



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA

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CIRCULATION 150

October, 2014

Antenna Work Party on Saturday, Sept 28

*The 2 meter & 70 cm Contesting Antennas
are back up and working GREAT!*



Last Saturday was “bustin’ the hump day” at the Keystone VHF Club. For the last several weeks at our Thursday evening tech sessions, we have been planning on the reinstallation of our 2 meter & 70 cm SSB beams on the top of our 100 foot tower.

Over the years, high winds, ice, lightning, and other factors had damaged the existing antennas and the antenna rotor. The fact that we simply had too many antennas up in an area of very high winds, and the way we had them mounted (some on cross members and others on the main mast) made them highly susceptible to becoming out of alignment.

One of the biggest problems was icing. The antennas on the cross members had to be mounted at their physical balance points. When icing occurred, the location of these points changed and there was much more weight on the front of the antennas than on the back. After a few Winters, the front of both the 2 meter & 70 cm antennas were no longer horizontal (see Figure 2).

Last Saturday, this all changed. Greg Hagens, KE3CW and new member, Rich Diem, KC3CFV were our climbers. Rich Reese, KR3EE, Mike Sullivan, WS3C, and Dick Goodman, WA3USG were the ground crew. We started work at about 11 AM and by 2 PM had both antennas installed and tested. Greg & Rich up on the tower put in a hard day!

Continued on page 2

Scouting Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

Volunteers needed at the Club ... can you help?

By Jeff Patterson, KC3RCT & Brian Klimes, KC3CFW

W3HZU will again host Jamboree On The Air on October 18 from 10 AM until 8 PM, or later if interest is there with the scouts. This year we could have participation from up to 3 Troops/Packs. With one pack spending the night camping out on the grounds.

To pull this off we will need help with operators who are comfortable with operating the clubs equipment on the HF, VHF and UHF bands. Digital modes are also an option if we have the participation from club members to facilitate this.

We will have Scout leaders there but will also need club members that are comfortable with working with kids as well. With the scouts come the parents, some with many questions. So this will be an area of need. For our Scouts we have the following planned for the Saturday Oct 18th JOTA event.

Boy Scouts- Troop 20 will be up at the club in the morning 9:00 Am to 12:00 Noon to complete their ‘Radio’ merit Badge hands on radio work. Brian Klimes, KC3CFW will be teaching the Scouts the technical and book presentation part at the Troop meetings before 10/18. This will require the Boy Scouts to see Ham radios, antennas and get an opportunity to work on the radios to make contacts for at least 10 minutes. They can work some stations on the air for the JOTA event.

Cub Scouts- Pack 20 are scheduled to be up from 12:00 PM to 5 PM to learn about Ham radios, get an introduction to radio and antennas. We would greatly appreciate some members to be up for the afternoon with radios to teach the young Scouts how they work and demonstrate them. We may have some other Boys Scouts from other Packs stopping by to see what JOTA and Ham radios are about.

Continued on Page 6

Status of Club Projects listed on page 5

Please check out page 5 for the status of what’s been happening up at the club. In the last two months we have completed several projects and are well underway in finishing others. Things highlighted in yellow are actively “in progress” and are being worked on. Things in red font have had their status changed since the last report.

One issue that has been holding us up is unfortunately the poor quality of HyGain antenna rotor components. In our case, this is in regards to the form & fit of the basic front panel of the digital control box and its associated hardware. I believe that we also had a brand new rotor motor assembly that had to be returned. We are not sure if the problem lies in shipping damage or just plain lousy quality control during assembly. We have returned the rotor control box to HyGain twice now and each time it is returned to us in worse condition than before. Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH has written a complete summary/review of our problems with HyGain which is on page 4. I am also having some problems with my Ham IV which I purchased about 3 years ago. Yes ... I could send it back but it is an enormous inconvenience removing it from my tower!

De Dick, WA3USG

NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, October 2nd, at the York County
EOC on Davies Road**

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2014

- * **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 jkdelli@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

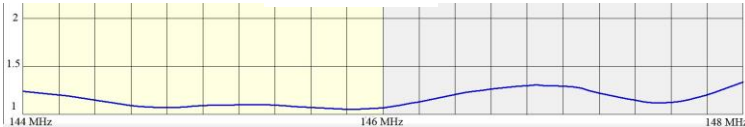


FIG 2

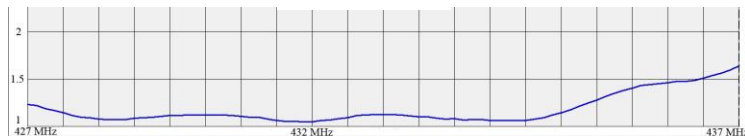
This has been the configuration of our contesting antennas for the last several years. The vertical antenna at the top is our 6 meter repeater antenna. Right below that on the main mast was our 220 MHz SSB beam. On the cross member from left to right was our 2 meter SSB beam, the 1296 MHz loop Yagi, and our 70 cm SSB beam. Probably due to ice loading and wind both the 2 meter & 70 cm beams were grossly out of alignment and pointing down. All antennas on the cross member were also out of alignment with the 220 beam on the main mast. The 2 meter beam had also taken damage from the lightning strike last year along with the antenna rotor which was totally dead. All of this has been replaced with a 2 meter & 70 cm beam on the main mast.

Greg & Rich made the 100 foot climb to the top supporting the weight of a pulley and about 200 feet of rope. Once up there, they were swarmed on by bees (you should have seen this!) and had to work in that environment. Both antennas, the new rotor, and rotor control line were pulled up to them using the rope & pulley. They mounted both antennas, installed the new rotor, attached new pig tails from the antennas to the hard lines, taped everything up neatly, and taped the rotor control line to the tower on the way down. What a great day!

2 Meter SWR



70 cm SWR



The 2 meter beam is well below a 1.5 to 1 SWR across the entire 2 meter band. The 70 cm antenna is below a 1.5 to 1 SWR everywhere that we are going to use it. I tuned in the WA1ZMS 2 meter beacon on 144.285 MHz located in Bedford, Virginia (a distance of 230 miles from the club). On the clubs Kenwood TS-2000 it was hitting up to an S6! I then swung over and aimed at the W3CCX 70 cm beacon on 432.288 MHz located in the Philadelphia area ... a nice Q5 signal hitting S1 to S2. That beacon runs 5 watts to a single Big Wheel antenna. This is absolutely outstanding performance. Both antennas are working very well.

The other antennas that were removed (1.2 GHz and 220 MHz) will probably be re-installed on the tower that currently holds our satellite antennas. While they will be considerably lower than they were before, they will still function due to our high geographic location. Getting them off the top of the 100 foot tower makes them much more accessible and lowers the wind loading. It also greatly simplifies what we have at height on the 100 foot tower.

Getting climbers is not as easy as it used to be ... we are all getting older and the climbers we have are busy with their jobs. Lets keep things simple to make it easy on them. Thanks to everyone who made Saturday possible ... especially our climbers Greg, KE3CW, Rich, KC3CFV. Tim Barefoot, W3TWB and Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH also did an awful lot of preparatory work during the last several weeks!

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 Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT, know of your interest. You can 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.

The End of the Bob Potts Marathon???
(Hey not so fast! Maybe not)

We want to thank everyone for their support in assisting the Three Creek Century Bike Tour.

It was a good day. We did an outstanding job SAGing and allk the check points were on the ball!. We kept the organizers apprised with a rough count of how many riders were still out and their approximate locations at the end of the day. There were between 500 - 600 riders.

Our SAGs handled a total of 4 bikers:

We picked up one rider from Newville who couldn't continue

We picked up 2 riders up from about 3/4 of the way around the 50-mile who couldn't finish. then AFTER we closed the net, Dick, WA3USG took a wrong turn as we were leaving and encountered one of the last few bikers still coming into LeTort Park. It was after the heavy rain had started and one lady lost control of her bike because of wet brakes and went down in the rain.

So it was apparently destiny for Dick to take the wrong turn (destiny ... yeah right!) so he could provide aid. He SAGed her in while her husband finished the last mile into the end.

An additional Thanks to Dan N3EEI for shifting assignment and taking over at Opossum Lake. Dan Melato, KB3JSV & April for manning Newville, Steve Steffan, WB3EFA for manning Huntsdale. Joe Imgrund, KB3TCM and Gerry Rosenberry, KB3GBF for manning SAG3. Franz Niedermeyer, N3HFS for manning SAG2. Valli Hoski, N8QVT and Harry Fascick, K3EYL for manning the rest stop at Leidigh Drive. Barb Baller, W3AVQ and Tom Williams, KB3IQH for manning the Opossum Lake RS.

Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Thierry, KB3TPX



Jeff, KB3RCT

Things are looking even better at the club. Most of the junk has been removed and the inside of the club house is absolutely Spic & Span clean (thanks Mike, N3VQH)! We recently had about 5 trees cut down. Rich Reese, KR3EE has been busy with his chainsaw and many are cut up and ready for splitting. If he keeps at it, we may not need a work party to cut the rest up! Way to go Rich !!! Does anyone have a log splitter they would like to bring up?

We also have a new neighbor who moved into the house directly across the street from us. For the first time since that house was built, we now have an occupant who seems friendly. If you see him, say "hello".

Otherwise things seem to be going well. Get ready for Fall!

Friends, get your Call Letter license plate tag before PA DOT comes to its senses! The new form released for use last week reflects a fee reduction from \$20 to only \$11 dollars! Surely there's some mistake, (after all, what state revenue charge goes down!) If you were waiting, now's certainly the time.

Here's the link:

http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/mv_forms/mv-904.pdf

73 Bob, N3NBT

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PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT SEPTEMBER 20 – 24, 2014

Several members of the SCTF/ARWG and YARS attended the Specialty Seminars and Emergency Management Conference at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Those attending (that I know of): Kathy KA3THC, Don N3OSO, Stan AB3EM, Cam KT3A, Jack KC3JD, Don K3DCS, Perry WB3JKT and Rod Gallagher KB3OTY.

The Specialty Seminars were held on Sunday Sept. 20. We had several options as to which programs we wanted to attend, including FLDigi Networks, Effective "Go-Kits", High Speed Mobile MESH (HSMM), Satellite Networks (Gary Blacksmith's 5.8 Ghz network), Using ICS Forms, Disaster Communications, REACT and the 1977 Johnstown Flood, Issues in ACS/RACES Recruitment & Retention. Plus two Q & A Sessions. Stan AB3EM attended the VOAD seminars. Kathy KA3THC attended the Mass Fatality Planning AWR-232 all day course.

The PEMA Conference also included many programs you could attend. Don K3DCS took the G-271 Severe Weather and Floodplain Preparedness course (2 days). Many of us attended programs on State Managed Shelter Panel, Boston Marathon Bombing Incident, Sandy Hook Incident, Washington State Mudslide Event, and Social Media for OEM. . All were great sessions. Disaster Communications, presented by Zack Mullennis from San Bernardino, CA was very interesting. Zack is responsible for over two hundred Ham Radio operators that form a communications response unit in San Bernardino County. This group is highly trained and has successfully integrated with the emergency services in the county. They all wear uniforms (purchased by the county), wear identification and perform requested communications duties with professional dedication. San Bernardino County has about 2 million residence so it is roughly the same population size as the eight counties of the SCTF.

Things learned:

One of the conclusions from all the 'incident' type seminars was that 'Lack of Communications' is still a major problem in these type incidents. The first 48 hours of an incident are chaotic and the different emergency services still have major problems finding common communications. (sound familiar).

Mass Care - For 'Unusually Large Shelters', Pa. departments; PEMA, Dept. of Health, Dept. of Human Resources, Dept. of Ag, plus Red Cross, Salvation Army, State Animal Response Team (SART) and Pa. State Colleges have created a working group that will generate and supervise shelters. Red Cross will still manage the dormitory part but the other agencies will provide the other services.

Susan Singer PEMA ACS (Aux. Communications Service) Officer and the other officers of the ACS program are re-vitalizing the ACS program for Pennsylvania. I believe the SCTF/ARWG will be working more closely with the PEMA ACS in the future. We now know each other much better and are developing a good working relationship.

Attending the PEMA / ACS Conference provided many new ideas (and reinforcement of some already learned) that the Amateur Radio EmComm community should use.

Jack Dellinger KC3JD
SCTF/ARWG Vice-Chairman
YARS AACSO/AEC

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.*

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. **October 11 December 13**

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 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 146.55 MHz.

South Central PA 10 Meter Net **Friday at 8 PM** 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

FOR SALE/WANTED

Rohn 25G tower, 6 sections (60 feet), already taken down. You haul away **\$125.00** Call Tim Stumpo, KC3BWP 717-434-7727

Yaesu FT-8800R, Mobile, Dual band transceiver
(2 meter/70 cm) With remote kit and Mag Mount antenna
\$300.00 Call Millard Martin, NN3Z at 717-764-6594

The HyGain Rotor Saga By Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH

After the donation of the TH7DX antenna by Jim K3JIM we started reviewing our setup for additional equipment requirements. One of the first items was the rotor, could it handle an antenna of this size? Big beams require a hefty rotor to spin them in the right direction. It was decided that our old rotor wouldn't be up to the task for the TH7 or any other comparable antenna.

Our first purchase:

We reviewed the choices. Yaesu rotors at the time still used white metal on the mast clamp and didn't have an inexpensive way to interface them with a computer so we ruled them out.

The other major player is Hy-gain. Many members had Hy-Gain rotors and had no problems with them. We ended up choosing the Hy-Gain Ham IV rotor and analog controller with the idea we would buy the Idiom Press upgrade for RS-232 control in the future.

The purchase was made from DX Engineering in May 2012. Delays with the antenna system and other issues at the club prevented us from opening the shipping box until a few months later. At that point we found that the rotor control box was poorly assembled. The silk screen on the front appeared crooked in the box and the corners did not want to square up. There was also something rattling inside.

We contacted Hy-gain and then we paid for shipping and sent it back. We received the controller back and it was now satisfactory.

The second purchase:

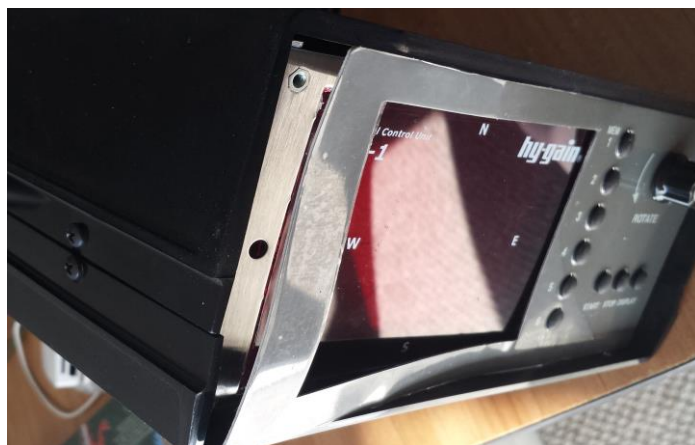
Following the lightning strike last September, we found that our rotor on the 100 foot VHF Contest tower was not working. We again examined the possibilities and found a "deal" on a Hy-Gain Ham V which is the same rotor motor as the Ham IV but with a digital control box which could be computer controlled via RS-232.

We purchase it June 2014, again from DX Engineering. Preparing for the tower work we got the connectors on the new rotor cable and put the motor to test. We were upset to find that the motor wouldn't operate and to top it off, the control box was poorly assembled and had shoddy workmanship. Especially noted was that some of the labels on the Plexiglass faceplate were covered by the hole in the front panel.

A call to Hy-gain and 35 dollars in shipping later and they said they would repair both. This week we received it back only to find that the control box was even worse then before!

Now not only was the control box not square but the cover on the front was peeled back (See Picture). Another call to Tom at Hy-Gain and this time I suggested an overnight label be sent to email and I would ship it back again.

Of course here we are today and I find out they don't email overnight labels they would have to snail mail it. I decided that was unacceptable and I have suggested that they just build us a new one (they don't stock these??) and then when we get the new one in good condition we'll ship the bad one back. They state that will take 2-3 weeks so only time will tell.



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
Additional SignalLink USB has been obtained to enable digital ops
With the Kenwood TS-2000

To be completed

Secure all recently installed shelving units with screws

This will be completed ASAP.

Evaluate what additional flooring we might need

Tim Snook was going to donate & install a tile floor. Since we painted the floor with Epoxy paint, the leveling compound that he was going to use will not adhere to the floor. At this time we are considering Vinyl planking. Tim will have an estimate by the meeting.

For the time being, we will leave the floor "as is" and see how it holds up.

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.

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 within the next 4 weeks.

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

To be completed

Arcom Controller integration with MSF-5000 (already procured)

Kevin Magloughlin, KA0JQO will try and have this operational ASAP..

Remote receiver system to be reinstalled on the MSF-5000

Kevin, KA0JQO is currently working on adding a Quantar receiver (already procured), 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

The Quantar receiver has been added to the rack and a new ground Bus & transmit cavity were installed on the wall behind the repeater.

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 1 of the UPS units so only 4 batteries needed.

UPS units wired into clubhouse electrical system

Unit #1 to provide backup & protection to main clubroom

Unit #2 to provide backup & protection to repeaters

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)

This was completed last week

Antenna Work

Completed

New rotor cable installed on 60 foot tower

The new 2 meter beam & refurbished 70CM beams were installed on the top of our 100 foot tower on Saturday, Sept 27. The new antenna rotor was also installed.

To be completed

Reguying of 60 foot tower

The west guy anchor for the 60 foot tower is almost completed.

The Forms for pouring concrete have been built and are in place. We anticipate pouring concrete within the next week.

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

Please note in the last newsletter that we reported that we would not be using the Cushcraft MA-5B HF beam. Instead we have ordered a Mosley beam that covers all the frequencies that the MA-5B did with the addition of 6 meters ... we will only need to install one antenna.

The Mosley beam has been received by Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH And will be installed upon completion of .reguying 60 foot tower.

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

This has been OBE (see above)

Installation of new antenna rotor on 60 foot tower (already procured)

We unpackaged the brand new Ham IV rotor at last weeks Thursday evening tech session and found that it was not working. We also found that the control box had severe assembly flaws. Both were returned. *We received the rotor back from HyGain last week and found it damaged worse the the first time!! It has been returned again !!!*

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

The feedline has been run and is coiled up in the attic ready for installation.

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 was completed on the day of the Corn Roast

Mount utility box with preamps (already procured)

At this time we have decided not to use the preamps.

Replace antenna rotor damaged by lightning *Done ... see above*

Gregs Site

Completed

Install back up repeater for 146.97

Construction of the DTMF decoder is complete

To be completed

Hold another clean-up work party

Install DTMF decoder to enable remote control of above repeater

Install receiver multicoupler for 146.37 MHz receivers

Reinstall remote receiver using 223 link back to club

Evaluate condition of antennas

Continued on page 6



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
September 4, 2014
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF –
Secretary**

The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Dick WA3USG at 19:25. There were 37 members present, 1 member applicant, and 1 guest (Seth Miller, Calvin's (KB3PRD) brother). Walt, K3DQB, brought guests from his class (Electronic Engineering Tech) to visit the club.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS:

Prior to the meeting, Tim, W3TWB, did a demonstration of the trailer he assembled with a pneumatic mast. He can lift antennas 30 feet into the air.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Jack, KC3JD, moved to accept the August minutes as published, 2nd by Steve, WB3EFA. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Linda, KB3EBV, reported for August: Income: \$829.10; Expenses: \$2,935.94 (big expenses were for the HF antennas, and the tree cutting); NET of -\$2,106.84. Balances: Club CD \$7,629.00; Checking Acct \$3,326.93; Trustee Acct \$921.64; Total \$11,877.57. Steve, WB3EFA moved to accept the report. Jack, K8YUC, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT –

Trees are down. Couple of people with chainsaws are needed to cut them up. Trustees will handle arranging that.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT -

Mike, N3VQH, reported that the HF antenna was ordered from Mosley. It will take 25-30 days to arrive. The HAM IV rotor is not working and has been sent back for repair. Thanks to Steve Cline, KC3CPL, for drilling to expand the hole for the tower guy. He ended up having to drill holes as noted in the newsletter. Tim, KB3WZX, will build the forms for the tower. Larry, N3LED offered the wood for those. Greg, KE3CW, and Rich, KC3CFV, climbed to take down antennas.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS –

Jack, KC3JD, reported on the Red Lion Street Fair. Sean Potts will no longer run the Bob Potts Marathon which we've worked the last few years. Next year, we will take over getting operators to help at the Harrisburg Bike Club's Kings Gap Time Trials (end of August). There are 2 events in September: KTA Hike, September 6th, and Three Creek Century, September 21st. We can use more operators at both events.

VE/ED REPORT -

Steve, WB3EFA, said 1 person is signed up for the Keystone VE exam. Nate, WN3L, advised that they cannot do parallel classes. After discussion, it was decided to run a Technician class. There is no cost for the instructor, but students will need to pay for their materials. Nate will start classes the last week in September.

CONTEST REPORT -

The VHF Contest is the last weekend in September. PA QSO Party is Oct 11-12. Red Lion's Hilltoppers will be doing a base operation for that.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE –

Dick, WA3USG, the newsletter is out. Jeff, KT6A, will be redoing the website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim, KB3WZX, offered the club a signal link.

NEW BUSINESS:

First reading was held for Doug Good, KC3AYT.

Tim, W3TWB, offered his trailer for use at our public service events. The antennas belong to the club and can be used for contests. Tim donated the air compressor, but feed line is needed. Dick will donate two 100-foot runs that came from Charlie Byers's estate. After discussion, Mike, N3VQH, moved to spend up to \$300 for additional feed line. Joe, KB3TCM, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE CLUB - none

50-50: Dan, KB3JSV, won \$25.50.

JOTA ... Continued from Page 1

Also I have been in contact with Julio C. Mendez [jcmendez@ycdes.org] of our York County Emergency Services. They are going to bring up their Mobile Communications truck for Scouts, members and guests to see the communication equipment on the truck in the afternoon. Exact time TBD.

I was thinking if we could have some club newsletters maybe printed or W3HZU membership forms for someone who would like to learn and join the club.

We will also be providing some drinks and lunch food for members/operators assisting us that Saturday. We know a happy operator is one that eats well. Pack 20 would still like to do some simple grilling for dinner and then have our Pack 20 Cub Scout boys sleep in tents up there at the club. We are small- so maybe 5-8 kids might sleep out. I will have those numbers the Wednesday night before the event. Any other questions please let me know for planning or coordinating people & equipment.

I believe this could become a renewed tradition at W3HZU to both promote Scouting and Amateur Radio in our community! I should be at the meeting this month so please see me if interested and let me know time and talent you would like to handle.

If you can give Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT and Brian Klimes, KC3CFW a hand with this it would really be appreciated. The KVHFC has been active with the scouts for many years. You don't have to work all day (or all night), please give Jeff or Brian a call (or e-mail) and volunteer for an hour or two. Jeff's phone number is 840-9895. His e-mail is: jdp1964@comcast.net Brian's phone number is in the club database on our website.



Join us for the BSA- JOTA/JOTI Event
October 18-19, 2014

Info:

<http://www.scouting.org/jota>

<http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

Other Outside Work - clubsite

Completed

- Clean out shed - get rid of unused items
- Install outdoor Internet Access Point (already procured)
- Take strap cabling/wire/junk to the salvage yard

To be completed

- Final organization of shed - catalog equipment (it never ends)
- Make Stackpoole, N3VQH has done an incredible amount of work here!**
- Inspect & clean/maintain all tower guy anchors
- Will be done Thursday, October 9**
- Replace camera on 180 foot tower (already procured)

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: _____