



The VHF Transmitter

Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA



VOL 59 No 6

CIRCULATION 150

July/August, 2014

Gang,

Things have gone very well this Summer for all of our Public Service events! April was an incredibly busy month ... The Buckridge Burn Hike, the Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Drill, the Ironmasters Challenge Hike, and the March of Dimes March for Babies all went off without a hitch!

In May we organized and ran communications for the Bob Potts Marathon and the York MS Walk. In June we assisted and provided operators for the PA Hope Ride for Cancer.

In July we offered our services for the CAN-AM Police-Fire games that were held from July 13th to the 20th ... were they really held? We never heard for any need for communications support from these folks. I think that we're still scratching our heads for this one. On July 26th & 27th, we ran communications for the MS Bike Tour in Gettysburg ... this is back to a 2 day event. Over the 2 day period, we had about 370 riders. I believe that this is about our 28th year supporting this event and it came off incredibly well! See our recap of it on page 7.

We still need volunteers for 2 more events that we as the Keystone VHF Club and YARS are supporting. These are detailed below and on the next page. Please volunteer to help if at all possible.

The Keystone Trails Association Super Hike Date: September 6, 2014



If you can assist, contact
Sandy Goodman, N3ECF

Email:
slgoodman1@verizon.net

Phone: 717-697-2353

Google "KTA Superhike"
for event Web Site

**We are assisting Lancaster County operators to provide
Amateur Radio coverage. Radio Operators will be needed.**

**START: PEQUEA CREEK CAMPGROUND, PEQUEA, PA
(LANCASTER COUNTY)**

**FINISH: OTTER CREEK CAMPGROUND, AIRVILLE, PA
(YORK COUNTY)**

Registration begins at 5:30 AM. The hike officially starts at 7 AM from Pequea Creek Campground, on the Lancaster side of the river, goes south toward the Holtwood Dam, crosses the river at Holtwood Rd, Route 372, then goes north in York county along the river up to Otter Creek Campground. New this year will be transportation provided to hikers who stop their hike at one of the check points.

We will need operators at :

Pinnacle Overlook 7:30 am to 11:30 am

Lock 12 (just off Route 372 on York side) 8:30 am to 1:45 pm

Posey Road State Game Land lot 9:30 am to 4:15 pm

Finish at Otter Creek (NET CONTROL) 6:30 am to 7 PM

The operators at the checkpoints will need to log hiker numbers. We will transmit numbers of hikers who haven't checked in.

We'll also need operators to check hikers who will be using the buses. That may require operators either manning the bus stop, or actually riding the bus. That part is To Be Determined.

This year, participants can choose their own adventure! They can customize their hike between the 29.6-mile "Ultra Trail Run" and the 23.4-mile "Super Hike"! Both events follow the same course, and utilize the same starting and finish line, with the 29.6-mile "Ultra" participants completing an additional 6.2-mile loop around the Otter Creek area before passing through the finish line.

The event course will traverse both sides of the Susquehanna River in Lancaster and York Counties. The Super Hike will begin at 7:00 AM at the Pequea Creek Campground, one mile east of the village of Pequea in Lancaster County. The course follows the Conestoga Trail southward, while paralleling the Susquehanna River, crosses the Norman Wood Bridge, and then follows the Mason Dixon Trail northward. It finally finishes at the Otter Creek Campground, on Rt. 425 in York County.

In this a timed event, runners will release through the starting gate ahead of the hikers. Participants are required - for safety reasons - to reach each checkpoint within a certain time period and to complete the hike no later than 7:00 PM (12 hours from the start). This requires a sustained, minimum pace of almost 2.5 miles per hour (29.6-mile course) or 2 miles per hour (23.4-mile course).

This is a "high adventure" event that will have you outside for the entire day in a beautiful environment. Join us ... you won't be sorry!

The Harrisburg Bicycle Club's Three Creek Century Bike Tour Date: September 20, 2014

The Three Creek Century bike tour is sponsored by the Harrisburg Bicycle Club. This is a fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. It will feature 3 loops that the bikers can combine to make whatever length suites them (25, 50, 75, or 100 mile). Rides start at 7 AM.

Big Spring Meander is a 50 mile loop that goes from Carlisle to Huntsdale, through Newville, then back to Carlisle.

Opossum Lake Loop is a 25 mile loop going north and west of Carlisle up to the lake, and return.

Boiling Springs Ramble is a 25 mile loop from Carlisle over to the Yellow Breeches Creek into Boiling Springs and return.

Five Stationary sites to be manned:

LeTort Park in Carlisle (Start/End for all loops) - NCS location - 6 AM start. Highly suggest that the NCS get there early due to possible parking problems

Huntsdale Fish Hatchery Rest Stop -- start 8:00 a m

Newville Fire Station Rest Stop -- start 8:30 am

Opossum Lake Rest Stop -- start 9:00 am

Leidigh Road Rest Stop -- start 9:30 am

Need a few SAGS with 2 meter communications

**** We will be using the 146.79 MHz repeater (tone: 114.8 Hz) located on Reesers Summit**

- Backup will be the York 146.97 MHz repeater (Tone: 123 Hz)

- Backup simplex frequency will be 144.34 MHz

**** A mobile class rig (20 - 60 watts) with an external antenna (eg: J-Pole) to be used at all locations.**

Continued on page 2

NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, August 7th, at the Club Site
It's Ice Cream Social Night starting at 6:30 PM**

- If the weather is good, please set up on a small table next to the rest stop operators
 - If weather is bad, operate from your car or set up under a canopy if you have one
 - H.T.'s will be very marginal for this event

We will not be checking off riders as they come into the rest stops but will try and keep track of those who are having problems. We will also attempt to sweep the last riders with our SAGs.

The Event Web Site Is: <http://www.threecreekcentury.com/>

If you are available to assist with this event, please contact:
 Sandy Goodman, N3ECF, slgoodman1@verizon.net

Or Dick Goodman, WA3USG, wa3usg@verizon.net
 Phone: 717-697-2353

This is another outdoor "High Adventure Event." and is the last event that we actually organize for the year. The weather should just be starting to turn a bit Autumn-like. Join us for another day in the great outdoors!

The Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Conference (PARC)

By John Jaminet, W3HMS

*** Mark your calendars now for Oct 4, 2014 ***

The South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) of the Carlisle, PA area are pleased to announce a conference devoted to inspiring new technologies in our beloved hobby. **This will be held at the Whispering Pines, a special events lodge, north of Carlisle, PA from 1200-1600 on Saturday 4 Oct 2014.**

Whispering Pines is situated in a delightful country setting with parking for more than 300 cars. Directions are on their Web site googled with "Whispering Pines".

We have been able to schedule speakers who are outstanding in their specialty. They speak at the level achieved by the annual conferences such as Microwave Update, Southern VHF Society, Central States VHF Society, Northeast Weak Signal Society and others throughout the US.

Attendance at these events often consumes more time from work and money than desired. Our intent is to make car pooling and low-costs in a single-day event the hallmark of the conference. Thus, the fee is \$9 for early on-line registration with complementary coffee, soft drinks, and cookies available throughout the event. We do, however, recommend eating outside of event hours, HI!!

There are many restaurants in Carlisle but none near Whispering Pines.

In keeping with the event level, business-casual dress is highly recommended.

Agenda includes:

- ** Building High Quality VHF and UHF Antennas ... yourself!
- ** Live demonstration of the latest HF Flex Radio software defined (SDR) transceiver.
- ** Working the World on the low power HF WSJT-X data modes
- ** A photo visit to an outstanding HF, VHF, UHF, microwave, contest station
- ** Automating Your HF/VHF Station logging and control of radios

Target Audience: Whether you have been licensed for 80 minutes or 80 years, whether your interests are HF, VHF, microwave, 2 M FM, other, or all the above, this is an opportunity to expand your knowledge of what is possible today and what may be doable for you even sooner than YOU may imagine. Don't miss the opportunity to attend a top flight conference focused on great presentations with ease of attendance. Seating will be limited, so sign up at your earliest possibility. For lodging, please google on Carlisle, PA lodging noting that the well-known motels are situated along 1-81. We intend to have Power point copies of each presentation on a Web site after the conference with details being announced at the conference. Please bring your own paper/pens/other for note taking.

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2014

- * **September 6 - KTA Superhike**
POC: Ken Wiggins, N2DYK n2dyk1940@yahoo.com
- * **September 20 - Three Creek Century Bike Tour**
POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF slgoodman@verizon.net
- * **October 19 - Hershey Half marathon**
POC: Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA mpgutekunst@comcast.net
- * **October 26 - Michaux Team Challenge**
POC: Dan Mcglothlin, KB3MUN kb3mun@mcglothlin.us
- * **December 7 - Jingle Bell Run**
POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jkdeli@aol.com
- * **December 24 - Glen Rock Carolers**
POC: Stan Walters, AB3EM abacuspc@comcast.net

NCS SCHEDULE FOR YORK COUNTY NET

NCS	CALL	2014 DATES			
Walt	K3DQB	Jan 06	Apr 07	Jul 07	Oct 06
Micah	KB3TGY	Jan 13	Apr 14	Jul 14	Oct 13
Jon	KB3IGH	Jan 20	Apr 21	Jul 21	Oct 20
Lorna	KB3SST	Jan 27	Apr 28	Jul 28	Oct 27
Ralph	K3HQI	Feb 03	May 05	Aug 04	Nov 03
Tom	KB3ETG	Feb 10	May 12	Aug 11	Nov 10
Fran	WA3GYW	Feb 17	May 19	Aug 18	Nov 17
Jack	KC3JD	Feb 24	May 26	Aug 25	Nov 25
Dick	WA3USG	Mar 03	Jun 02	Sep 01	Dec 01
Stan	AB3EM	Mar 10	Jun 09	Sep 08	Dec 08
Rich	KR3EE	Mar 17	Jun 16	Sep 15	Dec 15
Nate	WN3I	Mar 24	Jun 23	Sep 22	Dec 22
Sandy	N3ECF	Mar 31	Jun 30	Sep 29	Dec 29

AED TRAINING AVAILABLE

As mentioned at the May Keystone Meeting, CPR-Now has offered to train up to 15 operators for the AED because of lack of a proper demonstration with their equipment.

If you are interested in taking that training, please let me or Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT, know of your interest. You can reply to this email, or email Jeff at jdp1964@comcast.net

If we get more than 15 people interested, we will give priority to those who did NOT attend the 1st Aid/CPR/AED training spring of 2013, and/or those folks who are frequently up at the Keystone Clubhouse when multiple people are likely to be there.

Thanks, Sandy Goodman N3ECF, Keystone Secretary

Some Cool Ham Radio Links

By Tim Barefoot, W3TWB

VHF and UHF Propagation

<http://www.anarc.org/wtfdapropagation.htm>

Propagation Maps

<http://www.dxmaps.com/spots/map.php?Lan=E&Frec=50&Map=NA&mycall=&myloc=&freq=&prop=>

6 Meter EME

[http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/Welcome to 6m EME.htm](http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/Welcome%20to%206m%20EME.htm)

Contesting

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

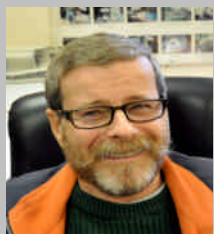
PSK Reporter (See where your PSK31 signal is heard)

<http://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

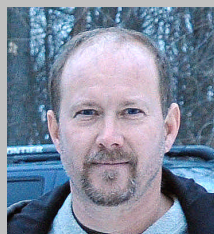
Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Thierry, KB3TPX



Jeff, KB3RCT

Please give our Trustees a helping hand! The Keystone club is extremely fortunate to have the property that we do but it requires a good bit of maintenance. The Summer months are especially busy because of one item that all of us property owners love ... MOWING! So far this year has been a wet one and to keep the clubsite looking up to par among all of the \$300,000 homes that surround us, we have to mow at least once per week. Would you sign up to mow just one time this year? It takes between 45 minutes to an hour ... our Trustees don't mind mowing but if a few of us signed up for just one mowing session, it would give them a break. A sign up list is below, you could mow any day of the week that you commit to. We will get you access to the equipment and I will even send you an e-mail notification when it's your turn. Plus it's a GREAT workout!

Week of August 4: Dick Goodman, WA3USG

Week of August 11: _____

Week of August 18: _____

Week of August 25: _____

Week of September 1: Dick Goodman, WA3USG

Week of September 8: _____

Week of September 15: _____

Week of September 22: _____

Week of September 29: _____

Week of October 6: _____

Week of October 13: _____

Week of October 20: _____

Week of October 27: _____

Please pick just one slot (however you are not limited to just one) and drop me an e-mail to the below address.

wa3usg@verizon.net

The VHF Transmitter

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Editor: Dick Goodman, WA3USG

ADDRESS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR and ARTICLES TO

DICK GOODMAN, WA3USG Voice: (717) 697-2353
199 MAPLE LANE e-mail:
MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055 wa3usg@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.w3hzu.com>

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To change your
address for the
Newsletter, contact:

Dick Goodman, WA3USG
199 Maple Lane
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

FOR SALE / WANTED

I'm selling my **Yaesu FT-897** with **MH-59** stock hand microphone
Barely used
LDG AT-897 Antenna tuner plus
Astron SS-30M 25 AMP power supply
ADMS-4BU software and cable
Over \$1400 in value

Would like \$975 for all....Thanks
Skip N3VTX
E-Mail: n3vtx@arrl.net

Yaesu FT 897, mint condition, used less than 10 or 20 hours
Includes: **FP 30** Internal AC Power Supply, **FNB** Internal Battery,
CD 24 Battery Charger and **Collins 2300** HZ SSB Mechanical
Filter. Includes all boxes and and manual

Hustler Mobile Whip Mast with Triangle Bracket, 15, 20 and 40
Meter Coils

MFJ 269 Antenna Analyzer, HF/VHF/UHF (Not working on UHF
and N connector is messed up--guess who did that?)

Diamond D1300J Wide Band Antenna 25-1300MHZ, near new
condition

Tons of coax including hardline and misc ham stuff

Dennis Wennerstrom, KI0PN

Phone: 303-249-1385

denniswennerstrom@gmail.com



THE QCWA CHAPTER 165 NEWSLETTER FOR

August 2014

By Ray Shiauib, W3AXC

You've heard people say "Look at the time" when they check their watch. Well I just checked the calendar "look at the month". I can't believe it's August already it seems like we just had our June Picnic. BTW the picture that we took at the picnic will be in the August Journal. I thought I sent it in time for the July issue but it wasn't in that issue so I sent it again.

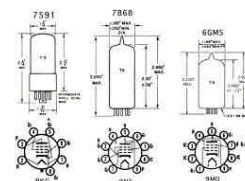
Our next meeting will be held next week on Saturday August 9th. at Hoss' on White St. in York. Some of the members have been asking to start up the weekly net on 2 meters. But it's still just 2 or 3 not enough to really have a good net. Maybe we could try a monthly net. What do you think?

Our CD just renewed and we made \$5.07 in interest last year..

We will have just one more meeting before Christmas. We should be planning where and when to have that meeting. Last year we were going to have it at Hoss' but if you remember it snowed on that day and we cancelled.

I'll look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

73 Ray W3AXC
Sec./ Treas.



Schedule of Keystone VHF Club Sponsored VE Testing for 2014

Laurel VE Group Testing sponsored by the Keystone VHF Club are held the second Saturday of the odd months. All tests are at 10 AM, pre-registration is appreciated except at 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:

Keystone VHF Club sponsored testing by the Laurel V.E. Group. These sessions are held in the Training Room at the York County EOC, 120 Davies Rd., York, PA. Testing starts at 10:00 AM. Preregistration is appreciated. *Contact Ralph Brandt at:*

Ralph.brandt@comcast.net or phone 717-792-1017 to register.

September 13 November 8

VE exams will be sponsored by Southern Pennsylvania Communications Group (SPCG). These sessions are held held at the Shrewsbury Borough Building, 35 Railroad Ave., Shrewsbury, PA. Testing starts at 9:30 AM. The point of contact for these sessions is the same as above.

August 9 October 11 December 13

The Tasty Ham Radio Tid Bit #1

How many of you use the free "Chirp" app to program your HT or other radios? I got a call from Ed, W3SMF in Camp Hill asking how to print off the frequency list from within Chirp. Ya know ... I don't think you can do it from within the program. However Chirp has an Export function which allows you to make a CSV file of your frequencies ... Microsoft Excel will display that & you can print from Excel.

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 South Central PA 10 Meter Net **Friday at 8 PM** on 28.495 MHz USB

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

Ham Shack Talk Net - Monday at 9 PM: 28.335 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

I received an E-Mail from one of our new members **Chad Greene, N3CQZ**. Actually, it was sent on May 18th and due to the newsletter going to a bi-monthly issuance during the Summer this is just appearing now.

I got some photos of the homebrew antenna. I mounted it on a 9 foot mast that was a lighting tripod used in outdoor camera shoots. I can get a shot of it on the mast if you like. I got the measurements from this example

http://www.amateurradio.bz/2m-0cm_vertical_dipole_antenna.html

I substituted the steel for solid copper wire.



I only got my ticket in April so this is all very new to me. So far everyone I have talked to has been very friendly and helpful. With only a cheap HT I've been limited on what I can do in the amateur world. I'm excited to try new things like FM Packet, Satellite work, and APRS. I would love to DX and try PSK31 but I need an HF radio to try 10 and 6 meter SSB or just 2m SSB. Of course I see a general ticket in my future but for now I think the tech side of things will help me learn and make my mistakes on the VHF UHF before I get to the HF world. Its all about learning and I have been interested in radio since I was a child. A few months ago I decided to get a CB radio and was very displeased about what I heard and without a illegal

amp I couldn't really be heard. So I looked at the amateur world and thought I can do this. So I bought an HT and listened and got the study material and studied for the exam. I think this hobby will be part of my life for a very long time and its been wonderful to learn, play and build. I hope there are many more projects down the road.

Chad, you will find that many of our members started out from the ranks of CB operators. I did this myself. I started out with CB back in the early 1960's. back then, it was nothing then like it is now. Everyone ran just the allowed 5 watts and we could talk over 100 miles without using skip. Everyone used their real names and it even sounded civilized ... very much like 2 meter FM sounds today. Back in the 60's, the FCC issued CB operators callsigns, mine was KCG2360. CB lost its respectability during the gasoline embargo back in the early 70's. The FCC stopped regulating it and it became a "no man's land". Ham Radio is a team effort and I am sure that you will find one or more aspects of it that will hold your interest. It's good to see you experimenting with home brew antennas. It's a great start and there's plenty of folks in the club and on the air who will be more than happy to help you. Keep soldering !!! 73, Dick, WA3USG

Gang ...

We still could use a few more volunteers at the Red Lion Street Fair this coming Saturday (August 9).

Where did this Summer go???

Photos from our May Work Party

By Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH

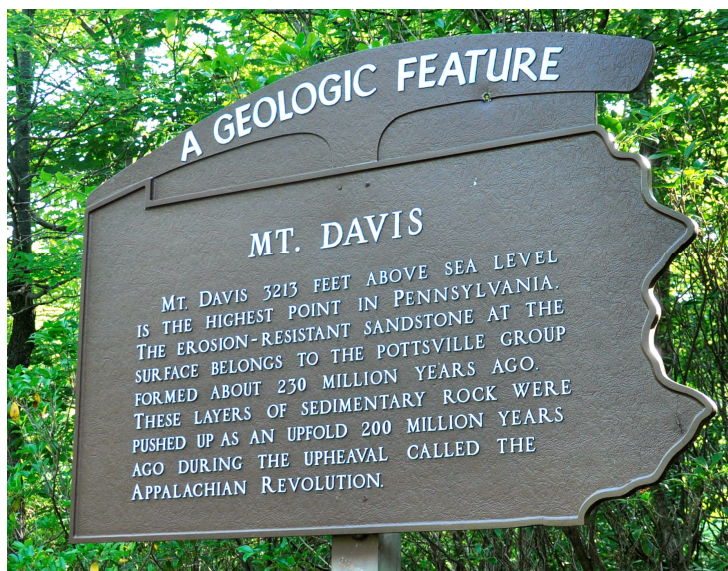


Due to the fact that we don't publish the newsletter every month during the Summer, we didn't get these images in the newsletter until NOW! This proves that beyond the shadow of a doubt, we have some hard working "rough & tumble" folks in the Keystone VHF club! This was our Spring clean up work party. There was a lot of leaf raking, branch picking up, junk removal, and chain sawing going on that day. Way to go guys! Now we have our Autumn clean up work party coming up sooner than you think! This one is going to include some clean up after some tree removal so get ready for some serious work!

Sandy, N3ECF and Dick's, WA3USG

Trip out to Mount Davis

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG



As many of you probably know, on July 12th, both Sandy, N3ECF and I drove out to Mount Davis in western Pennsylvania to see if we could make a 2 meter contact (both SSB and FM) from the highest point in Pennsylvania back to the York-Harrisburg area ... a distance of over 130 air miles. The equipment used would be a Yaesu FT-817 5 watt transceiver driving a solid state amplifier to about 30 watts. This would be fed into a small 4 element Arrow 2 meter beam. All of this would be powered by a 5 AH NiMh battery. This equipment would be carried to the top of a 50 foot somewhat rickety observation tower located at the 3215 foot ASL site high atop Mount Davis.



At 9 AM , Saturday, July 12th, Sandy and I climbed to the top of the observation tower. We were the only ones there. It took about 10 minutes to assemble the antenna and get the radio and amplifier connected. I aimed the antenna where I thought York should be and made a call on SSB. I received an immediate reply from Dan Shortencarrier, N3EEI and Tim Barefoot, W3TWB. They were copying me Q5 at a power level of 30 watts. I reduced my power to a miniscule 2.5 watts and they still copied fine. I went from a signal strength of about an S3 to an S1. Both Tim & Dan were running beam antennas. Chris, KB3TWW called me on SSB using a vertical omni antenna ... it was rough but we made the contact! I then was called by Dan Melato, KB3JSV with a Q5 signal. I also contacted Lee, WB3HNA but we were both very weak to each other. I shifted over to vertical polarization and made FM contacts to N3EEI, W3TWB, and KB3JSV. I heard KB3TWW and WB3HNA weakly. I was also able to work the SMRA 145.43 repeater. Our 146.97

machine was loud as was the 146.79 repeater on Reesers Summit. Unfortunately I was bringing up several repeaters on 97 and 79 so I couldn't make contacts on our machines.

Continued on page 7

Main Club Room

Completed

Cleaned and repainted floor
Refurbished surface of operating positions
Replaced chairs with 5 from Staples
Removed unused cabling (Between Main room & repeater room)
Installed new shelving for each operating position
Relocated the 3 computers to associated operating positions
HF position (FT-920) - completely operational all digital modes
Purchased new monitors, keyboards, & mice for each computer
Replaced our lightning damaged big screen TV with new one
Installed Internet Access Point (A.P.) in main clubroom
New A.E.D. has been mounted in main club room

To be completed

Secure all recently installed shelving units with screws
This has yet to be completed
Evaluate what additional flooring we might need
We have discovered that we are getting some water leakage on the floor coming through the wall adjacent to the base of our old windmill tower.
Get TS-2000 operating position operational on digital modes
We need to obtain an additional Signalink USB. An appropriation for this will be requested at the next meeting. This will be installed at the next Thursday night Tech session. Cost will be approximately \$110.00. Has this been ordered?
Install cameras & integrate with security system
Two FOSCAMs (steerable IP cameras) at approximately \$80.00 each and one external IP camera at \$129 will be ordered within the next two weeks. These will be integrated into our security system by the end of June. \$329.00 was approved for this at the March 6 meeting. We need to order these.
Install card reader on door
Tim Barefoot, W3TWB has provided a circuit board that will enable us to implement a card reader to use for access control at the front door for a very inexpensive price. This unit contains a Web Server and is programmed via an IP connection. Dick, WA3USG will evaluate this unit to see if it will work for our application. This will be determined by end of August.

Repeater Room

Completed

Cleaned up repeater room - relocated unused equipment to shed
Removed unused cabling (between repeater room & attic)
Installed baseline 2 meter MSF-5000 2 meter repeater
6 meter & 70 CM repeaters operational with AllStar connectivity
EchoLink operational on 70 CM repeater
Two 3500 watt UPS units installed in rack in repeater room
Quantar Receiver added to 2 meter repeater at club

To be completed

Arcom Controller integration with MSF-5000 (already procured)
Being done in conjunction with installation of the remote receiver System. Should be finished in August-september time frame
Remote receiver system to be reinstalled on the MSF-5000
a 220 MHz link Receiver (already procured), and an 8 channel LDG voter (donated by members of the Technical committee). This should be installed shortly after the controller is operational
EchoLink to be added to MSF-5000
Bob Poff will add this as soon as the controller is operational
Batteries to be procured for both UPS units (8 batteries needed)
We will only be using one of the UPS units at the club so only 4 batteries will be needed.
UPS units wired into clubhouse electrical system
Unit #1 to provide backup & protection to repeaters
Unit #2 will not be used at this time
New 70CM repeater procured from county will replace our existing UHF repeater. (crystals are on order)

The tech committee has reevaluated this project. Due to the expense of the batteries required by these UPS units, it was decided that only one UPS would be used. This will reside in the repeater room and will back up our repeaters in instances of power failure until the generator comes up on line. \$320 was approved to purchase batteries at the Dec 5th, 2013 general meeting. We will only need \$160 and work on this will not be started until all repeater projects are completed.

New router to be installed in clubs network (already procured)

Dan Melato, KB3JSV will be installing this

Antenna Work

Completed

New rotor cable installed on 60 foot tower

To be completed

Reguying of 60 foot tower

Rich Reese, KR3EE has offered to supervise this project. We need to dig an additional Guy anchor point and replace the existing guy lines. We will be starting this project on Wednesday, June 4th (weather permitting) by digging the new guy anchor. Our goal is to have this done by the end of June.

Installation of MA-5B 5 band HF beam on 60 foot tower (beam donated)

Installation of 6 meter beam on 60 foot tower (our old 6 meter beam)

Installation of new antenna rotor (already procured)

Running new feed lines for the antennas above (already procured)

The above 4 items should be completed about 2 weeks after the tower has been reguyed.

Removal of following antennas and outrigger from 100 foot tower

144 MHz contest beam

432 Mhz contest beam

1296 MHz contest beam

220 MHz beam

This should be able to be completed during a Saturday morning work party sometime in July or August depending upon availability of climbers.

Mount utility box with preamps (already procured)

Replace above antennas on single mast

This should be another Saturday morning work party

Replace antenna rotor damaged by lightning

Gregs Site

Completed

Install back up repeater for 146.97

To be completed

Hold another clean-up work party

Install DTMF decoder to enable remote control of above repeater

(This will be finished by 12 August)

Install receiver multicoupler for 146.37 MHz receivers

Reinstall remote receiver using 223 link back to club

Evaluate condition of antennas

Other Outside Work - clubsite

Completed

Clean out shed - get rid of unused items

Install outdoor Internet Access Point (already procured)

To be completed

Final organization of shed - catalog equipment (it never ends)

Inspect & clean/maintain all tower guy anchors

Replace camera on 180 foot tower (already procured)

Take scrap cabling/wire/junk to salvage yard

It was still very early, about 9:45 AM. I had made arrangements with the folks back home to run SSB from 9 AM to 10 AM and then to switch over to FM from about 10 AM and run that until 10:30.

Sandy was holding and pointing my little 4 element beam while I operated the radios. Space on the tower was very limited and the guard rail around the perimeter was only about 3 feet high (if that). At about 10 AM while making a contact, Sandy slipped and struck her knee against the sharp iron angle of the guard rail. It was quite painful and she started to get dizzy. I had her sit down and I thought that it would be wise to get back to ground level ASAP. The stairway going down was very steep and somewhat shaky. I had visions of her knee swelling up and not being able to navigate the stairs. So at about 10 :05 AM, we packed everything up and headed down. We made it to the ground okay. I have to apologize to the other folks who were expecting us on the air after 10 AM.

Sandy's knee had some small cuts and was painful for a couple of weeks, I'm glad that we got down when we did. It was a lot of fun however and I'd like to do some more of there little mini Dxpeditions

The MS Bike Tour Recap



This years MS Bike Tour while not the biggest, probably was the smoothest running tour that we have ever had. This was a 2 day event and all of the riders started on time and ended pretty much in their allotted time frames. All of our volunteers were on site and ready when they were supposed to be

and I cannot remember anything that we didn't handle in a very professional timely manner.

Something that I especially noticed is that once the ride was started, most of the organizers left their large circus-like event tent, and moved over to out little Net Control Station under our pop up canopy ... and there they stayed for the entire day. They were able to know what was going on at all times all around the course. We had communicators at all the Rest Stops and in all the SAGs. The weather was good and we only had to SAG less then a dozen or so riders over the course of both days.

There were virtually no mechanical problems and both the event organizers and ourselves efficiently handled anything that came along. There's not too much more I can say about this, it was a good two days!

I would really like to thank all of our volunteers. The below folks worked our Rest stops on Saturday. Things really went well gang!

Rest Stop	NAME	CALLSIGN
Fairfield Fire Company	Bob Gundlach Mary Gundlach	N3NBT N3RBT
Mt. Joy Lutheran	Chris Shover Lorrie Shover Harry Fascick	KB3TWW KB3ZLO KC3BWP
Emmitsburg Park	Don Schmitt Brian Koenig	K3DCS K3BMK
Loy's Station Park	Jack Dellinger Kathy Dellinger Tim Stumpo	KC3JD KA3THC K3EYL
Apple United Church (LUNCH)	Don Inscho Steve Steffan	N3OSO WB3EFA
Tom's Creek Church	Tom Williams Barb Baller	KB3IQH W3AVQ
Bethel Assembly Of God	Bob & Patti Single	N3ACP KC3CDL

Saturday was certainly the big day with about 270 riders participating. On Sunday, we had about 100. The organizers feel that with everything going as smoothly as it did, next year should grow.

The volunteers below handled all of the SAG communications (some driving their own vehicles):

SAG #	NAME	CALL	NAME	CALL
SAG-1	Dave Stewart		Walt Bilous Jonathan	K3DQB, KB3MOF
SAG-2	Dick Goodman	WA3USG	Barb Neusbaum	
SAG-3	Franz Niedermeyer	N3HFS	Bob Hale	
SAG-4	Gerald Rosenberry	KB3GBF	Perry Wood	WB3JKT
SAG-5	Ralph Brandt	K3HQI	Kathy Hale	
SAG-6	Dan Shortencarrier	N3EEI	Steve Lentz	KC3CCW
SAG-7	Brian Klimes	KC3CFW	Tom Graybill	KB3ETG
SAG-8	Jason Meyer			
Medic	Medic driver		Donna Lee Hoover	N3VPJ

Sunday was a much easier day and we had the following volunteers man the Rest stops:

Rest Stop	NAME	CALLSIGN
Heidlersburg United Brethren Church of God	Tom Williams Barb Baller	KB3IQH W3AVQ
Bermudian Springs School	Valli Hoski Harry Fascick	N8QVT K3EYL

The SAG support for Sunday was also easier and we had the following volunteers:

SAG #	NAME	CALL	NAME	CALL
SAG-1	Dave Stewart		Walt Bilous Jonathan	K3DQB, KB3MOF
SAG-2	Dick Goodman	WA3USG	Barb Neusbaum	
SAG-3	Franz Niedermeyer	N3HFS	Jack Reed	N3BBC
SAG-4	Gerald Rosenberry	KB3GBF	Perry Wood	WB3JKT
SAG-5	Ralph Brandt	K3HQI	Harry Bauder	WA3FFK
Medic	Medic driver		Donna Lee Hoover	N3VPJ

Finally, for both days we had the following as SAG master and Net Control Op:

Sandy Goodman	N3ECF	OPERATIONS (SAG master & director liaison)
Don Schmitt	K3DCS	NET Control

Again gang ... thanks for the lonmg, hard, work!

Daniel F. Wolfson, KA3NKA A Silent Key

Dan was a lawyer in York. He was a member of the Keystone VHF Club. According to our records, Dan was only a member for one year (1994).

I think that he gave us some free counsel when we were incorporating. Dan wasn't an active Ham for very long and left the York area some years ago.

Thanks to Jack, KC3JD for getting me this information. If anyone else reading this knows more about Dan, please let me know.



Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
June 6, 2014
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

Following a spaghetti dinner prepared by Dick Goodman and Tim Barefoot, the General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Dick WA3USG at 19:30. There were 46 members present and 2 guests. John Green, N3TKJ, is Kerry Green's brother and has returned to the club. Nicholas LeBron, KC3CRA, was one of Nate and Walt's students and applied for membership.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS:

A moment of silence was held for Silent Key, John Shaffer, W3SST, one of our club founders who recently passed away. The \$75 donation that we approved last month has gone to the ARRL Foundation General Fund in John's name.

The SMARA club in Carlisle is sponsoring a Technical Conference on October 4. Topics will include building high quality antennas, a live demonstration of Flex SDR Transceiver, and Dick, WA3USG, will give a presentation on JT-65.

Jack, KC3JD, advised us that Millard Martin, NN3Z, has blood cancer, and is scheduled to go through 16 weeks of chemotherapy. Attendees were encouraged to sign a get well card for him.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Ken, AB3BG, moved to accept the May minutes as published, seconded by Don, N3OSO. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Linda, KB3EBV, reported for May 2014: Income: \$930.94 (note: rent was deposited into the Trustee account to cover expenses there); Expenses: \$1,294.30 (electric and T-shirts/Hoodies); Balances: Club CD \$7,625.17; Checking Acct \$4,883.74; Trustee Acct \$733.82; Total \$13,242.73. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the report. Lee, WB3HNA, seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dick also discussed the efforts that Sandy, N3ECF, is making to create Financial Statements for the past several years. Statements have been created for 2013, 2012, and 2011.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Jeff, KB3RCT

Jeff again asked for volunteers to mow. Anyone with access to the club has access to the shed. If you don't have access and are willing to mow, see Jeff. We asked volunteers to sign-up on the sign-in sheet.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Dick, WA3USG

We had a great planning session on May 29th. Rich, KR3EE, has started the hole for reguying the tower. Kevin, KA0JQO, has been very busy on the repeater controller, which may be done by the end of June. He is also reinstalling the remote receiver at Greg's site. Video security will be installed - 2 Foscam indoor wireless Pan & Tilt units, and 1 Foscam external wireless (Infrared) stationary video. We may be moving to use a card reader for club access. Work parties will be scheduled to do antenna work. (More details are in the newsletter.)

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF

At the last ARWG meeting, we got to meet Susan Singer. She is the PEMA ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service) Officer. She is working on building a better organized service. There will now be operators at the PEMA station during drills and activations.

YARS held a Spring Flood Drill on May 31st. We practiced procedures for activation and sending short traffic exchanges. We also tested 10 meters, 80 meters, and Slow Scan capabilities from the field. The things we have to work on: Safety Issues and teaching new operators how to build a Go-Kit.

For Public Service, we did the Bob Potts Marathon with 34 operators assisting about 460 runners. Next events in line are the MS Bike Tour, Three Creek Century Bike Tour, and the KTA Hike.

We will be doing more training in YARS meetings for Incident Command, EOC, and damage reporting.

The PEMA Conference in September will have a ACS Track on Sunday September 21st. Jack Dellinger and Cameron Bailey will attend. Anyone else interested should contact Sandy, N3ECF.

VE/ED REPORT - Ralph, K3HQI

We've had good VE sessions this year. Nate and Walt will continue to hold classes, but they would like 2 more instructors to help in the next session.

CONTEST REPORT - no report

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG

OLD BUSINESS:

Second readings were held for Tom Alsted, N3NPF, Richard Diem, KC3CFV, Steven Cline, KC3CPL, Brian Klimes, KC3CFW, and John Brownlee, KC3BOJ. All were voted into the membership.

Jeff, KB3RCT, thanked the club for the use of the pavilion for Boy Scout Troup 25.

NEW BUSINESS:

We had first readings for Francis Dill, WA3GYW, Leo Grenier, KB3VVL, and Nicholas LeBron, KC3CRA.

There was much discussion about the club flooring. Tim, KB3WZX, had planned to donate tile. But the tiles can't be glued due to the paint on the floor. Tim provided quotes for what he found. Lee, WB3HNA, moved to purchase flooring for about \$1500 and allow the trustees to decide on the pattern. Steve, WB3EFA, seconded the motion. There were a few negative votes initially, but after more discussion, all accepted on the second vote.

A request was made to fund an additional Signalink USB for \$105 from DX Engineering. Dan, KB3JSV, moved to approve the purchase, seconded by Jack, KC3JD. Motion was approved.

QCWA will have their picnic at the club on June 21st. Can anyone help cook for them?

CPR-NOW will provide AED training. In addition to the 5 who responded to Sandy's email, 4 others signed up. Jeff, KB3RCT, will contact CPR-NOW to arrange a training on a Thursday night.

Tim, W3TWB, advised that Triangle Communications, our rentor, is willing to pay us back fees for not increasing the rent 3% each year. A check for \$1800 for the past 2 years is coming. They will also send a check to cover those months this year that they hadn't increased the rent. The rent now is \$506.

The newsletter got out in time. Let Dick know if you change your e-mail address. He's got a few bounces. Our Website was hacked. It was somehow linked to a Twitter account. Thanks to Matthew Gillespie, KB3TCN, who provide some information to Dick.

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

Brad, KO3T, advised that the Red Lion club will hold Field Day at their clubhouse. SPCG will have their Field Day activities at Spring Valley Park.

50-50

Danny Waldrop, KC3BXG, won \$37, which he donated back to the club.

Adjourned at 20:16.



Keystone VHF Club General Meeting Minutes of July 3, 2014

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 31 members present and no guests.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS:

Tim, W3TWB, got a new 20 meter transceiver, ½ watt, that fits into an Altoid tin. He and Dick are both working on one for QRP operations.

Dick, WA3USG, talked about a trip he took to Eden Mill near Fawn Grove. That was a grist mill, then a power plant until 1929. He showed pictures of the water turbines. Several members indicated an interest in visiting that. Dick will put out an email.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Steve, KC3CCW, moved to accept the June minutes with corrections provided by Rich, KR3EE. Motion was seconded by Rich, KR3EE. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for June cash flow: Income: \$1,757.86 (check) + \$15.19 (trustee); Expenses: \$1,430.37 (check) + \$42.37 (trustee). Steve, WE3EFA, moved to accept the report; 2nd by Don, N3OSO. Motion carried.

A subsequent report provided by Linda, KB3EBV, provided the Balances: Club CD \$7,627.09; Checking Acct \$5,211.23; Trustee Acct \$706.64; Total \$13,544.96 .

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Jeff, KB3RCT, thanks those who have helped to mow. Nate brought his tractor up to handle the mowing. We may soon spray the parking lot again.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - The repeater is working. The committee is still working on the controller and the remote. We picked up a bunch of equipment from county (filling up the shed again). We have computer problems on the 440 repeater. The computer was replaced on Tuesday, but we still have poor performance.

Dick talked about the “second” 146.97 at Dover with a 127 tone. The squelch tail needs to be changed.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF, reported that final assignments for the MS Bike tour are being tweaked. We also have Red Lion Street Fair coming up on August 9th, KTA Hike on September 6, and the Three Creek Century Bike ride on September 21. She’ll be sending out emails to ask for volunteers.

VE/ED REPORT - Steve, WB3EFA, advised that 2 are registered for the Keystone VE Exams.

CONTEST REPORT - Mike, N3VQH, reported that Red Lion had 1,325 contacts on Field Day. Several members operated on their own. Red Lion will operate both the IRU HF World Championship on July 12th, and the CQ VHF contest, July 19th.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG, advised he’s doing bimonthly newsletters for the summer, so the next issue will be a combined July/August issue. Hopefully he’ll get back to monthly after that.

OLD BUSINESS:

Skip, from CPR-Now, is in Massachusetts for the summer. So the AED training class will be sometime in October. We corrected the number of attendees to 10 with 9 signed up.

Second readings were held for Francis Dill, WA3GYW, Leo Grenier, KB3VVL, and Nicolas LeBron, KC3CRA. It was noted that Leo is also a CAP member with Don, N3OSO. All three were voted into membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brian, KC3CFW, is also a Cub Scout Leader, and would like to use the club site for the Boy Scout Jamboree October 18 & 19. Dick and Jeff

will work with Brian to access. Jeff, KB3RCT, is also seeking club members to assist with the scouts radio activity. The following volunteered: Steve, WB3EFA, Joe, KB3TCM, Mike, N3VQH, and Tim, W3TWB.

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

The SMRA club in Carlisle is sponsoring the PA Amateur Radio Conference in Carlisle on October 4th. Registration is now open on the SMRA website: “N3TWT.org”. See the website for details. Note that Dick, WA3USG, will be presenting on “low power HF WSJT-X data mode.”

The Firecracker Hamfest is July 5th, and the Berryville Hamfest is August 3rd.

Tim Snook, KB3WZX, mentioned a website where you can get a decal and downloadable form containing safety information. For details, see website at: www.YellowDot.pa.gov

50-50: Jim Irish, N6CAZ, won \$24 and donated it back to the club. Thank you Jim. Adjourned at 19:35.

Ham Radio Operators Train National Guardsmen on the Communications Tool

The military is trying to bring back the use of high-frequency communications rather than having sole dependence on satellite communication.

Eight Prattville Army National Guard members from the 231st Military Police Battalion armory traveled to Fort McClellan for specialized training in ham radios earlier this month. The military is trying to bring back the use of HF or high-frequency communications in the service rather than having sole dependence on satellite communication.

With today’s email and cellphone communication, radios now are used primarily during natural disasters and emergency situations such as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy when high cellphone use can overload the satellite system. Special radio frequencies can communicate with emergency management agencies during such times. Joel Black, a member the Region 4 Army Military Auxiliary Radio Service, or Army MARS, said the radio is much more efficient than satellite communications.

“Today’s military has started to depend more on satellite communication. However, HF or high-frequency communications, is a more rapidly deployable communication system,” Black explained. “You can set up an antenna, tune into the right frequency and start talking within minutes. It takes much longer to set up a satellite.” Trying to set up a satellite communication in the field can be cumbersome for military members, Black said. Oftentimes, two men are needed to set up a 20-foot or 8-foot satellite, transponder and other equipment.

The whole process can take up to two hours. Three ham radio operators at McClellan taught the soldiers from Prattville how easy it could be. The licensed Army MARS trainers shared their expertise in proper use and selection of radio frequencies, how radio waves work, communications technology, safety and techniques of antenna installation.

Those in charge of the three-day course included Alabama Army MARS State Director Wade Brock, Alabama Army MARS Training Officer John Briscoe and Georgia Army MARS State Director Jerry Lofstead.

Army MARS, which began in 1925, is a Defense Department organization of amateur radio operators that train on a daily basis for providing emergency communication for both military and government agencies.

Ham radio operators are most associated for their contributions as part of the U.S. Army Signal Corps sending messages between troops during the Korean and Vietnam Wars with a HF radio-telephone.

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: _____