second Reading Date: _____

Date voted IN-OUT: _____ Date Dues Collected: _____

Applicant Sponsored by: _____