



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA

VOL 60 No 6

CIRCULATION 150

July/August, 2015

Status of the 1296 EME Project

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

In early June, we started work on the installation of a 14 foot communications dish to use for Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) contacts on 1296 MHz. Steve Cruse, K3WHC located, purchased, and then donated the dish and supporting structure to the club (please see details in last newsletter). Steve is currently ramrodding this project.

Over the last 6 weeks, there has been an impressive amount of work accomplished. I have not witnessed the amount of interest and enthusiasm for a project since we installed our 180 and 100 foot towers in the 1990's!



On Monday, July 24th, all of our work culminated in the concrete pour. It took approximately 4.5 cubic yards of concrete to secure the dish supporting structure in place. This was the result of a lot of work by many of our club members!

While at first thought, a 14 foot diameter communications dish doesn't seem overly large, keep in mind that when stood up on the ground, it would rise halfway to the ceiling in the upper story of a 2 story building. In order to keep the dishes surface precise enough to focus all RF energy to a single point, the dish itself requires supporting members that weigh in at about 200 to 300 pounds! Even the largest HF beams don't weigh this much. In addition, consider the wind loading on a circular object 14 feet in diameter! It was apparent that the primary supporting structure would have to be strong and the foundation massive.

We initially calculated that a foundation 4 feet on each side and 4 feet deep would be adequate. Digging a hole that size up at the club would be no easy feat. We called on **Thierry Mathieu, KB3TPX** and asked him if he could bring his backhoe in to do the job. We thought that Thierry could dig us a hole about the right size but we would have to square it up and finish it with considerable manual shovel work. **Not so!!!** Within a week of the request, Thierry came in and excavated a perfectly square foundation ... and he made it a bit larger (thankfully) than we specified. When we came by and checked it out, we found a beautiful 4 foot square by 5 foot deep excavation. We still don't know how he made it so perfect without any additional work but **THANKS THIERRY!**

The next thing that we had to do was to prepare the dish base, a massive 10 foot Rohn tower section for installation in the foundation. This section along with the mast that the dish will be mounted on, and the azimuth and elevation drive assemblies will weigh in at about 300 to 400 pounds. Since the foundation excavation is 5 feet deep, the tower base had to be extended by about 6 feet to give us the necessary height.

One of our newest members, Steve Cline, KC3CPL stood up and took the lead on this. *Continued on Page 4*



Micah Neff, KB3TGY Joins The Ranks of Public Service Event Organizers

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

We ran into a real Public service conflict problem about a week ago. On September 12, we are providing communications services to the Keystone Trails Association (KTA). They are holding their annual "KTA Super Hike), a 30 mile grind that extends through Lancaster and York Counties along the Susquehanna River.

On the same day, The Kings Gap Time Trails is taking place at the Kings Gap State Park, a major conflict. For the last 2 years, communications coordination for the Time Trails has been provided by Franz Neidermeyer, N3HFS. Last year Franz relocated to Washington State which left no communications coordinator for this event (we miss you Franz)!

I placed a call to the actual event organizer at the Harrisburg Bicycle Club and found out that because of the poor cell phone service in that area, the DNCR will not allow this event to take place unless radio support is available. I sent out a couple of e-mails asking for assistance but just about everyone is already committed the KTA Super Hike.

Continued on page 3

Silent Keys



Carey Green, K3IIB age 86, passed away Thursday, July 23, 2015. Carey is survived by his XYL Barb Green of Red Lion. Cary has been a member of the Keystone VHF Club since July, 1960. Services were held at the Burg Funeral home in Red Lion.



Millard Martin, NN3Z age 83 passed away Saturday, July 11, 2015. Millard is survived by his XYL Juanita Martin of 61 years. Millard has been a club member since 1982. He served in the U.S. Navy and was employed as a general foreman by Caterpillar retiring after 43 years. Services were held at the Leber Funeral home.

Don Callahan, (EX - K3GWS) currently KG4YTH relocated to Florida 30 years ago. Passed away early this year. Joined the club in 1959.

Carl Berkheimer W3DRF passed away in May of 2015. Joined the club in 1955 but only retained membership for 1 year.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 6th, at the Club Site
Please don't forget the Corn Roast August 15th

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.*

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.*

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

Harold Johnson
Charlie Kuhn, KC3DRS
Ron Martin, KB3PHR
David Long, KC3EOG
James Fry Jr, KC3EWN
Greg Grillo, KC3CWP
Evan Rosser, KC3EEK
Tony McMonagle, KC3EED

Ed Tabor, KB3WQI
Dean Poff, KC3EAW
Bob Single, N3ACP
Patti Single, KC3CDL

**Welcome new
members 2015**

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2015

- * **Aug 8 - Red Lion Street Fair**
POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jkdelli@aol.com
- * **Aug 15 - Keystone VHF Club Corn Roast**
Come on folks! Please sign up
- * **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**
POC: Micah Neff, KB3TGY
- * **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 Annual Keystone VHF Club Corn Roast and Chicken Barbeque



Yummm Good stuff!

Saturday, AUGUST 15, eat at 1 PM

Location: Keystone VHF Club, 3650 Deininger Road
(before Rocky Ridge Park)

Cost: \$5 for chicken half

Please bring a covered dish to share.

The Keystone Club will provide the Corn and drinks.
You may bring hamburgers/hot dogs to grill yourself.

To order barbeque chicken, e-mail Sandy, N3ECF at slgoodman1@verizon.net, or Sign-Up at the August Keystone Club meeting (Aug 6).

Send payment to Sandy Goodman at address below, or bring your check to the club meeting or pay at the Corn Roast.

Make checks payable to "Keystone VHF Club".

Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Dick, WA3USG



Jeff, KB3RCT

Gang ... We are right in the middle of the Summer heat. Other than the EME project, not a lot is going on. Please don't forget our annual Corn Roast. This year it takes place on Saturday, August 15th up under our pavilion. We are trying to get the club all cleaned up for it. While it's been too hot to do a lot of stuff outside, we've still been having ragchew sessions on Thursday evenings. Stop on up, talk for awhile, and then join us for an adult beverage or two at 4 B's (you can have soda or water too)!

Micah Neff, Event Organizer, continued from Page 1

The following day I received an e-mail from Micah offering assistance. A couple of e-mails later, I asked her if she would be willing to organize communications. I know that Micah has built up a Go-Kit, has portable antennas, a nice pop up canopy, and even a small portable table.

I have also overheard Micah on the repeater talking about some of the technical aspects of Amateur radio. She has been up to the Keystone Club learning how to solder and I believe that she had also tried to build a capacitor. In my opinion, this is some pretty darned cool stuff. People who want to do things like this seem to be genuinely curious about how things in our universe work.

Now I'm not trying to be overly profound about all of this but I was not at all surprised when she offered to take the reins of this event. I can also see Micah wanting to get familiar with some of the tools which lend themselves well to supporting these events. Some of the digital modes, Slow Scan TV, APRS, and HF communications are just a few.

Micah, thanks for taking this over. I am sure that you are going to get lots of support. Anyone reading this, please contact Micah and give her support on September 12 at the Kings Gap Time Trails.

*** See following column for info on the Time Trails ***

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199 Maple Lane
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Type of Event: Individual bicycling hill climb time trial for amateurs and elite bicyclists. Event is open to riders age 15 and up. All types of bicycles are allowed to include: road, touring, mountain and hybrid.

Sponsor: Harrisburg Bicycle Club
Event Website: kingsgaptimetrial.com
Event Organizer: Kelly Szymczyk - kszaero@gmail.com

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2015 (Rain or Shine)
Event Time: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Gates open at 6:30 a.m. and Check-in at 6:45 a.m.)
Place: KINGS GAP STATE PARK, Dickinson Township, Cumberland County, Pa.

Profits Benefit: The Friends of Kings Gap, a non-profit organization of dedicated volunteers working to support, Kings Gap State Park and its programs.

EVENT DETAILS:

Participant and Vendor Parking: Located on top of the mountain adjacent to the Kings Gap Mansion. All participants will be required to be up the mountain prior to 7:45 a.m. (Note: Gates to the park open at 6:30 a.m.) The roadway will be closed to all vehicular traffic at 8 a.m. NO vehicular traffic will be allowed on the road until the road is reopened after the event is concluded at approximately 11 a.m.

Spectator & Handicapped Parking: Located on top of the mountain and at the Pine Plantation Day Use Area, at the base of the mountain on Kings Gap Rd, just off Pine Road. A system of trails allows easy access to various areas on the course including the finish to watch the riders.

Check-In: Located on top of the mountain adjacent to the Kings Gap Mansion (directions above). Check-in opens at 6:45 a.m. Riders will receive their rider number, start time, and T-shirt. Following check-in, riders will be allowed to descend the mountain to warm up and stage for their start time.

Course Description: The course will be held on the winding 3.5-mile, asphalt-paved Kings Gap Road. The start line will be located just south of the entrance to the Pine Plantation Day Use Area. The finish line will be located at the Cameron /Masland Mansion at the top of the mountain - elevation 1280 feet. The gradient of the course is a gradual 5 percent to the top of the mountain. The course offers a fantastic road surface with plenty of shade and breath-taking views of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

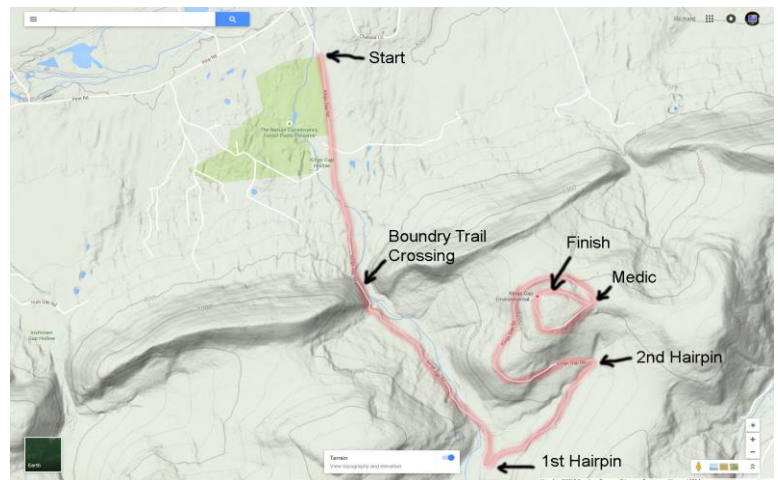
Course Opens: At 8 a.m. the course opens for the remaining event participants to descend the mountain and stage at the start line just past the Pine Plantation Day Use Area Entrance. The first rider leaves the start line at approximately 8:45 followed by another rider every 30 seconds. Start times will be issued at check-in.) Riders must be ready to take the start line at the designated times for their event category.

Course Closed: Descending vehicle and bicycle traffic will be allowed on the course after the last rider arrives at the finish.

Road Opens: The Kings Gap Road opens to vehicle traffic when the race is over. Cyclists using Kings Gap Road are encouraged to use caution while descending the mountain after the event, due to the high volume of departing vehicular traffic. Cyclists will respect the rules of the road and not pass any vehicle during the descent.

Course Safety: Safety is of utmost concern for all event participants. Riders should review the course rules and carry emergency contact information with them at all times during the event. Yellow Breeches EMS Inc. of Mount Holly Springs will provide medical support for the event.

Volunteer course marshals will be situated along the route to monitor rider progress and safety. Amateur Radio (Ham) operators will provide communication across the entire course. Amateurs man the 6 check points listed on map below. Amateurs may park off the road near their check points not to block riders.





Steve literally fabricated a 6 foot tower extension using stainless steel tubing and rebar. He welded plates on the top that exactly mated with the mounting plates on the bottom of the Rohn tower. On the bottom of his extension, he welded support plates that would sit on concrete blocks in the foundation excavation. On each of these plate was an adjustment bolt, installed through a threaded hole that would be used to perfectly level the tower.

When Steve volunteered to handle the tower extension, we were absolutely astounded as to the quality of his work! He literally replicated the quality that you would expect from the Rohn Corporation! The leveling bolts on the bottom did their job perfectly and the top plates exactly mated the plates on the Rohn tower proper.



The image above is the tower with Steve's tower extension sitting in the excavation. Steve even fabricated a special racket extension so that all the leveling bolts could be adjusted from ground level (you can see the socket extension shaft on the lower left). Steve didn't miss any details. He also fabricated the wooden support posts that would ensure that the tower would remain perfectly level during the concrete pour. This was truly a work of art and it is a pity that it will be forever encased in concrete never to be seen again!!

The triangular rebar bracket near the top of the tower extension had to be inside the concrete after it was poured. Since this bracket was about 10 inches above the level of the ground, we needed forms constructed that would take the concrete to this height. **This is where Tim**

Snook, KB3WZX came in! I believe that it was within the next couple of days that Tim paid the club a stealthy visit & built the forms. He made them extend to a height of 14 inches above ground level. The perfect height to encase everything in concrete after it was poured.



Monday July 24th was the concrete pour. Oh yes ... the concrete! We required about 4.5 square yards. One of our newest members, **Charlie Kuhn, KC3DRS** works for County Line Concrete. **Charlie spoke to their management and got all of the concrete donated to the club!** At an average going cost of \$80.00 to \$120,00 per square yard this would have cost us \$360 to \$540 not including taxes and other delivery fees. **Thank you Charlie!!! ... and also a major thanks goes out to County Line Concrete for their generous support.**

Gang ... we really have incredible (and diverse) members in our club ... when we work together, anything is possible.

So where are we now? The dish support structure is in place and the concrete is curing. In the next week we will be spreading out the soil that we packed around the concrete forms and then will cover all of this with gravel.

On Thursday, July 27th. We started looking at the dish components. These include the dish surface and support components and the az/el mount. It looks like we have everything we will need. We are concerned about assembling the dish and leaving it unattended at the clubsite over a long period of time.

Our next step is to install the dish support mast in the tower, This mast probably weighs over 100 pounds and we will use a Gin Pole to install it. From there we will assemble the components of the azimuth drive. We have the assembly that contains the DC gear motor, the appropriate cogs and pulley components, and the power take off sprocket. We have run preliminary tests on this unit and the motor runs and seems to drive everything adequately. There is a large chain sprocket that goes on the main support mast. That will be installed when we place the mast in the tower. There is also a brake disc that goes on the mast. This need to be installed and must be functional prior to assembling and mounting the dish. With all of the wind loading of the dish, we need to ensure that it will not blow around after it is mounted.

Following this, we need to see how the dish positioner will be implemented to control elevation position. As well as getting the mechanical components of this working, we have to fabricate the circuitry and logic to transmit both azimuth & elevation positions back to the control point. There is currently an azimuth potentiometer mounted to the base of the main support mast. Since this was once an operational antenna in an EME system, we probably have most to the components to make this all happen.

Hopefully we will have the mast installed and will be ready to start dish assembly in a couple of weeks. Tim Barefoot, W3TWB and Steve Cruse are currently working on the RF components. These will consist of the Low Noise Amplifier (LNA) mounted near the dish feed, a 1296 transverter, the water cooled Vacuum tube amplifier which will give us about 500 watts out, and all of the feedlines, switching relays, and sequencing logic. Again, thanks to all who have been up and assisted us with this project so far.

We have a ways to go before we copy our first signal off of the moon but so far we have made very productive progress. Stand by for more information as it comes ... and please join us!

New Yaesu Repeater in Service at SPCG

By Nate Kirschman, WN3I

The Yaesu repeater has arrived and Mark and I placed it in service on the 70 cm frequency 449.725 – PL 123 operating at 20 watts output, 15 watts out of the duplexer. We're coordinated for 10 watts ERP on that frequency which we should be making considering the losses in all of the components and the feedline. The UHF Quantar is powered off for now. The VHF Quantar on 146.700 – remains in service for the time being.

We took the cover off of the radio housing prior to power up, bench check, and installation to check for damage and generally inspect the unit. Turns out that it is, indeed, two (2) FTM-400DR radios mounted inside a box with a power supply and different control arrangement than the FTM-400DR mobile. What is different from what had been reported as problematic with this radio is that, instead of there being no cooling fans, Yaesu have placed two (2) fans, one inside the box near the front, and another at the air discharge point, as well as placed a heat sink as large as the entire transmit radio module body on top of the housing, mechanically joined to the radio heat sink that the FTM-400DR had been manufactured with. There is plenty of volume of air moving through this thing in addition to the heat sink fins aligned for maximum heat dissipation with reference to the fan's air flow. The power supply, control module and receive radio are all on the other side of the box from the transmitter with a metallic shield between them. The air intake is on that side at the rear of the box so relatively low volume of air is moving through those modules, drawn in by the first fan which is mounted near the front on the transmit side. It appears that they've made more than adequate provision for cooling everything in the box.

It continues to make no sense to run the unit at 50 watts regardless of how much corrective engineering they've done. The power amp should make up the difference. The Mirage power amp that we have been using is rated for 11 watts input and 110 watts output. Mark AA3RK is fabricating an attenuator that will take the 20 watts out of the repeater radio and drop it to 11 watts or less out of the radio output headed for the amp and filter chain (duplexer that we're running split) is suitable. That should result in about 60 watts out of the duplexer. The losses are less due to less lossy junk in the transmit feedline path and lower losses in the coax. It needs to be recalculated, but this arrangement should result in about 100 watts ERP. We're coordinated for more than that so we'll be OK. The Yaesu radio is configured in software for 5, 20, or 50 watts output. There is no other physical power out adjustment as there had been with the Icom repeater.

We have already successfully operated in digital voice mode. This repeater does automatically switch between full deviation FM and digital voice modes with error correction. Voice communications appear to be clear and quiet. We haven't tried mobile and weak signal conditions yet on digital to see what happens.

With digital modes, if your radio doesn't have digital capability, you will hear a data carrier. To prevent that, if you have receive PL set to 123.0 you will NOT hear the data carrier, but you will hear conventional FM transmissions. If your radio does not support receive PL (as is the case with our current old Icom "kitchen" radio), obnoxious noise will be present on receive during digital voice or data operations.

Mark and I both have FTM-400DR mobile radios (I'll be running mine fixed here for the time being), Mark has a portable that supports FM and C4FM. We'll be testing voice and data. Performance reports to follow. HRO is still selling the FTM-400DR (reported list price \$850.00) for \$599.00 with a \$100.00 rebate coupon (net cost \$499.00 with free shipping). This is the summer good buddy deal until they run out of rebate coupons. They aren't discounting the C4FM dual band portable per Mark, and it's about \$500.00. Also, if your HF rig is aged and you want to get something that has about every feature anyone ever decided could be crammed into one radio, check out Yaesu FT-991 currently with rebate at about \$1550.00. 100 watts 160 thru 6 meters, 50 watts 2 M and 70 cm. That gives you ALL modes, including the sound card stuff without a SignaLink like interface for data including C4FM.

I spent some time with one of these radios. It takes a while to

get about their way of thinking but once you get the hang of it, it's a sweet radio. Very different, touch screen user interface like the FTM-400DR, many menus, push and push and holds, multiple DSP's, bandscope, can be controlled from a PC. Heck of a radio, and this from a guy who hasn't been a fan of anything from Yaesu for many years. If I hadn't just dumped a bunch of money into the TS-990, this radio would be a serious contender for my shack. The TS-990 is easy to use because all the commonly used functions and features are on knobs or buttons on the front panel. I'm a simple guy so I need that. They're all on the FT-991 also, but you've gotta dig to find them.

For sale/Wanted

TX455 US TOWER 55 FOOT CRANKUP IN REAL GOOD CONDITION WITH THE BASE HINGE PLATE AND ALSO THE RAISING AND LOWERING FIXTURE WITH WENCH WITH AUTO-BRAKE , 2" TRUST BEARING AND ALL BOLTS EXCEPT THE THREE THAT MOUNT IN CONCRETE. WITH MANUAL. MANUAL CRANKING WENCH . 2" MAST INCLUDED. NO ROTOR **\$1200.00**



MOSLEY PRO-67-B 7 ELEMENT BEAM (2 ELEMENTS ON 40) 40-10 METERS. COMPLETE WITH ALL HARDWARE AND ALL COLOR CODED TO BE REASSEMBLED. NICELEY PACKAGED FOR SHIPPING. **\$500.00**



COLLINS 30S-1 AMPLIFIER. CABINET LOOKS REAL GOOD. NO MODS THAT I'M AWARE OF INTERNALLY. WORKS FINE. **\$1200.00**

All of this stuff on a trailer ready to be personally delivered.

POC for this is Dan Shortencarrier, N3EEI at 717-587-4251 or E-Mail n3eei@comcast.net



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
June 4, 2015**
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club Site was called to order by President Mike, N3VQH at 7:01 PM. Two prospective members attended, Greg – KC3CWP and David-KC3EOG.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS

There was a report on HF CW contacts to Oman and Western Asia. SECRETARY REPORT – Minutes were distributed by email and were in the newsletter. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the minutes as published, 2nd by Joe, KB3TCM. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Dan, KB3JSV, provided the report for May:

Income: \$890.75; Expenses: \$786.98; no activity on Trustee's account; \$0.94 interest on CD.
Balances: Club CD \$7,637.56; Checking Acct \$1,486.50; Trustee Acct \$570.24; Total \$9,694.30.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Report: Roof on Wood Shed \$50.00. ¾ inch plywood is \$35.00 a sheet. Will be selling some fire wood after filling wood shed to help pay for shed. \$45.00 a load. Next project will be to get a load of stone and level outhouse.

Technical Report: Remote receiver at Greg’s back on soon, maybe end of month. Kenwood repeater has been tested – used digital net and it worked well. Decided against YAESU repeater. Kenwood repeater donated by CAP will be the backup repeater. Motorola price quotes given to Technical committee for 8300 and 8400 radio. Tim Barefoot said that we do not have the funds to purchase a new repeater. Dan reported that we have received \$113 in donations for the Repeater Fund. Donations received will be up to the individual as to whether they wish their donations returned.

RACES/ARES – Jack: York Marathon started at the YMCA and ended at Colonial Courthouse. There were 73 runners. 31 HAMS participated. HAMS have been already invited back for next year. By next year the Marathon will be accredited as a qualifier for the Boston Marathon. HAMS are needed for the Red Lion Street Fair on August 8. Communications can be handled totally with HTs. There will be two shifts, Morning and Afternoon so no one need be there all day if they do not wish to be. August 22 and 23 is the Gettysburg MS Bike Ride. There are no dorms available for HAMS to stay overnight however if you are interested in working the Ride, contact Sandy Goodman.

VE/Public Education: Steve reported that VE Session was on May 9, resulting in 4 new techs, 4 upgrades to general and 1 extra that did not pass. General Class will be finishing next week and testing will be in Shrewsbury in June.

Contest Report: June 13-14 is the VHF Contest. June 27-28 is Field Day and it will be held both at the Red Lion Hilltoppers Club and by SPCG. Keystone VHF Club members are invited to participate both with the Hilltoppers and SPCG. Also 2nd weekend in July for 24 hours a contest at Hilltoppers with 40 meter beam.

Website & Newsletter: Website is up to date and the Newsletter went out.

OLD BUSINESS

2ND Readings for Francis “Greg” Grillo-KC3CWP, James Fry-KC3EWN, David Long-KC3EOG. All voted into club membership.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim Barefoot said lumber for the shed was \$158.00. Steve, WB3EFA make motion to pay and motion passed. The QCWA Picnic is June 20th. Ray Shaub is the contact. The Corn Roast is August 15 and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. You may also purchase ½ barbequed chicken for \$5.00.

GOOD OF THE CLUB

Steve Cruse-W3WHC donated a 14’ dish to be put behind shed. It has a 300 Watt amplifier on 1296 to be used for moon bounce. Meeting next Thursday at 5 PM to discuss getting it up and working.

50-50 Results
50/50 tickets not here so no drawing.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM made by Craig Dowling-WA1HEW, seconded by Steve-WB3EFA, motion carried.



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
July 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 19:00. There were 38 members present and 1 guest. Our guest was Martin Schroeder, from Glen Rock Scout Troop 48. He did a tour for his Merit Badge.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: nothing mentioned

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Greg, KC3CWP, moved to accept the June minutes as published, 2nd by Steve, WB3EFA. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for : Checking Account: Income: \$571.73; Expenses: \$1,486.50; net increase for month of \$191.11; Trustees Acct had \$127.71 Expense for driveway stone.
Balances: Club CD \$7,638.53; Checking Acct \$1,677.61; Trustee Acct \$442.53; Total \$.
Jim, N3QZS, moved to accept the report; 2nd by Al, WB3GRN. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Larry, N3LED, and Jeff, KB3RCT, sprayed, so things are dying. They still could use help for mowing.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT -

Kevin, KA0JQO, advised that the repeater problem has been due to a power amp behaving intermittently. He replace the power amp. For now we are running on the back-up repeater at a lower power. Dick, WA3USG, talked about the new Kenwood TMK 750 that was donated to use by CAP.

That needs to get tuned first. The PA will be added to the first TMK 750 which is our back-up machine. The new TMK 750 will be used for field operations.

Steve, K3WHC, described the plans for the dish project. He and Tim, W3TWB, talked about the moon bounce operations and some additional expenses that will arise. Some materials have been donated to the club. The plan is to build a catwalk to aid access. We hope to have the dish installed and in receive mode by fall, maybe operational by the end of the year.

The club's operating desk is working well.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Sandy, N3ECF, reported things are quiet for now. Upcoming in August is the Red Lion Street Fair and the MS Bike Tour. At the recent Quarterly Training at York EOC, they talked about VOAD, CERT, CART and Agriculture, and they showed an excellent talk that Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator & HAM operator, gave at ARRL's National Convention in 2014. He has been pushing for inclusion of amateur radio and other radio communications as part of emergency planning. (note: That speech can be found on You-Tube if you'd like to hear it.)

VE/ED REPORT - Steve, WB3EFA, reported that they have pre-registrations for the July testing. The General Class finished on schedule and all 9 operators passed the exam. A Technician Class is planned to start the 3rd week in September.

CONTEST REPORT -

Field Day reports were made. Dan, KB3JSV, with his Dad and Joe Stepansky operated from the horse tack room at Dan's home. Dick, WA3USG, reported that operations from SMRA in Carlisle weren't so good due to the rain. The tower they normally use at the Carlisle Fire School wasn't usable, so they were limited to wire antennas set for East/West, but the propagation was North/South. They tried hard, but couldn't get out very well. Brad, KO3T, said Red Lion switched from 2A to 2E working from the club house using existing antennas and running on a generator. They also did some public training. Jim operated as 1E station from home on PSK31 for 2 hours and worked 35 stations.

IARU World Championship is Saturday and Sunday.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Dick, WA3USG, will do a combined newsletter next month, then return to normal monthly newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

First readings were done for Harold Johnson, not yet licensed, Ron Martin, KB3PHR, and Charlie Kuhn, KC3DRS.

Plans need to be made for the Holiday Party for January. Dick, WA3USG, Joe, KB3TCM, and Tim, W3TWB, volunteered to come up with a location and entertainment.

Jack, KC3JD, moved to spend up to \$400 on cement/concrete for the dish. Larry, N3LED, seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

This is the 60th anniversary of our club. We should plan something for the Corn Roast to honor that, and perhaps honor original or early members, like Ray Shaub and Bob Riese. Dick needs to check the database to see how many original members we still have.

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

Reminder that the Corn Roast is on August 15th, to eat at 1 PM. Along with corn, we will barbeque chicken halves. The.

Kip, WB3AFL, is considering building a faraday cage or a solar panel power supply. If anyone is interested in either of those, or have any ideas for them, please talk to Kip.

Tim, W3TWB, mention there is an open house on July 25 at 9AM in Dover for model aviation RC planes.

Jack, KC3JD, reminded us that the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina is coming up.

50-50 - Greg Hagens won \$27, which he donated to the club. Thanks Greg.

Adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Misc Stuff & bit's & pieces



Location of the Net Control Station at this year's MS Bike Tour starting and ending at Ski Liberty



Complete set of components for the 14 foot communications dish loaded in the back of Steve Crusse's van right before we headed back to Pennsylvania from Virginia (this included 400 pounds of barbell weights that are going to be used as counterweights for the dish).

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: _____