



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

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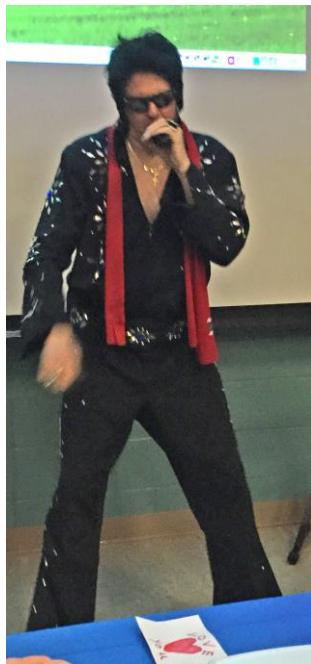
The 2015 Keystone VHF Club Holiday Party

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

A great time was had at the annual Keystone VHF Club's Holiday party on Saturday, January, 31st. It was again held at the Fairview Firehall. Thanks go out to member Chris Shover, KB3TWW for getting us this facility.

As well as great socializing and good food, we had something a little special this year. Someone spotted Elvis Presley at a nearby McDonalds and convinced him to provide entertainment for our motley group! After dinner, Elvis belted out some tunes for about 30 minutes, after which, we drew for the 50/50 raffle & door prizes which consisted of 15 very nice little analog multimeters donated by Cumberland Electronics. Our grand prize, was a hand crafted Cuckoo clock **donated by none other than our own clock repairing member, Thierry Mathieu, KB3TPX.** All proceeds from this went back to the club.

After this, Elvis came back on stage for another 30 minutes and woo'd all the ladies in attendance!



We had about 52 attendees this year. The food was provided by "Three Hogs Catering" located in Hanover. The club provided Wine, Beer, and soft drinks
Continued on Page 4

The January 2015 ARRL VHF/UHF Sweepstakes

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

Saturday, January 24th, was the date of the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. In this contest, the object is to make as many contacts on VHF and above as possible. This year we were to operate on 6 meters, 2 meters, and 70 CM. On the day before, we had a "Wintery Mix" of ice, snow, and freezing rain and found both the 2 meter & 70 CM contest antennas displayed an SWR of over a 4 to 1! The 6 meter antenna, at a much lower height was okay.



Operations on 6 meters started at 2 PM ... *Continued on Page 2*

How is the 17 Meter DX Challenge coming along?

- Open to members of the Hilltop Transmitting Association and the Keystone VHF Club to work as many DXCC countries and CQ zones in the calendar year 2015.
- Any mode is acceptable, phone, multiple modes if you choose as well.
- 100w maximum output for all contacts.
- Restricted to single-element antennas, 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.
- Each participant is asked to provide an update of total points (DXCC entities + CQ zones) to their club president each month.
- 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 have a funny feeling that the Keystone VHF Club is not doing too well! That is except for Tim, W3TWB ... I believe that he has over 739 contacts & 40 countries on 17 meters since the beginning of the year! Are we going to be a contender in this event? Who else has made 17 meter contacts? I've made 2! De WA3USG

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 5th, at the York County EOC on Davies Road

Schedule of Keystone VHF Club Sponsored VE Testing for 2015

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.*

March 14 May 9 July 11 Sept 12 Nov 14

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 Nate, WN3I at wn3i@comcast.net.*

Feb 14 April 11 June 13 August 8 Oct 10 Dec 12

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.

A 6 meter activity night will be held on **Wednesdays starting at 7:30 PM** (meet on 6 meter repeater) and then move to 50.135 MHz USB at 7:45 PM.

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.

Linux for all interested members

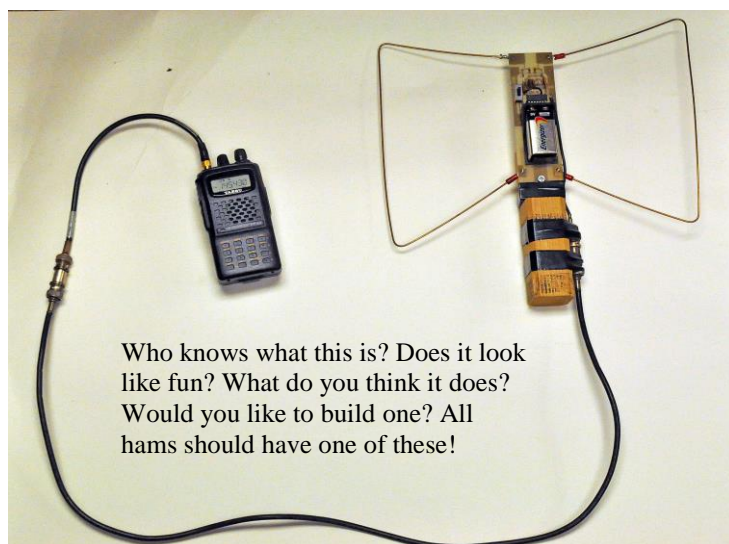
Want to learn something about the Linux operating system? Right now we have two members, Lee Lindsay, WB3HNA and Kip Glunt, WB3AFL who are actively running digital modes using this OS. Kip is actually compiling his versions of the communications programs and making the executable available to anyone interested. Are you interested in becoming knowledgeable in this operating system?

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2015

- * **April 12 - Buckridge Burn Hike Pine Grove Furnace S.P.**
POC: Dick Goodman, WA3USG wa3usg@verizon.net
- * **April 14 - TMI Drill**
POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF slgoodman1@verizon.net
- * **April 26 - The Ironmasters Hike series at Pine Grove Furnace S.P.**
POC: Dick Goodman, WA3USG wa3usg@verizon.net
- * **April 26 - March of Dimes March for Babies**
POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jkdelli@aol.com
- * **May 3 - York MS Walk**
POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF slgoodman1@verizon.net
- * **May 17 - The York Marathon**
POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jkdelli@aol.com
- * **June 27 & 28 - PA Hope Ride for Cancer**
POC: Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA mpgutekunst@comcast.net
- * **July 25 & 26 - MS Bike Tour Gettysburg**
POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF slgoodman1@verizon.net
- * **September 12 - KTA Superhike**
POC: Ken Wiggins, N2DYK n2dyk1940@yahoo.com
- * **September 20 - Three Creek Century Bike Tour**
POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF slgoodman1@verizon.net
- * **October 18 - Hershey Half marathon**
POC: Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA mpgutekunst@comcast.net
- * **October TBD - Michaux Team Challenge**
POC: Dan Mcglothlin, KB3MUN kb3mun@mcglothlin.us
- * **TBD - Jingle Bell Run**
POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jkdelli@aol.com
- * **December 24 - Glen Rock Carolers**
POC: Stan Walters, AB3EM abacuspc@comcast.net

The Bob Potts Marathon was organized by Sean Potts and Robin Potts Myers in memory of their father. For six years it raised money for the Bob Potts Scholarship fund which funds two \$1,000 scholarships for York County cross country runners each year. The race has been a great success. This event has is now called the York Marathon and will take place on May 17th.

This year we are also considering holding an "Amateur Radio Adventure Day" for the Cub/Boy Scouts. This would most likely be held at a State Park or private facility. The scouts would take part in various Amateur Radio activities and be able to get their Radio Merit Badge. More details to come.



Who knows what this is? Does it look like fun? What do you think it does? Would you like to build one? All hams should have one of these!

ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. Continued from page 1

and it wasn't until 4 PM that the ice on our other antennas melted enough so they could be used. The contest was sparsely populated! Other stations antennas were also iced up and some of the folks who were normally rovers couldn't get out because of weather conditions. Listening on all three bands, it was obvious that there was a lot of stations who simply did not take part.

We still had fun ... Steve Cruise, K3WHC brought in a big pot of Moose stew (exactly as it sounds) ... Tim, W3TWB made a big pot of Venison Chile, and I made a big pot of sloppy Joe's. At one point we had over a dozen folks at the club all sitting around rag chewing and chowing down on the great eats!

We ended up making over 173 contacts and had a score of a little over 7,100 points. Thanks to everyone who took part & came to visit us!!

Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Dick, WA3USG



Jeff, KB3RCT

The inside of the club house has never looked better. We have three fully functional operating positions. We put down carpeting from the wall behind the operating positions out about 6 feet. This will allow the chairs to roll without damaging the concrete floor. It has also improved the acoustics in the main room by a noticeable amount.

We are still considering what to do about the balance of the floor which is painted concrete. This was poured back in 1960 and is damaged by rolling chairs over it and by just normal traffic. At this time we are planning a laminate floor but want to hold off until our treasury recovers. Any thoughts & opinions from members would be welcome.



Stan Hoffman, K3FOB A Silent Key

On January 25th, Stan Hoffman K3FOB became a silent key. He joined the Keystone VHF club in 1967 but has not been active with us for many years. Stan was one of the founders of the York QCWA Chapter and also a life member of that organization.

He was a member of the Old Timers Club, York Amateur Radio Club, Hawk Gunning Club, and again, a life member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. His Masonic affiliations included York Lodge #266 Free and Accepted Masons since 1975, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and the Harrisburg Consistory. He was an amateur ham radio operator since 1963 (K3FOB) and an advocate for local and national environmental causes.

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Slow Scan Television (SSTV) from the International Space Station

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

Hurling through deep space at 17,500 miles per hour, Tom Swift peered through the thick quartz viewport of Space Platform 1. In the depths below, the Earth endlessly rotated new continents into view. Ned Newton, Tom's sidekick in crime, was loading a photographic plate into Mr. Swift's latest invention, the Electric camera. Soon the mighty colossus of the space platform would be orbiting high above York Pennsylvania and the plate would be exposed. An image of the city would be cast on the chemical emulsion embedded on the plate and this in turn would be transmitted hundreds of miles to waiting Radio Amateurs ... imagine sending a photograph at the speed of light with no wires!

Tom glanced over at Ned. Would this really work? Ned withdrew the exposed plate from the camera and inserted it into the Electro-optical developer. The whirring of motors, the clacking of electric relays, and the soft glow of vacuum tubes bathed both boys in their ethereal light as the image on the photo plate was converted into electrical impulses. Soon these impulses were streaming down to earth. These same impulses were received by the latest heterodyne receivers and painted a replica of this image to the face of hundreds of Amateur oscillographs.

Wow Exclaimed Tom, this new analog technology is really incredible! Yeah ... I'll say quipped Ned!

I used to read this stuff when I was a kid. Who remembers all of those great Tom Swift novels? Many of these were written at the very beginning of the 20th century. This was before radio emissions were able to be voice modulated by any method. Some of these were even authored before the first radio transmission crossed the Atlantic. **Even back in the 1950's if you told me that I would be receiving television signals directly from an orbiting space station, I would think that you were nuts!**



The above images were received directly from the International Space Station (ISS) on a frequency of 144.800 MHz. They were transmitted on regular 5 KHz deviation narrowband FM (the same as your HT or mobile rig). The date and time of the particular ISS pass is identified below each picture. It took exactly 3 minutes to receive each picture and you could watch the image slowly form as the data scrolled down the computer screen. The signal could be received on an HT with a rubber ducky antenna but a more substantial antenna worked better (mobile antenna or omni directional base antenna). Vertical antenna polarization seemed to work noticeably better than horizontal. The SSTV software is "MMSSTV" available free at the following URL: <http://hamsoft.ca/pages/mmsstv.php> To see when the ISS is passing over your location check out the URL below: <http://iss.astroviewer.net/observation.php>

Please realize that the ISS does not continuously transmit Slow Scan Television (SSTV) signals but you can physically see the ISS on many of its passes. With binoculars you can almost make out some structure. With a telescope at 150X you can see the solar panels. The ARRL website is your best bet to see when they are active on SSTV. For any questions, drop me an e-mail ... 73, Dick, WA3USG

Holiday party ... continued from Page 1
 Club members brought in Appetizers and desserts.



What did everyone think of 3 Hogs BBG catering? I thought that their menu of Pulled Turkey, Pit Ham, AuGratin Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole and Garden Salad was excellent and the price was right! Really loved the Green Beans!!!



Sandy, N3ECF manned the prize table and sold tickets for our 50/50 raffle and the main prize, a Cuckoo clock (seen on right) donated to the club by Thierry, KB3TPX. The door prizes were analog multi meters donated by Tim, W3TWB and Cumberland Electronics. These were really nice little meters and in many respects, I prefer them over digital meters. Between the 50/50 and Cuckoo clock raffles, the club netted over \$187.00. Thanks guys!

I would like our members to know that this was the third time our Elvis impersonator has performed in public. His name is Greg Peters and we would like to thank him for providing a lot of genuine fun at our party. His XYL and entire entourage were thoroughly enjoyed by all of us ... you guys were great! Thanks Again!



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
January 8, 2015**
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

The General Club Meeting held at York County Emergency Management Center was called to order by Pres. Mike, N3VQH, at 19:02. There were 31 members present, 1 guest, and 2 prospective members.

PRESENTATION: Due to failure of their equipment at an earlier demo, Skip Lehmann and Lynn Seachrist from CPR-NOW gave a special training session for CPR and AED Essentials for Lay Responders.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Larry, N3LED, moved to accept the December minutes as published. Lorrie, KB3ZLO, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for December 2014: Income: \$237.21; Expenses: \$ 4,315.71; Net Loss was \$4,078.50 The major expenses were: Computers \$2,333.46; Liberty Insurance \$1,128; Corn Roast expense of \$528.16. The Rent income for the month had not yet arrived. The Corn Roast expense was disputed because that was back in August. Sandy and Dick noted that it was for something else, but the Category hadn't been updated in the Quicken ledger, and neither could remember what it was for. [Note: A subsequent email from Dick, WA3USG, advised that the \$528.16 expense was for the Tower - \$326.48 for cement/sand; \$13.75 for trowel; \$54.43 for guy fittings, \$133.50 for connectors.]

Balances: Club CD \$7,632.82; Checking Acct \$1,495.74; Trustee Acct \$570.24; Total \$9,698.80. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the report pending clarification of the "Corn Roast" expense; seconded by Linda, KB3EBV. Tim, W3TWB, and Rich, KR3EE, opposed the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Tim, W3TWB, reported a lot of work has been done at the club. Computers are up and running. Carpet was installed under the operating stations.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Radios are working. Dick, WA3USG, Chris, KB3TWW, Kevin, KA0JQO, and Tim, W3TWB have been working on the repeater and the controller.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF, reported that the TMI Drill will be April 14. There may be a Red Cross drill with the ARWG on April 15. YARS will meet Jan. 21 and ARWG will meet on Jan. 26th (using Go-To-Meeting). For Public Service, Dick had a wrong date in the newsletter for the MS Bike Tour. It changed to August 22-23 and will start and finish at Liberty Mountain Resort, Fairfield. April will be a busy month. Franklin County has Buckridge Burn Hike on April 12th. We support 2 events on April 26th: York March of Dimes Walk at Rudy Park, or Iron Masters Challenge in Pine Grove. May 3 will be the MS Walk in Rudy Park. The York Marathon is replacing the Bob Potts Marathon. The tentative date is May 17. Sandy and Jack, KC3JD, will be meeting with the YMCA director for the marathon

VE/ED REPORT - Ralph, K3HQL, reported that he has 2 scheduled for the Jan. 10th exam. All 5 remaining students from Nate's Technician class passed the exam.

CONTEST REPORT - We need operators for the VHF contest on Jan. 24th. The group is planning to bring food. Mike, N3VQH, and Craig, WA1HW, will work NAQP on CW this weekend. The following weekend is the sideband contest.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG, got the newsletter out early. He has the members database up to date. For the website, he needs to update the VE Exams and the Events page.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Holiday Party is on for Jan. 31st. That will be Jack's birthday. The party is being catered this year by 3 Hog's BBQ.

A second reading was done for Ed Tabor, KD3WQI. Ed was then voted into membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

First readings were done for Dean Poff, KC3EAW, who was sponsored by Nate, WN3I, and was one of the Technician class students. Bob, N3ACP, and Patti, KC3CDL, Single also had a first reading. The Singles are currently members of SMRA and will be moving to Dillsburg, which brings them into York County. They both check-in on our Monday NET.

An Audit Committee is needed to review the Treasurer's books. Tim volunteered Sandi Barefoot, N3NCF. Also Dick, WA3USG, and Sandy, N3ECF, will be on the committee.

Tim, W3TWB, talked about getting new Heil Headsets with microphones. He got one for Christmas and thinks they would be excellent for contesting at the club. The cost is \$275 for the headset and adapter. Tim made a motion to purchase 2 sets. Craig, WA1HW, and Steve, WB3EFA, seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dan, KB3JSV, will put in the order.

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

Ray, W3AXC, talked about Silent Key Paul Stump, W3AQN.

Ralph, K3HQL, thanked the club for the use of the Dover repeater that was used in November by MIDSAR for a search. They ran 3 radio systems to cover all their groups.

The 17 meter DX Challenge was discussed. Brad, KO3T, is in charge. It will be ongoing throughout the year.

50-50 - Steve, WB3EFA, won \$16.50.

Adjourned at 20:25.



William R. James
Municipal Planner/Trainer
York County Department of Emergency Services
Office of Emergency Management
120 Davies Drive
York, PA 17402

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: _____