



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA

VOL 61 No 1

CIRCULATION 150

January, 2016

The Keystone VHF Club Holiday Party

January 16, 2016 - Snow Date January 30th



Location: Victory Athletic Club 471 S. Ogontz Street York, PA 17403

Cash bar opens at 5 PM
Dinner at 6:00 PM



Menu: Turkey and Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, salad, dinner rolls. Coffee, water, soda **Price: \$20.00 per person**

We currently have over 50 folks attending.

Lets hope for **NO SNOW!**

Thank you to everyone who signed up! We have been holding this event for over 20 years now. We might have missed a year a time or two but it's a chance to get together in an environment just a bit classier than the club house! This is the first time that we've held the party at this location but it promises to be nice.

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Sandy Goodman, N3ECF

Checks may be made out to "The Keystone VHF Club" .

You may pay at the party, or mail a check to:

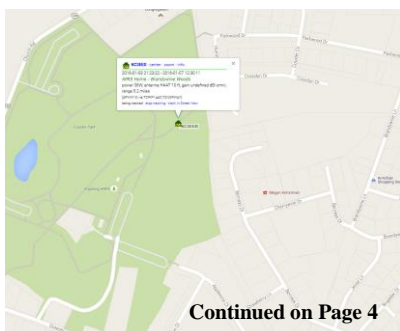
Sandra Goodman
199 Maple Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA. 17055

Email: slgoodman1@verizon.net

What's Next?

It seems that the Yaesu FT1-DR HT is beginning to become quite popular in the area ... and in the club. As well as being a conventional analog FM HT, it also includes Yaesu's Fusion digital protocol. While it's too early to say which digital standard is going to win this "war", the fact is that there are already two Yaesu digital repeaters in HT range of York. The 146.700 machine in Shrewsbury and the 146.865 machine in Red Lion.

Another very major plus in reference to the FT1-DR is that it includes Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) capability. A component of this is an embedded GPS receiver. So the HT always knows where you are! When you transmit an APRS position beacon on 144.39 MHz. it is hopefully received by one or more of the hundreds of digipeaters/ I-Gates that monitor that frequency. From there, your position is stored in a server and may be accessed by anyone with a web browser.



Continued on Page 4

This is a screen shot of club member Tony McMonagle, KC3EED driving within about a half mile of his home QTH in York. If you know a someones callsign and they are beaconing APRS, there are several sites on the internet where you can track them on a map. This system works anywhere in the world and is completely independent of the cellular phone system. It is a system built by Hams for Hams!

A Rousing Good Time at the Club

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

I don't know about you guy's (and a gal) but I had one whale of a time up at the club last Wednesday. Things got a bit pandemonious but we managed to get about 15 folks through the soldering class and we built and tested 9 Slim Jim antennas.

It seems that no matter how you plan things ... things never go according to the plan. Tim, W3TWB, Mike, N3VQH, and I arrived by 5 PM to start setting things up. We had initially intended to set up 4 soldering stations in the main club house room for people to learn the basics and one station in the repeater room for folks to build their antennas.

People started arriving by 6 PM and from the number of folks stacking up we realized that we would not be able to run the class exactly as we expected to. Ray Shaub, W3AXC was going to give a talk on the basics of soldering and then a demonstration. With the number of people we had, we couldn't be as formal. We decided to work in shifts. As people arrived, we sat them down at the table and Tim, W3TWB demonstrated the basics of soldering. He showed how to solder a splice, how to solder components on project boards ... and how to unsolder them. He demonstrated the use of flux, and talked about the importance of ensuring good solder flow without the application of too much heat. Most importantly, he showed them how to properly solder & install a PL250 connector. Each shift of folks took about 15 to 20 minutes to run through and after they were finished, he passed them over to me in the repeater room.

Once they arrived here, we started building the Slim Jim folded dipole antennas. We had each person build their own antenna. First the 450 ohm ladder line was cut to 60 inches and the wires on each end was stripped to one inch and soldered together. In future sessions, we have to ensure that we have more tools on hand. We were a little shy on wire strippers and diagonal cutters but Steve Cline, KC3CPL and Harold Johnson, KC3FVI helped save the day by bringing in some of their tools. Both Harold and Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT also brought in a stash of PL259 connectors. Way to go guys ... that certainly made the evening run more smoothly!



Tim Barefoot, W3TWB holding one of several soldering sessions out in the main room.

Continued on Page 6

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 4th at the York County EOC
Located on Davies Drive

Schedule of Keystone VHF Club Sponsored VE Testing for 2016

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 Deining Road, York, near the Rocky Ridge Park

Testing dates: Jan 9 Mar 12 May 14 Jul 9 Sep 10 Nov 12

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.*

VE exams will be sponsored by Southern Pennsylvania Communications Group (SPCG). These sessions are held at the Shrewsbury Borough Building, 35 Railroad Ave., Shrewsbury, PA. Testing starts at 9:30 AM. *The point of contact for these sessions is Nate, WN3I at wn3i@comcast.net.*

Feb 13 Apr 9 Jun 11 Aug 13 Oct 8 Dec 10

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.

The Combined Club ARES/RACES Net meets **Monday at 8:30 PM** on the Keystone 146.97 Repeater (Tone: 123 Hz).

South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) Net on **Monday at 9 PM** on the 145.43 (Tone: 67 Hz) repeater located in Mt. Holly Springs. *After the normal FM net, a group moves off to 144.210 MHz, operates SSB*

The Keystone VHF Club Digital Net on **Tuesday at 8 PM** on the York 146.97 Repeater.

The Keystone 75 meter net on **Tuesday at 9 PM** has been cancelled. *We are now running an Elmer Net on the 97 machine at this time.*

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

JANUARY

RADIO WINTERFEST MEET AND AUCTION

Mark your calendar for January 17, 2016...(snow date:January 24)...

For an all-day, all-indoor meet and auction presented jointly by the National Electronics Museum and the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club.

The meet will be held at the Museum, 1745 W. Nursery Road, Linthicum, MD 21090.

\$5.00 per person General Admission includes Museum Exhibits and Event admission

Vendor tables are Free.

For details go to www.maarc.org.

This promises to be quite interesting!

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2016

* **December 24 (still 2015) - Glen Rock Carolers**

POC: Stan Walters, AB3EM abacuspc@comcast.net

* **April 10, 2016 - Buckridge Burn Hike Pine Grove ***SJ**

POC: Dick Goodman, WA3USG wa3usg@verizon.net

* **Date TBA, 2016 - Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Drill**

POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF sgoodman1@verizon.net

* **April 17, 2016 - York MS Walk**

POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF sgoodman1@verizon.net

* **April 24 2016 - Ironmasters Challenge Hike *** SJ**

POC: Dick Goodman, WA3USG wa3usg@verizon.net

* **May 1, 2016 - March of Dimes March for Babies**

POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jkdelli@aol.com

* **Date TBA - The York Marathon *** SJ**

POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jdelli@aol.com

* **Aug 13, 2016 - Red Lion Street Fair**

POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jdelli@aol.com

* **Aug 6-7, 2016 - MS Bike Tour Gettysburg *** SJ**

POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF sgoodman1@verizon.net

* **Sept 3, 2016 - Kings Gap Time Trials**

POC: (Micah Neff, KB3TGY tortmentor@aol.com

* **Sept 10, 2016 - KTA Superhike *** SJ**

POC: Ken Wiggins, N2DYK n2dyk1940@yahoo.com

* **Sept 18, 2016 - Three Creek Century Bike Tour *** SJ**

POC: Dick Goodman, WA3USG wa3usg@verizon.net

* **Oct 30, 2016 - Michaux Team Challenge *** SJ**

POC: Dan McGlothlin kb3mun@mcglothlin.us

* **Dec 24-25, 2016 - Glen Rock Carolers**

POC: Stan Walters, AB3EM abacuspc@comcast.net

*** SJ (Your Slim Jim will work here)

Basic Electronics Course Material Available for Checkout

From Eric Smyder, KB3CGH

I've rescued 15 Bell-Howell Electronics Course Binders from my father's basement. They are 1975 vintage, but have substantial material on the basics of electronics. (The experiments and build projects associated with the course have been lost to time.) I'm willing to loan out binders to club members who are truly interested in advancing their skills in electronics. These binders helped me when I was in undergrad and have a lot of good theory offered in terms understandable by the average technically inclined individual. Interested amateurs may contact me at KB3CNH@QSL.NET or by telephone 717-978-0597.

The volumes available for loan are:

Course 104 - Basic Electronics #1

Course 125 - Basic Electronics #2

Course 242 - AC Current and Basic Amplifiers

Course 252 - Active Components (Tube/ Transistors/ IC's), (Motors / Generators)

Course 41 - Radio Theory 1

Course 42 - Radio Theory 2

Course 52 - Digital Logic

Course 54 - Instrumentation

Course 74 - Electric Circuits

Course 75 - Radio Servicing

Course 76 - Principles of Television 1

Course 77 - Principles of Television 2

Course 78 - Television Repair (woefully out of date by today's standards)

Course 79 - Color Television Theory and Circuits

Course 80 - Setting up a repair business

These courses were offered in the mid to late 1970's and are excellent. This course and another from the Cleveland Institute of Electronics (CIE) were often taken by servicemen upon discharge from the armed forces to make them more marketable. I took the CIE course but the Bell & Howell course is of equal high quality. Thanks Eric for making this available to us. Ed



W3UU - Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club - WinterFest

Saturday JANUARY 23rd 2016
(Snow date 30th)



WINTERFEST

"A Harrisburg Pa. Hamfest"
Cooper Student Union, South Hall

1 HACC Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110
N 40.29623 W 76.88805 (parking lot)
(HACC Campus - Follow Signs)

8:00 am to Noon

TALK-IN 146.76 (PL 100 hz)

This will be our last time at this location. Check
www.W3UU.org for next year's location

- ◆ Admission, \$3.00 per person.
- ◆ First table free. Additional tables \$3.00 each!
- ◆ Food and drinks available
- ◆ DXCC/WAS/VUCC QSL Card checking on site
- ◆ Please, be courteous to your fellow hams by using reasonable table space. If you can use 1/2 table, please do so. (based on demand)



No reserved table space
Unloading can be done at the main doors, and then move vehicle to the parking area

General Admission: 8:00 AM
Web Site: www.w3uu.org

For further information or questions contact:
Tim Lehman
717-982-8550
kb3oza@arrl.net

I talked to quite a few folks at our Soldering & Slim Jim building session in regards to some other projects. Jim Fry, KC3EWN wants to build a Slim Jim for 220 MHz. I did find a reference to a folded J-Pole antenna project (see right top). This however may not offer the performance of the Slim Jim.

Scaling down the 2 meter Slim Jim to a 220 MHz version (1.35 meters) yielded a quarter wave matching section 13.3 inches in length. This is 67% of the length of the 2 meter version. Scaling down the folded dipole portion of the 2 meter Slim Jim by 67%, which was 97.25 inches in length yielded a length of about 65.15 inches.

Using these measurements, the scaled down Slim Jim for 220 MHz should look like the figure in the lower right ... what do you think? **Jim ... get ready to build this on Saturday, January 23rd!** *That is unless my math is way off ... which is not unusual!*

The VHF Transmitter

published monthly by the

Keystone VHF Club, INC

Editor: Dick Goodman, WA3USG

ADDRESS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR and ARTICLES TO

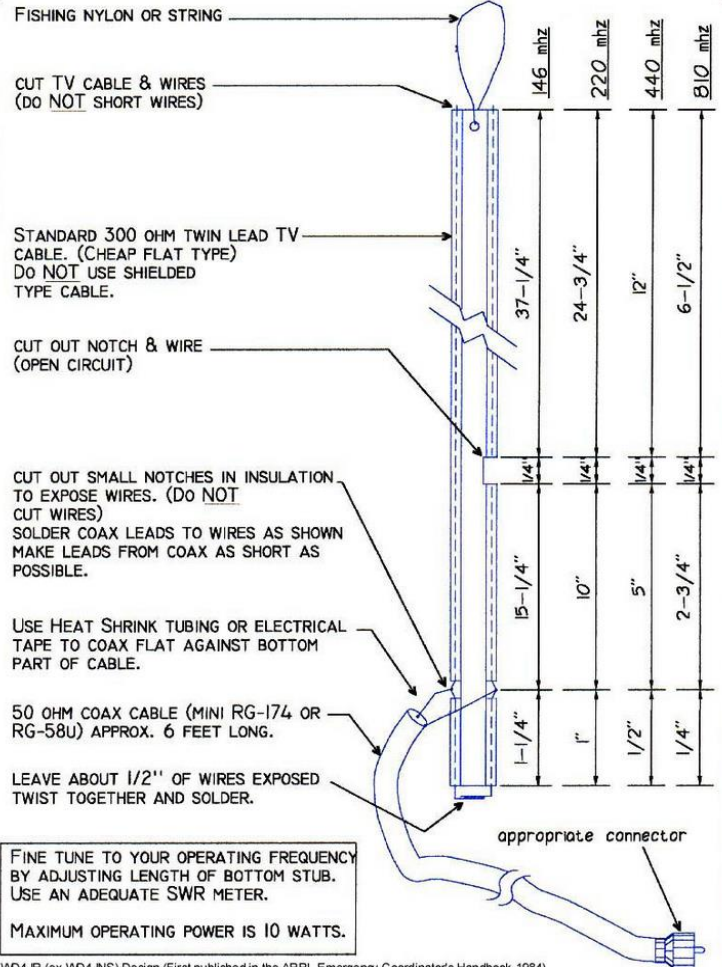
DICK GOODMAN, WA3USG Voice: (717) 697-2353
199 MAPLE LANE e-mail:
MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055 wa3usg@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.w3hzu.com>

Distribution only via the Internet by WA3USG

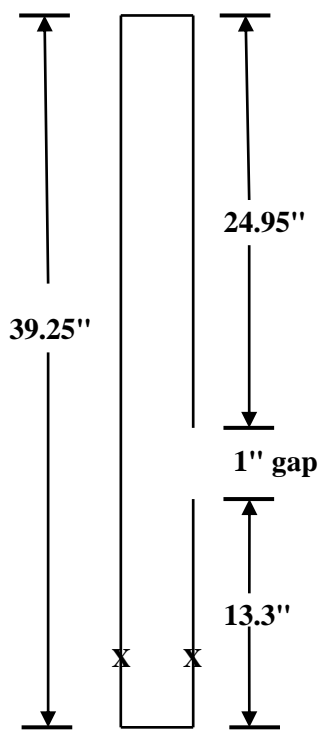
To change your address for the Newsletter, contact:

Dick Goodman, WA3USG
199 Maple Lane
Mechanicsburg, Pa.



WD4JR (ex WD4JNS) Design (First published in the ARRL Emergency Coordinator's Handbook 1984) Updated 1995, 2000

EMERGENCY J-POLE ANTENNA WD4JR

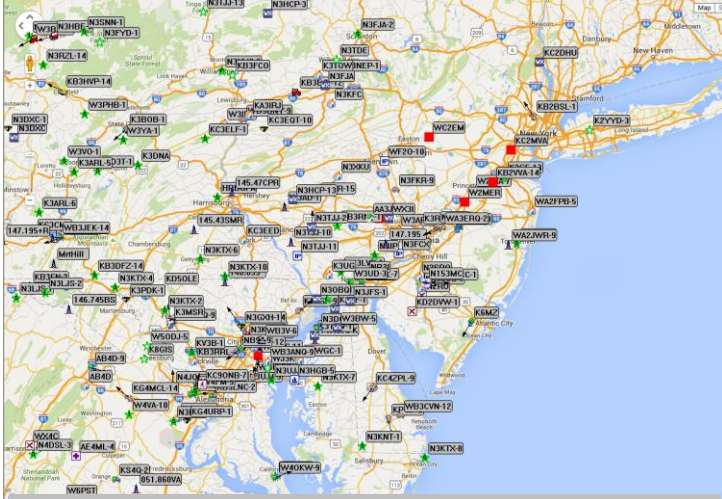


Using the same 450 ohm ladder line that we used for the 2 meter version of the Slim Jim, here is what I think the 220 MHz version would look like. The feed point would be 2.7 inches from the bottom as represented by the "X" characters. The center conductor of the coax should be soldered to the long end. The critical dimension for this antenna (and the 2 meter version) is the quarter wave stub in the lower right. It by far is the primary determining factor in what the SWR is going to be. The folded dipole section can probably be off by an inch or so without major degradation in the antennas performance.

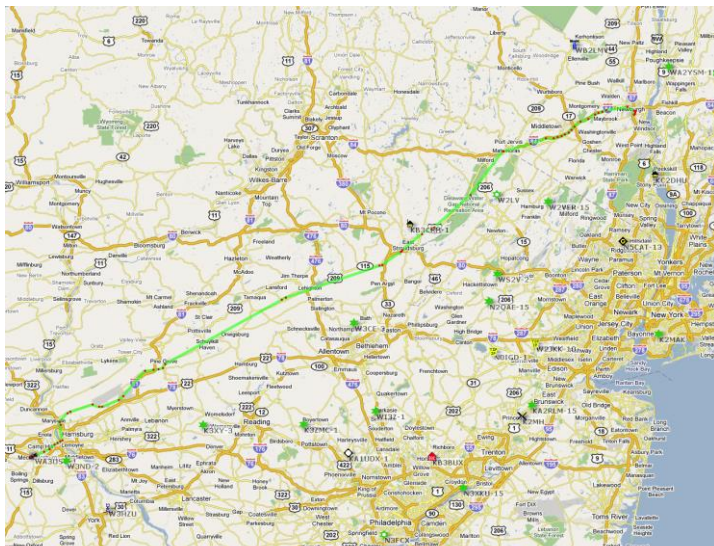
***** Please Note *****
If you didn't get a chance to build a Slim Jim on January 6th, you will get another chance on Saturday, January 23rd.

APRS ... Continued from page 1

What else can you do with APRS? It can be used at public service events to track where anyone is in real time. This can be bicyclists, Support vehicles, and hikers just to name a few.



With the proper software and a radio to computer interface, this position data can be received directly off the air on 144.39 MHz and displayed on your computer. From my QTH in Mechanicsburg, I can receive over 200 stations transmitting APRS packets. If you are equipped to run the digital modes such as PSK31, you are ready to receive this APRS data, you just need the software.



In 2009, I went along with Tim Barefoot, W3TWB along with some of his work cronies on a motorcycle trip to Orange County Choppers in New York. For the entire ride, I was beaconing APRS data once every 5 minutes at a power level of about 60 watts. I was using a Tiny Track 4 TNC with a small outdoor GPS receiver. The 2 meter radio was an old Kenwood TM221 running at 5 watts. This drove a 80 watt Mirage B108 amplifier. Powering this was a 7 Amp Hour Gel cell being kept charged by my motorcycles electrical system. All this was contained within the right side saddlebag. The antenna was a 5/8th wave mag mount on the luggage rack. My XYL Sandy could keep track of the entire trip on her computer.

As well as sending position data, anyone running APRS can text each other, anywhere in the world. Do you have a personal weather station? Look closely at the map at the top of this page. You will see some little blue symbols with the characters "WX" in them. By clicking on these, you can access weather information for that location. If you want, you can interface your weather station to this and become part of this network. To do this, you need a weather station with a serial output and the proper software.

Other information from any of these stations may be gleaned by simply clicking on them. Many stations have information about what frequencies they're currently listening on. Moving vehicles have arrows pointing in their direction of travel with their speed. Some contain URL's where you can get more information about them on the internet.

I often use APRS when I'm hiking. It's a great way for the XYL to tell where I am currently located. Additionally, when I get home, I have a nice record of the entire hike.



In 2012, Sandy and I did a trip out west. One of the places we visited was Devil's Tower in Wyoming. There's about a 2 mile trail that circles this mountain and I hiked it while running APRS. In this case, I used my I-Phone to directly access the APRS server. This is kinda like "cheating" but there were no digipeaters or I-Gates nearby.

APRS is just plain fun. It's quite interesting to see where people are, or where they are heading. I often see Dan, KB3JSV on his way to work, sometimes I see Kip, WB3AFL driving around Lancaster, Jim, K3JIM sometimes has his equipment on, and lately, Tony, KC3EED has been running around spewing APRS packets and talking about his G5RV! Yep, I see him too. You never know who you will see. Even the International Space Station sometimes runs APRS and you get to see them on your map when they orbit by.

Within the next couple of weeks we will be holding an APRS "Tech night" up at the club. We will be talking about what it takes to monitor APRS activity and what we can use it for in the club.

The little \$20 USB dongle that I've been talking about would make a great receiver on 144.39 MHz to receive APRS data. With that along with it's free companion SDR# software you have a complete all mode receiver for 30 MHz through 1.7 GHz. Add the [free](#) AGW packet engine software and the [free](#) AGWTracker and you have a complete APRS receive system totally self contained within your computer! How can you resist!!

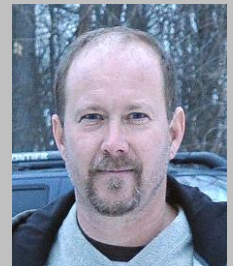
Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Dick, WA3USG



Jeff, KB3RCT

Not too much going on at the moment. The weather has finally turned cold and we've hunkered down for the Winter. Activity at the club however is at an all time high. It great to see all of our new members, new hams, and old timers enjoying themselves. This is what the club is for! Keep it up.



**Keystone VHF Club
Executive Board Meeting of
December 2, 2015**
By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

President, Mike, N3VQH, brought the Executive Board Meeting to order at 6:50 PM at the Keystone VHF Club. Attendees: President Mike Stackpoole, N3VQH; 1st Vice-President Joe Imgrund, KB3TCM; 2nd Vice-President Jack Dellinger, KC3JD; Treasurer Dan Melato, KB3JSV; Assistant Treasurer, Linda Warner, KB3EBV; Secretary Sandy Goodman, N3ECF; Trustees: Dick Goodman, WA3USG; Tim Barefoot, W3TWB; and Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT

1. Old Business

Mike mentioned the 10 meter contest, and the new 40 meter year long contest.

We talked about the Holiday Party. Jan 16, 2016 is the date, with a snow date of Jan 30 pencilled in. Joe needs the count in the first week of January. We will use their cash bar for drinks rather than bringing our own. We have our own room, with the menu as previously described. No deposit is needed. We need a commitment for reservations. If someone says they are coming, they must pay. When collecting reservations, ask if attendees are available for both dates. Joe is still looking for entertainment. We can always go back to Dick's 15-20 minute video.

2. New Business

Bob Gundlach has communicated with Millard Martin's widow who is donating some equipment to the club, and wants to sell the rest. Bob and Jack visited her. She has donated a Kenwood TS930 radio, with speaker and linear amp. Jack, with assistance from Tim and Jeff, will collect the items to be sold, test them first, then put them up for sale. Money collected from the sales will then be given to Mrs. Martin.

Club Access Issues were discussed. The concern is about new members who automatically want access to the club. We need to advise new members that to get access, they need to be members in good standing with approval from Trustees/Officers after having training in operations and security. Until they are given access, they just need to coordinate with one of the Trustees or Officers to meet at the club to use the equipment.

We discussed Life Membership for members who have been active for 25 years, as stated in the By-Laws. We know Cam Bailey, KT3A, is eligible. Dick and Sandy will get a list of those who might be eligible. The problem is that we don't record when someone has left the club, then returned. So the list will need to be reviewed.

We had discussion about how to turn over the Treasurer duties to Anne Zarlenga, KB3ZLJ, and Tim Snook, KB3WZX. Dan will work directly with Anne to provide training. He may also do additional review with her for the first couple of months. We talked a bit about the National Parks on the Air. Do we want to do a club event by taking the trailer out? That needs to be discussed with the membership.

Jack advised us that SPCG has decided to change the tone on their repeater to get away from the interference. SPCG may also be facing financial difficulty. Shrewsbury Township had been paying them \$1200 a month to share their tower. That money may be taken away.

Dick talked about the dish project. He had planned to program a second controller, but has found a turn-key system that will work better. That will put the cost of the controller and actuator at \$312 rather than the \$200 voted at the last meeting. We agreed that Dick will recommend replacing the motion that was approved last month.

We talked about the activity for the New HAMS. They had 20 attendees at the first session, and 6 more at the second session. New members are enthused about the club projects. Since there is no interest

in the HF NET, we proposed replacing that with a New HAM NET on Tuesday at 9 PM following the Digital NET. Eventually we should encourage new HAMS to call the NET (be NCS). We also talked about doing special activities with the new HAMS for the contests.

Adjourned at 8:09 PM



**Keystone VHF Club
General Meeting Minutes of
December 3, 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 35 members present, 1 new member applicant, and 2 guests. Patrick Hock, W3CNB, and Alex Smith (Smitty), are students at York College and will be joining us. Smitty will be testing at Shrewsbury this month and will try to go straight to Extra. Good Luck Smitty.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: none

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. A correction was made for Joe's, KB3TCM, last name. It was corrected prior to the newsletter publication. Jim, N3QZS, moved to accept the minutes as corrected, 2nd by Tony, KC3EED. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for November: Income: \$839.44; Expenses: \$464.27; Balances: Club CD \$7,643.34; Checking Acct \$3,241.20; Trustee Acct \$693.98; Total \$11,578.52. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the report; 2nd by Craig, WA1HEW. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – All is well and cleaned up for the year. There is still more wood to be split. Candy and soda need to be resupplied.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT -

The repeater room has been cleaned up.

The club recently received a donation of an FT2000 radio from a Gettysburg amateur who had a lightning strike. He thought the radio was damaged and got a replacement from his insurance. Dick, WA3USG, managed to correct a setting for the radio to work.

The mounts for the dish are ready. It needs to be assembled. All work now is at ground level, so can proceed when the weather is decent. Dick had intended to program a second controller. But he found a turn-key system that would be better. He recommended that we cancel the motion from last month for \$200, and include this system. Jim, N3QZS, moved to cancel last month's motion and spend \$350 for a combined controller unit. Jack, KC3JD, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS –

Anne Zarlenga, KB3ZLF, who is now the Dover Township EMC, is looking for one or two York operators who would like to become involved in Emergency Management. Dover plays in the TMI Drills every other year. Contact Anne if you're interested.

Dec 19, Saturday, from 9 to Noon is the CPR-AED refresher training. We have 7 signed up with 5 slots still open. Cost is the same as 2 years ago. The remaining funds from Rich's, KR3EE, donation, will cover the bulk.

VE/ED REPORT -

At the last testing session, 5 Technicians, 1 General, and 1 Extra passed the exams.

CONTEST REPORT -

Brad, KO3T, talked about the new challenge between Keystone and Red Lion clubs. In this year's 17 meter challenge, Dick lead with 37 zones and 155 contacts. For next year, we'll switch from 17 to 40 meters, counting countries and states. There will be 3 classes: QRP (low power), Normal Power, High Power. Contact Brad for more details.

The 10 Meter contest for CW and phone is the second weekend of December.

Continued on page 6

Website is mostly up to date. Dick will have the newsletter out in a day or two.

OLD BUSINESS:

Holiday Party details were discussed: Date Jan 16, snow date of Jan 30. Location is Victory Athletic Club. Menu is turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, corn, salad, dinner rolls, coffee, water, soda. There will be a cash bar. Sandy, N3ECF, will send out email to collect reservations.

Second readings were done for Ryan Duke, KC3FSJ, Dave Gomez, AB3UY, and Ethen Saltzman, KC3EAX. All three were voted into membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Audit Committee was assigned: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF, Sandi Barefoot, N3NCF, and Tony McMonagle, KC3EED. The Audit will be held in February.

Dick reported on the New HAMs meetings. There is a lot of enthusiasm for the activities being planned. To encourage new HAMs in contesting, Dick plans a 2 meter/440 contest, to get points for each grid square. He will provide details.

The Executive Board realized that according to the By-Laws, the Family member Dues should be one fourth of the regular dues. Since we changed the dues to \$25, the Family Dues need to increase to \$6.25. We won't ask those who have already paid to give more, but all future dues collected will be \$6.25.

Due to the lack of interest in the HF Net, that is now disbanded. We'd like to try a NEW HAM NET in place of that. It will be on Tuesday evenings at 9 PM, following the Digital NET, on 146.97 MHz. The intent is for questions from the new amateurs and general conversation. The Monday night NET is also allocating a time for questions from the new guys.

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

There is a Skywarn Event on Saturday. The National Hurricane Center will be on HF.

Jack, KC3JD, advised that the tone will change for the SPCG 146.700 MHz repeater due to interference.

Craig, WA1HEW, mentioned that you can find when the International Space Station will be visible in your location. Do a search for the ISS and enter your zipcode and email to get notices.

Brad, NO3T, mentioned that you can buy cheap insulators at Tractor Supply.

50-50 - Dick, WA3USG, won \$19

Adjourned at 20:05 PM.

Our Public Service Work

Take a look at our schedule of Public Service work on Page 2. We do a variety of things well suited for the range of skill levels of our members. We provide the communications for all of these events. Things like the York MS Walk, The March of Dimes Walk, and the Glen Rock Carolers are small events where everyone is within a mile of each other. Communication is done with an HT. If you've never participated in Public Service, this is a good place to start.

Some of the other events like the Buckridge Burn Hike, the Ironmasters Challenge Hike, the MS Bike Tour and the York Marathon are events where the communications range extends to over 30 miles. For the hikes, you may be located in a remote, isolated spot. At these events our communications ability plays an important factor in the safety of the participants. Some events located in state parks are not even permitted without radio support. In these more difficult scenarios, we need good antennas and in some cases, more power than an HT can deliver.

This is a very challenging yet very enjoyable aspect of ham radio ... operations in the field. Think about your equipment. Many of you who built the Slim Jim's now have antennas perfect for the job. That antenna coupled with an HT will probably be adequate in 75% of the locations that you would be asked to man. In some of the more remote locations, or sites that are geographically low, more power will be needed. This means using the mobile radio in your car, or having a dedicated radio to take out in the field with a method to power it. You also have to think about things like shelter, food, water and other considerations. You may be asked to man a site for the entire day.

This is where things like having a "Go-Kit" is important. Getting involved in this type of communications builds a sense of self reliance that can be life changing. Think about giving it a try! Check out the schedule on page 2!

A Rousing Good Time at the Club ... Continued from Page 1

While things initially were a little hectic, somehow we developed a rhythm and everyone managed to get everything cut to the proper length. The hardest part was getting the connectors soldered to the RG58 coax and the end of the coax soldered to the antenna. As the evening progressed, Tim had most folks solder the connector to the coax out in the main room and then bring the final completed assembly to the repeater room for integration to their antenna.

As we said earlier, we ended up building 9 antennas. Each was then taken outside and tested with an antenna analyzer. We finished up at 9:15 PM. Now I'd really like to hear how everyone sounds through the repeater with these things!

We hope everyone had a good time doing all of this ... I certainly did. I know things got a bit hectic but as the evening progressed, we managed to get everything done and no one soldered their fingers together. I did manage to drop a hot soldering pencil in my lap one time in the repeater room but it didn't burn anything of consequence and no one caught me doing it!

We would like to thank everyone for their patience. Everyone did a super job and as far as I could tell, was having fun! Our next session will be Saturday, January 23rd. *Please go back to page 3 for more info.*



Hey Gang ... what a great night! While pandemonium was breaking out in the main meeting room, it was also breaking out back in the repeater room! At one point, we had 6 folks back there hacking & cutting on 450 ohm ladder line. I'm not sure exactly how we did it, but we ended up with everyone's antenna cut to the proper length and when we connected them to an antenna analyzer ... by golly they all worked! I guess it's just life in the fast lane!!

This is the first time that I ever remember getting folks together and actually building something. Each of you who owns one of these fine Slim Jim's now has an antenna excellent for operating out in the field. Get a piece of light weight rope, tie something reasonably heavy to one end and throw it over a tree branch. Haul that antenna up about 20 or more feet and try it. You will be impressed with how well something this simple works. This antenna is perfect for public service work and it will perform orders of magnitude better than your Rubber Ducky. For many of you ... congrats on your first ham radio project!

PS ... Don't be standing on the rope when you throw it, it will come back at you!! Ouch!

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
\$25.00 annually & one time \$5.00 Application fee
- Family** → Sponsoring members call: _____
Privileges same as Full membership
\$6.25 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
- OCWA 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: _____	