



The VHF Transmitter

Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 – York, PA



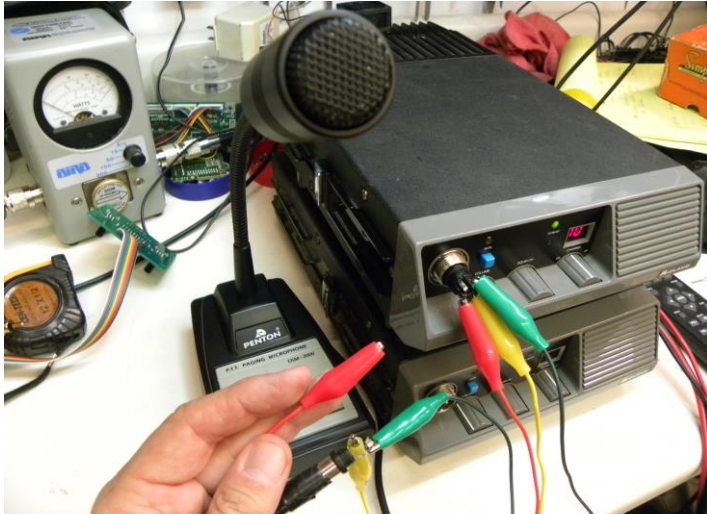
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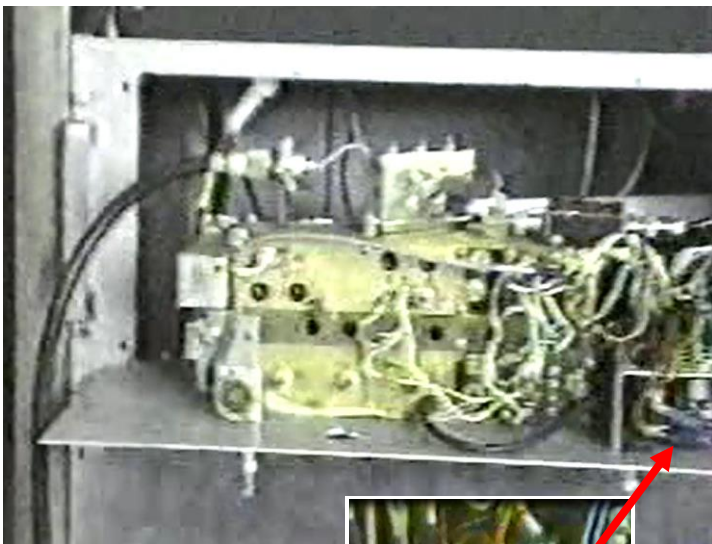
October, 2017

A good laugh! FLDIGI the hard way!

73's Skip, N3VTX



Skip ... This just goes to show you how great clip leads can work! I hope that you realize you are carrying forth a great KVHFC tradition on how to interconnect things ... sometimes in a more or less permanent manner (see image below). I'll take a little more time now on the Data Net to allow reconfiguring from receive to transmit ... HI!



An image of our 146.97 repeater receiver taken in the Summer of 1984. The feedline from the duplexers to the receiver comes in from the left. Check out the chassis mount SO239 connector with the skinny coax going to the helical filter. Also please note the insert showing the green clip lead "protecting" the fuse. I believe that this was the beginning of the grand KVHFC Clip Lead tradition!



On Thursday, Sept 28, we did a lot of work on our operating positions in the main room at the club. We were getting poor audio reports using our Yaesu FT-2000 on 6 meters. Tim, W3TWB reset several audio related parameters in this radio and really cleaned up the audio. Additionally, we tested the two new amplifiers that we purchased. The TE systems model 1452RA was putting out a full 350 watts on 2 meters and the TE systems model 4452G was singing along at 180 watts output. Both amplifiers were performing exactly to specs.

Please think about participating in the January ARRL VHF/UHF contest on 20 - 22 January, 2018. As well as putting out 350 watts on 2 meters and 180 watts on 70cm, we can operate with over 1000 watts OUTPUT on 6 meters We will be heard!

As a side note, we are experiencing some interference on our 2 meter machine. It sounds like it could be some intermod, a problem that we've not had for quite a few years. The Tech Committee is working on it.

KTA Superhike Wrap-Up

By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF

Thank you for another excellent day of amateur radio support. There were almost 400 hikers on Saturday.

I'm just sorry that the portable repeater did not work as well this year for the hikers. It was fine for the checkpoints, but not good for the hiking teams using HT's. I'll have Dick and Ralph work on something for next year. We might go back to what Ralph did a few years ago.

Due to the wonderfully cooler weather, we didn't have our usual heat or rain issues to deal with, although the bee stings were more evident than usual. In addition we did have one sprained ankle, and one exhausted hiker. The trails for this event do not cross near any road access to make extraction easy. KUDOs to Chip Diamond for taking his car down as far as he could to ease that last climb into Checkpoint 3 for that exhausted hiker. As long as the hikers are capable of moving, we just have to take our time and wait for them to arrive. Having a radio hiker along helps the director to monitor the hiker's progress. We all appreciate the HIKING guys for that reason.

One other note I do want to make. We are responsible for communications. Even though one of our number is a paramedic, we are **not** providing ongoing first aid. Each Checkpoint will have a first aid kit. If that is not sufficient to care for a hiker, then other means will be taken to handle situations. The Checkpoint Leader (KTA volunteer) is the person in charge who will determine what needs to be done. The only time Tom, N3PNF, will be called to provide first aid will be an emergency where he might assist the sweep hikers to help a hiker prior to a full emergency response team to arrive.

Thanks again

The first aid kit provided by the organizers at Posey was a joke. If it wasn't for a nurse who was hiking and had Benadril, we could of had a bad case of allergy to a bee sting.

Also a suggestion from Posey road, if the hikers would stay in numerical order, check in would be faster ... HI!

De Chip Diamond, W3FJD

OUR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

October 5th & November 2nd at the EOC

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: 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 Virginia Moore, N3LZS at 717-252-1694*

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.

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

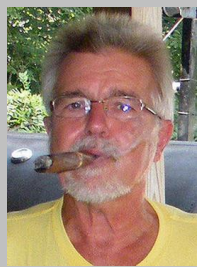
6 Meter Magicians Net from Pottstown Wednesdays at 8:30 PM on 50.130 USB. At 9 PM, they switch to 50.400 and run A.M. modulation and call themselves the Mini Boat Anchor Net.

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.

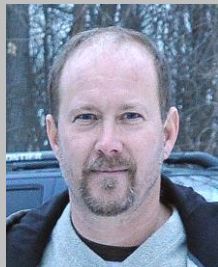
Trustee's Report



Tim, W3TWB



Dick, WA3USG



Jeff, KB3RCT

Get ready for winter folks! Over the course of the next several weeks, we hope to get the storage shed REALLY cleaned up ... how many times have you heard that? We will try & schedule a work party at the meeting.

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2017

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

POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF n3ecf@arrl.net

* **Nov 5, 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

**** SJ - Your Slim
Jim is advisable here**

York ARES RACES SKYWARN (YARS)



If interested contact
Sandy Goodman
N3ECF
717-697-2353
n3ecf@arrl.net

Are you a newly licensed Ham? Are you an experienced Ham looking to expand your horizons? Are you interested in taking part in Public service projects, Emergency Communications, operations in the field, and supporting your community? YARS is a separate organization from the Keystone VHF Club dedicated to all of the above. We support our country, state, county, and community and we could use YOU.

The VHF Transmitter

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CHILDREN OF THE 1930s and 1940s – “THE LAST ONES”

While not exactly "Amateur Radio" related, I thought that this would be a good read for some of our senior members ... my hat is off to you guys (and gals). You were truly the Sons & Daughters of the Greatest Generation!

Born in the 1920s, 1930s and early 1940s, we exist as a very special age cohort. We are the “LAST ONES.” We are the last to see huge steam engines trailing trains noisily through our towns and countryside. We are the last to see old black-and-white movies and newsreels of the devastation brought upon China by flood and famine. We are the last to listen to music on the windup “Victrola”. We are the last, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and where we were when Japan struck Pearl Harbor; and the war itself with fathers and uncles going off. We are the last to remember ration books for everything from sugar to shoes to stoves. We saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans. We saved newspapers and conducted scrap metal drives for the war effort. We bought War Saving Stamps during intermission at the movies and then pasted them into books that we turned in for a War Bond when the stamp total reached \$18.75. We practiced “Blackouts” and marveled at how we could actually still see when the entire city was darkened. We delivered newspapers and set up lemonade stands on the late summer afternoons. We climbed fences and “jumped” garage roofs. We saw cars up on blocks because tires weren’t available.

We are the last to hear Roosevelt’s radio assurances and to see gold stars among the blue in the front windows of our grieving neighbors. We can also remember the parades on August 15, 1945; VJ Day.

We are the last who spent childhood without television; instead imagining what we heard on the radio. As we all like to brag, with no TV, we spent our childhood “playing outside until the street lights came on.” We did play outside and we did play on our own. There was no little league. There was just no organized anything except what we might conjure in our own heads and then act upon. We roller skated and “biked” in the summer and slid down hills of snow on cardboard boxes in the winter. We floated boats in the gutter after a summer rain. We played cowboys and Indians and “war” (we made hand grenades out of clay dug out of a river bank or a shady glen) and of course baseball ... “Anybody got a bat, anybody got a ball? ... on the street, on the road, on that empty lot, in a field, in the backyard ... and the bases ... bricks, sticks, stones, rags, shirts, cans, you name it. It was game on! And the things we could build with an orange crate! Break it down, save the nails, find a rock and away we’d go!

The lack of television in our early years meant, for most of us, that we had little real understanding of what the world was like. Our world stretched for about 10 square blocks or a few miles if you lived in the country. Our Saturday afternoons, if at the movies, gave us newsreels of the war and the holocaust sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons. Newspapers and magazines were written for adults except for “funny books” or comic books. We are the last who had to find out for ourselves.

As we grew up, the country was exploding with growth. The G.I. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow. VA loans fanned a housing boom. Pent up demand coupled with new installment payment plans put factories to work. New highways would bring jobs and mobility. The veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics. In the late 40s and early 50s the country seemed to lie in the embrace of brisk but quiet order as it gave birth to its new middle class. Our parents understandably became absorbed with their own new lives. They were free from the confines of the depression and the war. They threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

We weren’t neglected but we weren’t today’s all-consuming family focus. They were glad we played by ourselves “until the street lights came on.” They were busy discovering the post war world.

Most of us had no “life plan”, but with the unexpected virtue of ignorance and an economic rising tide we simply stepped out into the world and went out to find out. We entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed. Based on our naïve belief that there was more where this came from, we shaped life as we went.

We enjoyed a luxury; we felt secure in our future. Of course, just as today, not all Americans shared in this experience. Depression poverty was deep rooted. Polio was still a crippler. The Korean War was a dark presage in the early 1950s and by mid-decade school children were ducking under desks. China became Red China. Eisenhower sent the first “advisors” to Vietnam. Castro set up camp in Cuba and Khrushchev came to power.

We are the last to experience an interlude when there were no existential threats to our homeland. We came of age in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The war was over and the cold war, terrorism, climate change, technological upheaval and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with insistent unease.

Only we can remember both a time of apocalyptic war and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We experienced both.

We grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better... not worse.

We did not have it easy. Our wages were low, we did without, we lived within our means, we worked hard to get a job, and harder still to keep it. Things that today are considered necessities, we considered unreachable luxuries. We made things last. We fixed, rather than replaced. We had values and did not take for granted that “somebody will take care of us.” We cared for ourselves and we also cared for others.

Not to be too morose there are fun memories too: mud pies after a rain shower, glow in the dark belts, whatever the next box top would bring. Let’s exchange Decoder Rings and Flash Gordon lapel pins! We could even make battleship cannons with those cardboard tubes linoleum came rolled on. We were creative above all. We made do.

We are the “LAST ONES.”



SPCG Saturday morning breakfasts at the Mason-Dixon Restaurant in Shrewsbury. Starts at 8 AM ... get there early to get a good seat. A great bunch of guys. Be prepared to talk about DMR!!

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
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.

FCC Opens 630- and 2200-Meter Bands; Stations Must Notify UTC Before Operating

Submitted by Brian Shanabrough, KC3JME

The FCC has announced that the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for 3 years, the information-collection requirement of the Commission's March 29 Report and Order (R&O) that spelled out Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands — 630 meters and 2200 meters. Notice of the action appears in today's edition of the Federal Register. Before using either band, stations must notify the Utilities Technology Council (UTC), formerly the Utilities Telecom Council, that they plan to do so, and if UTC does not respond within 30 days, they may commence operation.

Last March 27, the FCC adopted the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) implementation Report and Order (ET Docket 15-99), amending its Amateur Radio rules to — in the FCC's words — “provide for frequency-sharing requirements in the 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472-479 kHz (630-meter) bands.”

Section 97.313(g)(2) of those rules requires that, prior to starting operation in either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of their antenna's fixed location. The new rules do not permit any mobile operation.

“Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies,” the FCC said. PLC systems are unlicensed. “This notification process will ensure that amateur stations seeking to operate [on 630 or 2200 meters] are located beyond a minimum separation distance from PLC transmission lines, which will help ensure the compatibility and coexistence of amateur and PLC operations, and promote shared use of the bands.”

The FCC announced that it is making effective immediately the Part 97 rule amendments, § 97.3, 97.15(c), 97.301(b) through (d), 97.303(g), 97.305(c), and 97.313(k) and (l), which do not require OMB approval

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.

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.



Call (717) 767-1420 or email sales@hagenselectric.com

Hagens Electric is located at 2030 Carlisle Rd York, PA 17408



**Keystone VHF Club
Executive Board Minutes of
September 17, 2017**

By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

President, Mike, N3VQH, brought the Executive Board Meeting to order at 7:02 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 Tim Snook, KB3WZX; Secretary Sandy Goodman, N3ECF; Assistant Secretary Eric Smyder, KB3CNH; Trustees: Dick Goodman, WA3USG; Jeff Patterson, KB3RCT. The remaining Trustee Tim Barefoot, W3TWB, was vacationing in Ireland.

1. Nomination Committee. Mike will appoint a committee at the next general meeting. All current officers will continue in their current position. Dick, WA3USG, is willing to run for a new term as Trustee.
2. Audit Committee: The Audit Committee was discussed and possible member suggestions were made. Jack, KC3JD, volunteered as a representative from the Executive Board. Mike will check with members and appoint the committee.
3. Special Dates:

Holiday Party: We scheduled January 13, with a snow date of January 27th for the party. We would like to return to the Viking Club. Joe, KB3TCM, volunteered to organize it. He will coordinate with Nate, WN3I, who is a member, to sponsor us. Sandy will send Joe the banquet information from last year. The e-board recommends the club cover the cost over \$20 for each member.

XMAS Magic: We decided to schedule a club visit to the XMAS Magic display t Rocky Ridge on Thursday, November 30, at 7 pm. We can have cold cuts for sandwiches at the club before visiting, with hot cocoa at the club after. Each member will be responsible to pay their own admission fees. We might try to initiate an open house at the club (until 7 pm that evening), to invite members from other clubs to join us.
4. Life memberships: Bob Storm, WB3EAF, is eligible for the life membership for 25 years in the club. It would be nice to present it at the Holiday Party is he'll attend that, or at the December meeting.
5. Trailer Towing Requirements/Checkout: For times when we need someone to tow the trailer to use the portable repeater, we need to set up some requirements. Only specific people who are properly vetted will be allowed to take it out. The Trustees are being assigned to approve whomever will use the trailer and repeater. The person towing the trailer must have collision insurance, and their vehicle needs to be verified to handle the trailer with the weight. The Trustees (probably Tim, W3TWB) will need to provide specific training on the use of the air mast, the repeater, and the generator.
6. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

ALARM: We've had instances where the alarm has gone off. Sensors need to be checked. Consideration is to be made whether or not to connect it to the repeater or camera system and create an email alert. It will be monitored for now.

REPEATER AMP: The amplifier for the repeater needs to be looked at. Power output is down. The resolution/cost needs to be determined, and presented at the general club meeting.

ORGANIZE & INVENTORY SHED: Stuff in the shed needs to be inventoried and organized. Dick noted that there is rotted wood above the door.

MANAGE THURSDAY NIGHTS: The activity on Thursday Tech nights needs to be better organized. A whiteboard was suggested to list the projects that are being done to maintain better focus. Volunteers can then be assigned to a specific project.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID: Anne Zarlenga had scheduled a Wilderness First Aid class. Dan, KB3JSV, objected to the \$122 remaining from a donation from Rich Reese, KR3EE, being maintained in the Keystone Club treasury because it is not for club business. Note: the Wilderness First Aid class was subsequently cancelled. The CPR/First Aid certifications now need to be renewed. We need to ask Anne if she can conduct another class.

DONATION DISCUSSION: Due to Dan's objection, we further discussed how to handle donations made to the club for "special" classes. One thought was to only accept a donation to cover the current cost of a class. Another option would be to specify if the remainder of the donation should be returned to the donor or donated to the club's general fund.

SPRAYING PARKING LOT: Tim, KB3WZX, brought up discussion about people with hypersensitivity to pesticides, which includes round-up. The park service needs to post that pesticide is being sprayed, and requires a certification number for the person doing the spraying. We talked about whether or not we are at risk of being sued for spraying, and whether we consider ourselves private owners, or public property. At this point we will do nothing different.

SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX: Dan, KB3JSV, reviewed the contents of the bank safety deposit box. He will digitize what's needed, and shred what is not. Dan also recommended we provide a second bank card to Tim Barefoot, W3TWB, to make club purchases. That was approved. Dan will receive email alerts whenever the card is used.

PROCESS FOR GETTING APPROVAL TO SPEND MONEY: We had a big discussion initiated by Jack, KC3JD, about how decisions (like the purchase of the MDR repeater) are being rushed to spend money. For controversial or large purchases, an email of notice followed by discussion should be held one month prior to seeking approval to spend the money. It was suggested we bring this up at the October club meeting.

Next Meeting: We decided to try to have Executive Board meetings quarterly. The next meeting should be sometime in January 2018.

Adjourned 9 PM.

Observations on Hurricane Harvey Response

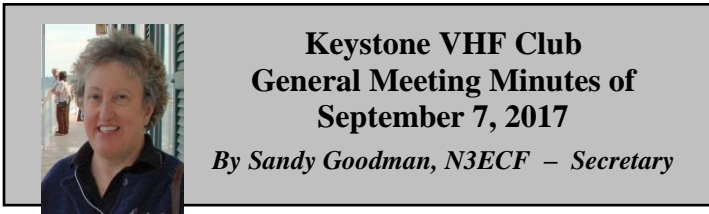
(From ARES E-Letter 9/20/17) my highlighting / underline

By Jack Dellinger, KC3JD

The public safety agencies along the Gulf coast have done a lot over the past ten years to make their communications systems - including radio and Internet -- more robust and hardened for integrity in major storm events. Their efforts, combined with the FCC requirement for narrow banding and the addition of digital modes at the same time have made these systems more complex - yielding more possible points of failure. But in the end, in both the greater Houston and Golden Triangle portions of the Texas Gulf Coast, Hurricane Harvey did not knock out, nor significantly impact the cellular telephone and data networks or the 700 MHz and 800 MHz trunked public safety communication service systems. There were some threats but no significant impact. ARES/RACES operators were prepared, in place, staffed and ready to go, if needed.

My concern is that not only will our served agencies find themselves lured into a false sense of security, so will the Amateur Radio community. We amateur operators have the ability to, and must control one side of that equation: We can continue to train, practice and exercise. **We can complete the courses Introduction to Emergency Communication (EC-001); Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs (EC-016); PR-101: ARRL Public Relations (EC-015). We can take and complete the FEMA Independent Study (IS) courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 and IS-026. Both ARES and RACES leaders should add IS-300 and IS-400 courses to their resume. All should get into a DHS AUXCOMM class. Leaders should try to take the DHS COML course even if they never get DHS certified. As PIO's who**

Continued on Page 8



Keystone VHF Club General Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2017

By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF – Secretary

The General Club Meeting held at Keystone VHF Club was called to order by Pres. Mike, N3VQH, at 19:05. There were 30 members present and 2 new member applicants (Cole Goodling and Dan Barker).

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS:

Sunspots are up to 100. Mike thanked everyone who helped at our mini-Hamfest and the Corn Roast.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy, N3ECF. Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the August minutes published, 2nd Ryan, KC3FSJ. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Dan, KB3JSV, reported for August: Revenues: \$553.79; Expenses: \$1,629.7, which included \$516.43 for the corn roast/chicken b-b-q, \$260 for insurance, \$207.95 for the 6m repeater antenna, and \$248.03 for Electric; Balances: Club CD \$7,670.10; Checking Acct \$422.86; Savings Acct \$1,504.05; Total \$9,597.01. Eric, KB3CNH, moved to accept the report; 2nd by Dave, KC3GMQ. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – The lawn has been mowed. We're now getting ready for winter. The shed was cleaned out.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - The dish is mostly together. Scheduled September 23rd to mount the dish. The 6 meter repeater is back on the air.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS –

The Red Lion Street Fair went well. The KTA Trail Challenge is this Saturday, where we will use the portable repeater at Pinnacle Overlook on the Lancaster side. 461 hikers are pre-registered.

October 7 is the Walk for Alzheimers, with Chip, W3FJD, in charge. October 14-15 is the MS Bike Tour in Gettysburg. Sandy, N3ECF, is organizing that to cover 4 rest stops and 5 SAGs.

For any interested or willing to help Franklin County with the Michaux Team Challenge, the date for that has changed to November 5. Contact Sandy if interested.

VE/ED REPORT - No September testing, VEs helping at KTA hike.

CONTEST REPORT - September VHF Contest is this weekend. PA QSO is the weekend of October 14-15.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – Newsletter went out. Dan, KB3JSV, will have the new website up this coming weekend. It will include PayPal option to pay dues.

OLD BUSINESS:

Boy Scout JOTA will happen on October 21. Radio operators are needed at the Keystone VHF Club from 9 am to Noon. Talk to Mike if you can help. Second reading was done for Brian Shanabrough, KC3JME, who was then voted into membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

First readings were done for Cole Goodling, who is applying as an Associate Member since he doesn't yet have his license, and for Danny Barker, KC3HTV

Anne, KB3 ZLJ, will be holding a Wilderness First Aid class for 4 students. This will use up the last of the donation that Rich Reese made for First Aid classes March of 2013.

GOOD OF THE CLUB –

Reminder: next meeting will be at the York County Emergency Management. There will be a weekend Technician License Class at York Township on October 28-29.

50-50 was won by Larry, N3LED, who donated the \$23 back to the club. Adjourned at 19:35.

Observation on Hurricane Harvey ... Continued from Page 7

also wear an ARES/RACES hat, in addition to the PR-101 course offered by the ARRL, they should take the **FEMA IS-042 and the GS-289, GS-290, and GS-291** courses.

In addition to the educational portion described above, we also need to continue to practice our on air skills. Personally, I find that most nets are not fulfilling their potential in the practicing of emergency/disaster response communications skills. To help nets meet their potential, one action they could take is to hold at least one monthly session where all operators take their go kits to the field -- even if it's just the Wal-Mart parking lot down the street -- and check into the net. Not every ham can "go portable," but the more who can, increase the utility of our organizations. That utility is important when it comes to emergencies and disasters such as what we have just gone through here in the Houston area where maybe as many as 1 out of 6 homes were rendered uninhabitable.

Also, net check-ins, whether novices or veterans, sometimes do not listen to the instructions of the net control station. We were given two ears and one mouth to be exercised proportionally. During the Harvey disaster, I observed that net operators and net control stations could use more net discipline for great efficiency and efficacy.

The lowest common denominators for ARES/RACES emergency/disaster response are still the workhorse V/UHF FM and 40/75 meter phone bands. While the digital modes can certainly bring value, they cannot replace our lowest common denominators as not every ham is so equipped. As our served agencies' communications systems have become more complex with more possible points of failure, we do not need to repeat that model less we set up to fail as well. Outside of the major metropolitan areas many of these more elaborate digital modes do not see the light of day.

Every ARES/RACES/CERT responder needs to have a "brag book." This phrase was coined by a friend and new ham who says every amateur licensee should have a book with copies of any license, I-D, certificates, etc., in it to present to a served agency official or other person who may have a need to review their credentials.

Now we've done our part -- how do we get our served agencies on board? We can't force them to do anything and the more we try to force ourselves upon them the more likely the chance to alienate them. It is my opinion that nothing does more to gain their respect than documented training from recognizable organizations. Understanding your served agencies' communications systems, whether a simple 5 channel narrow band FM radio or complex multi-site 700 MHz P25 protocol system, and being able to discuss where Amateur Radio can fit into their system to either back up or take load off their system helps.

Opening up your brag book and explaining that you understand ICS protocol, and our place in the system and are continuing to learn more, all help. Volunteer to participate in any of their drills, and not just as a radio operator. My city runs several a year as we are in a large petrochemical complex and I've served everywhere from in the EOC to an observer/evaluator in the field.

The bottom line is that every region of the country will be different and there is no one simple answer. We all need to find what works best for our particular environments. - [Mike Urich, KA5CVH](#), Assistant SEC and PIO, ARRL [South Texas Section](#), [Harris County ARES](#).

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