

The Parasitic Emission

Volume 37, Number 8
August 2011

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August 2011 Amateur Radio Club Activities

2011: The Year of the Club

ISSN: 2156-0080

TIME FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES!



Supporting Amateur Radio Club Activities

WITH FIELD DAY

behind us, our calendars now turn to special activities and Hamfests. We encourage everyone to do their part to help their clubs with special activities. These things don't just happen by themselves, it takes many hands, including yours!

When your club ventures into the public arena, the spotlight is turned on... and it's focused on **you**. The people who see you will form first impressions of Amateur Radio and of radio amateurs based upon what they see. If you set a good example, you may be pleasantly surprised when some of them ask about becoming hams.

Presenting yourselves as responsible, skilled communicators who freely offer your communication services to your neighbors and communities will serve you well when it comes time for consideration of antenna ordinances and zoning issues.

Every special event is an exercise in public relations. Your club and Amateur Radio in general stand to benefit, from the exposure you get. But to keep those benefits from turning into "Bad Press," you have to prepare to do it right. When your club sets up in a public place, it's a good idea to always have someone friendly on hand to talk to visitors. Nothing is a bigger turnoff to the public than seeing one or two hams yelling into microphones, with their backs to the visitors and nobody else around to explain what's going on.

Speaking of turn-offs, I shouldn't have to say it, but please, PLEASE pay attention to bathing and grooming! Sure, it's easy to work up a sweat stringing antennas and lugging

heavy equipment, but clean yourself up before that spotlight turns on. Ham hygiene (or lack thereof) is a well-known topic on the Internet, and hams have gained a widely-held, bad reputation as a smelly, obese, disheveled group of old geezers who fear technology (and soap).

Your public presence can go a long way to disproving that misconception, if you do your part. The ARRL makes many informative handouts and pamphlets available free of charge, and your club should order plenty of these promotional materials. Beyond that, you should make some of your own promotional materials featuring your club to hand out to visitors.

Whether indoors or outdoors, your setup should feature your club's name and logo, so people will know what they're looking at! At events such as communications support for parades or marathons, club apparel such as hats, tee shirts, or jackets are appropriate attire for participants, and will go a long way to providing a positive image of club unity, organization and reliability to the public.

Remember to put your best foot forward—you only get one chance to make a first impression!

[Note: If your club is in need of a logo, or would like to update your existing logo, I would be happy to help you out with my design services. A good logo is a constant representative of your club, and can be used to good effect on coffee mugs, certificates, and apparel. Drop me an email, if your club is interested. —Joe]

I F YOU'VE NEVER been to a hamfest, what are you waiting for? There's no better way to see for yourself the latest Amateur Radio technology, and maybe pick up a gadget or two for your hamshack. Hamfests are also a great way to

meet other hams, and personally spend face time with friends you only get to talk to on the radio the rest of the year!

I rode along with my Elmer and friends to the Warren Hamfest the first year I was a ham, and it made a good impression on me. I was just a kid and didn't have much cash so I couldn't buy any new rigs, but still, I came home with some affordable goodies.

I can think of nothing that compares to the excitement of the ride home from a hamfest, filled with anticipation of putting your newly-acquired treasures on the air! The miles seem to drag by on that long ride home.

One way to come up with a little extra buying power for those big purchases (and reduce the size of the mung-heap in your shack) is to take some "good stuff" with you to sell in the flea market. Once you have cash in hand, you can pick up some "better stuff" to fuel that anticipation-laden trip back home! It is for this reason I've long said that a hamfest is where hams trade their old junk for new junk!

ONE OTHER EVENT that looks like it will be a lot of fun is the Multi-Club Picnic on Saturday, August 6th. This year, it's being hosted near Pine Grove Mills by the Nittany Amateur Radio Cub of State College. All hams in central Pennsylvania are invited to share a pleasant time with friends, old and new!

So, it looks like August is shaping up to be a busy month with special events, hamfests, picnics and even a contest or two! So much fun and so little time... Decisions, decisions!

I'll see you...**On The Air!**



A hamfest is where hams trade their old junk for new junk.



The Quad-County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Special Service Club
Serving Clearfield, Jefferson Elk And
Cameron Counties Since 1975

Meeting Notice

August 19, 2011

August Meeting: The August meeting will be held on Friday, August 19 at 7:30 pm in the meeting room of the Clearfield County 911 Center, 911 Leonard Street in Clearfield.

The president of the **Young Ladies' Radio League**, an international organization of female radio amateurs, Lois Gutshall WB3EFQ will present a **very interesting program** for and about lady hams. YLs, XYLs, men and women, boys and girls of all ages, hams or not, members of any club and non-members from all over are invited to attend this very special program. Don't miss it! Please check the Quad-County ARC website at qcarc.org for the latest information.



August Breakfast: 9:30am, Saturday, August 13, Sid's Sub Shop, Old Town Road, Clearfield

Minutes: July 15, 2011

By Jeff Rowles KA3FHV

THE MEETING WAS called to order at 7:33 PM by President W3DWR, Doug. After the Pledge Of Allegiance a moment of silence was observed in memory of Jim Byrne, KA3WSX. Guests present included Bev Hudsick, N3FYD and N3RTK. Three new members were introduced to the club. They are KC2RHQ, Jeannie Neep KB3VWX, Ed Neep KB3VWX, and Kevin Hoynoski W3PIG. The minutes of the

previous meeting were approved as read. The treasurer's report in the amount of \$582.79 was approved on a motion by KA3FHV seconded by KB3VWX.

Old Business:

Lars, KB3WBT, gave a brief report on the special event station on August 13th. W3DWR commented on his idea of a picture of the drive-in's marquee featuring information on the special event station. Lars then put on his Technical Specialist hat and outlined steps taken to help KB3VWX with extreme (S-9) electrical interference at his location.

Joe, W3BC, commented on the coverage of our Field Day operations by WJAC TV.

W3DWR mentioned that we still have to name an Official Emergency Station, that the phone line has been disconnected and that the Super Summer Picnic will be held on August 6th.

New Business:

Doug, W3DWR, suggested that we renew our membership in the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council. Dues are \$15.00. A motion to that effect was made by KB3LES and seconded by KB3SVW. Ed Hinkle, K3EDD was mentioned as a possible club representative to the WPRC meetings.

Joe, W3BC, reported on the technician licensing classes which just started. He also suggested that we appoint a QSL manager for the club. WA3UFN, Bryan, suggested that we reserve the Sportsmen's Pavilion for next year's Field Day. Seven lucky ticket holders won zip-lock bags of frozen, leftover BUX Sauce.

A motion to adjourn was made by KA3FHV and seconded by KB3LES. A slide show of Field Day photos and a discussion of FD 2011 were the evening's program.

Attendance:

KA3FHV, WB3EQW, W3KWT, W3DWR, W3BC, KB3SVW, W3TM, KB3FPN, KB3OUG, N3PUQ, K3JE, AB3NK, Bev Hudsick, K3EDD, N3NWL, N3UDN and KB3WBT.

Help Wanted for Special Event

Saturday, August 13

MARK YOUR calendars for Saturday, August 13th. We will be setting up a special event station and information stand for the public at the Super 322 Drive-In on US 322 east of Woodland.

Be ready to man the station for an hour or two and also have a great time viewing all the wonderful classic, vintage and exotic cars that will be on display.

More information is on our website, qcarc.org

Quad-County ARC Information

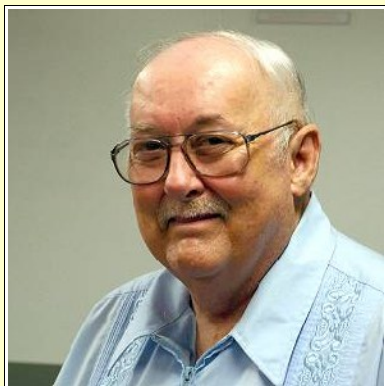
President	Doug Rowles W3DWR w3dwr@hotmail.com
Vice President	H. Deforest Murray, III W3TM kb3tap@hotmail.com
Secretary	Jeff Rowles KA3FHV jrowles@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Dorothy Morrison N3PUQ edmo1@atlanticbb.net
Executive Board	Don Jewell KB3LES Lars Kvant KB3WBT (SM7FYW) Ed Morrison K3JE Joe Shupienis W3BC Bryan Simanic WA3UFN
Officers	Technology: Lars Kvant KB3WBT(SM7FYW) Public Info: Joe Shupienis W3BC
Repeaters	N3QC 147.315+ [173.8]Rockton Mt K3EDD 444.625+ [173.8]Rockton Mt N3IZE 444.900+ [173.8]Clfd local N3QC-1 144.390 APRS Digipeater
Nets	Sunday @ 1900 147.315 (Club)
Web	www.qcarc.org , info@qcarc.org

Behind The Gavel

by Doug Rowles W3DWR

IT HAS BEEN mentioned previously in this column the Quad-County members are at their best when food is involved. With that in mind here are two upcoming events which will attest to this.

The club picnic will be held on Saturday, September 11th at Lars' and Kay's campsite at Curwensville



Lake. This will be in addition to the club Breakfast at Sid's that morning. (What did I tell you?) Hotdogs, buns and condiments will be provided. Bring a dish to share, place settings, beverage, lawn chair, etc. Time is 1:00 pm; talk-in provided on the N3QC repeater or 146.52 simplex.

Ethan's Cafe will again be the site of our Christmas Dinner. The date is December 11th at 6:00 pm. The menu will be your choice of ham or turkey with potatoes, filling, a vegetable, rolls and a tray of homemade cookies for dessert. Don't forget breakfast that morning at Sid's. (Here we go again!) I have to get the number of reservations to them near the end of November.



Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club

Serving Punxsutawney and Jefferson County

Meeting Notices

Tuesday, July 12 7:00 pm

PUNXSUTAWNEY Area Amateur Radio Club meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Punxsutawney Presbyterian Church, Findley Street.

Shack Night

SHACK NIGHT IS held at the Punxsutawney Airport in Hangar B at 7:00 pm the first Tuesday, May-October.

Monthly Breakfast

BREAKFAST get-togethers are held the last Saturday of each month at the Amish Restaurant, Route 310 between Anita and Reynoldsville.

PAARC Information

President	John Buttner, KB3OUG kb3oug@gmail.com
Vice President	Tom Sprague, KB3TOY
Secretary	Steve Waltman, KB3FPN kb3fpn@windstream.net
Treasurer	Sham Hollopeter, W3QOS
Repeaters	N5NWC 146.715- [173.8] Punxs'y N5NWC 443.475+ Punxs'y KE3DR 147.390+ [173.8] Rockton N3HAO 53.07- (-1MHz) Rockton N3JGT 147.105+ [173.8] Sigel N3GPM 444.275+ Brookv1
Nets	Monday @ 1930 147.390 (Club) Monday @ 2000 147.105 (Jeff EMA)
Web	http://sites.google.com/site/punxyhamclub/

New Look For Punxsy Net Roster

by Doug Rowles W3DWR

BE ON YOUR toes when the net begins on Monday, August first.

The preamble remains much the same, but the order of the call up list has changed. At the July meeting Jerry, AB3NK, made a motion that our net follow the same check in procedures as he has noted on other repeaters.

Check-ins will begin with club officers, followed by club members and thereafter the regular listings by county. The listing of club members is in alphabetical order by suffix. If you are a club member you will no longer be listed in your county.

So keep a sharp ear when the net starts and be ready to jump in when you are called. After a few weeks you won't even notice the change.

If there are any errors in the call up order contact me at w3dwr@hotmail.com or club president KB3OUG.

Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association
 Serving Philipsburg and Clearfield County

PARA Picnic
 by John Szwarc N3SPW

THE 5TH ANNUAL Philipsburg Area Amateur Radio Picnic will be held on Saturday August 13th, 2011 at 2 PM. This event is open to all amateur radio operators and their families. Membership in PARA or any other club is not required. We'll plan to serve dinner by 3 PM. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish and a table setting. Hot dogs, hamburgers and rolls

will be provided by the club.

The location will once again be Black Moshannon State Park picnic pavilion #7. The pavilion is located on Beaver Road across from the Organized Tenting Area on the lake shore. For those using a GPS, here are the coordinates: N40.90817 W078.05460

Talk-in will be on "The Big 43 Repeater" (146.430 MHz, +1 MHz offset, PL 173.8 Hz). RSPV's would be appreciated so we can be sure to bring enough hotdogs and hamburgers. Please contact John N3SPW at 814-345-6727 to RSVP.

If you would like to know more about the Philipsburg Area Amateur Radio Picnic, or the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association, visit the club's web site at www.philipsburg-ara.org.



Help Needed For Bike Race
 by John Szwarc N3SPW

TO ALL PARA Members—
 In 2010 we provided communications assistance for the Moshannon Valley Mountain Bike Race which is held in Black Moshannon State Park. This year the race is scheduled on same day as the PARA club picnic, Saturday August 13th.

They really need our help to assure participant's safety. In this area of the park cell phone coverage is available on hilltops only. And it's spotty at best. Amateur radio is really the only reliable means of communications in this area.

I have already asked everyone that helped with this event last year if they can help again, but we will be missing at least one person. We could really use two more volunteers.

PARA Information	
President	Dave Runk, AA3EJ aa3ej@yahoo.com
Vice President	Filip Cerny AB3HK
Secretary	John Szwarc, N3SPW jsszwarc@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Jim Warg, N3ONE
Liaison	Dick Thompson, K3BIE Interclub Liaison
Repeaters	W3PHB 146.430+1M [173.8] Rt1snk Mt W3PHB 146.640- [173.8] Philipsbg W3PHB-1 144.390 [APRS] Philipsbg W3PHB 444.750+ [173.8] Philipsbg
Nets	Saturday @ 2100 147.430+ [173.8]
Web	www.philipsburg-ara.org

If you can, please consider spending the entire day at the park. The race starts at 11 AM, so if we were at the park by 10 AM we would have enough time to figure out where we needed to be and get into position. Following the race we could all gather again at picnic pavilion #7 for a picnic with some really good food. The picnic is scheduled for 2 PM so there would be plenty of time between the conclusion of the race and the picnic.

Please reply by e-mail or call my cell

phone if you are able to help out.

73,
John N3SPW

Special Event Station Successful

by John Szwarc N3SPW

FOR THE 3RD consecutive year members of the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association (PARA) operated Special Event Station

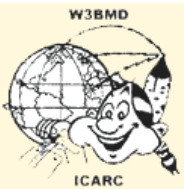
special event station and is PARA's biggest event of the year and puts amateur radio on display for the public to see.

The special event station was operated entirely from a street fair setting at the Philipsburg Heritage Days celebration and is housed in a vendor style tent. There were two HF stations: one dedicated CW station and the other running SSB. A third operating position was a 2-meter station. Antennas for the special event station were all homebrew creations of PARA's

"Antenna Man" Lou WB3AAI.

It takes a large number of dedicated club members to staff and operate the special event station each year. The effort is spearheaded by PARA President Dave Runk AA3EJ and Lou Trubiani WB3AAI. Also assisting at the special event station was Filip AB3HK, John N3SPW, Jerry WA3GFL, Scott W3EOD, Leo K3UMT, and Jim N3ONE. Two guests from the Nittany Amateur Radio Club members also spent a couple of hours in the operator's chair. They were Don N3DBN and Tom K3FTB. Thank you to everyone who lent a helping hand and made this event a success.





Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

Serving Indiana County

Meeting Notice

August Meeting: Tuesday, August 2nd, at 7:00 pm at the Eat 'n' Park restaurant.

September Meeting: Tuesday, September 6th, at 7:00 pm at the Eat 'n' Park restaurant.

Speaker: WB3FXK will present a program about Scouts and participating in their *Jamboree On The Air*

Hot Dog Night: at the W3BMD repeater site. Wednesday nights weekly, weather permitting. From 6:30 P.M. To ????. Listen on 146.910 !

Saturday Breakfast: at Indiana Eat 'n' Park Restaurant, Oakland Avenue at Indian Springs Road, Indiana. 8:30 AM to ???

Indiana County ARC Information

President	Robert Zugates KB3JOF KB3JOF@arrl.net
Vice President	Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
Secretary Treasurer	Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
Repeaters	W3BMD 146.910- No tone W3BMD 444.975+ 110.9 Simplex 147.570 Countywide Emerg Echolink Node No: 113249
Nets	Monday @ 2000 146.910-
Web	http://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/



Headwaters Amateur Radio Club

Serving Coudersport and Potter County

Meeting Notice

August Meeting: 7:00 pm, Thursday, August 4 at the Charles Cole Memorial Hospital. Lots to talk about and update. Link system, replacement repeater, Web update. and more.

Minutes: July 7

Jason Called the meeting to order 7:06 PM. Minutes for June were read Glenn motioned to accept Wayne seconded.

Treasure Report by Wayne WS3PC
Balance \$967.84
Outgoing \$34.49
Balance \$933.35
Glenn motioned to accept, Jim L seconded.

Headwaters ARC Information

President	Jason Layton, K2BYL
Vice President	James Centanni, W2IMK
Secretary	Charles Scott Sharpe, KB3JVD
Treasurer	Wayne Stahler, II, WS3PC
Repeaters	N3PC 146.685- [173.8] Coudersport K3CC 146.880- [173.8] Coudersport KB3EAR 444.300+ Coudersport
Nets	Monday @ 1900 146.685- [173.8] Monday @ 1930 28.360 [USB] Monday @ 1945 1.980 [USB]
Web	www.n3pc.com

Old Business

Jason K2BYL Handed out Emergency handbooks. Jason also handed out new Emergency call-out sheets. Please destroy old copy.

Jim C W2IMK asked Jason K2BYL about installing the vertical antenna.

Jim C W2IMK stated four people took the amateur test and that 3 passed.

Greg KB3WAT asked about the web site if the domain needed to be sent money. Someone is going to try and contact Scott or Diana and find out. Greg will have a demo on making the site easier to add info to at the next meeting.

Wayne WS3PC has a different UPS if needed at Crandall Hill site.

Don N3DLS suggested sending the hospital a letter of thanks and appreciation for using the meeting room. He will send the letter.

Jason K2BYL asked for a check for \$34.49 for office supplies. Glenn KB3KVT motion to OK Linda KB3KVU seconded.

New Business

Jim Lucy has the 5BTV vertical antenna ready to install. Suggestions were made to install on wood telephone pole not on the tower.

The EMA Commissioners requested the club work with the ACS officer to come up with equipment list for the EOC.

Glenn KB3KVT had a list of questions and a lengthy discussion followed.

EMA Site (PSAT): 2-Meter antenna located in back shed. Missing a ground plane, (2) 2" clamps in place.

Questions Does it need anything for mounting, Connection, Support, will it weather another 5 years or does it need replaced?



Elk County Amateur Radio Association

Serving Elk and Cameron Counties

Meeting Notice

August Meeting: Sunday, August 21 at 1:30 pm at the Elk County EMA Meeting Room, US 219 atop Bootjack Mountain.

Elk County ARA Information

President	<u>Scott Logue, N3LVG</u>																					
Vice President	<u>Tommy Hammerbeck, N3FXD</u>																					
Secretary	<u>Mary Kowaluk, KB3MLB</u>																					
Treasurer	<u>Mary Lewis, N3UDN</u>																					
Officers	Public info: Shari Lewis KB3EWT Newsletter: Jerry Robinson N3RYG Public Service: John Frantz K3TMD																					
Repeaters	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">N3NIA</td> <td style="width: 45%;">147.000+ [173.8]</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Bootjack</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N3NWL</td> <td>147.285+</td> <td>Ridgway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N3RZL</td> <td>442.200+</td> <td>Ridgway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N3RZL</td> <td>442.350+</td> <td>Boone Mtn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WA8RZR</td> <td>443.675+</td> <td>St Marys</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N3FYD</td> <td>146.805-</td> <td>Emporium</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WA3WPS</td> <td>147.180+</td> <td>Emporium</td> </tr> </table>	N3NIA	147.000+ [173.8]	Bootjack	N3NWL	147.285+	Ridgway	N3RZL	442.200+	Ridgway	N3RZL	442.350+	Boone Mtn	WA8RZR	443.675+	St Marys	N3FYD	146.805-	Emporium	WA3WPS	147.180+	Emporium
N3NIA	147.000+ [173.8]	Bootjack																				
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N3FYD	146.805-	Emporium																				
WA3WPS	147.180+	Emporium																				
Nets	Sunday @ 2000 147.000+ [173.8]																					
Web	<u>www.n3nia.com</u>																					

Local Net Schedules

Quad-County FM	1900	Sunday	147.315 + 173.8
ECARA	2000	Sunday	147.000 + 173.8
Cambria County	2100	Sunday	145.210 - 123.0
Headwaters ARC	1900	Monday	146.685 - 173.8
PAARC	1930	Monday	147.315 + 173.8
Jeff Co ARES	2000	Monday	147.105 + 173.8
Indiana Co ARES	2000	Monday	146.910 - OPEN
Clfd Co ARES	2100	Wednesday	147.315 + 173.8
PARA	2100	Saturday	146.430+1M173.8

i. Simple to operate was suggested. Type and brand recommendation.

Priority List from Club

- a. What equipment is needed, Type and model recommendations.
- b. Idea's Packet/pactor, Dedicated Laptop, Headphones, Desk Microphones, APRS, etc.

Jason suggested Jim C, Greg N3FYD, Jason, Wayne, Tom get together and further discuss matter. Stay tuned.

Greg KB3WAT Gave a nice demo on the web page and changes he suggested to make it easier to add and enter information on the web page.

Glenn provided a demonstration of the portable Chameleon Dipole antenna system for the club.

Glenn motioned to adjourn at 8:45 Milton seconded.

Attending were. Jason, Jim C, Greg N3FYD, Adriaan, Jim Lucy, Milton, Greg, Tonia, Diana, Linda, Glenn. Tom.

VE Test Sessions

Test dates for **Coudersport** will be 9/10 and 11/12. The test site is the Charles Cole Memorial Hospital Conference Room at the side entrance on the helicopter landing parking level. Testing starts at 10:00AM. **All license classes are given** and there is no charge.

Test date for **Ridgway** Area is 9/17. Until further notice, these tests will be held at the 911 Center and will begin at 9:30AM. There will be no charge and **all license classes will be given.**

ARRL VE Tests will be given in **Clearfield** on Thursday, August 11 at 6:30 pm at the Clearfield County 911 Center, 911 Leonard Street, Clearfield. There is a \$15.00 fee for the exam session.

Members talked about what was needed on that tower.

A Dual Band antenna for VHF/UHF. A quality antenna like a Diamond or something with a high dB gain was recommended. Two VHF antennas were recommended by the club - one for voice, the other for digital. Also needed was a Brass pulley 5/16" or 3/8" 6" dia. To raise low band antenna's.

HF antenna G5RV which side to mount pulley on? must miss microwave dish. Antenna should be mounted 2ft out and at least 55 ft. high.

Crandall Hill Repeater site.

a. Repeater antenna move from old tower to new tower and as high as possible. Also relocate Yagi antenna. Line of sight above trees toward Dutch Hill for remote receiver.

- i. Type and kind of existing antenna?
- ii. Longevity vs weather damage to antenna and cable.
- iii. Do we need a new antenna, mount, connections, support, feedline?

b. Controller needs to be replaced.

Mobile Trailer

- a. Type/Brand what is needed?
- b. Antenna type and mount for trailer?

EMA Radios

- a. Existing HF radio
 - i. Knob repair
 - ii. Data cable repair
 - iii. If we were able to obtain new radios Type and Brand?

Portable Radios for Deployment Teams

- a. Portables



Meeting Notice

THE FIRST MEETING of the Cambria Radio Club will be held on Friday, August 12 at 6:00 pm in the Johnstown EOC, 110 Franklin Street, Johnstown.

Cambria Radio Club is a general interest radio club and the home of ARES for Cambria County. The Club's members come from Cambria, Blair, Indiana, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties.

Cambria Radio Club is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. The Club's community service activities include communications for local bike races and marathons, the annual ARRL Field Day, SET, other emergency exercises, an annual club picnic, and maintenance of repeater station WA3WGN on 146.940 MHz.

Cambria Radio Club Information	
President	Tom Brew K3WS
Vice President	Fred Raco, Jr. N3CJV
Secretary	
Treasurer	Holli Serenko KB3PJG
Repeaters	WA3WGN 146.940- [123.0] Johnstown KC3DES 145.210- [123.0] N.Germany KC3DES 443.525+ [123.0] Carrolltwn KE3DR 146.655- [123.0] N.Cambria K3WS 147.060+ [167.9] Carrolltwn N3YFO 145.390- [123.0] Johnstown KA3ZYC 146.775- [123.0] Carrolltwn
Nets	Sunday @ 2100 145.210- [123.0]
Web	cambriaradio.com

Shorts

Arrangements have been made for the **2011 PARA Christmas Party** to be held on Saturday December 10, 2011 at the 1921 Restaurant inside the Philips Hotel on Presquisle Street in Philipsburg. Cocktails at 5 PM, dinner at 6.

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Lancaster (NY) Hamfest - Sunday August 28

Bowen Road Grove and Grounds
3845 Bowen Rd, Lancaster NY 14086
(Suburb of Buffalo)

7:00 am - Talk In: 147.255 pl 107.2

\$5 admission includes unlimited flea market space Buy or Sell, with 10 acre Flea Market

Web site & Maps: gbhamfest.hamgate.net

— . . . —

On Saturday July 23rd members of the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association replaced the existing **146.430 repeater** (+1 MHz offset, PL 173.8 Hz) with a new HiPro model R1 repeater. This was phase 1 of the repeater upgrade project. There is still more to be done and we can now turn our attention to the next steps in the process. The first real workout for the repeater was the Saturday 9 PM PARA Net. As the net progressed it became obvious that the machines squelch needed some further adjustment which was accomplished the following day.

While preparing to install the new repeater we discovered that the club owned Henry C130A30/1 repeater amplifier is not functional. This resulted in the new repeater being installed at the site with no amplifier. The repeater is currently running barefoot with 30 watts output until we can get the Henry amplifier repaired. Filip AB3HK is investigating the repair of the amplifier. With

the amplifier, the power output will be 100 watts.

PARA owns and operates three FM repeaters. The other club-owned and operated repeaters are both low-profile machines operating on 146.640- and 444.750+ with both machines using the standard 173.8 Hz PL tone when necessary.

Many thanks to PARA members **Filip AB3HK** (PARA's current "Ham of the Year" award recipient) and **John N3SPW** who helped install the new equipment and to **Dave AA3EJ** who helped test it out. And thank you to every PARA member who contributed financially toward the purchase of the new repeater. It was a group effort and something we all can be proud of.

If you would like to know more about the **146.430 repeater upgrade project**, or the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association, visit the club's web site at www.philipsburg-ara.org.

— . . . —

If anyone has a **10ft-12ft piece of RG-214** the Headwaters ARC is in need of some to make new jumpers on the duplexers. Thanks! Tom WA3HLC harc.n3pc@gmail.com.

— . . . —

Congratulations to **Bryan WA3UFN** and **Herb W3TM** who both got **clean sweeps** in the 13-Colonies special event over the 4th of July weekend. They both **worked all 13 of the special event stations**, and the Bonus Station, WM3PEN. Both received the very nice certificate from the event sponsors.

— . . . —

It's not too early to start thinking about the **Pennsylvania QSO Party**. Our counties are all "rare" and your club could make lots of hams happy if you all got on the air! **October 8 & 9.**

met at their repeater site at 6:00 pm to begin setting up tents in preparation for the big weekend. Then, of course it started to rain heavily (a real gully-washer). Suffice it to say that only a couple of the folks were prepared for the water! In any case the tents were set up and all was ready for the antenna party Saturday morning.

Saturday came and the weather was cool and dry! The real fun had finally begun. After spending hours setting up several antennas highlighted by the final antenna to go up*: a large helium filled weather balloon supporting a half-wave 80 meter, vertical wire end-fed by 65 feet of

call-sign. The operation used a portable generator supplied by the Indiana County Emergency Management Agency. Many thanks to these folks; they have supported Field-Day operations each year in this manner for many years.

The second major event of the day was the annual field-day picnic at 5:00 pm organized by Mrs. Beverly Sorisio of Indiana. As always it was a great success with lots of wonderful food and fun for all.



Unfortunately, we all got really sleepy and nearly took a nap instead of operating radios. (Just kidding!).

Again, thanks to all that participated and to those who were with us in spirit but could not physically be there. Hopefully, it will be as much fun next year.

It was a rather eventful weekend...

Field Day in Indiana County

by Terry Carnahan KB3JOD

A **NOTHER** successful Field-Day activity has been completed by the Indiana County Amateur Radio Club (ICARC), W3BMD. It was a rather eventful weekend starting on Friday, June 24, 2011 when many of the club members

ladder-line. As can be seen in the photos it was a truly beautiful operation with much fun had by all during the launch. It worked great, easily "tuning" up on 80 m and 40 m.

Operation officially started at 2:00 PM local time with 5 stations operating on nearly all high frequency amateur bands (CW and Sideband) under the W3BMD

*Sincere thanks to Dale Oxygen, Inc. of Indiana for their great technical assistance!



Out of the Box

by Bev Hudrick

... With a changed attitude!

WELL, I HAVE to confess when I wrote the first "Out of the Box" article my attitude

about becoming a licensed Amateur Radio operator was very wishy-washy. But then I signed up for the free licensing classes in Clearfield. Since attending the classes I definitely have a different mind-set about becoming a ham.



Let me try to explain why.

For quite some time I believed that if there was a huge, catastrophic event, the only means of communications might just be with ham radio until some order is restored. And, that in such an event, you would never know what situation you might be faced with when someone asked you for your help—whether you're trained for it or not.

Before attending the licensing classes, I thought (in a dire emergency) if someone told me to operate a ham radio that I would take the bull by the horns and just do it. After all, I would only have to talk into a microphone, right?

But if I didn't know how to handle

myself adequately on an amateur radio, I could screw something up for the emergency and rescue people involved in a catastrophic event. It makes all the difference in the world to have properly trained people if such an event happened.

And they do occur. Just look at what happened not too long ago in Japan!!

By taking the classes I have discovered there is more to it than just talking into a microphone. So my fear of possibly screwing up wouldn't be so far fetched after all.

I realize that in order to utilize a ham radio efficiently and effectively, a person should have the proper knowledge.

So, now with my changed attitude ---- I DO, I DO, I DO . . . want to pass my licensing test!!!! (To be continued...)

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...

AMATEUR RADIO

WWW.ARRL.ORG



Western PA Section American Radio Relay League

The National Association for Amateur Radio

WPA Section Report

by John Rodgers N3MSE, WPA SM

Field Day has come and gone and for the most part, we have all the equipment back where it belongs. I enjoyed traveling to Field Day sites this year but unfortunately my travels were cut short as I developed stomach flu. Sorry to those clubs I did not make it to and thanks for the hospitality I received at the ones I did manage to visit.

Sadly, I learned of the passing of Jacqueline Gosselin, N3ZEL. She was active in VE testing and the WACOM newsletter as well as many area clubs. She was also an avid supporter of YLRL. Our sympathy goes out to all her family and friends.

There have been more updates to the FLDIGI platform and software. Please check the panbems.org site and download the latest versions. With the cost of netbooks down to \$199 a portable emergency station can be quickly established.

I encourage you to join one of the various traffic nets and help deliver messages to individuals in your community and throughout the country as operators struggle to keep this activity running strong. The section net is on 3983 every evening at 6 PM. The CW net is at 3585 at 7 PM local time. Also please check in on the Saturday morning ARES net at 9 AM local on 3983 Hz. On Tuesday evening a PANBEMS net is conducted at 6 pm on 3583.5 USB, and Sunday mornings at 10 AM. Join the nets and let's all get Radio Active.

In such an event a person never knows what situation they will be faced with...

Shedding Light on the Subject

by Pete Carr WW30

THE OTHER SUNDAY, while tuning up for the RACES, 9 AM net, The SWR meter showed that something was goofy. The term “goofy” is a highly technical word meaning that something ain't right. My Kenwood TS-520 was bought used in 1969 and feeds an equally old Heathkit SB-201 linear amplifier. The SWR meter is connected at the output of the linear and feeds a cable to the antenna switch. The SWR showed an abnormally high reading on the 75 meter antenna. Because of the SWR situation I decided to leave the linear off and check into the net with about 100 watts. The net control still gave me a nice signal report.

After the net I checked the other antennas and found that they also were showing a higher than normal SWR. It had been



These are two light bulb dummy loads. The left one has a screw-in socket for the bulb. The right one has the coax soldered directly to the bulb center button and the threaded base. While I haven't broken the bulb yet. I put a socket and cable together the make it easier to change bulbs if I did.

raining mixed with snow the previous two days straight so I figured that water had something to do with the readings. However, just to be sure, I dug out the best dummy load in the business and did some testing.

A dummy load is a piece of test equipment that absorbs RF energy while not reflecting any back toward the radio. It is usually made from large power resistors wired in series or parallel that are made from carbon. Many of you will remember the Heathkit Cantenna. This was a gallon metal “paint” can with a resistive dummy load attached to the lid and filled with mineral oil. I had one and found it cumbersome. Then, Bumps Rimer, W3IE (SK), told me to just solder a piece of coax to a 100 watt light bulb and install a PL-259 to the other end. I tried it out and was amazed to find that it was a perfect 50 ohm match. It would glow dimly on the Kenwoods' 15 watt output in “tune” mode and quite brightly when 100 watts were applied.



The bulb is connected to the output of a Heath SWR meter. The Kenwood is running about 100 watts and the bulb is very bright. The SWR meter indicated about 1.1 to 1 so the bulb is a good match.

I started by connecting the bulb behind the Heath SWR meter and verified that the meter read 1.1 to 1 SWR. Then I moved the bulb to the 75 meter output connector of the antenna switch and retested. The SWR was now 2.1 to 1! I swapped out the cable from the SWR meter to the antenna switch and the SWR returned to 1.1 to 1. Then I retested the 75 meter antenna and found that the SWR was now 2.8 to 1.

The next day was sunny but cold so I went outside and let the 75 meter antenna down. After looking everything over I disconnected the coax feedline from the antenna balun and used a coaxial coupler (barrel) to attach the bulb to the feedline. Back inside the shack I

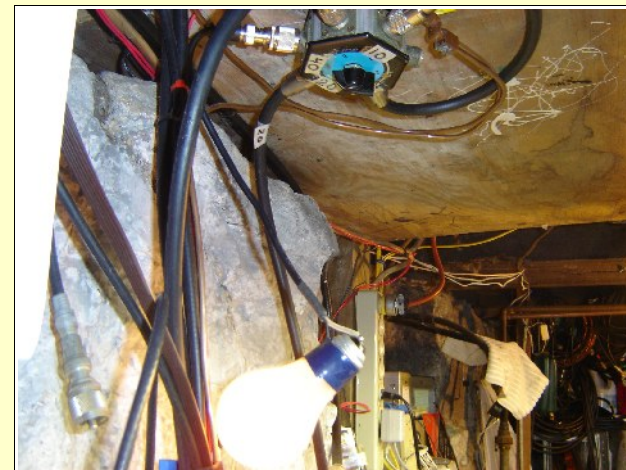
A dummy load is a piece of test equipment that absorbs RF energy.

retested the SWR and found that it was 2.2 to 1. While there wasn't any sign of corrosion at the feedline connector I decided to replace it and retest. I cut off about 12 inches of antenna end of the coax and installed a new PL-259 and tested with the bulb again. This time the SWR dropped to 1.2 to 1.

The antenna is a Spi-Ro trapped dipole of about 85 feet in length that just fits my small house lot. Trapped antennas have a somewhat narrow bandwidth so it was

originally tuned to around 3.950 MHz. Over time the antenna has stretched so that the best SWR is now around 3.900 MHz. The result is a slightly higher SWR at 3.990 MHz where the RACES net resides.

I raised the antenna and retested the SWR and it was good at 1.6 to 1. It seems that whatever corrosion had entered the PL-259 at the antenna balun hadn't had the chance to travel down the coax toward the shack. That was fortunate since big coax is getting really expensive.



Here the bulb is connected to the output of the antenna switch at the 40 meter position. Since the bulb is lightweight, there isn't any problem supporting it while testing. Try that with a Heath Cantenna!

There were actually two problems in the antenna system. The first was the 5 foot jumper from the back of the SWR meter to the antenna switch. I did check it with a multimeter and it read open from center to braid. I've set it aside for further testing. The second problem was the PL-259 at the antenna. It would have been mechanically difficult to lug a can-type dummy load outside to do testing when the bulb was far easier to use.

It seems that our government is going to do away with incandescent bulbs and make us use the new neon ones. If you plan on trying out this type of dummy load it might be a good idea to lay in a supply for the future. I haven't tried the new bulbs with RF but can tell you that the old ones work great!

It might be a good idea to lay in a supply for the future.

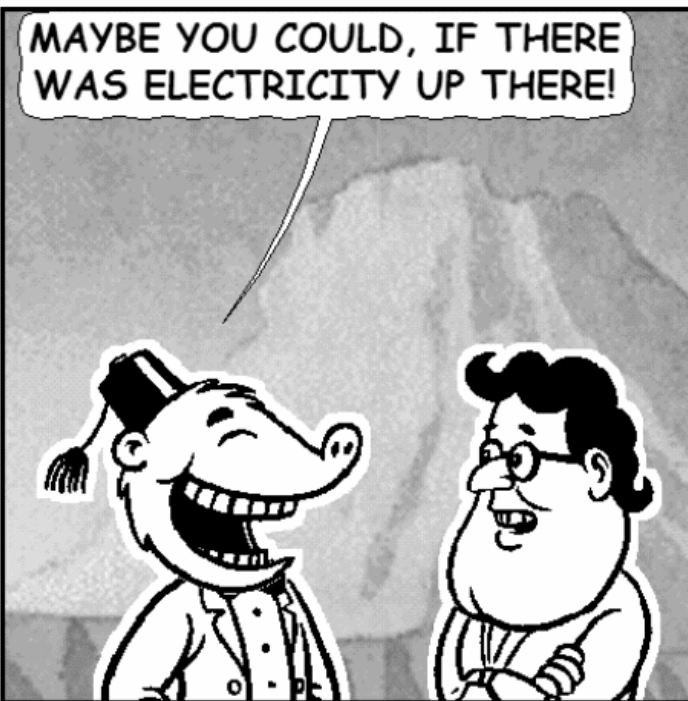
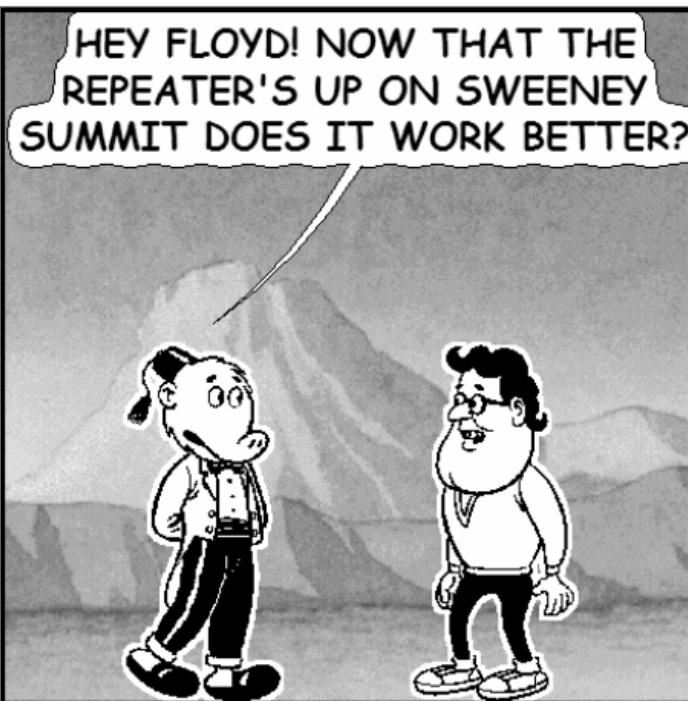


The bulb is not as brightly lit when the Kenwood is in "tune" position. It is easy to see the change in illumination which is a good indicator of RF power.

LID'S WORLD

By W3BC

STARRING W3LID



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The current, online, interactive version of the calendar, which contains regional club activities and events in upcoming months may be accessed at calendar.parasiticemission.com.

You may use that calendar to enter amateur radio events of interest to local amateurs which are intended for publication, subject to review and approval.

Electronic stuff works better with electricity!

August 2011 Amateur Radio Club Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>01 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>02 7:00pm» Punxsutawney ARC "Radio Night" 7:30pm» Indiana Co ARC Meeting</p>	<p>03 9:00pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p>	<p>04 7:00pm» Headwaters ARC Meeting</p>	<p>05</p>	<p>06 11:00am» Multi-Club Super Picnic 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net</p>
<p>07 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>08 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>09 7:00pm» Punxsutawney Area ARC Meeting</p>	<p>10 9:00pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p>	<p>11 6:30pm» VE Exam - Clearfield EOC</p>	<p>12 6:00pm» Cambria Radio Club Meeting</p>	<p>13 9:30am» Quad-County ARC Breakfast 10:00am» Moshannon Bike Race 1:00pm» Quad-County Special Event Station 2:00pm» PARA Picnic 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net</p>
<p>14 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>15 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 9:00pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7:30pm» Quad-County ARC Meeting</p>	<p>20 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net</p>
<p>21 8:00am» Warren Hamfest 1:30pm» Elk County ARA Meeting 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>22 Parasitic Emission Submission Deadline 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:00pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6:30am» Baker Trail Ultra Challenge 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net</p>
<p>28 8:00am» Skyview Radio Society Swap N Shop 7:00pm» QCARC 2-meter FM Net 8:00pm» Elk Co ARA Net 9:00pm» Cambria County ARES Net</p>	<p>29 7:00pm» HARC Nets 7:30pm» Punxsutawney ARC 2 Meter Net 8:00pm» Jefferson County EMA Radio Service Net</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 9:00pm» Clearfield County A.R.E.S. Net</p>	<p>01 7:00pm» Headwaters ARC Meeting</p>	<p>02</p>	<p>03 9:00pm» Philipsburg ARA Net</p>