

The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA

VOL 60 No 3 CIRCULATION 150 March, 2015

Jim Strauss, K3JFL - A Silent Key -

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

Jim Strauss, K3JFL became a Silent Key on February 9, 2015. He is survived by his XYL. Jean, K3OAU. Jim joined the Keystone VHF Club in September of 1959. Jim & Jean also owned and operated an Amateur Radio Distributor known as JRS.

From 1925 through 1995, York had this facility to support the Amateur Radio community. In its earlier years (when radio was king), it also provided radio and general electronic component supplies to a variety of people in the York area. Jim carried all of the major Amateur Radio brands, home brewing components, and reference materials. Many of us remember browsing around Jim & Jeans wonderful old shop.

J.R.S. Distributors had a rich history that spanned over 70 years.



This picture of Jim and Jean was taken about 15 years ago. Club member, Bob Riese, K3DJC has an extensive library of pictures that details the history of JRS Distributors and both Jim and Jean. All of these images may be found in the historical pictures section of our website.

As well as being active in Amateur Radio, Jim opened up a shop during World War II and produced equipment for the war effort. After the war, he was instrumental in introducing a brand new technology to area residents Television! He constructed a special trailer with a tower & TV antenna mounted on it and would drive to prospective clients to ensure that they could receive the TV signal. Jim also did a lot of other really cool stuff!

Jim & Jean are probably the most historical noteworthy members who have ever been part of our club. <u>Please check out their rich history in the photo section of our web site</u>. I would also like to personally thank Bob Riese, K3DJC for preserving all of these images.

The 17 Meter DX Challenge Status!

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. Complete rules are in the December 2014 newsletter.

Well things are progressing! We have Dan Melato, KB3JSV, Craig Dowling, WA1HEW, and Brad Kline, KO3T from the Hilltoppers Transmitting Society. We have Tim Barefoot, W3TWB, Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT, Tim Snook, KB3WZX, and Dick Goodman, WA3USG from the Keystone VHF Club. If you would like to take part in this, you are certainly welcome to join us. The complete rules are on the first page of the February newsletter. 17 meters is a great band! There is still time!!

Status of Club House projects Technical Report

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

Work continues up at the club. All of the antennas are working well. We were recently awarded the ARRL DXCC for having 100 DX contacts confirmed on HF. The new Mosley beam is working like gangbusters and several evenings a week there are folks up there working DX

On the VHF side (remember ... we are a VHF club) Steve Cruse, K3WHC has been coming up and giving us instructions on working Meteor Scatter on 6 meters. Steve, a member for about 30 years, has gotten active again and is building both a 70 CM and 23 CM moonbounce station.

This Spring, we will be installing a vertical 2 meter and 70 cm beam on the small tower where the satellite antennas are currently located. This will allow us to operate FM simplex and through distant repeaters on both of these bands. We will also be installing a full length 160 meter Inverted Vee. We hope to have the apex up close to 100 feet. All of our other wire antennas are working well and this would give us a powerful voice on 160! The nice thing about this is that we already have all of these antennas ready to go ... we just have to wait for some of the snow to melt.

As for the repeater room, last week we had a major clean up operation. The work bench was reorganized with new baskets hung to neatly store away tools. A new video server was mounted on the wall. There are currently four cameras in operation. Two in the main clubroom, one in the repeater room, and one outside aimed at the parking lot. Any motion from these cameras is recorded on to a thumb drive that's plugged into the video server. Our internet bandwidth is such that only a couple of people can be logged on to the server at one time. This will limit direct camera access to club officers and the trustees. Other club members who live within 15 miles of the club will be able to view the cameras on any TV set tuned to cable channel 60 with the TV connected to an outdoor antenna rather than the cable system. Depending on the quality of the TV antenna, much further range may be obtained. For example, I live in Mechanicsburg, a distance of over 25 miles LOS and I can see video from the club snow free.

We want this to work out as we would like club members to keep an eye on the club house but we simply do not have the bandwidth to do it with our Internet connection. Any TV set will work for this. The antenna can be built for about \$20 worth of parts, if you are interested, we can help.

Finally, recovering from our lightning strike from over a year ago was an arduous process but we are there! Within the next two weeks, all of our repeaters will be powered through a 3000 watt uninterruptable power supply. This will suppress any catastrophic power transients that did so much damage to us last year. They also have the capacity to power our repeaters for as long as it takes until our back up generator comes on line. We actually have two of these units and in the near term, only plan to use one of them.

What a great place to learn how to operate all of the digital modes! We have two digital operating positions. Stop up and work some DX, learn how to operate JT-65, JT-9, PSK-31, RTTY, and SSTV. There is much more to ham radio then just talking into a microphone! It took us a long time to get where we're at now ... but we are there!

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 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 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.

April 11 June 13 August 8 Oct 10 Dec 12

Local area nets:

Capitol Area Traffic Net starts <u>Monday at 8 PM</u> 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 <u>Tuesday at 8 PM</u> 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 $\underline{\text{Tuesday}}$ at $\underline{9}$ $\underline{\text{PM}}$ 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 <u>Wednesday 9 PM</u> 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.

The ARWG will be performing a communications exercise on Saturday, March 21, 2015. The purpose of the exercise is to test communications between the county EOC's and also with PEMA. The test will involve check-ins on PEMA-1P as well as each county's primary and secondary repeaters. Simplex capabilities will also be tested. The initial check-in will start at 9am on PEMA-1P. The communications exercise should be over no later than 12pm.

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 Wiggens, 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 Mcglothin, KB3MUN kb3mun@mcglothin.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 Scholorship 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 <u>considering</u> 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.



ANNOUNCING THE 2015 YORK HAMFEST

Sponsored by the York Hamfest Foundation The Areas Oldest Continuous Hamfest, our 60th Year

R g l

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2015 8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

New Location ELICKER'S GROVE PARK

511 Roth Church Rd Spring Grove, PA 17362 Easy access from York, PA or Hanover, PA PLENTY OF FREE PARKING!

http://www.yorkhamfest.org/

THIS YEARS HAMFEST IS TAILGATING ONLY

- TAILGATING SET UP AT 6 AM SATURDAY MORNING. \$5 per 10' space, plus admission
- GENERAL ADMISSION AT 8 AM.: \$5 per person
- Children Under 16 FREE when accompanied by an adult
- Unlicensed Spouses FREE
- RAIN OR SHINE
- COMMERCIAL VENDORS ARE EXPECTED TO COLLECT & REMIT PA SALES TAX
- FREE VE TEST Registration starts at 10:30 AM Testing at 11:00 AM (Admission fees paid can be refunded upon registration for testing, full ticket and stub are required)
- FOOD VENDORS WILL BE AVAILABLE
- DOOR PRIZES
- CARD CHECKING FOR DXCC/WAS/VUCC/WAC

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. Get ready for the Spring clean up Work Party. We had origionally scheduled it for April 11th ... but that's the day of the York hamfest. Watch your e-mail for a new date.

We are looking for a Bencher CW paddle to be part of the club station. We do not need a keyer, just a set of paddles. If you have one you would like to donate or sell at a good price please let us know.



Timothy Barefoot 3040 Muirfield RD. Dover Pa. 17315 W3TWB

E-Mail:

Barefoot.tim@gmail.com

717 887-7012

The Baofeng HTs can do extraordinary things other than communicate!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGIN5zrLR5s

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Keystone VHF Club Financial Statement for 2014

BEGINNING BALANCE

Checking \$5,789.93, + Trustee account \$256.54 = \$6,046.46

CD \$7,619.47 **Total: 13,665.93**

RECEIPTS -----

Tower tenant Rent:	\$7,571.03
Bank Interest (checking)	\$ 4.32
Dues	\$2,423.00
Donations	\$2,074.00
Raffle (50/50)	\$294.00
Holiday Party	\$560.00
Holiday Raffle	\$191.00
Corn Roast/Chicken BBQ	\$302.00
Shirt Sales	\$1,268.00
Insurance Claim	\$589.95
Sale of TH-7 beam	\$400.00
6 meter antenna Refund	\$499.95

EXPENSES -----

Utilities

Total receipts

Electric \$3154.42 propane \$559.15 portable toilet \$487.60

\$16,177.25

Insurance

property (both 2014 & 2015) \$2102.00 equipment \$260.00

Equipment (radios, computers, towers, etc)

Toshiba TV (50" wall mounted) \$667.80 Yaesu FT-897 \$969.95 Computer monitors \$515.13 Mosley Trap Master Beam \$1,163.91 Computers \$2,333.46 Tower re-guy expenses \$528.16 Rotor & control (analog) \$799.95 Rotor Digital control \$990.04 Property & club Maintenance \$1,271.55

Club Functions

(trees cut for \$1000)

Holiday Party \$282.80
Corn Roast/Chicken BBQ \$558.15
Spaghetti Dinner \$277.77
Shirt Sales \$1,262.50
Administrative \$233.39

(postage, post office box, website)

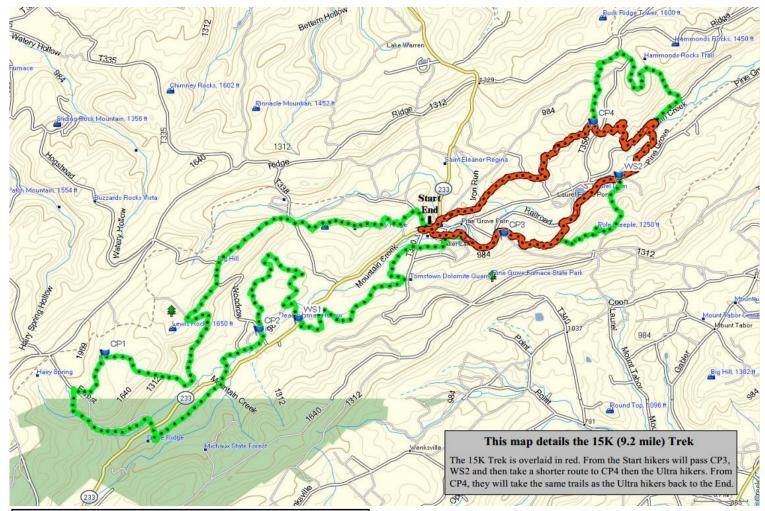
Memorial Donations

Fire Co, John Shaffer) \$175.00
AED Defibrillator \$1,565.00
Total expenses \$20,157.73
Loss \$3,980.48

ENDING BALANCE

Checking \$1,495.74, + Trustee \$570.24 = \$2,065.98 CD earned \$13.35 interest \$7,632.82

Total: 9,698.80



The SATC Ironmasters Challenge Hike Series April 26, 2015 (7:00 AM to 7:00 PM)

Would you like some excitement? How about setting up a station and operating in the field? This event takes place around the Pine Grove Furnace State Park. It consists of two hikes, a 30 miler (highlighted in green) and a 9 miler (outlined in red). Both hikes take place on the same day. Between the two hikes there will probably be in excess of 400 hikers.

Our responsibility is to man the Starting/ending location, four (4) check points, and a first aid station. Each hiker wears a BIB number, as the hiker passes through the check point, we log him in & out and report the status of the hikers back to the Net Control Station on a periodic basis. The purpose of this is to keep track of any hikers that may have become lost or missing (which happens virtually every year).

These are both difficult hikes that take the participants into remote areas several miles from any access roads. While the trails are well marked, we have instances where the hikers have turned at the wrong place and have gotten lost. We also have folks who underestimate the level of effort needed to complete a hikes like this. They get themselves into trouble and need to be located and transported back to the finish line. This is NOT a stroll through the woods!

We like to have <u>at least 2 communicators</u> at each check point. This entire event is run on <u>2 meter simplex</u>. Each site needs a rig running about 30 watts or more to a good antenna. In some cases, a mobile antenna on your vehicle will work. In other locations, an omni vertical mounted about 15 to 20 feet in the air is necessary. There is little or no cell phone service anywhere in this area and <u>we are the primary communicators</u>.

One of the communicators at the check point should have an HT. In some circumstances, you may be asked to hike a mile or two from your check point to ascertain the status of a hiker. In past years, we have also provided "Sweep Hikers" to follow behind the last hiker so we

know where the tail end of the hike is. A lot of hikers who are going to have problems usually end up there.

This event is generally pretty exciting. We are not backup communicators here ... we are THE COMMICATORS. We need at least 8 people for the check points, 3 people for the Net Control station at the Start/end site at the Ironmasters mansion, someone to man the First Aid stop (usually Ralph, K3HQI) and at least 3 people who can hike about 10 to 15 miles to be the Sweep hikers. In the past Joe Imgrund, KB3TCM, Dan Melato, KB3JSV, and Dick Goodman, WA3USG have taken this on. We need 2 sweeps on the 30 miler and 1 on the 9 miler.

Amateur radio is a very major part of this hike. If you would like to volunteer please drop me an e-mail or a call. I can guarantee that you will enjoy yourself and be quite busy at this event. Operating in the field is a blast! It's what Ham radio is all about.

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

The 2015 QCWA QSO Party

By Ray Shaub, W3AXC

The 2015 QCWA QSO Party is coming up on March 14-15, starting at 1800 UTC on Saturday March 14 (2:00 PM EDT or 11:00 AM PDT) and ending 24 hours later. This is a couple of weeks earlier than in previous recent years.

This weekend has the advantage that there are relatively fewer contests scheduled compared to many of the other potential choices of dates. The QSO Party is in the format of a contest, but it is intended to be a friendly operating event where members can touch base with one another and/or have fun contacting members and non-members alike and spreading the word about QCWA.

QSOs may be made on any band from 160 meters to 2 meters, not including WARC bands or 60 meters, and in either phone, CW or digital modes.



Keystone VHF Club General Meeting Minutes of February 5, 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 19:00. There were 36 members present and 3 prospective members. New guests submitting applications were Tony McMonagle, KC3EED, and Evan Rosser, KC3EEK.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: Tim, W3TWB, had thought he worked the space station on slowscan TV. However, it was Dick who had copied them first, then retransmitted the picture.

The club has worked K1N, the Navassa Island DXpedition.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Rich, KR3EE, moved to accept the January minutes as published, 2nd by Dick, WA3USG. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for January: Income: \$1,103.49; Expenses: \$2,020.78; net -\$917.29. The big payments were for the Holiday Party Caterer \$763.20, Heil ProSets \$600, Electric \$279.28. Final income from the party and a rent payment were just received today and will be deposited.

Balances: Club CD \$7,633.80; Checking Acct \$578.45; Trustee Acct \$570.24; Total \$8,782.49.

Joe, KB3TCM, moved to accept the report. Nate, WN3I, seconded it. Motion carried.

Cash donations to the club were made for \$280. Tim, W3TWB, donated analog multimeters from Cumberland Electronics for party door prizes. Thierry, KB3TPX, donated a cuckoo-clock for a party raffle which took in \$107. Thank you to all of our donors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – We need to cut and split the wood from the downed trees. Please bring chain saws to the spring work party. Everything else is good.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - We will need a climb to adjust antennas. During the contest, we shook the tower to remove ice. One antenna got turned out of alignment.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF – Operators will be needed for the TMI Drill on April 14th.

VE/ED REPORT - Nate, WN3I, advised that SPCG will test on Feb 14th, register at 9:30 am, test at 10 am. Keystone's testing will be March 14th. Nate will be starting a General License Class on Thursday April 9th, with a target date of June 27th. The exam date is TBD. It must be done before June 30th when the General question pool changes. Nate will be using W5YI instruction materials.

CONTEST REPORT - 10 to 12 operators worked the VHF contest. There was bad weather until a thaw around 3 PM. It wasn't well attended, but we still made 177 contacts. Dick and Tim spent the night. Everyone ate well at least from moose stew, chili, and barbeque. The new headsets were nice to use. Let Mike know if you're interested in working the CQWW or the ARRL International DX. The June VHF contest is June 13-15. You're invited to join Red Lion for the ARRL DX sideband on March 6-8. Tim, Dick, Craig, Dan, and Jeff have been making contacts for the 17 Meter DX Challenge.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG, said the newsletter is OUT. Jeff Salzman, KT6A, is working on the new website. It's taking a while because he is attending college classes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second readings were held for Dean Poff, KC3EAW, Bob Single, N3ACP, and Patti Single, KC3CDL. All were then voted into membership. Sandy, N3ECF, reported on the Holiday Party. We had 42 members who attended.

This year we decided to use a caterer, which was fortunate since 5 of the party organizers were unavailable to cook. Thanks to Chris, KB3TWW, for getting the Fairview Fire Hall again. We were expecting more attendees, so we had ordered 60 dinners, at the cost of \$763.20. Supplies cost \$209, and we paid an entertainer \$75. We took in \$470 payment for dinners, \$80 on 50/50 raffle and \$107 on the clock raffle. Over-all this cost us \$390. Last year, with the raffle we did, we had a profit of \$368. So across the 2 years, it only cost the club about \$22. For next year, we will need to raise the price of attendance, and maybe look for a new location closer to York.

Audit Committee will meet on Sunday February 8, pending weather conditions.

NEW BUSINESS:

First readings were done for Tony McMonagle, KC3EED, and Evan Rosser, KC3EEK, who is a high school student.

The Executive Board will meet Monday, February 9th, if the weather holds good.

Jeff, KB3RCT, requested an increase in the monthly purchase limit for the Trustee's account. Craig, WA1HEW, moved to allow \$100 per month for the Trustee's to spend on maintenance items without prior membership approval. Jack, KC3JD, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jeff also would like to get a new vacuum cleaner. He moved to spend \$69 plus tax on a new vacuum, seconded by Phil, K3JAW. Motion carried.

Craig, WA1HEW, mentioned that we have enough credit for HF WAS (Worked All States) and for DXCC. But we would need to pay to apply for the award. Mike explained the awards, and that the contacts are confirmed on LOTW. Craig moved to spend \$63.50 to apply for the awards, seconded by Andy, KB3RFH. The motion carried with 1 decenting vote. There was additional discussion about contests and awards, and how to display the awards and if we need to purchase frames.

A question was posed as to where our income comes from. Most of the income is from dues, plus a tenant using space on our tower. Donations and raffle money also are added. More details will be available with the Financial Report next month after the audit.

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

August 15^{th} was set as the date for the Corn Roast. It's held on the 3^{rd} Saturday in August.

We had two birthdays today: Jim, K3JIM and Carol, KC6MUN. Happy Birthday to both of you.

50-50 Jeff, KB3RCT, won \$22

Adjourned at 19:40.

SKYWARN

TRAINING April 25 2015 10AM 120 Davies Dr. York, PA. 17402

Y.A.R.S.. YORK ARES RACES SKYWARN OF YORK COUNTY

in cooperation with NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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

KEYSTONE WHF CLUB OF YORK, PA



Date voted IN-OUT:

Applicant Sponsored by:

W3HZU



Membership Application

	Michiel	ip rippiicaii		
Name:		_ Phone:		
Address:		_ Callsign:	Expires:	
City:	State:	Zip:	Lic Class:	
Occupation:		E-Mail:		
Full —	Members Full Club Privileges \$20.00 annually & one time	hip Desired \$5.00 Application fe	_	ou a member of:
Family —	Sponsoring members call: _ Privileges same as Full men		ARRI ARES	
Associate ->	\$5.00 annually & a one time Repeater Support \$20.00 annually & a one time		RAC	
S	Special Areas of	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
DX FM HF	building ATV Contesting QRP Satellites SSB S res VHF Astronomy Pho	SSTV SWL Towe	er climbing	LF DSP
Ap	plication & Due	s Mailing A	ddress:	
Make chec	eks payable to: Keystone VH	F Club Inc. Mail to		
First Reading I	FOR CLUB USE ONLY Date: Second Rea		York, Pa. 12	/402-0140

Date Dues Collected: _____