



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA

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CIRCULATION 150

December, 2014

Happenings up at the Clubhouse and Some Possible New Activities

By Dick, WA3USG

As everyone most likely knows, about 2 weeks ago we got our new Mosley beam up in the air. It works **EXTREMELY** well (SWR wise the antenna is below a 1.5 to 1 on all phone bands) and several new countries have already been added to the clubs log book. We now have good antennas for all bands from 80 meters all the way up through 432 MHz. There is still a chance that we will get a full sized 160 meter Dipole/Vee up over the Winter but we are in no hurry about it. Next Spring, we will refurbish the tower and rotors where our satellite antennas are mounted and probably add 220 MHz and 1296 MHz Yagi's.

It's now time for club members to come up and **get active!** On Thursday evenings we hold our traditional "Tech session night." This can be anything from actually working on a project to simply having a bull session.

I know that Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH will be holding his first DX night on Saturday Dec 13th starting around 3pm. This is the date of the ARRL 10 Meter Contest and hopefully the band will be open. Perhaps Mike or other club members will make this a weekly or monthly event. Dan Shortencarrier, N3EEI and Bob Gundlach, N3NBT are also DX Guru's ... perhaps we actually have enough folks to make this a weekly event.

The club has received about 50 computers from the county. These are Pentium class machines with an average age of about 5 to 8 years. Kip Glunt, WB3AFL has gotten a few of these machines back on line running the Linux operating system. Kip ... how about a "Computer night"? Interested club members could come up and get the necessary computer hardware from the shed and assemble a working computer. Kip would help you install Linux (which would be free). You could also install Windows if you wished but you would have to provide that yourself. All of the digital communications software that we use on the air (RTTY, PSK31, SSTV, MT63, etc) works great on either operating system and is of course FREE!

Speaking of Linux We have a major Linux Guru in the club ... Bob Poff, WB3AWJ. How about a Linux night? How about a Linux class?

How about a digital modes night? This could even be held on Tuesday evening along with the normal digital net. All of the digital modes could be demonstrated ... if you are interested, you could then attend the "Computer night" to build yourself up a machine and then perhaps learn a little about Linux. Activating the club site during the digital net would also be desirable.

There are many other subjects that would make a great topic for a dedicated session up at the club. Having events up on the hill 3 or more times a week would be great! Naturally, no one is going to attend all of them but simply knowing that something is going on up there would breathe more life into our organization.

Finally, I hope that this strikes a chord with our new members who are also new Hams. There is so much more to Amateur Radio than just getting on and chatting on 2 meters.

A few Thursday's ago, Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH and Brad Kline, KO3T worked some great DX from the club. Below is a list of a few of the contacts:

1. KH2I - Gaum on 10 meters
 2. KOIP - ARRL Centennial award points station on 15 meters
 3. JE1RXJ - Japan on 15 meters
 4. VU4KV - Andaman and Nicobar Islands DX Expedition on 20 meters.
- I've included a map since if you're like me you have no idea where this is!
73 ... Mike, N3VQH



CQ DX! CQ CX! CQ DX! Announcing the 17 Meter DX Challenge

By Brad Kline, KO3T

- Open to members of the Hilltop Transmitting Association and the Keystone VHF Club, an inter-club competition to work as many DXCC countries and CQ zones in a 1 calendar year time frame as possible.
- All contacts are to be made on 17 meters (18 MHz)
- Any mode is acceptable, phone, CW or digital (RTTY, JT65, PSK, etc.). You can work multiple modes if you choose as well.
- 100w maximum output for all contacts.
- Restricted to single-element antennas, i.e. wire dipole, 1/4 wave vertical, rotatable aluminum dipole, multi-band vertical or wire, wire loop, etc. In other words, NO multi-element antennas!
- All contacts must be made by the individual ham participating in the Challenge, except if you are making contacts for the club call sign at the club station.
- This band was chosen for a number of reasons, among them, general class operators or higher have full privileges, there are no contests on this band, antennas are easily constructed, and the band has good propagation on most every day of the year to some part of the globe.
- Each participant is asked to provide an update of total points (DXCC entities + CQ zones) to their club president each month during the year so that a running total can be distributed to all club members to keep them informed on the current leaders.
- Plaques to be awarded to the top finisher from each club, with the overall winner also receiving a bonus prize to be decided upon at a later date. Certificates will also be given to runner-up finishers in each club.

I would like to schedule a bit of time on Thursday night at the beginning of the meeting to pass out some flyers for this and discuss it a bit. Mike, N3VQH, and myself have been passing this back and forth for a bit refining the idea of a club competition for next year. As a lot of the members like to work HF, as well as VHF, we decided on a single band challenge, using 17m. A great band for contacts on CW, digital, or voice with easy to make antennas. **Thanks and 73, Brad KO3T**

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 4th, at the York County
EOC on Davies Road

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.*

No more for this year!

VE exams will be sponsored by Southern Pennsylvania Communications Group (SPCG). These sessions are 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. **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

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2014

* **December 7 - Jingle Bell Run **** CANCELLED ******

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

AED Training Status

The following club members have expressed interest in attending the AED training:

Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH Tim Stumpo, KC3BWP Nate Kirschman, WN3I
Steve Steffan, WB3EFA Ken Brody, AB3BG

At the meeting on December 4th, we will be deciding on a firm date for this training. We still have slots for several more if you are interested.

Please e-mail wa3usg@verizon.net.

New Amateur Equipment Service Provider

Submitted by Dan Shortencarrier, N3EEI

One of the guys I talk to on 3.938.00 who I met in Berryville does radio and amplifier repairs. He is in Virginia. Can you PLEASE send the below info out to the Keystone Club email list of our 150+/- members so others know he is there and somewhat "local" and MUCH cheaper than the big 3 repair shops (Icom/Kenwood/Yaesu) would be. He worked on a VHF rig for me, and total charge was \$45.00 INCLUDING the \$13.00+/- to ship it back to me. He has a great background with this stuff, in fact he used to work for the owner/builder of the Buckmaster OCF Dipole that Dan (KB3JSV), Tim (W3TWB) and I all have. So if you can pass on his info, it is greatly appreciated.

73, Dan, N3EEI

Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu. I must say that I may not have some of the equipment at this time to take some repairs, so it will have to be discussed. I would hate to take something in and not be able to do the repair. I have to be a little conservative while I'm getting ramped up and purchasing the necessary equipment. I would like to mention that tube amplifiers are what I kind of specialize in. Any of the other repairs I'm equipped to do are great too. Just to mention some of my professional experience has been component level repair on both surface mount and through hole component boards, building a large variety of cable assemblies with various connectors, including RF cables of various sizes and various connectors. I also worked for Buckmaster Antennas assembling baluns, antennas and RF cables.

Some of these things I may not be equipped to do here yet. But as things go long, I intend to add to my tools and equipment. Until I do I will have to be conservative so I do not take something in I can't repair. I will be happy to discuss the repair prior to it being sent to me to hopefully avoid that issue. I will also stand behind my work. I am just a one man show so if I get slammed turnaround time will be discussed just as I did with you. I hope you are happy with your repair.

Thanks Very Much.
Rob K4MAU
540-582-9451

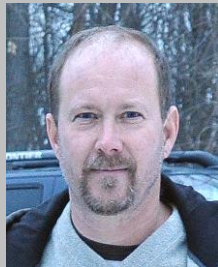
Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Thierry, KB3TPX



Jeff, KB3RCT

All the necessary antenna work has been completed for the year. We have some minor cleanup of the grounds. The shed needs clean up and additional organizing but generally things are looking good.

KEYSTONE 2015 HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Jan 31, 2015

Cocktails (wine/beer/sodas) start at 5 PM

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Where: Fairview Fire Hall, 340 Lewisberry Road, New Cumberland, PA right off of Route 83 at exit 39A, turn right off the exit.

Menu: Turkey, Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies.

Price: \$10.00 per person

To register, e-mail Sandy Goodman at ["slgoodman1@verizon.net"](mailto:slgoodman1@verizon.net), with the number attending, OR sign-up at the December or January Club meeting.

Checks may be made out to "The Keystone VHF Club". You may pay at the Keystone meeting, at the party, or mail a check to:

Sandra Goodman
199 Maple Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA. 17055

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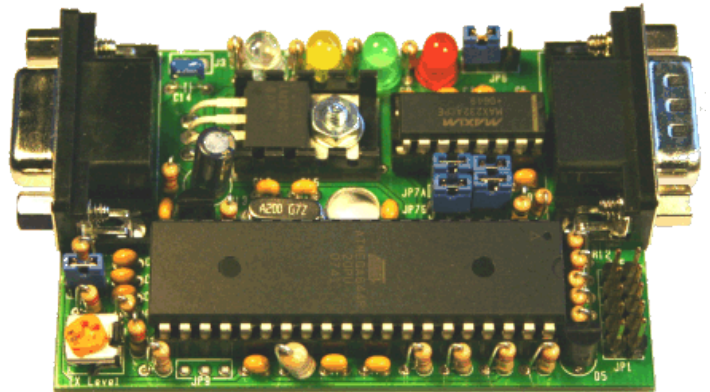
A Few Ideas for Club Projects



Rockmite CW Transceiver Kit. Kits for 80M, 40M, 30M, or 20M. Keyer built in, 1.5 watts. Fits in an Altoids Tin. \$50.00



Fox Delta USB 50 MHz Antenna Analyzer Kit AAZ-0914A \$54.00



Tiny Track 4 APRS TNC Kit \$65.00 with GPS Receiver \$130.00



KK7UQ Digital Interface Model II (Fits in an Altoids Tin)
Full Kit \$50.00 (You supply Altoids Tin or they have a plastic case for an additional \$10.00). You make up your own cables. This uses the soundcard in your computer. It does not have a built in sound card like the Signalink USB.



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
October 2, 2014**
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Dick, WA3USG, at 7 PM. There were 39 members present and 2 guests, Dean Poff from Nate's Technician Class and Ed Tabor, KB3WQI, from Red Lion.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: Dan, KB3JSV, has added blue LEDs to his shack, so his room glows blue. Andy, KB3RFH, mentioned that a solar flare during the HF contest wiped out some bands for about 45 minutes. Nate, WN3I, told us about using an MFJ interference detector to find the source of noise he was getting in Shrewsbury boro. Dick talked about the 50 computers that county has given us. The EMCOMM team will be loading some with Linux and digital communications software. He'll give a demo after the meeting.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the October minutes after correction of Lee's call sign to WB3HNA, 2nd by Joe, KB3TCM. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Linda, KB3EBV, reported for October: Income: \$1,008.05; Expenses: \$382.34, for net increase of \$626.51; Balances: Club CD \$7,630.91; Checking Acct \$4,535.07; Trustee Acct \$570.24; Total \$12,736.22. Lee, WB3HNA, moved to accept the report; 2nd by Rich, KR3EE. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Everything is fine. We'll do a clean-up with the antenna work. Look for an email for one of the next 2-3 weekends for the antenna schedule.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - An antenna work party built 3 antennas for contesting and events. We got more concrete than was needed so the guys created a section of sidewalk, plugged holes, etc. The guy anchor work is complete. They have started to build the Mosley antenna.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – RACES is quiet this time of year. There will NOT be a Jingle Bell Run in York this year. Stan, AB3EM, is still looking for volunteers to help with the Glen Rock Christmas Eve Caroling.

VE/ED REPORT - Saturday, Nov 8, will be the last VE test for this year. Nate's class is still in session.

CONTEST REPORT - PA QSO was a challenge between 2 teams. The Cumberland County Team (Mike, Mike, Brad) doubled the score of the Sullivan County Team (Dick, Dan, Tim). But the Sullivan Team ate better. DX was wide open during the CQ Worldwide Contest which Brad, Craig, and Mike worked. A challenge was made between the Keystone and Hilltopper clubs for the 10 Meter Contest in December.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick got the newsletter out. Jeff, KT6A, demoed the new website that he is developing. It will contain a blog format, where articles of interest can be submitted. Jeff talked about the features that will eventually be available.

OLD BUSINESS: The Nomination Committee presented the slate of officers for next month's election: President, Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH, First Vice President, Joe Imgrund, KB3TCM, Second Vice President, Jack Dellinger, KC3JD, Treasurer, Dan Melato, KB3JSV, Assistant Treasurer, Linda Warner, KB3EBV

Secretary, Sandy Goodman, N3ECF, Assistant Secretary, Kathy Dellinger, KA3THC, and Trustee, Dick Goodman, WA3USG. The floor was opened for additional nominations, but none were presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was held about coax and rope that is needed for the antennas. Mike, N3VQH, moved to buy 250 feet of coax, and 3/16 inch dacron rope, estimated for about \$200. Steve, WB3EFA, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

First reading was done of Brian Alpaugh, KC3DHW. Brian is a Scout Leader in Dover.

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

JOTA got a good write-up in the newspaper. It was the best ever event. 50% more scouts attended than last year. Jeff, KB3RCT, and Brian, KC3CFW, will need more help next year to improve the operation. The Holiday Party will be January 31st at the Fairview Township Fire Hall (same as the last 2 years). Cocktails will be at 5 PM, with dinner at 6 PM.

The Red Cross will be honoring heroes on November 20, including Justin Hoyer, N2JEH, for his CPR save of Tim Barefoot, W3TB.

Jack, KC3JD, encouraged us to checkout the York Township Emergency Management on Facebook and LIKE it please.

50-50: Jeff, KB3RCT, won \$22.50, which he donated back to the club. Thank you Jeff.

Adjourned at 8:09 PM.

After the meeting Dick, WA3USG, demonstrated the county computers loaded with Linux, and digital voice operations on 146.79 MHz.

Broadband HamNet

Broadband-Hamnet™ (formerly called HSMM-Mesh™) is a high speed, self discovering, self configuring, fault tolerant, wireless computer network that can run for days from a fully charged car battery, or indefinitely with the addition of a modest solar array or other supplemental power source. The focus is on emergency communications.

In its current form it is built using the Linksys WRT54G/GL/GS wireless routers and operates on channels 1-6 of the 2.4GHz ISM band, which overlaps with the upper portion of the 13cm amateur radio band. Other platforms and bands are in development at this time. Next will be Ubiquiti equipment with others supported as development resources permit.

OLSR is used for auto linking of the mesh node radios.

OpenWRT firmware tools are used for firmware development.

Broadband-Hamnet™ is currently being designed, developed and deployed as an amateur radio broadband communications system. It originated in Austin, Texas but has spread all across the USA and many other countries around the world.

Glenn KD5MFW, David AD500, Bob WB5AOH and Rick NG5V are the gents spearheading the efforts, while yours truly, Jim K5KTF keeps the website up and running to provide information about the project. Conrad KG6JEI and Andre K6AH of the San Diego Working Group lead the Ubiquiti firmware development. There is a distributed development community with users in a number of areas of the USA and other continents.

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: _____