



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA

VOL 58 No 7

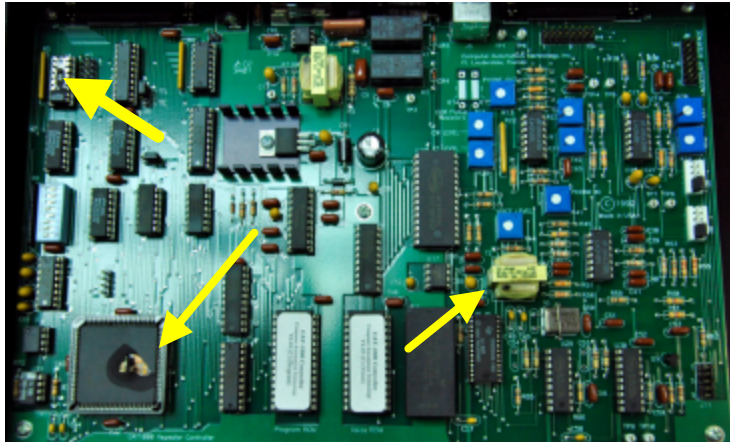
CIRCULATION 150

October, 2013

Lightning Strike at the Club House

I am sure that by now most of you know that on Thursday, Sept 12, the power lines right outside the club house were struck by lightning. The lightning destroyed the power transformer on the utility pole. Unfortunately, an electrical pulse also entered the club house through our electrical service and did major damage to equipment.

First and foremost, the 146.97 repeater was knocked off the air. Our Trustees and several club members were on site within an hour after the strike. Several circuit breakers were discovered tripped. The 2 meter repeater seemed to be receiving normally but the transmitter would not come up. The controller was removed from the repeater rack and opened. At least two chips (one the main microprocessor) were found to be destroyed ... their tops literally blown off! Additionally, there was a scorch mark on a audio isolation transformer in the controller.



The yellow arrows point to the two destroyed integrated circuit chips and the scorch mark on the audio isolation transformer. Unfortunately, this is only part of the damage to the repeater. Red arrow points to where this equipment is located.

Subsequent investigation discovered that while the receiver seemed to be working, there was damage somewhere in the transmitter-PA stage. While the controller could certainly not key the repeater transmitter, manually keying it from the local microphone did not work either.

The repeater was provided to the club by the South Central Task Force (SCTF). In order for the club to take possession of it, ownership had to be taken over by the County. The County then had a technician come to the club and install this equipment. Since the Keystone VHF Club does not own the repeater, we were unable to add it to our insurance policy. The county currently has taken possession of the repeater and it is being evaluated by Moyer Communications, the company that does much of the county's maintenance.

The repeater was only off the air for about 48 hours when club member Nate Kirschman, WN3I stepped up and working in his home, built us a temporary replacement machine!

I believe that it was on the morning of September 14, the second day after the strike, Nate appeared at the club with the repeater and within 3 hours, we were back on the air. Nate's repeater currently doesn't have all the capabilities that the original Master III did. For example, we are only using the local receiver at the clubsite. I have found however, that Nate's machine seems to outperform the original Master III when the Master III was only using the main receive site. Actually, over the last 2 weeks since Nate's machine has been on line, not having the second receiver site doesn't seem to bother the performance of the repeater that much. Some folks are a bit noisier than usual but I haven't seen any instances where our regulars can't make it in. The second site up on Conowago Mountain will eventually be back on line however.



The original Master III has always had kind of a "quirk" to it. It is something that we have always lived with and many of us noticed (especially those of us who run digital modes through the repeater). Please see paragraphs below.

The original Master III repeater that was damaged by lightning and is currently being evaluated by the county

One very noticeable attribute of Nate's repeater is the overall improvement in the audio quality over the Master III. This has especially been noticed by our members who take part in the Tuesday night digital net. Slow Scan TV images which were always distorted and contained considerable noise when being repeated by the Master III are absolutely pristine when passing through the Quantar machine. Part of this is due to the lack of the audio notch that's present on the Master III. The deviation on Nate's machine is also a much more healthy 4.5 - 5 KHz vice the approximate 3 to 3.5 KHz on the original machine. When and if we get the Master III back, we hope to resolve these issues.

The replacement Quantar repeater built by Nate

The club would also like to thank Kevin Magloughlin, KA0JQO of Mountville, PA, for coming up to the club with his service monitor and assisting us in determining what problems the machine had.

While the 2 meter repeater was the "highest visibility" item that took damage, much other equipment at the club was damaged beyond repair. The Yaesu FDX-1000 rotor atop the 100 foot tower will need to be replaced. Our big screen TV was damaged beyond repair. The audio interface unit between one our computers and the Yaesu FT-920 HF transceiver needs to be replaced. The video graphics card in the associated computer was also damaged. One of the video monitors that we use for ATV actually smoked when we applied power to it. While still functional, problems in our alarm system will have to be resolved.

In the repeater room virtually everything that comprises our computer network was destroyed. This included our Router, and almost all of the multiport data switches. We had recently upgraded our network and Tim Beck, KB3OFE managed to get most things back up on line using some of our old equipment. The receiver in the 440 machine was also damaged but was repaired last week and that machine is back up. It looks like the EchoLink audio interface on that machine has been damaged however.

Other damage has not been discovered/determined yet. At least 2 computers in the repeater room are dead, the Raspberry Pi ATV controller that Tim Beck has been slaving over the last several months was destroyed and at least one of the video distribution amps in the ATV repeater needs to be replaced.

The club has two insurance policies that are applicable to this incident. Our Property & building policy should cover our "non radio equipment" items ... unfortunately there is a \$1,000 deductible.

Continued on Page 2

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, November 7, at the York County EOC
on Davies Road

We have another policy with a different company that covers only itemized communications equipment. This has a \$100 deductible and should replace our Yaesu rotor and control box.

Stepping back and looking at the big picture ... We had a lot of equipment damaged but it could have been worse. While we still don't know the full extent of the damage, it looks like it is going to be limited to about \$2,000. This does not include the 2 meter repeater but I believe that the county is going to help us with that. If this is not possible, between Nate, WN3I and our Tech Committee, we will ensure that the club has a functioning 2 meter machine from this moment on.

I think that in retrospect, many of us are asking "why did this happen" and what can we do to prevent it in the future. The electrical spike that did all of this damage came in through our electrical service. The lightning strike was powerful enough to totally destroy the power transformer out on the pole. We have commercial active surge suppressors on both of our breaker panels. These surge suppressors were not damaged and are still operational. Either the magnitude of the spike was so high that it got past the surge protectors with enough energy to do the resultant damage or the rise time of the spike was so fast that the protectors didn't have a chance to "turn on".

Unfortunately having a club site on the top of a mountain populated with towers makes us a slightly better than average lightning target. In my 30 years as a member of this club, I remember 2 other lightning strikes. These came in through the antenna lines and did not cause as much damage. Incidents such as the one we just had are fairly rare and we may just have to live with it.

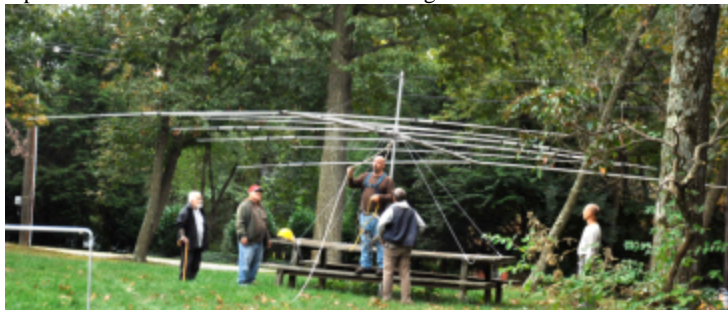
In 2009 I was working as a network administrator for a small company in Camp Hill. In the Summer of that year we had a thunderstorm and during this, we had a fairly close lightning strike. We did not lose power and if I remember correctly, the lights didn't even flicker. But within minutes of this happening, I started getting calls from my folks asking why they had no connectivity to our network. At this time, I had 15 people on the network. Of those 15, I discovered 11 of them had damaged network interface cards (NICs). The NIC in the File server was okay, and four of the other folks were still connected. A quick trip to Staples was made & I bought out their entire stock of NIC's. It took me the rest of the day & half the next to get all the NICs swapped out. There was no other damage to anything.

All of the CAT 5 cables that made up this network were run up in the attic. I am wondering if the spike from this strike was picked up by this cabling by induction. There was a commercial grade 48 port switch and a router in front of the file server. These probably had some bypassing on their ports ... the NICs were all \$20.00 cards and I don't believe had any bypassing at all.

I wonder if this scenario could be partly responsible for the damage at the club.

Antenna Workparty at the Club Saturday, September 29

On Saturday, we had a good turnout at the club for what we hoped would be the erection of our HyGain TH-7 beam. Quite a bit of planning had gone into this but we all knew that getting that antenna to the top of our 60 foot tower would be a daunting task.



Jim Walsh, K3JIM donated this antenna to the club. This is a 7 element, tri-band Yagi. This antenna weighs 75 pounds and has a boom length of 24 feet. The longest element is 31 feet. Several club members were involved with its restoration and refurbishment. Looking at it in comparison with our 15 foot picnic table and all the folks under it, you can tell it's a big antenna! The main concern that we had was how to avoid all of the guy lines while raising it to the top of our 60 foot tower. With three guyed towers on about 3 acres of property, guy lines have to be run close together and are hard to get by with something this large. We had removed a 3 element antenna that this would replace with a bucket truck about a year ago and we had a degree of difficulty doing that because of the guy lines.

At 8:00 AM, Tim Barefoot, W3TWB and Dan Shortencarrier, N3EEI climbed to the top of the tower and began assembling the standoffs that Tim had constructed.



The tower that Tim & Dan are on is one of the first towers that we erected at the club. It is guyed in two places, at about the 40 foot level and at the top, at the 60 foot level. Each set of guys uses a three point system (3 guy wires). The direction that we would be installing the antenna from was not directly across from any one of the guys lines so we added a temporary guy rope at about the 40 foot level to a vehicle on the ground. We had to get the antenna around this towers set of guys and the guys from our 180 foot tower. Once these gentlemen were at the top and belted in, installation of the standoffs went fairly well. Ropes from the ends of these would be run to the ground and theoretically the antenna would be hauled to the top by the ground crew using a rope & pulley that Tim installed at the top.

It took about 30 minutes to get the standoffs attached to the tower. So far everything was going

according to the plan. Two brand new nylon ropes were attached to the end of the standoffs and dropped to the ground.



Tim designed and fabricated these standoffs at home. He also made up two metal stakes using rebar with rope attachment points at the top. These would be driven into the ground and the ropes from the standoffs attached and pulled tight. These ropes would be run at an approximate 45 degree angle and the antenna pulled up riding on the top of them.

At this point in time, everything really looked pretty good. There was some concern when we tensioned up the ropes coming from the standoffs. Even with the tower guys and the added support guy rope, the tower moved at the top ... an uncomfortable feeling I'm sure!

Once the standoffs were in place and the ropes run, Dan came down and Greg, KE3CW climbed to the top with Tim. The rope going through the pulley that would be used to pull the antenna up the sloping support ropes was tensioned and the antenna started its journey up.

Almost immediately we ran into a problem. We had the bottom end of the support ropes staked down and found that they were running on an angle that would get the antenna tangled up in one of the guy lines. We decided that we would secure the rope ends to opposite ends of the picnic table. This would maintain proper spacing but allow us to actually change the angle of the ropes in relation to the tower as the antenna went up. The picnic table must weigh about 300 pounds so we were not worried about it moving. There were enough folks present to actually pick up the picnic

Continued on page 3

table and move it laterally as the antenna went up.



Greg, KE3CW heads up the tower to help Tim, W3TWB guide the TH-7 in place once it is pulled to the top. Dan, N3EEI climbed down to the club house roof where he would remain in case something got hung up on the tower or guy lines. At this point everything looked good. The antenna support ropes were tensioned and the line to actually pull the antenna up attached.



Up to about 2/3 of the way to the top, things looked pretty good. By loosening or tensioning either support rope we could control the attitude of the antenna in the roll axis. By moving the entire picnic table, we could control basically the yaw axis. By changing the tension on BOTH support ropes at the same time, we could somewhat affect the pitch axis but we had to be very careful doing this as we were worried about over stressing the tower.

As the antenna neared the top, we found ourselves getting tangled up in the guy lines and started having problems with one of the tree

branches. We were also getting worried about the stresses on the tower. Tim and Greg were starting to get tired and we were not making any headway. We were also extremely concerned about getting the antenna seriously tangled and not being able to get it down. At times like these accidents happen so we decided to abort the lift. We gently lowered the antenna back to the picnic table. Tim & Greg, removed the stand offs, pulley and rope and climbed down. At this time the general consensus is that the antenna is too large for that location. Getting it past the guy lines will be extremely difficult if not impossible. There is also concern that the tower will be adequate. We will be discussing options at the club meeting on what our next steps should be.

We did manage to get a some tasks accomplished at this workparty. We replaced the dusk to dawn light with a new LED version. The rotor cable that would turn the HF beam has been installed & rung out. Finally, the new 6 meter beam has been assembled and is almost ready to go up. It has to be adjusted for proper SWR.

Thanks to the following folks who gave it their all!

Tim Barefoot, W3TWB
Greg Hagens, KE3CW
Dan Shortencarrier, N3EEI
Cameron Baily, KT3A
Thierry Mathieu, KB3TPX
Dan Melato, KB3JSV
Tim Snook, KB3WZX
Joe Piscicello, KB3WZU
Rich Reese, KR3EE
Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT

The entire club would like to thank Jim Walsh, K3JIM for donating the TH-7 to us. This is a \$1,000 plus antenna and is a Dxr's dream. The club spent time & money getting this refurbished and if we are not able to put it up, we hope that Jim realizes how much we appreciate his contribution.

Some possible options/scenarios were discussed:

- 1. Hire a crane to install the TH-7. A crane may have problems getting in to a position to do this. There is also no guarantee that the TH-7 will clear the guy lines when installed in this manner. After being up on the top, both of our climbers, Tim, W3TWB and Greg, KE3CW have concerns about putting this up on the tower ... especially with another antenna (6 meter beam).*
- 2. Install the TH-7 on the 60 foot tower by itself. The new 6 meter beam would go on the 100 foot tower with the other contest antennas.*
- 3. Go with a smaller HF antenna. Ralph Brandt, K3HQI has offered to donate a Cushcraft MA-5B HF beam to the club. This a much smaller antenna, and covers the 10M, 12M, 15M, 17M, 20M bands. This and the new 6 meter beam would easily fit without guy interference.*
- 4. Larry, N3LED has offered to donate a Cushcraft A3 HF beam. This is about the same size as the MA-5B but is a Tri-band antenna (covers 10M, 15M, and 20M).*

Regardless of what HF beam we install, we may suggest to the club that we use a crane to do the work on the SSB/contest antennas on the 100 foot tower. Tim & Greg will lower the antennas with a conventional climb. The new 6 meter beam, the new 2 meter beam, the 220 beam, and the 70 CM beam (the last two refurbished) will then be securely mounted to a mast at ground level. Working on the ground will make it much easier to ensure that all the antennas are properly installed and tightened down rather than doing this at height. The entire mast with the antennas installed will then be lifted by the crane and dropped into the thrust bearing and rotor. This will minimize time needed for the crane.

The club has a large quantity of scrap copper and aluminum on the property. If we take this to a recycling center we could most likely make enough money to pay for the crane.

These were things that we talked about after we finished up. All of these options and any others that club members may have will be discussed at the meeting this coming Thursday. If you have other suggestions, we encourage you to attend the meeting!

PA QSO Party News

Gang ... Don't forget the contest dedicated to our fair state of Pennsylvania ... The PA QSO Party. This year the contest takes place on October 12 & 13. How about a club challenge? Whoever gets the highest score gets a free frozen Snickers out of the club refridge ... and also recognition. Perhaps a framed certificate to be hung up at the Keystone club listing the name of the highest scorer and anyone who makes a clean sweep of all PA counties. We will start with 2012 and Bob Gundlach, N3NBT and Jack Dellinger, KC3JD will be the first to be listed.

On the same note, I received an e-mail from Dave All, N3XUD. He told me that the Hilltop Transmitting Assoc, W3ZGD will be the Bonus Station for the 2013 PAQP.

They will be active on 80,40,20,15,10,6,2, they will have ssb, cw and digital. It would be great to get boost to the numbers of digital contacts with in the PAQP.

Local area nets:

Capitol Area Traffic Net starts **Monday at 8 PM** on the South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) repeater on 146.46 (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 146.97 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 Digital Familiarization Net on **Wednesday at 8 PM** on the SMRA 145.43 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 9 PM** on the York 146.97 repeater. (**Net currently not held**)

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 - Friday. 8:30 PM: 28.495 MHz.

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



Larry, N3LED



Thierry, KB3TPX



Jeff, KB3RCT

Trustees Report - It's that time of year again. The semiannual W3HZU cleanup work party. This fall cleanup will be November 16th. We will meet for breakfast at 8 AM at Stony Brook restaurant and begin work about 9. Lets get the club ready for the winter! Bring on the snow!

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2013

- * 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

Fir sale: R390A receiver good condition \$425.00 call Jack K8UYC @ 717 818 8815



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The Keystone VHF Club Bike Ride & Dinner & More !!!!

By Richard Goodman, WA3USG

I would like to thank all of you who attended dinner at the Glen Rock Mill Inn & restaurant on Saturday, September 21st. Due to the inclement weather, we thought it best to cancel the "Bike Ride" part but the dinner was thoroughly enjoyable. We had 15 club members or their spouses signed up for both the ride & dinner and we only lost 5 (perhaps it would be better if I said 5 didn't come!) While the food was good the company was excellent! Thanks for making this a successful event.

The Keystone VHF Club is all about having fun. Some of our members like sitting at home working DX, some enjoy the technical aspect of building equipment, others enjoy the spirit of helping their community by becoming involved in Public Service events or EmComm. It also seems that many of our members also enjoy the socializing.

I would really like to see more social events. How many of you have ever been to the National Electronics Museum in Baltimore? They specialize in Cold War defense & communications technology. It is absolutely amazing how complex some of that old analog equipment was, and it worked!! Well at least for awhile.

The museum is located fairly close to BWI and it takes about 90 minutes to get to from the York area. We could drive down in the morning, go to the museum for a couple hours, and then stop at Ocean Pride, a great seafood restaurant on the way home and have hard-shell crabs.

How about some ideas from you? Would anyone like to organize something? It doesn't even have to be Amateur Radio orientated. If it would be interesting, you may have just found the right crowd to go along with you.

SETI
The Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence

Keystone VHF Club
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Dr. Paul Shuch
N6TX
President of the SETI League and
Keynote Speaker at the
1996 Dayton Hamvention
Banquet

DINNER & LECTURE
AT THE
VALENCIA BALLROOM
YORK, PA

APRIL 26,
1997
Limited to 150 Tickets

In 1997, we sponsored a dinner & seminar with the subject being the Radio search for extra terrestrial Intelligence. We had Dr. Paul Shuch, President of the SETI League as our speaker. The seminar was held at the Valencia Ballroom in York. We had about 50 club members in attendance. I believe that we charged \$25 for the dinner & seminar. I would love to do something like this again with perhaps a different technical subject.

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 Deiningering Road, York, near the Rocky Ridge Park

Testing dates:

November 9 at York EMA Office.



Keystone VHF Club E-Board Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2013 By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

PM. Attendees: Dick, WA3USG, Jack Dellinger, KC3JD (2nd VP), Sandy Goodman, N3ECF (Secretary), Joe Imgrund, KB3TCM (Asst Secretary), Larry Fry, N3LED (Trustee), Thierry Mathieu, KB3TPX (Trustee), Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT (Trustee), and Tim Barefoot, W3TWB (nominee Trustee).

1. Tim Beck, KB3OFE, has officially resigned as both Vice President and as the Chairman of the Technical Committee. Tim will still be a club member, and we expect that he will continue to assist with repeater work, so his access to the club will remain as is.

2. Lightning Damage: The damaged 2 meter repeater which is York County property will be evaluated on Thursday, Sept 26, by Moyer Communications. The receiver may be okay, but the controller is damaged. The TX synthesizer alarm has been cleared, but the PA alarm light is still on. The driver on the exciter is putting out the correct power. We think the PA is bad. All antennas are okay. Duplexers are okay.

The Trustees will do a visual inspection of the circuit breaker panel. At this point, we don't think the circuit breakers need to be replaced.

For the 440 repeater, most analog equipment seems okay, but the controller may have problems. Dick will troubleshooting a receiver problem and repair.

Dick is working on a list of the equipment that has been damaged. Our property insurance has a \$1,000 deductible. So far, without the big screen TV, we have about \$600 in damage. Each piece of equipment needs to have an affidavit filled out and signed by an electrician to verify the lightning damage.

3. We reviewed the list of radio equipment that is covered by the Radio Equipment insurance. Some items need to be removed, and other equipment needs to be added. Trustees will review and update that spreadsheet.

4. Other topics discussed:

a. The club and sheds need to be cleaned up. We need to remove excess and unwanted equipment. We have scrap wire and aluminum that can be collected and recycled for cash. That cash can then be added to our treasury. President, Dick Goodman, WA3USG, called the meeting to order at 7:10

b. The operating positions need to be set-up so that they are better standardized.

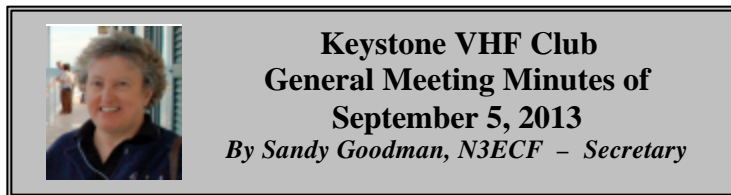
c. Trustees will repaint the floor sometime in November. Access to the club will be restricted during that time.

d. Tim, W3TWB, and Dick, WA3USG, will resurrect and rebuild the old 2 meter repeater to have that available as a backup.

5. Action Items:

- a. Complete the insurance claims
- b. Redo the radio equipment inventory
- c. Clean the shed and attic and pavilion. Recycle excess material.
- d. Ready the new 6 meter antenna.
- e. Come up with a plan to rework the antennas on the 100 foot tower. Ythis includes installation of preamps..
- f. Paint the floor
- g. Rebuild old repeater

Adjourned 8:30 PM



The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Dick WA3USG at 19:00. There were 34 members present and 1 guests. Our guest was K3KSA, Ted Freedman, from Lancaster.

Dick reviewed the plans for the Club Bike Trip on September 21, with a bike ride on the rail trail and dinner at the Glen Mill Restaurant in Glen Rock.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: There was a discussion about the ATV Quagi. A few members are interested in a building project to make antennas to receive ATV. The club may provide some of the materials.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Jack, KC3JD, moved to accept the August minutes as published, 2nd by Brad, KO3T. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Linda, KB3EBV, reported for : Income: \$889.00; Expenses: \$382.33; NET Total +\$506.67. Balances: Club CD \$7,607.41; Bill Hurst CD \$2,516.36; Checking Acct \$2,668.94; Trustee Acct \$335.50; Total \$13,128.21. Joe, KB3TCM, moved to accept the report. Don, N3OSO, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Jeff, KB3RCT: Thierry mowed. A fall clean-up will be scheduled sometime in November.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Tim, KB3OFE: A bad connector was replaced on the 10-meter machine. With nice weather coming, we'll get going on antenna work.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF: Upcoming public service includes the KTA Hike on Sept 7 and Three Creek Bike on Sept 15. On Sept 14 we will do a demo at York New Salem Fire Company. Dick and Jack will set-up both voice and digital demos.

A Technician Class is scheduled Setp 17-19 in Lebanon, and Oct 19-20 in York at our EOC.

The Boy Scout JOTA is also scheduled Oct 18-20.

VE/ED REPORT - no report

CONTEST REPORT – For the PA QSO party in October, Dick challenges operators to complete against each other to make higher scores. Brad, KO3T, reminded us that Hilltoppers are a Bonus Station for an additional 200 points. They will work at 4 locations on all bands and all modes. The VHF Contest is Sept 14-15.

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

OLD BUSINESS: A second reading was done for Dave Hile, W3VRE, who was then voted into membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dick talked about an offer from PENNDOT for a tower at the corner of Route 24 and Windsor Road. Tim, W3TWB, advised that location is not good for any service to the south. It's in line of sight of the Red Lion repeater. The consensus was that there is no driving desire to take it. Further discussion may be made in the Technical Committee and Executive Board.

For YARS, Dick and Jack have designed a banner for EMCOMM that includes all York clubs. SPCG is willing to contribute to the cost. Jack, KC3JD, moved to approve up to \$80 to cover the initial cost with donations from the other clubs. Motion was seconded from Tim, W3TWB.

Jeff, KB3RCT, wants to do a Radio Merit Badge with his scout troop (with about a dozen scouts). They will concentrate on Short Wave and Amateur Radio. Jeff asked for permission to bring the scouts to the club for classes on the two weekends before the JOTA (on Oct 19-20). He would either use the club radios OR use portable radios. Tim, W3TWB, moved to give permission. Bob, K3DJC, seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Early planning should begin for the Holiday Party. It was decided that the same location should be used. The Dellingers (Jack and Kathy) and Thierry, KB3TPX, will work on the committee.

A Nominating Committee was established: Jeff, KB3RCT, Joe, KB3TCM, and Dick, WA3USG. Roster of officer nominees needs to be presented to the club in November for the December elections. Anyone willing to run for office should contact one of those 3 committee members.

First reading was done for Justin Hoyer, N2JEH of Camp Hill.

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

Rich, KR3EE, mentioned a contact he had with Phil, W3MLI, an operator who had been in the area back in the 1970s. His Dad's call was W3TOS.

Lee, WB3HNA, showed off his Linux set-up.

50-50 \$18 was won by ? (sorry didn't mark it down)



Tim, Dan, and Greg were not the only ones working at height at the Saturday work party. Cameron Bailey, KT3A was up a good 20+ feet installing the new dusk to dawn light.

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: _____