



The VHF Transmitter

Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA



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CIRCULATION 150

May/June, 2015

Spring & Summer Happenings

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

During the Summer, with a lot of folks away on vacations and doing stuff with their families, activity at the club has historically been at a low level. We have still been holding our Thursday afternoon "Tech Sessions" so if you want a break from your normal Summer routine, join us at one of these (but don't say I didn't warn you HI!)

Over the last couple of months we have successfully supported several Public service events. The Buckridge Burn Hike at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, the TMI Drill, The Ironmasters Challenge Hike also at Pine Grove, the March of Dimes Walk at Rudy Park, the York MS Walk, and the York Marathon. We have been supporting these events for years so I really haven't provided any details in this issue of the newsletter. Check out past year's newsletters for write up's on all these events. They may all be found on our website. Also, please check out the Scheduled Public Service Events on page 2 for events that are coming up.

Up at the club, we had a fantastic April work party. We cleaned up the property, and got rid of a lot of junk. Larry, N3LED took it upon himself to disassemble about 20 old non functioning computers. He stripped everything out of them and took the parts to salvage. As a result he netting the club treasury almost \$200! THANKS LARRY!!!

We also cleaned out the shed, did a major field day of the repeater room (which needs to be done about once a month regardless), and made improvements to our operating positions out in the main room. Oh yes logs!! We finished cutting up all the trees that had been felled last year. These have been cut to a length that will fit into our wood stove. They still need to be split however so watch out for a work party in regards to that! Tim Barefoot, W3TWB has also ramrodded a project building a woodshed to protect all of this Winter fuel. The gang hoped to have it assembled last Thursday but Rich's (W3OKU) nail gun malfunctioned and they were unable to get it together. Another attempt will be made on Thursday, May 28th.

Speaking of last Thursday Steve Cruse, K3WHC and Dick Goodman, WA3USG drove down to Earlysville, Virginia to pick up a 14 foot communications dish, it's supporting structure, feeds for 432 MHz, 1296 Mhz, and 2304 Mhz, and two amplifiers.

The drive down to Earlysville took about 3 hours. Part of the dish supporting structure had to be disassembled in order to fit everything in Steve's aluminum trailer and the back of his SUV. To say that we were completely loaded up is an understatement. This took about 4 hours. The drive back to the club took a lot longer. We got stuck in rush hour traffic near Leesburg. Fortunately, a group of guys who were at the Thursday Tech session hung around until about 8:30 PM to help us unload.

Steve purchased this equipment from Bill, Lakatosh and donated it to the club. It is our intention to assemble a 1296 MHz EME station with all of this. Currently most of this equipment is in our shed. Over the next couple of months we hope to organize a comprehensive plan to install this dish at the clubsite and get on the air with EME. I don't know of any other club that has this capability. If you would like to take part in this effort, please let Steve Cruse or the club officers or trustees know.

This will be a major effort which will involve pouring a considerable foundation for the dish supporting structure, getting the dish assembled, running feedlines, getting the 1296 equipment operational, and a plethora of other tasks which will need to be planned in great detail.

While we were down in Earlysville, I had the privilege of meeting Steve's friend, Bill Lakatosh, W4TJ ex K3QCQ. Bill is a pioneering VHF/UHF operator who amongst other things, built extremely low noise preamps for some of the radio telescopes located at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Green back, WV. He also built preamps used in the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP)

This spacecraft mapped in great detail, the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB). Basically this validated the "Big Bang" Theory that the universe began as a singularity of virtual infinite density and temperature. It also gives us the age of the universe as 13.8 billion years. The CMB is probably the most historically significant cosmological discovery of all time. It is incredible that we have a man of this stature among our ranks!

Needless to say, it was a great pleasure meeting Bill and I wished that we could have talked more! A little more about the WMAP Satellite is on page 3 of this issue.

About a year ago, we received a donation from the Civil Air patrol (CAP), a Kenwood TMK-975 VHF Repeater. Tim Barefoot, W3TWB purchased the programming cable and software for this machine and got it working! We are using this as a back up for our MSF-5000. Last Thursday, we put it on line to test it. While it's output is only 25 watts, it's audio quality is excellent. We used it on the Digital Net last Tuesday and it performed better than any repeater that we have ever had! It will be shut down this coming Thursday and the MSF-5000 put back on line but it may be used again when the Digital net comes back on line.

Oh yes ... the Digital Net is being discontinued for the remainder of the Summer. The net has been in existence for over 4 years now but it was decided that the Net control Station and many folks who check into the net would like to have the "Summer off". Please realize that if you would like to use the repeater to run digital or SSTV applications, you are welcome to do so. There just won't be a formal net back on line until the end of July.

Changing the subject back to Public Service again. I know that most of you are familiar with YARS (York ARES RACES Skywarn) but I'm going to give them a plug anyway. About 95% of YARS is made up of members from the Keystone VHF Club. When we plan our public service events, they are planned during the YARS meetings at the York County EOC. These are held on the third Wednesday of the month. Right now YARS has approximately 50 members of which about 25 to 30 are active.

I know that we have a lot of new hams who have joined the club in the past 2 years Actually about 30. I believe that many of you became involved in Ham radio as a result of your interest in emergency communications. YARS is where this is all planned. Operating at public service events hones your radio skills in a fun, low stress environment. Setting up in the field is very enjoyable and can be quite a challenge.

These operations can be as simple as bringing out a lawn chair and participating with your HT. This works if you are fairly close to a repeater but in many cases, the repeater may be on the other side of a mountain, or you may need to communicate by simplex (direct without the use of a repeater).

In this case, you might want to put together a "GoKit." This can be as simple as a 5 - 20 Amp hour Gel Cell battery, a 30 watt class mobile 2 meter (or dual band) radio, and a J-Pole antenna. All of this will fit into a small tool box from Lowes. Then get a nice lawn chair and a little 3 or 4 foot collapsible table from Walmart. You are now prepared to do some serious communications at virtually any of our public service events. It's even fun to take this setup out on a Sunday afternoon to the top of a hill and see how far you can communicate. You may be surprised Over 100 miles is common.

If you want to take the next step, **please go to page 4** and think about getting involved in digital communications. We are really looking for digital operators to take part in Public service events. All of the equipment discussed above can be used and it adds a whole new dimension to Ham Radio!

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 4th, at the Club Site
On Deininger 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.*

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.*

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. (**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

Come one, come ALL!

The Rochester Hamfest - **Saturday June 6, 2015**

Gates open 7 AM - *Rain or Shine*

Point your GPS to: 360 Maiden Ln. 14616

It's "Back to Basics" with everyone's annual favorite:
The Rochester Hamfest.

Everything you want in a Hamfest is here: Good food, lots of fun, and a 16 acre flea market!

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2015

* **June 27 & 28 - PA Hope Ride for Cancer**

POC: Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA mpgutkunst@comcast.net

* **Aug 15 - Keystone VHF Club Corn Roast**

* **Aug 22 - 23 - MS Bike Tour Gettysburg**

POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF slgoodman1@verizon.net

* **September 12 - KTA Superhike**

POC: Ken Wiggins, N2DYK n2dyk1940@yahoo.com

* **September 12 - Harrisburg Bicycle Club Time Trails**

*** Conflict with KTA Superhike !

* **September 20 - Three Creek Century Bike Tour**

POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF slgoodman1@verizon.net

* **October 18 - Hershey Half marathon**

POC: Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA mpgutkunst@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 the first one took 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.

The June Keystone VHF Club Quiz



This structure is currently under construction at the Keystone VHF Club Do you know what it is?

*** Pick an answer 1 - 5 ***

1. Bunk beds for when we operate all nighter contests at the club
2. An equipment rack for the upcoming EME station
3. Storage shelves for flammables in our explosives shed
4. Firewood storage racks for , ah firewood
5. Storage shelves in the main shed for the Retro Encabulator components that we recently acquired

Answer on page 6

Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Dick, WA3USG



Jeff, KB3RCT

Get ready folks, Summer is coming! Our Spring clean up work party was very successful. We had about 18 members present and it's amazing how much stuff (junk) we got rid of. If anyone would like to become involved with our Summer workout program, please contact one of the Trustees. It will keep you fit and trim and only involves pushing a lawn mower around the club site about once a year! The best part is that it is totally FREE! **Act now, demand will be enormous!**

The Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP)

WMAP launched on June 30, 2001 and maneuvered to its observing station near the "second Lagrange point" of the Earth-Sun system, a million miles from Earth in the direction opposite the sun. From there, WMAP scanned the heavens, mapping out tiny temperature fluctuations across the full sky. The first results were issued in February 2003, with major updates in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, and now this final release. The mission was selected by NASA in 1996, the result of an open competition held in 1995. It was confirmed for development in 1997 and was built and ready for launch only four years later, on-schedule and on-budget.

The WMAP science team has determined, to a high degree of accuracy and precision, not only the age of the universe, but also the density of atoms; the density of all other non-atomic matter; the epoch when the first stars started to shine; the "lumpiness" of the universe, and how that "lumpiness" depends on scale size. In short, when used alone (with no other measurements),

WMAP observations have improved knowledge of these six numbers by a **total factor of 68,000**, thereby converting cosmology from a field of wild speculation to a precision science.

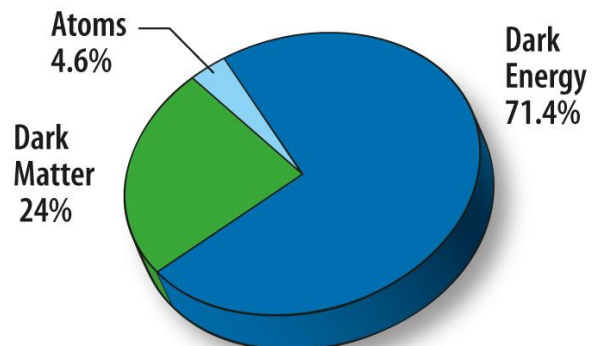
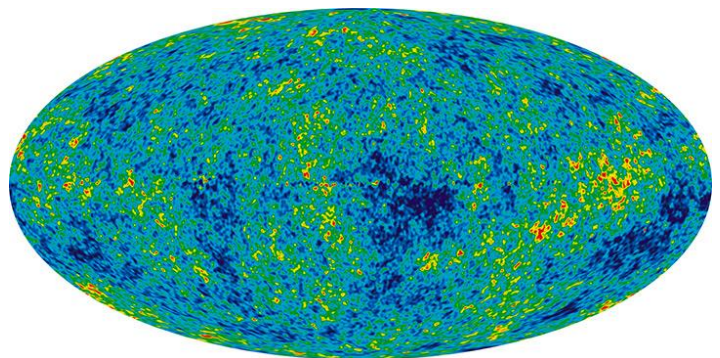
WMAP's "baby picture of the universe" maps the afterglow of the hot, young universe at a time when it was only 375,000 years old, when it was a tiny fraction of its current age of 13.77 billion years. The patterns in this baby picture were used to limit what could have possibly happened earlier, and what happened in the billions of year since that early time. The (mis-named) "big bang" framework of cosmology, which posits that the young universe was hot and dense, and has been expanding and cooling ever since, is now solidly supported, according to WMAP.

WMAP observations also support an add-on to the big bang framework to account for the earliest moments of the universe. Called "inflation," the theory says that the universe underwent a dramatic early period of expansion, growing by more than a trillion trillion-fold in less than a trillionth of a second. Tiny fluctuations were generated during this expansion that eventually grew to form galaxies

Remarkably, WMAP's precision measurement of the properties of the fluctuations has confirmed specific predictions of the simplest version of inflation: the fluctuations follow a bell curve with the same properties across the sky, and there are equal numbers of hot and cold spots on the map. WMAP also confirms the predictions that the amplitude of the variations in the density of the universe on big scales should be slightly larger than smaller scales, and that the universe should obey the rules of Euclidean geometry so the sum of the interior angles of a triangle add to 180 degrees.

The universe comprises only 4.6% atoms. A much greater fraction, 24% of the universe, is a different kind of matter that has gravity but does not emit any light --- called "dark matter". The biggest fraction of the current composition of the universe, 71%, is a source of anti-gravity (sometimes called "dark energy") that is driving an acceleration of the expansion of the universe.

WMAP has also provided the timing of epoch when the first stars began to shine, when the universe was about 400 million old. The upcoming James Webb Space Telescope is specifically designed to study that period that has added its signature to the WMAP observations.



TODAY

The VHF Transmitter

published monthly by the

Keystone VHF Club, INC

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Becoming a Digital Operator - Putting together a Digital "GoKit" (can also be used for voice)

What you will need:

A battery with a capacity of 7 - 50 amp hours	\$25.00 to \$150.00
A 2 meter (or dual band) mobile transceiver	\$160.00 to \$390.00
A J-Pole antenna (or another type)	\$15.00 to \$35.00
Coax, antenna connectors, Power Pole connectors	\$10.00 to \$25.00
Laptop computer preferably running Windows XP or greater (Linux is okay if you are very experienced with this operating system). Please keep in mind that most of the activities that we provide communications services for are running <u>Windows on their computers</u> .	\$350.00 to \$450.00
A Computer to radio interface unit. We recommend The Signalink USB due to its popularity and Standardization.	\$120.00
Communications software (FLDIGI, FLMSG, FLAMP)	FREE

Whatever radio you get, I highly recommend that you get one with a 6 pin Mini DIN data connector on the back. This greatly simplifies interfacing your radio with your computer and allows the radio to be used simultaneously for voice and digital.

A complete battery powered digital station capable of worldwide communications



Some recommended radios that have the 6 pin Mini DIN connector:

Yaesu FT-7900	Dual band (2 & 440)	\$310.00
Yaesu FT-8800	Dual band (2 & 440)	\$369.00
Yaesu FT-8900	Quad band (10,6,2,440)	\$389.00
Kenwood TM-V71	Dual band (2 & 440)	\$364.00
Icom IC-208H	Dual Band (2 & 440)	\$319.00

Less expensive 2 meter only radios without the dedicated data connector will also work but you will have to interface through the microphone & external speaker connector. In this case, the radio cannot be used for digital & voice at the same time.

The communications software that we use is called FLDIGI, is FREE, and comes in 3 parts.

FLDIGI itself is the basic communications program. This allows you to transmit and receive virtually all of the digital communications modes that you will ever need to use.

FLMSG works in conjunction with FLDIGI and is used to send message traffic. It contains many of the message forms used by many of the activities that we support. It also ensures that the message will get through to the destination error free.

FLAMP also works in conjunction with FLDIGI and allows for the transmission & reception of any type of computer file. The file may be text, binary, or an image file. Excel spreadsheets, PDF files, and word processing files may also be sent. The limiting factor here is the size of the file.

Sending data via HF, VHF, or UHF is not a broadband connection. It is probably equivalent to sending data with an old style telephone Modem at a data rate of between 300 & 1200 baud. You can send 2 or 3 pages of text in about a minute. Likewise, small PDF files or word processing files of about 3K may be sent in a minute or 2. However, files that have a lot of formatting characters, or anything over 5K in size will take several minutes to send. Keep in mind that if you are using a repeater, it's timeout is usually 3 minutes or less, so you must keep your transmission time no greater than this. Additionally, the longer the transmission takes, the greater the chances of static or interference causing errors in the transmission.

Many of the communication modes in FLDIGI use a data correcting technique called Forward Error Correction (FEC). This simply sends the data multiple times by sending it on different frequencies (in the audio passband), and sending it at different times (in that transmission). This makes the transmission mode quite robust and the message will still get through without any errors. The disadvantage is that since the same data is sent multiple times, the effective throughput is reduced.

While all of this software is pretty amazing and works very well, there is a learning curve and practice is necessary in order to become proficient in its use.

The club holds a dedicated digital net on the 146.97 repeater every Tuesday evening for this purpose. The net is suspended for the Summer but will be restarting by the end of July.

There are other digital modes in addition to the ones just described.

MMSSTV is a FREE digital mode that allows the transmission of pictures over the air. Any image may be sent within 36 seconds to 2 minutes depending on the resolution you choose.

There are also several digital modes that when used with an HF rig, will allow world wide communications. PSK-31 (supported in FLDIGI) permits keyboard to keyboard chat to anyone that you can hear on HF. It works even when signal levels are quite low and there is a degree of static & interference.

Two additional modes, JT-9 and JT-65, also FREE, support communications when the signal is so weak, nothing can be heard from the radios loudspeaker. If you look at the picture above, the radio is a Yaesu FT-817. It was on 20 meters running a power level of a mighty 2.5 watts. The antenna was a 48 inch whip (part of it can be seen). A single CQ using JT-65 was copied in several countries in Europe and in Australia! Using either JT-65 or JT-9, it is possible to work any country in the world with extremely small antennas and very low power.

However the main purpose of this article is to get some of you active on the digital modes to work some of our public service events and to take part in the TMI and Peach Bottom Nuclear Power drills.

To do this, takes a commitment in equipment, practice, and the willingness to take part in the event. If you don't have anything, it will cost about \$800 for the radio, computer, antenna, and interface unit. You may do better if you purchase a used laptop and radio. Practice takes time. This autumn, we will offer tech sessions at the York County EOC where we will ask you to bring your equipment and we will demonstrate the proper way to interconnect your hardware and to use the software. Then practice is the buzzword!

We need digital communicators. This is a whole new aspect of Amateur Radio that is growing at an unbelievable rate. If you are interested please get in touch with me, Dick at wa3usg@verizon.net or Jack, KC3JD.



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
April 2, 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 19:05. There were 38 members present and 2 prospective members.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: Andy, KB3RFH, mentioned the NAVASA K1N DXpedition is starting. A demonstration was done to show how to stream the traffic from the repeater to your phone or computer with a scanner application. Use this link to listen:

<http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/ctid/2307/web>

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Jim, N3QZA, moved to accept the February minutes as published, 2nd by Steve, WB3EFA. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, presented a pie chart that showed how the 2014 expenses and assets are distributed. This is an effort to review our operating costs. Dan recommends that we set aside money to rebuild a “nest egg” after all our spending to recover from the lightning strike. Dan moved to open a Savings Account with \$300 and each month add any of the monthly income over \$1000 that is not spent. Dick, WA3USG, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Treasurer report covered both February and March: Income: \$1,989.44; Expenses: \$1,245.03; for an increase of \$744.41. The large expense was due to 2 months of utilities plus the final payments for the Holiday Party.

Balances: Club CD \$7,633.80; Checking Acct \$1,322.86; Trustee Acct \$570.24; Total \$9,528.75. Craig, WA1HEW, moved to accept the report, 2nd by Steve, WB3EFA. Motion carried.

Tim, W3TWB, mentioned that the yearly rent increase for Triangle will happen in June. It was noted that the other tenant doesn't pay rent, but does provide static IP addresses, use of a bucket truck, and some other assistance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Spring Clean-up will be Saturday, April 18th with breakfast at 8 AM at Round The Clock. Plan to arrive at the club about 9 AM. Access codes will be changed that day, so anyone with access will need to meet with the Trustees. Bring chainsaws if you have them. If anyone has a dolly, please bring it to move wood. The UPS is working since the batteries were purchased.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Tim, W3TWB, talked about various projects to be done and made assignments for those. Steve Cruse, K3WHC, will be getting a dish that he will donate to the club. It can be used for moonbounce. He would just need some help to pick it up. Then the club could do the set-up. Jack, KC3JD, moved to approve the project to install the dish for moonbounce. Brad, KO3T, seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bob Poff, WB3AWJ, provided handout sheets with command codes for turning the repeater on/off. Echolink will be coming back. It is just delayed.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF, reported that YARS participated in two exercises: March 21st ARWG Communications Test, and March 25th, PEMA Weather Drill. The Weather Drill was a well done exercise in York County. See details in the newsletter. April 14th will be the TMI Drill. For Public Service we have several events coming up: April 26th has 2 events: Iron Masters Hike in Pine Grove Furnace State Park or the March of Dimes Walk in Rudy Park. May 3rd will be the MS Walk in Rudy Park. May 17th is the York Marathon. Dick, Jack, and Sandy are gathering volunteers via email

VE/ED REPORT - Steve, WB3EFA, reported that 6 tested at the March testing: 3 achieved Technician, 2 became Extras (including Craig, WA1HEW). Our group will provide VE Testing at the Hamfest on April 11th. Nate, WN3I, advised the General Class Training will begin next Thursday, April 9th, and will continue through June 2nd. Testing will be done on Field Day, June 27th. This needs to be completed by the end of June because the question pool changes after that.

CONTEST REPORT - Craig, WA1HEW, and Phil, K3JAW, worked the CQ WPX and the ARRL International (but lost some of their log). We got the WAS certificate.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG, sent out the newsletter. Check out the visit from CAP.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second readings were done for Tony McMonagel, KC3EED, and Evan Rosser, KC3EEK. Both were approved for membership. Discussion was held about changing the authority for the Trustee's monthly spending without prior membership approval. Dan, KB3JSV, moved to alter the previous approval of \$100 per month to include spending for club maintenance and equipment. Ed, KB3WQJ, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Security cameras are up and running. The Trustees get a text message when someone enters or leaves the club. Cameras were donated, so money previously approved for that was used to purchase a video server. As noted in the Trustee report, the Access Codes will change on April 18th. If you can't make the work party and want access to the club, contact one of the Trustees. Training will also be provided to those who want to use the Operating Desk.

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

Ed Tabor, K3WQJ, requested help to install antennas at his home. Brad, KO3T, reminded all that the 60th Annual Hamfest is April 11th at Elicker's Grove. Tim, W3TWB, requested permission to get a table at the Hamfest to sell old stuff. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to allow the Trustees to decide what to sell, seconded by Jim, N3QZS. Motion was approved.

50-50 \$31 was won by Steve Cruse, K3WHC, which he donated back to the club. Thank you Steve.

Adjourned at 2010.



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
May 5, 2015
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary**

Dan has set up an email account for the club. If you want a membership card after paying your dues, send an email to Dan at KVHFclub@gmail.com. The savings account that was approved last month will be opened in a couple of weeks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT –

About 19 guys helped out at the work party. They cut wood (which will need to be split), blew leaves, got rid of scrap. Larry, N3LED, separated out material from the electronics. There was about 520 pounds in computer cases, 63 pounds in circuit boards, 57 pounds of disc drives, bunch of aluminum. Larry got \$123 for the scrap.

Jeff, KB3RCT, requests that you please empty soda cans and water bottles before tossing them into the trash. That will make separating for recycle cleaner.

A low band beam for the Kenwood 2000 was put together. Dick, WA3USG, and Tim, W3TWB, sprayed earlier today.

Tim will get an email out to meet again Saturday around 8 AM. Plan on May 21st to split logs, meet about 2 PM.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT -

As reported last month, the club will be getting a 14 foot dish for EME. Dick and Steve, K3WHC, will be picking it up soon. They will use a section of Roan 45, and will run on 2.1 gigahertz, with 500 watts.

The door combination has been changed. See someone from the executive board or a Trustee to get the update or to get the Operating Desk Training.

Dick, WA3USG, advised that the current repeater draws 2.5 amps when idle, and up to 3 amps when its used. It draws a lot of electricity. Yeasu has a one-time special for a digital and dual-band repeater at a cost of \$500. That repeater would reduce our power consumption. The Dover repeater is no longer in service. The MS5000 repeater also has a hold in the audio pass band that causes problems with slowscan transmissions. Much discussion was held, including encouraging donations to the club to cover the cost of a new repeater. A new repeater may or may not be the Yeasu Special. Tim, KB3WZX, moved to purchase a new repeater from club funds to be augmented by donations. Nate, WN3I, seconded the motion. Motion passed. Several members offered donations at the meeting. Dan, KB3JSV, will track the donations so Sandy can provide a letter for members to use for tax donation itemizing.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF, reported on the TMI Drill, as well as the Public Service activities: Iron Masters Hike in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, and the March of Dimes Walk and MS Walk in Rudy Park. Next up will be the York Marathon on May 17th. After that we get a break until August.

VE/ED REPORT -

Steve, WB3EFA, reported that 17 people tested, 15 passed exams at the Hamfest. Those that passed: 7 Technician, 6 General, and @ Extra Licensees. Keystone Club will test this Saturday at the York EOC.

Nate, WN3I, mentioned that the General License class is about half way through. He hopes to be done before Field Day. He and his team are planning a Technician License class in September.

CONTEST REPORT -

June VHF Contest is June 14-15. Field is June 27-28. Red Lion Club will operate, and is open to everyone. SPCG will operate in Spring Valley Park in the Equestrian Area.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG, is at his busy time. So the newsletter will be combined for May and June. Website is up to date.

OLD BUSINESS:

Operating Desk Training is available as requested. See an Executive Board member of a Trustee.

NEW BUSINESS:

First readings were done for: James Fry, KC3EWN, Francis Grillo, KC3CWP, and David Long, KC3EOG.

Cub Scouts will use the facility from the end of summer through the fall. Club dues have not changed for 20 years. Tim, W3TWB, would like to raise the dues by \$5. After some discussion, Rich, W3OKU, moved to increase Full Membership dues by \$5, effective September 1st for 2016. Tony, KC3EED, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

Walt, K3DQB, asked if anyone would have an interest in visiting the National Electronics Museum. He will draft an email and send it to Sandy for full distribution.

50-50 \$23 were won by Steve, WB3EFA, who donated the money to the repeater fund.

Adjourned at 1955.

YARS (Bit's & Pieces)

By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF

1. Public Service has been well underway for the spring. We have done 4 events so far this year:

a. Iron Master's Hike in Pine Grove Furnace State Park with 21 operators. The most exciting incident for that event was one hiker who got lost in the first 2 miles of the 50K hike. He did manage to get up to the top of a ridge and call 911. Park Rangers got involved from 911 dispatch. We had identified him as missing at 10:50 AM when everyone else had arrived at the first checkpoint. The Ranger and Event Director came to Net Control at 11:10 AM to advise us about the call. The rangers used a GPS coordinate that the hiker had provided. One ranger went out on foot, with 2 others driving parallel roads to the area where he was lost. The ranger on foot found him at 11:40 AM. Other than 1 slow hiker, everything else went well.

b. Two walks were held at John Rudy Park in York: March of Dimes Walk and the MS Walk. Both are easy events with 10-12 operators watching the walkers do the mile long circle. At the MS Walk, we monitored an 94 year lady walking with a cane. Bless her since did the complete circuit.

c. YMCA's York Marathon took place from York's YMCA along the York Heritage Rail trail and back to the Colonial Courthouse in York. We had 31 operators spread along the trail at 10 water stations, plus at the Finish area. Since this was the YMCA's first year, they had only invited 100 runners, of which 73 actually participated. This event is now a Boston Marathon qualifier, so we can expect even more runners for next year. We have definitely been invited to assist.

d. We have a break now until August. We support the Red Lion Street Fair on August 8 (sign-up with Jack Dellinger), and MS Bike Tour on August 22-23 (sign-up with Sandy Goodman - email coming soon). We may also be looking for 6 or so operators to assist in late August with the Kings Gap Time Trials. Kings Gap is just north of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The Harrisburg Bicycle Club does the time trials to test bikers climbing the hill that goes from Pine Road up to the top of Kings Gap. KTA Hike is scheduled for Sept 12, with the Harrisburg Bike Club's Three Creek Century Ride in Carlisle on Sept 20. We'll wrap up with the Glen Rock Carolers on the evening of Dec 24. Watch for emails requesting assistance and help where you can. I will also forward emails from other counties who may need assistance at their Public Service Events.

2. My TMI Drill report to the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator was submitted for publication. I sent out the E-newsletter to everyone. ARRL & PEMA are very appreciative of the excellent work that our York County members do.

3. Stan Walters, AB3EM, gave us a nice overview of VOAD, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters. The VOAD consists of a group of voluntary organizations (non-profit, community based, faith-based, 501(c)3) who provide assistance during and after disasters. Some of those members include American Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, and several social services. VOAD partners with the York County Office of Emergency Management. YARS and REACT also partner with VOAD to provide communications during the immediate disaster. We can be called upon to provide communications at shelters established by any of the VAO members. VOAD can request amateur communications support either through the YORK OEM, or they can come directly to the YARS Officer (Sandy). After the initial disaster, VOAD assists the community with long term recovery efforts. Stan provided some examples of aid provided to York during Hurricane Lee and to Eastern PA following Hurricane Sandy. For more details about York VOAD, please see the website at <https://voadyorkpa.wiki.zoho.com>.

... *fire wood storage*

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: _____