



The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA

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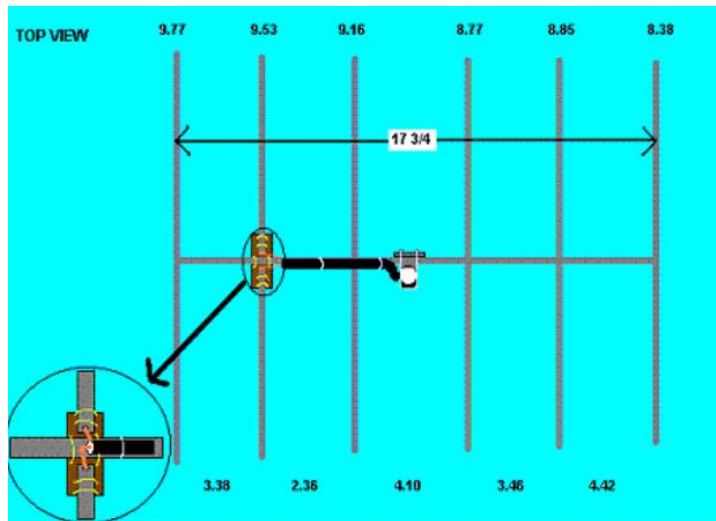
May/June/July, 2017

Summer Club Projects

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

About a month ago, we got a real surprise while working the 6 meter band using the clubs homebrew 5 element 6 meter beam. We were attempting to receive several 6 meter beacons and were somewhat baffled as to why the received signal strength was so weak. One problem that we discovered was that the MFJ rotor control box had somehow been calibrated so that it 180 degrees off. We resolved this thinking that it would certainly fix the problem but the received signals were still weak even with the beam correctly aimed. In retrospect, I'm not sure that there was a whole lot of difference in signal strength with the signal being off the back of the antenna vice the front.

We switched antennas and started receiving using the Mosley beam which has three (3) elements on 6 meters ... it was very noticeably better! Our homebrew 6 meter beam was fabricated with instructions found on the Internet similar to the graphic below.



While the beam above is 6 elements vice 5, I believe that it is quite similar to the one that we built. Looking at the driven element, one can see that it is a simple dipole. I have not seen any commercial beams that uses this feed configuration. Usually a Gamma match or a Hairpin match is used. Due to its poor performance in rear signal attenuation and forward gain, the Tech Committee decided to purchase an M Squared 6 meter Yagi.

Our Mosley TA63 uses 3 elements on 6 meters and has a advertised gain of 9.05 dBi. What gain our homebrew 5 element 6 meter antenna has is an unknown but it performs close to a full S-Unit less than the Mosley receiving the same beacon. It also seems to have poor front to back performance.

Looking at the specifications above, it was decided to order an M Squared model 6M5XHP 6 meter beam. Its advertised gain is 11.5 dBi. This is about 2.5 dB (or half an S-Unit) better than the Mosley.

This Antenna will be mounted where our existing homebrew 5 element is currently sitting. We could see as much as a 1.5 S-Unit improvement in our received signal strength as well as significant improvement in front to back ratio. We have received the new M Squared antenna and hopefully will be erecting it within the next 2 weeks. This will require a work party and the bucket truck.

Our next project, the 15 foot communications dish for EME is nearing completion. On Saturday, July 15, we had a work party at the club and we now have the dish and the reflecting surface completely installed. This dish was donated to us by Steve Cruise, K3WHC and came to us completely disassembled.

Continued on Page 3

Clarence Stambaugh, WB3BZA

A Silent key



Clarence E. Stambaugh, 96, died at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at the residence of his niece in Hellam. He was the husband of the late Dorothy E. (Chronister) Stambaugh.

Born January 6, 1921 in Dover Township, one of ten children of the late Willis C. and Minnie E. (Zeigler) Stambaugh, he was retired from Herculite Products, and prior to that was an Electronics Technician and Electrician. He was a member of Christ

Lutheran Church in Manchester, a member of the Keystone VHF Club and a former member of the York Amateur Radio Club. He was also served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday June 14, 2017 at Mount Rose Cemetery with his Pastor, The Rev. Edwina Landry, officiating. Military honors were presented by the York County Veterans Honor Guard.

Clarence joined the KVHFC in November of 1975 and was a member in good standing for almost 42 years. Clarence checked in regularly on our Monday night net and sometimes joined us at our Thursday evening Tech Sessions at the club. His voice will be greatly missed on our repeater.

Keystone VHF Club Annual Corn Roast

Saturday, August 19th



The Corn Roast itself is Free. The Keystone Club will provide fresh Corn on the cob and drinks. You may bring hamburgers/hot dogs to grill yourself. Attendees are requested to bring a covered dish to share.

You may also order a barbeque chicken half for \$5. Please E-mail Sandy, N3ECF at n3ecf.good@gmail.com or sign-up at the August 3rd Keystone VHF Club meeting.

We need a count by August 10. Payments can be made at the club meeting or at the corn roast. Make checks out to "Keystone VHF Club."

Come on out and join your KVHFC Cronies to enjoy this Summer cookout and talk Ham Radio!

OUR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

August 3rd & September 7th at the Club Site

Schedule of Keystone VHF Club Sponsored VE Testing for 2017

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.

Location is the York EMA Office at 120 Davies Road, York,

Testing dates: Sep 9 Nov 11

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.*

Aug 12 Oct 14 Dec 9

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.

The Keystone VHF Club Digital Net on **Tuesday at 8 PM** on the York 146.97 Repeater ... *to restart on September 6.*

The Keystone VJF Club ELMER Net on **Tuesday at 9 PM** on the York 146.97 Repeater right after the Digital net

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

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

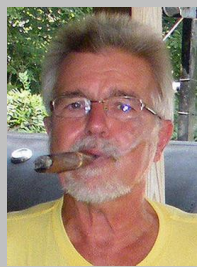
6 Meter Magicians Net from Pottstown Wednesdays at 8:30 PM on 50.130 USB. At 9 PM, they switch to 50.400 and run A.M. modulation and call themselves the Mini Boat Anchor Net.

The KVHFC 6 Meter Activity Net run by Steve Cruse, K3WHC meets on 50.140 MHz USB on Wednesday evenings starting at 8:30 PM.

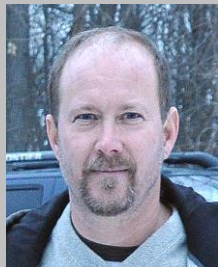
Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Dick, WA3USG



Jeff, KB3RCT

Things are going well with the club property. A couple of weeks ago, we had a great work party and one of the things we did was make a big dent in cleaning out the shed. We could also use a little help with mowing the grass. It's great exercise! HI!!

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2017

* **Date August 12, 2017 - Red Lion Street Fair**

POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jdelli@aol.com

* **Sept 9, 2017 - KTA Superhike *** SJ**

POC: Ken Wiggins, N2DYK n2dyk1940@yahoo.com

**** SJ - Your Slim**

Jim is advisable here

* **Date TBD, 2017 - Kings Gap Time Trials**

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

* **Oct 14 - 15, 2017 - MS Bike Tour Gettysburg *** SJ**

POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF n3ecf@arrl.net

* **Oct 29, 2017 - Michaux Team Challenge *** SJ**

POC: Dan McGlothlin kb3mun@mcglothlin.us

* **Dec 24-25, 2017 - Glen Rock Carolers**

POC: Stan Walters, AB3EM abacuspc@comcast.net

The Evaporation of Volunteers

By Ralph Brandt, K3HQI

I am a pretty hardy volunteer – it takes a good bit to scare me off but I will admit that there is one organization (not ham) that has pretty well driven me off. Negative statement? Yes. (Please be sure you read the last paragraph).

But I have learned that manure promotes growth in gardens and sometimes we can grow even from very negative situations.

The important thing is not that it happened. The key things to learn are, “Why did I take that approach? What pushed me out? Should it have? And more important, how can we avoid doing that?”

Volunteers, whether they are actively recruited, they stumble in the door, or they get lost and accidentally show up at your meeting are too darned hard to find to risk ‘running them off.’ In this I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly.

There are a couple things that will run off volunteers.

- 1) Indicating they are not valuable. A simple thank you can go a long way. I cannot remember a call in nearly 5 years that my Fire Police Captain has not said, “Thank you for coming out”. The local police go past as they are leaving and say the same thing. Rolling out of bed at 1 am to go on a call is easier when you have positive reinforcement. And I have heard it from ones here. Let’s keep doing it.
- 2) Having them stand around with nothing to do. Sure there are times there will be nothing to do in any setting, but there are

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Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Summer Club Projects - Continued from Page 1

Not only did we have to completely assemble the dish but we had to install a supporting structure to hold it. This required a heavy duty section of Rohn 55 tower, a large hole, and approximately 5 cubic yards of concrete.



This is how the dish came to us in late June of 2015. It was transported by Steve, K3WHC from Virginia. Steve also was towing a trailer holding the support tower and some of the larger components.



This is the completed dish as of last Saturday, July 15th. It still has to be mounted on the supporting tower (in rear center).

As well as assembling the dish, we have rebuilt the azimuth drive assembly and have purchased a new dish positioner to drive the dish in declination. We also purchased a microprocessor based position controller that will allow the dish to automatically track the Moon.

The next project on this list is our satellite antennas. We have had these up for about 8 years and back in late 2015, we found that the elevation rotor no longer functioned. Steve Cline, KC3CPL and Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT managed to take the rotor apart. Steve took the rotor home and managed to disassemble it, clean up all the little tiny gears and sprockets, and put it back together so that it functioned. It's a Yaesu rotor and even Yaesu refuses to work on them! Way to go Steve!

The satellite antenna system consists of 2 meter and 70 cm crossed polarized Yagi's. Last Saturday, we finished cleaning these up, tested them, and both antennas are ready for reinstallation.

We're not done yet! Last year, club member Charlie Kuhn, KC3DRS became a Silent Key. At his wish, his XYL, Joanne, donated Charlie's trailer to the club. This is a totally enclosed trailer that is about 3 years old. It is in beautiful shape and Tim, W3TWB and Rich Diem, W3OKU spent a lot of hours preparing it to be used for emergency operations and various Public Service events.



A 30 foot air mast was installed that will handle a variety of antennas. Brackets & shelves were also fabricated and installed for the air mast's air compressor and the Honda generator necessary to power it. Both internal & external LED lighting was installed. Inside the trailer is extra fuel for the generator, antennas for VHF, and UHF and several dipoles for HF. We are installing a 100 watt solar panel on the top that will keep a 100AH deep cycle battery charged. This will in turn drive an AC power inverter providing up to 1250 watts of quiet, green power that could be used instead of the generator. This will make a great platform for our portable 2 meter repeater.

A couple of weeks ago, it was discovered that our 6 meter repeater antenna had an SWR of about 3 to 1. It was hoped that we simply had a feedline problem but such was not to be. At our July 15th work party, Eric, KB3CNH did a climb to the top of our 100 foot tower to determine what was wrong. The problem is with the antenna itself, a Ringo Ranger. The spot where the ground plane ring attaches has fatigued and the antenna needs to be repaired (or replaced). The problem is that the



Antenna is mounted above the rotor and the 2 meter and 70cm SSB antennas. It's probably going to take a bit of horsepower and a 2 or 3 hours to remove the rotor, lower the mast, then loosen the U-bolts on the 2 meter & 70 cm antennas, and then lower the mast some more to get to the Ringo Ranger. We will most likely replace the 10 meter repeater antenna on the back of the club house with a 6 meter vertical to see how that works at the lower altitude.

← Eric getting ready to climb



For all of you guys who haven't been coming to our Thursday evening Tech Sessions at the club. Dave Smith, KC3GMQ bought in an absolutely beautiful Drake 2B receiver to show. Please join us, we usually meet starting at about 4 PM and then head out for dinner & a beverage at about 7 PM.

Evaporation of Volunteers ... Continued from Page 2

But there are ways to mitigate that. The worst thing is to convey to them that you don't value their time. I will not give someone busy work but if there is some preparation, have them do it. Up to the point that you abuse people busy volunteers are generally happy and returning volunteers.

- 3) Loading bureaucratic requirements. YES. We need training. We need planning. There is probably few who push training more than I do. But let's work to push valid training. It is unlikely that a Dist 5 Ham will need training on how to cross glaciers. But it is likely that the information in KY Ham, IS-100, IS-700, etc. will be valuable. We need to show WHY this is needed, to enable them to do the job rather than force it down their throats.

Now with that said, the group targeted with this email are good at working with volunteers. Let's work to get better. Let's work to get others we work with on board. It is too easy for a ham who has been around for 40 years to say, "It is easier for me to do it or I know if I do the job it will be done right." Let's try to give the new people the opportunity to do, grow and someday be able to teach.

What's Happening with DMR?

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

DMR is alive and well from Harrisburg all the way down to Shrewsbury in South Central Pennsylvania. One of our talk groups, in particular, "Local 2" is linked to between 20 & 30 repeaters (I'm not sure exactly how many). The problem is that if you start a QSO on this talk group, you are tying up all of these repeaters. Many of these are located down in Maryland and in other distant areas where their repeater users don't really want to hear our traffic.

There is currently an initiative in process to create another talk Group that would be linked to only local repeaters. This would be known as "SCPA Local 2". It would be linked Full Time to the following repeaters:

Cornwall
Shrewsbury (Southern PA Communications Group)
Harrisburg
York (Keystone VHF Club)
Etters
Fairfield (Adams County/Gettysburg area)
Reesers Summit

Traffic on any of these machines will most likely be of interest to everyone on all of these machines. Additionally, all of these local repeaters would be removed from the existing "Local 2" Talk Group. The bottom line is that when you get on SCPA Local 2, you will be connected to only 7 repeaters ... all local.

It should be noted that this is not in place yet but hopefully will happen within the next month.

Other DMR happenings ... our 70cm repeater is experiencing much more traffic than it did when it was an analog machine. Sensitivity is excellent. I can stand in my back yard in Mechanicsburg using an HT with a rubber ducky and get into our machine ... I must admit I have to pick the spot carefully but I've never been able to do this with the analog machine. Using a mag mount on my vehicle, I can hit the Shrewsbury DMR machine with my HT from my driveway. There is some packet loss but I can make it!

What I find impressive is that from inside my car using my UHF HT with a rubber ducky, I can start driving from Mechanicsburg to Shrewsbury (and chatting to someone down there on "Local 2") using the local Reesers Summit repeater. I run out of range on that machine down around the Strinestown exit on I83. From there, I switch over to the Keystone DMR machine, staying on Local 2 and am able to continue the QSO. I run out of range of the Keystone machine a bit south of Leader Heights and am then able to switch over to "Local 2" on the Shrewsbury machine and continue the QSO until I arrive in Shrewsbury. This is all happening with a UHF HT with a rubber ducky inside the car ... certainly not an optimal antenna system.

The Dayton Hamvention

By Steve Cruse, K3WHC

General consensus of opinions on the new Hamvention location is running strongly positive. We found the new venue to be a dramatic improvement over the dilapidated Hara Arena setting. Parking posed an issue for some attendees who chose on-site parking instead of using the shuttle. We wisely took time to "case the joint" on Thursday evening and decided to use the off-site parking at a nearby high school. We were at the fairground entrance and waiting for the gates to open well before 9 am. Others waited for over an hour to park onsite. Several thunderstorms converted the grass fields into a muddy mess on Saturday afternoon and some vehicles needed towed to dry ground.

The commercial vendors were located in 6 main buildings and 4 large tents, conveniently located around or near a central hub. The hub area was also the location for most of the food concessions which provided everything from platters to fresh ice cream. There were several local food trucks featuring "steak-on-a-stick" and fresh lemonade. The aging ham population found lots of places to sit and eat consisting of benches and several sets of bleachers set up alongside the buildings.

The main tailgating area in the infield of the racetrack got rather sloppy, especially Saturday after the heaviest rain. I am sure there were others like myself that didn't spend as much time as planned. I covered about a third of it and decided I had seen enough boat anchors. I did purchase a 6 meter Mirage amplifier as an intermediate amp to get my ANAN 10 up to 85 watts and adequately drive my SB220.

Had a nice chat with Mike Stahl of M2 antennas. He is a super friendly guy and a big 6 meter operator. I had worked him on 6 last summer and he remembered our contact. I think I'll order a new 7 element 6 meter beam.

Brad and I went to the VHF/UHF forum and the AMSAT forum. Peter, G4DDK discussed 2M SSB interference problems in the UK due to the high density of VHF operators. Lots of strong signals and dirty transmitters have resulted in some heated on air exchanges. They are working on getting the guys to use lower power where possible and check the phase output of their rigs. At AMSAT we learned of some new Japanese satellites to try and of future launch plans.

Dayton has always been "The Main Event" in ham radio and now there is an even better reason to go. I plan to take a break next year but this certainly wasn't my last trip.

Another Slant on HOA's and Covenants

By Ralph Brandt, K3HQI

This was sent to Pat Toomey and portions to Senator Bob Casey. Suggest you start sending them this kind of information. Feel free to use from my info, please do not just duplicate it. If they see that they start ignoring...

Please co-sponsor SB-1534 - The Amateur Radio Parity Act. This is a key to improving disaster planning. Amateur radio provides public service, assistance in disaster planning, international good will and creates a cadre of people who can help in time of disaster, beyond their communications. Ham Radio (AMATEUR RADIO as defined in FCC part 97) is the glue that pulls these people together. The HOA agreements that prevent hams who have moved to areas with them are detrimental. We want to work with the HOA's, not do things that harm other residents. Hams have been some of the most accommodating with their neighbors.

The following was included in a message to Bob Casey. I am including it to help you understand the small amount that killed this bill last year. Although I am a private citizen I am involved in the EOC Staff of two Townships, the ARRL Eastern Pa District 5 EC, the South Central Task Force Amateur working group chair, Communications officer for Middle Creek SAR and a participant in FEMA Region 3 Emergency Communications Coordinating Group. I know the value of Amateur Radio from the inside and out.

I have another bone to pick with the HOA's and "Covenants". They started as "No Jews", No blacks, No Italians, etc. Something that started like that is suspect and may need to be reined in, and maybe this is the hill to die on...

FOR SALE/WANTED

The following items are for sale from the estate of Silent Key Charlie Kuhn, KC3DRS. Charlie was very active in many of our Public Service Events during his short stint in the club. He also arranged for over 4 cubic yards of concrete to be donated for the EME dish project. The items below were used very little and are in excellent condition.

Item Name & Model	Current Price	Asking Price
Ameritron RSC4 Remote Antenna Switch	\$150.00	\$50.00
Diamond V2000A Tri-band base Antenna (6M, 2M, 70cm). In the air for about 2 years	\$159.00	\$ 90.00
12 Volt Gel-Cell battery, about 35AH Used very little, excellent for Go-Kits	\$100.00	\$ 30.00
Deltran Battery Tender, good Condx Will keep above battery well charged	\$45.00	\$30.00

Please contact Dick, WA3USG at rickwa3usg@gmail.com or at 717-697-2353 if interested in any of the above items.



400 Bins of Electronic Parts

- Resistor assortment: 2.7 ohms to 22 Meg ohms 1/8 to 1/4 watt
- Capacitor assortment: 5 pf to 4700 pf
- Banana plugs
- SO-239 (UHF) and F connectors
- Test jacks
- Miscellaneous mylar capacitors
- Miscellaneous polyester capacitors
- Tubular capacitors 5600 pf to 0.68 ufd
- 36 bins of TTL logic gates - 7441, 7475, 7483, 74123, 74157, etc.
- Spade lugs
- Shase log loops - NE560, NE567, etc
- Indicator holders
- Hardware - #2 through #10 nuts and bolts
- XLR connectors
- There is a wide variety of parts not mentioned - please inquire for more details.

Contact Fred Merker, K3TAZ
k3taz@hotmail.com
(410)876-3173

Need parts & components for projects?

Asking for \$40.00 for everything

WB3LKB Equipment For Sale - Inventory

Qty	Equipment	Model
1	Teac 1/4" Reel to Reel tape recorder	A-2300SX
1	Onkyo cassette deck	TA-2600
1	Realistic audio mixer	32-1200C
2	Kenwood CD player	DP-M7730
1	Tektronix oscilloscope	453 & manual
1	Sony AM/FM stereo	STR-AV1020
1	Interstate Log-Linear Sweep Generator	F37
1	Heathkit LV power supply	IP-27
1	Heathkit Marker Sweep Generator	IG-57

Contact Fred Merker, K3TAZ
k3taz@hotmail.com
(410)876-3173

From Jack Dellinger, KC3JD:

On behalf of Ms. Darla, KB3YUY, thank you for your assistance in selling her station. She still has a set of Heil Pro Set 3 studio headphones, which weren't listed. If you know of anyone who may be interested in them, they can contact her at **443-691-9795**.

They've only been used twice and are in new condition with original box and accessories.

I think they sell for over \$100. I don't know what she wants for them. I'm thinking **\$80** or so.

Moving to restricted community, radio equipment must go.

For sale, the following:

Kenwood TS-2000 (Shack in a box)	\$1000
Astron 35A power supply	\$145
Ameritron ATR-30 Antenna match	\$300
MFJ-260 300w Dummy load	\$20
Hustler 5BTV 5-band Vertical Ant.	\$150

All equipment in very good, workable condition and all prices firm.

Contact Darla Smith KB3YUY 443-691-9795 to arrange inspection and operation. Stewartstown PA 17363

***** Note: This was received at the beginning of June so some of this may no longer be available.**

The KVHFC Data Net restarting in September

By Dick Goodman, WA3USG

Our Tuesday evening data net will be restarting on Tuesday, September 5th at 8 PM. This year, we are going to dedicate more time to EmComm techniques using both FLDIGI and MMSSTV.

I would also like to hear from some of our club members on their opinion about having a monthly data net on either a Saturday or Sunday where participants operate out in the field. The problem with doing this on our regularly scheduled net is that after September, it gets dark by 8 PM. Additionally, after September, most of the public service events that we support on weekends are over.

The South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) in Carlisle have formed an EmComm group, much like our YARS organization. They seem to be very interested in integrating Digital operations into their communications suite. I would like to hold Digital Tech Sessions both in the York and Carlisle areas starting in August/September. These detail things like how to set up your computer to radio interface, software configuration, and some of the issues that are hard to explain over the air.



Keystone VHF Club General Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2017

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 19:20. There were 42 members present, plus 2 new applicants, and 5 guests.

PRESENTATIONS:

A special presentation was made for Life Membership to Lee Lindsay, WB3HNA. Lee has been an active participant in the digital NETs, including being the Linux guru. He was also extremely generous in providing donations for the new HVAC system at the club.

John, LaMartina, K3NXU, talked to us about his background and his website, MIKLOR.COM which contains many instructions for a variety of radios.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Dave, KC3GMQ, moved to accept the March minutes as published, seconded by Ryan, KC3FSJ. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for March: Revenues: \$1,490.88; Expenses: \$210.03; Balances: Club CD \$7,663.68; Checking Acct \$4,851.29; Trustee Acct \$540.83; Total \$13,055.80. \$896.80 has been received as donations for the DMR repeater. Dan advised that he will move our accounts to Members 1st Federal Credit Union. But they don't allow two checking accounts under the same account number. Dan, KB3JSV, moved to combine the two checking accounts into one account, and limiting the Debit Card for Trustees to a specific amount. Paul, N3VI, seconded the motion. Motion carried. Brian, W3BEK, moved to accept the Treasurer's report; 2nd by Bob, WB3EAF. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT –

Saturday, April 8, will be the work party for spring clean-up. Jeff, KB3RCT, advised that the Boy Scouts are using the pavilion. Greg Hagen, KE3CW, requested permission to use the pavilion for a family gathering on Sunday, April 23. That request was approved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT -

Three DMR sessions have been held. Dick, WA3USG, is getting ready for a BitX40 session. The committee will need help to sort and organize stuff at the club. We recently received a lot of electronics from Cumberland Electronics. Dick hopes to use some of that for future Basic Electronics classes. Dick showed several items that can be built.

Our 2-meter repeater has been moved to the Kenwood TKR-750. The MS5000 is now the backup repeater.

Chris Carl, KC3DEW, mentioned that when he used Echolink, he was only hearing the Dover receiver. That will be fixed.

Chris Palm, WY6Z, thanked the Technical Committee for all their work.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS –

TMI Drill will be on April 11 and 12. April has two public service events: MS Walk (4/23) and Iron Masters Hike (4/30). May has March for Babies (5/7) and York Marathon (5/14).

VE/ED REPORT - no report

CONTEST REPORT -

June 10-11 is the VHF contest.

Field Day is June 24-25.

Congratulations to the Hilltoppers for 1st place on CQ

Worldwide DX sideband.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE –

Website data is up to date, newsletter went out.

Dan, KB3JSV, is working on a new Website to be ready in a few months. The membership list will be password

protected so only members can view it. The password was provided at the meeting and will be distributed by email to members. A link will be provided for new member applications and for member renewals.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second reading was done for Raymon Geigel, KC3IOY, who was then voted into membership.

Reminder that the Ice Cream Social will precede the July meeting. The Corn Roast and Chicken B-B-Q will be August 19.

NEW BUSINESS:

First Readings were done for Craig Porterfield, KC3IPB, Mike Hayden, AK3F, and Todd Waltman, KC3GYN. Dan had left the application for Brad Bobbit, KE3IN, at home, so his "reading" was done via email following the meeting.

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

Dan, KB3JSV, mentioned a special event coming up. Look for "100 Watts and a Wire" Podcast from Baltimore. Our own Dick, WA3USG, did an interview which will air April 11.

Dan thanked Dick for all his work as an Elmer. He will post the link to the podcast on the W3HZU Facebook page.

The Springfest will be April 29 at Elicker's Grove. Dick, WA3USG, will conduct a seminar on the Black Widow Antenna.

NOTE: the next meeting for May 4 will be at the Keystone VHF Club house on Deinger Road.

50-50 Bill Rosevear, KC3GTX, won \$35.

Adjourned at 20:27.



Keystone VHF Club General Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2017

By *Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary*

The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Mike, N3VQH, at 19:00. There were 33 members present, 4 new member applicants, and 3 guests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

It was noted that Tony, KC3EED, has now joined the "Golden Mic" club. Tony kept the 146.97 MHz repeater locked up most of Thursday.

Mike welcomed guests: Todd Waltman, KC3GYN, Mark Shablowski, KC3ITQ, and Philip Martinez, KC3IPF.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Gary, KC3GG, moved to accept the April minutes as sent by email, seconded by Tim, KB3WZX. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for April: Revenues: \$1,131.24; Expenses: \$3,284.93. The big expenses were \$2,030 for the DMR repeater, \$381.60 to Knappers (paid to the end of the year); plus MetEd \$190.17, Dish Actuator \$176.99, 220 amp \$182.00. Balances: Club CD \$7,663.98; Checking Acct \$2,794.09; Trustee Acct \$444.34; Members 1st Checking \$45 and Savings \$50; Total \$10,998.41. Dan will be transferring the Trustee's card to the Members 1st Accounts. Bob, WB3EAF, moved to accept the report; seconded by Dave, KC3GMQ. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – The club has been cleaned up and the old firewood emptied out. New lights (donated by YESCO) were installed in the repeater room. They are very Bright and very Hot.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - The two meter Kenwood repeater is being tweaked. The committee thinks it is at 90% of how they expect it to perform. The DMR repeater has been up for the past two weeks.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – We're in the heart of Public Service time. Two events were completed in April. Dick, WA3USG, reported on the Iron Masters Challenge hike. May has two events coming up. Jack, KC3JD, could use some more volunteers to fill slots to have two operators at each location. Sandy, N3ECF, sent out emails looking for volunteers for three events in June.

VE/ED REPORT - no report

CONTEST REPORT - VHF contest is June 10-11; Field Day is June 24-25.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Website is up to date. Newsletter is on summer bi-monthly schedule: May/June to be published for June 1st, July/August will be out for August 1st.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second readings were done for: Craig Porterfield, KC3IPB; Todd Waltman, KC3GYN; Mike Hayden, AK3F; and Brad Bobbitt, KE3IN. All four were voted into membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

First Readings were done for: John LaMartina, K3NXU and John Valentine, WA3PWN.

Tim, W3TWB, told the club about a 5X8 foot, enclosed trailer that had been donated to the club by Silent Key Charlie Kuhn, KC3DRS. We will take possession of the trailer on May 10, 2017. Rich, W3OKU, will mount the airmast on the tongue, and it will be set up as a Go Trailer for any club events, including public service. Tim asked for approval to order vinyl decals for the sides. The club logo plus the title Amateur Radio Communications are planned to be displayed. Tim, W3TWB, moved to spend up to \$200 for the registration fees, seconded by Rich, KR3EE. Motion carried. Jeff, W3JVU, moved to spend up to \$450 for the graphics, seconded by Ed, KB3WQI. Motion carried.

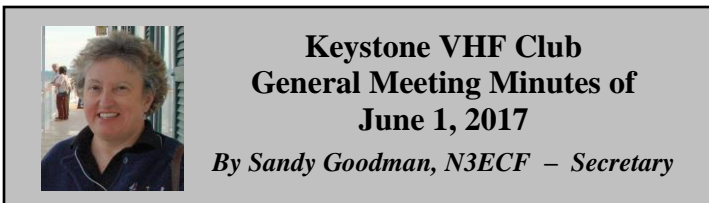
GOOD OF THE CLUB –

Jim, K3JIM, donated a service monitor to the club.

Craig, WA1HEW, encouraged members, especially new operators, to visit the Red Lion Hilltoppers on Field Day.

50-50 was won by Ed Tabor, KB3WQI, for \$25.

Adjourned at 19:47.



The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Mike, N3VQH, at 19:00. There were 27 members present, plus 7 new applicants, and 1 guest. (The membership welcomed Ed, KA3LJL as a recurring guest.)

PRESENTATIONS:

A show-and-tell demonstration of the new club trailer was given by Tim W3TWB and Rich W3OKU. (This is the trailer donated by silent key Charlie Kuhns). Members gathered around to see the new graphics and modifications made to the trailer to make it suitable for hauling all our equipment for remote operations.

Mike, N3VQH gave a slide show presentation of the group trip to Hamvention 2017. A t-shirt was presented to Craig, WA1HEW, which read "Warning if I'm wearing head phones no one talks to me unless the house is on fire".

SECRETARY REPORT: Eric, KB3CNH. Jack, KC3JD moved to accept the May minutes as sent by Sandy, N3ECF via email, seconded by Mike, WS3C. Motion Carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for May: Revenues: \$834.67; Expenses: \$542.52;

Balances: Club CD \$7,666.24; Checking Accts (3 accounts from BB&T and Members 1st) \$3,575.58; Savings Acct (Members 1st) \$50. Total \$11,291.82. BB&T will be closed by next meeting with all funds to be in the new Members 1st accounts. Jeff, KB3RCT is to get a card for the trustees at Members 1st when paperwork goes through. Steve, WB3EFA moved to accept the Treasurer's report; 2nd by Donald, N3OSO. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Tim W3TWB announced that members who have not seen the new lights in the repeater room are encouraged to experience them.

Steve K3WHC announced that he has obtained the 600 watt 1296Mhz amplifier with 30dB gain antenna for use on the EME dish project. The EME dish project needs completed and work will continue. (Our aim is for multi-KW ERP output for EME operation.)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Tim, W3TWB announced that the trailer registration has been transferred, and work is nearly done. Echolink connection to the remote receive site has been fixed on the 146.97 repeater.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS –

Jack KC3JD announced the following events:

June 11 : 5k walk in Rudy Park

June 17 : Double Creek Half Marathon (volunteers wanted to sign up with Jack)

July 30 : Horse Performance Ride (volunteers to contact Sandy N3ECF)

August 12 : Red Lion Street Fair (5 stations same as last year)

VE/ED REPORT – Steven, WB3EFA reported that in the last VE training session in May there was 1 Technician licensed and 2 Extras upgraded. Shrewsbury will hold a VE session next Saturday.

Ralph K3HQI will hold a tech session at York EMA on June 10 and 11.

CONTEST REPORT -

June 10 – 11 : is the VHF contest contact Mike, N3VQH if you are interested in operating at the club.

June 24 – 25 : Field Day (Participate with The Hilltoppers at their clubhouse using the W3HZU trailer) or with the SPCG (Contact Jack, KC3JD) or with the SMRA (Contact Rick, WA3USG)

Sept 9 – 11 : September Contest (Coincident with KTA superhike, further discussion later.)

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE –

Website data is up to date, newsletter did not go out as Rick and Sandy are on vacation.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second readings were done for John Valentine WA3PWN and John LaMartina K3NXU who were both then voted into membership.

July meeting is the Ice Cream social at the clubhouse beginning around 6:30pm.

August 19 is the Corn Roast at the clubhouse, we plan to eat at 1pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

First Readings were done for Ricky Brown KD4RFV, Kevin Bitler KC3AKY, Mark Shedlosky KC3ITQ, Philip Martinez KC3IPF, and Joli Harrington KC3JEX.

Chad, N3UOO was renewed into membership.

Rick KR3EE made a motion to allow \$200 expense for continuing work installing roof racks for the trailer. Seconded by Steve, WB3EFA. Motion Carried.

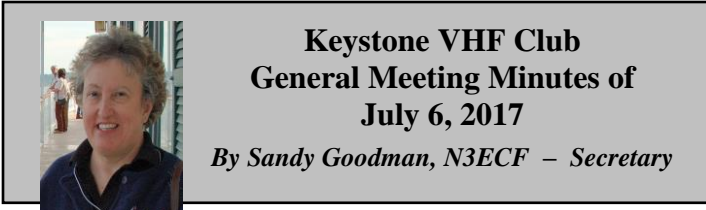
GOOD OF THE CLUB –

Tim W3TWB recognized (KVHF founding member) Ray Shaub W3AXC in attendance at the meeting, introduced him to new members. Ray was recognized for his contributions for his VE testing and Education efforts in amateur radio. Ray has been an ARRL member for 40 years, and licensed for 63 years as of today. (The membership applauded Ray for his contributions to the club and to amateur radio.)

Rich KR3EE offered to stop at King Conversions in Danbury, CT this Saturday for anyone who needs anything picked up to save shipping costs.

There was no 50/50.

Steve, WB3EFA moved to adjourn; 2nd by Donald, N3OSO. Motion carried.



The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Mike, N3VQH, at 19:02. There were 29 members present and 5 new member applicants. Tonight was Ricky Brown's first attendance. The meeting was preceded by our annual Ice Cream Party.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS:

Joe Taylor has a new mode, FT8, in testing. Eric, KB3CNH, and Mike, N3VQH, are working on mesh nodes for networking.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the June minutes as distributed; seconded by Nate, WN3I. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Tim, KB3WZX, reported for June: Revenues: \$657.41; Expenses: \$1,221.86; Balances: Club CD \$7,667.34; Checking Acct \$362.31; Savings Acct \$2,703.87; Total \$10,733.52. Both of the BBT checking accounts have been closed and transferred to Members 1st. Lynn, K3UQJ, moved to accept the report; seconded by Rich, W3OKU. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – The trailer with the finished lettering was on display. The air mast has been mounted.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT –

Saturday, July 15, will be a work party to work on the EME dish. The 6 meter repeater is down. Suspect water at the feedline. Tim, W3TWB, talked about the history of the 6 meter antenna, including the one from England which didn't work, and problems with the one built with a dipole match. Tim would like to buy an M Squared antenna, estimated cost of \$540.

We need a deep cycle battery for the trailer.

Brad, KO3T, moved to approve \$600 to purchase of the battery and the 6 meter antenna. Steve, WB3EFA, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS –

We completed 3 events in June. The only excitement was the slow "runner" on the half marathon who was behind the sweep car, who had pulled down signs. The runner got lost and ended up at Davidsburg Road. Jim Fry, KC3EWN, was kind enough to go pick her up, and bring her back to the course so she could finish. Coming up:

August 12: Red Lion Street Fair – Jack will be sending an email to ask for volunteers

Sept 9: King's Gap Time Trials (maybe) and the KTA Hike. Sandy will be asking if someone can tow the new trailer to bring it to Pinnacle Overlook for use at the event.

Oct 7: new event Walk for Alzheimers at John Rudy Park, expect 1000 walkers

Oct 14-15: MS Bike Tour in Gettysburg

VE/ED REPORT -

At the York Township Technician License class, 8 folks tested and passed the exam. Saturday July 8 has one upgrade scheduled for testing. A short discussion was held about a General License Class. Nate, WN3I, does have some ARRL materials, but that class is difficult to manage.

CONTEST REPORT -

Discussion was held on the various Field Day events in the area: Hilltoppers made 800 contacts with 17 operators. They operated from their club using a generator. SMRA in Carlisle had over 1000 contacts. Sandy noted that Emily, KB3VVE, beat out Dick for contacts. Emily is an very experienced CW operator. Nate reported on that Shrewsbury's group had the most activity on 80/75 meters.

IRU Contest coming up. September VHF contest is Sept 9-11

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Website is up to date. Dick, WA3USG, hopes to a newsletter out in July.

OLD BUSINESS:

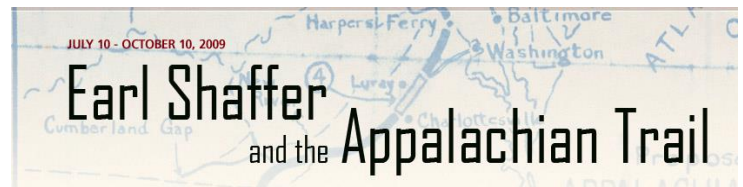
Second readings were done for: Ricky Brown, KD4RFV, Kevin Bitler, KC3AKY, Joli Harrington, KC3JEX, Philip Martinez, KC3IPF, and Mark Shedlosky, KC3ITQ. All were then voted into membership.

NEW BUSINESS: none

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

Tim, W3TWB, has an ICOM 706 Mark 26 for sale for \$450.

50-50: Greg, KE3CW, won \$23. Adjourned at 19:31.



The latest issue of The Smithsonian has a small article about Earl Shaffer. How he was the first to thru hike the Appellation Trail in 1948 at age 29. Then did it again at age 79 fifty years later. His brother John Shaffer, W3SST, told us he talked Earl into taking a cell phone on his second trip.

Earl kept a journal in a little black spiral bound notebook which is available on-line (lots of good stuff in the link below):

http://americanhistory.si.edu/documentgallery/exhibitions/appalachian_trail_1.html

Did you know that Earl's brother was John Shaffer, W3SST, the primary founder of the Keystone VHF Club? Earl Shaffer is legendary in many aspects of Appalachian Trail Lore. In 1960, Earl constructed an A.T. shelter up on Peters Mountain in Perry County. Over the years, the shelter had deteriorated. The Appalachian Trail Museum located in Pine Grove Furnace State Park decided that this historic structure should be refurbished to its original condition and moved to the museum. In August of 2008, this was conducted by the Appalachian Trail Museum Society in concert with the Earl Shaffer Foundation, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Keystone Trails Association, the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association. If you get a chance, stop by the Appalachian Trail Museum, open on weekends and check it out.

Steve Cruse, K3WHC sent me this interesting thread from "Moon Net" on "How far radio waves will travel in space"

I wonder how far the transmissions we beam to the moon do travel in space? I'm sure there is a way to calculate this. Since I'm a MBA and not an engineer. I ask the engineers if you know more about distances the electromagnetic waves travel in space? Or in other words how many years we can expect our transmissions to travel through space until there is "nothing left"? Many thanks for any information or hint! 73, Dan HB9Q

Hi ... If you were to live long enough I'm sure you would get a reply, Alpha Centauri is the nearest star system at 4.7 light years, so assuming that there is intelligent life on a planet in that system capable of receiving your transmissions, that about 10 years to get a reply. But, in the ten years it takes to get a reply, WSJTX will have moved on so much the JT65 will be obsolete. Also if the claims of the nearest with potential life is 13 light years away, how old will you be in 26 years time? 73 from a cynical old *****) Richard G8JVM

I usually avoid these kind of threads, but can't help noting that the round-trip radio travel times are only the smallest time-related issue. Think of the odds that in the long period of time since the Big Bang, we and our far-out cosmic radio-equipped brothers became capable of communication at just the right times in history. By the time our signal gets there, their star may have gone dark or they may have blown themselves up OR by the time their signals reach us we may have suffered the same fate. Glad y'all are here TODAY to communicate with!!! 73, Barry K6RM

KEYSTONE VHF CLUB OF YORK, PA



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: _____	