

# QRZ NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC  
PO BOX 1033 - LANCASTER, PA 17608-1033

(Founded June 1960)

AN AFFILIATED SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB OF THE ARRL, INC.

*"Public Service through Communication"*

Website: [www.K3IR.org](http://www.K3IR.org)

Email address: **\*\*pending\*\***

Repeaters: 145.230 - 146.715 - 449.975 - Packet 145.030 - ATV 902.145

## February 2007

### Membership Meetings

### **Condensed Minutes of the January 2007 Meeting of the Southern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club (SPARC)**

The meeting was opened by President Mike Warner at 19:10. The following members and guests were present:

Mike Warner N3XPD  
Ross Kauffman W3ZKU  
Dave Payne N3LOM  
E.P. "Max" Peters KI6NJ  
Grant Bauchamp KB3KIN

Jim Silvius KW3G  
Frank Coleman KB3GMZ  
Clive Buttermere KB4NCP  
Gerald Wilson KB3GNB  
Steve Holup KB3MEV

Rick Watson N3SWJ  
Paul Herr, KD8WY  
Richard Hess, KB3LOS  
Dave Sarraf, N3NDJ

The meeting began with a welcome by Mike and a round robin by name and callsign.

### **Minutes**

Dave Sarraf read the minutes from the December membership meeting and discussed the minutes from the December BOD meeting. Upon a motion by Clive Buttermere and a second by Paul Herr the membership meeting minutes were accepted as read.

### Treasurer's Report

Ted Freedman provided a treasurer's report.

The annual bill just arrived from the state for the underground tank insurance fund. Ted stated that aside from that bill everything has been paid. On a motion by Grant Beachamp and a second by Dave Sarraf the treasurer's report was approved pending review by the audit committee.

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### New Members

Two new/returning members were present:

Ross Kauffman W3ZKU

Steve Holup KB3MEV

Both had paid dues for 2007. On a motion by Mike Warner and a second by Max Peters these two were accepted into membership.

### New Business and General Announcements

The new Kenwood repeater is on line. Harry noted that there appears to be a problem with the antenna. He also wants to get rid of the hardline. Coax is much easier to work with and the difference in the loss between the two is slight. The ongoing interference problem was discussed, including the tendency of the repeater to lock on and merits of using a trap to null it out. The input frequency had been moved slightly several years ago in an unsuccessful attempt to mitigate the problem.

Mike noted that the web site has been updated. Old information and bad links have been eliminated, and the BOD and officers page has been made current. After some discussion it was decided to remove the copyright statements on the footer of each page.

Since Mike is serving as president he has asked for a replacement newsletter editor. Lacking that he asked for any input or articles from the general membership to be included in the newsletter.

Paul Herr asked members for distant signal reports for the repeater so he can map the coverage area.

There is an NVIS net on HF/80 meters from Chester county that is managed by KD1DRW. It was noted that the NVIS antenna is particularly effective for local contacts.

### Events

- The MS walk is on April 22. It stages from the Clipper Stadium. Dave Payne to provide more detail when it becomes available.
- The Timonium hamfest is on March 31 and April 1.
- The TMI Drill will be held on April 17 and April 18. There will be a pre-drill meeting in March. The date is not yet scheduled but is highly likely to be on a Thursday evening.

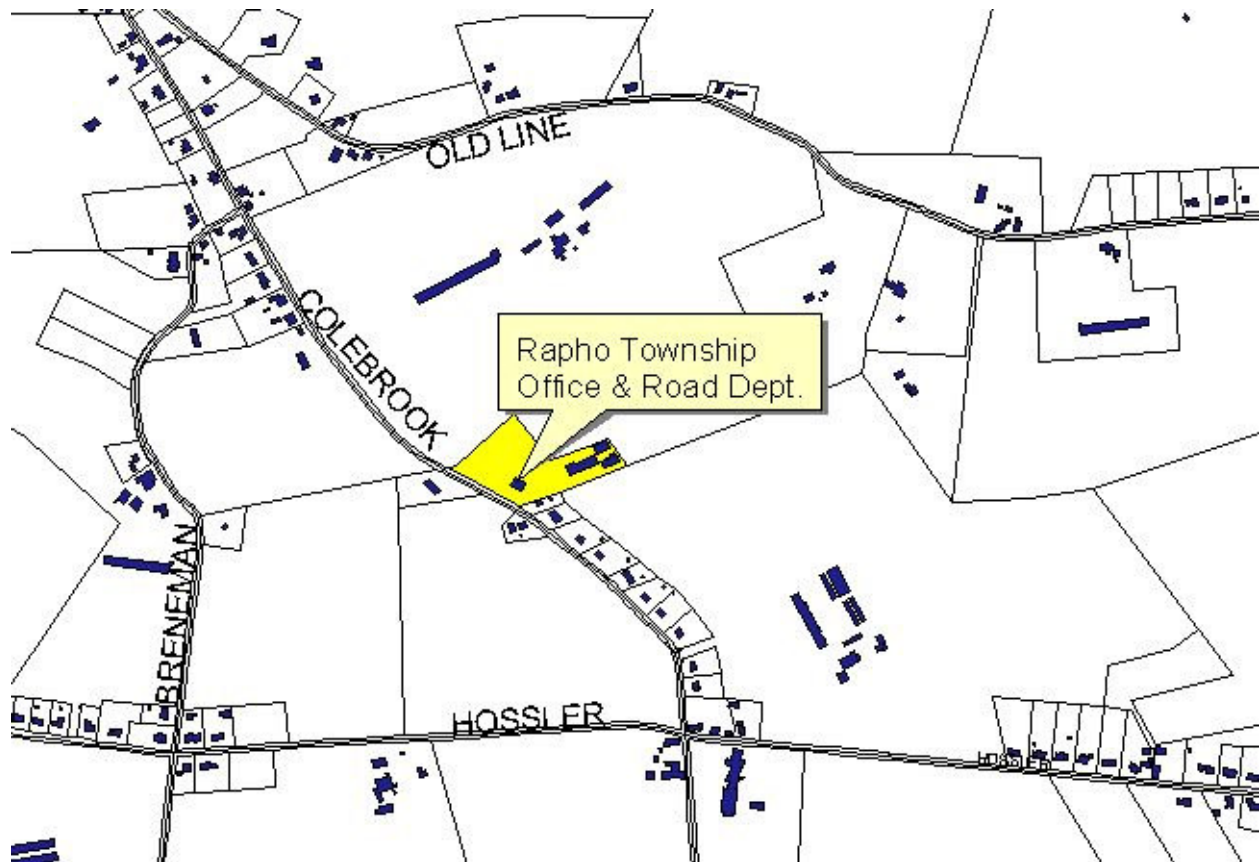
On a motion by Max Peters and a second by Paul Herr the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

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Following the official meeting, Max Peters presented ideas for programs for the coming year. These included use of the video projector and development of Powerpoint presentations, message handling, and digital communications.

Thanks to a request from 2 club members here is a map and directions to the meeting location at the Rapho Township Office Building.

### Meeting location



### Directions to Township office

From Route 772 (Mount Joy-Manheim Road) turn north on Esbenshade Road to stop sign. Turn north on Fairview to intersection at Hossler Road. Cross Hossler onto North Colebrook Road. Township building is approximately 1/4 mile on right.

From Route 72 south, turn west on Elizabethtown Road. Turn south on North Colebrook Road. Township building is approximately 1-1/2 miles on left.

From Route 283 take the Manheim-Mount Joy (Route 772) exit and turn towards Manheim. Turn left onto Breneman road at the John Deer dealer. Stay on Breneman Road until reaching the T at North Colebrook Road. Turn Right onto North Colebrook Road and the Rapho Township building is on the left in about 1/2 mile.

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## ARES/RACES

### RACES Nets



Lancaster County Net is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 2030 hours local time. Presently being held on the 147.015 MHz repeater with minus offset and 118.8 PL.

Pennsylvania RACES HF Nets are held at 3993.5 kHz LSB on all Sundays except holidays. The statewide net is on the first Sunday of the month at 0800 hours local time. The Central Area (including Lancaster County) net is at 08:30 local time.

- There will be a RACES meeting in March in preparation for the TMI drill which will be held April 17 and 18. More information will follow.
- Next is information clipped from the 26 January, 2007 ARRL Newsletter

### ==>ARRL BOARD ACCEPTS NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The ARRL Board of Directors accepted the Report of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) when it met January 19 and 20 in Windsor, Connecticut. Upon dissolving the committee with its thanks, the Board set in motion a process to identify and implement action items in the report as soon as possible. ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, chaired the 13-member NERPC, charged with developing comprehensive recommendations to improve the League's response to regional, national and international disasters. Among other things, panel members evaluated the responses and actions of ARRL and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) during Hurricane Katrina as well as lessons learned.

"If 'lessons learned' are not followed by 'behaviors changed,' then the lessons have not been learned at all," the report concludes. The report describes disaster preparedness as "a moving target, moving faster all the time." No recommendations, plans or systems should be considered "the permanent answers for all circumstances and hazards," the report asserts.

The unprecedented scope of the Katrina response placed ARRL Headquarters into a leadership coordination role through national-level requests for help from served agencies such as the American Red Cross. While the level of expertise in emergency communications and emergency management among US radio amateurs is growing, the report noted, so is the expectation that the ARRL provide first-rate leadership and guidance.

Among the report's wide-ranging recommendations and suggestions:

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- \* enhance ARRL and ARES training in basic message handling.
- \* develop a continuing education course covering installation, configuration, and use of Winlink 2000 for e-mail.
- \* formally establish a national ARES volunteer database for use during major disasters and establish training criteria.
- \* institute a Major Disaster Emergency Coordinator (MDEC) function to coordinate responses to large-scale national or regional disasters or emergencies.
- \* become better acquainted with the emergency response needs of distant ARRL sections, such as Pacific, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Alaska.
- \* improve working relationships with national-level served agencies.
- \* ensure ARRL staff training in the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) and, as necessary, adapt ARRL's emergency response structure to the Unified Command model.

In addition, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has appointed an ad hoc committee to study issues relating to background investigations as they apply to ARRL Amateur Radio volunteers and to recommend a background investigation policy.

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### Tech Section:

#### Resistor Color Code (4 band code)

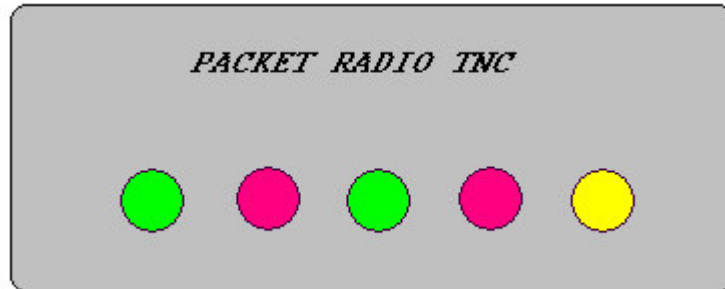
Color	1 <sup>st</sup> Band (1 <sup>st</sup> figure)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Band (2 <sup>nd</sup> figure)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Band (multiplier)	4 <sup>th</sup> Band (tolerance)
Black	0	0	1	
Brown	1	1	10	
Red	2	2	100	2%
Orange	3	3	1000	
Yellow	4	4	10000	
Green	5	5	100000	
Blue	6	6	1000000	
Violet	7	7	10000000	
Gray	8	8	100000000	
White	9	9	1000000000	
Gold			Divide by 10	5%
Sliver			Divide by 100	10%

#### Example;

A resistor with color bands of Brown-Black-Red-Silver would be have a value of 1000 Ohms and a tolerance of + or -10%.

**Digital Modes:**

*A "bit" about Digital Radio*



- The SPARC packet radio mail-drop mailbox continues to operate as K3IR-1. On VHF 145.030 MHz, 1200bps FSK.

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## General News:

- Next is information clipped from the 26 January, 2007 ARRL Newsletter

==>IT'S OFFICIAL! MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT ENDS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Effective that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Federal Register version of the "Morse code" R&O. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The rules that appeared in the Federal Register constitute their official version  
<<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>>.

The new rules also mean that starting February 23 all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will have CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

An applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is *\*not\** automatic for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges."

Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their

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operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz so there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

- VE TESTING 1900 HRS LANCO EMGC TRAIN CENTER.  
NEXT SCHEDULED EXAM IS FEBRUARY 15, 2007.  
EXAMS ARE ON EVEN NUMBERED MONTHS THIRD THURSDAY AT 7 PM 1900 HRS.

- Note here is that the SPARC operating building is available to all club members for use. While it is still a work in progress, the building does have several operating positions with power supplies and a pretty good antenna farm. You will however have to supply your own radios. If you don't have a radio or other equipment for a particular use maybe you can work with another club member that does and make a team effort of it. A membership meeting would be a good place to make these types of arrangements.

Key to access the building will be available at club membership meetings.  
There is a \$5.00 donation to SPARC to cover the cost of the key making required.

The club is providing this as a benefit to its members in the hopes that it will encourage some to get on the air.

It may even help some to proceed in the amateur radio license upgrade process.

So anyone who would like to work some DX or just get on the bands to rag chew, practice a mode, participate in a contest or whatever, here is a place you can operate without concern for antenna restrictions, space limitations or other obstacles to operating.

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### **Hamfests this month:**

None that I know of.

### ***Welcome to SPARC's Newsletter Hamfest!***

**If you have anything for sale, trade, buy, donate, let me know and we can list it here.**

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I'll start things off with the following items.

For Sale by [n3xpd@comcast.net](mailto:n3xpd@comcast.net)

MFJ Deluxe Electronic Keyer.

Model MFJ-407C

Price is \$40.00.

Electric Radio Antenna Tuning Meter

This device allows you to tune your HF rigs antenna at low power to prevent QRM.

For more info, See April 2002 QST review.

Price is \$40.00.

In case you haven't heard the news.

I am sponsoring a raffle of a brand new, still in the box, Vertex Standard (Yaesu) VX-150 Handie Talkie 2-meter FM transceiver.

There will only be 24 chances sold at \$10.00 each, so your odds of winning are 1 in 24 for each ticket you purchase, (compare that to powerball odds). At the present time I still have 11 chances available. The drawing will be held at the first membership meeting after all chances are sold.

NOTE that no SPARC money was used in funding this raffle and SPARC's only involvement is that the net proceeds of this drawing will be donated to SPARC's mortgage fund.

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### **2007 OFFICERS**

President: Mike Warner, N3XPD  
Vice President: Rick Watson, N3SWJ  
Secretary: Dave Sarraf, N3NDJ  
Treasurer: Ted Freedman, K3KSA  
Past President: Dave Payne, N3LOM  
Directors: Harry Bauder, WA3FFK

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Web site**

Dave Sarraf N3NDJ; Rick Watson, N3SWJ; Mike Warner, N3XPD

#### **Training Committee**

Max Peters, KI6NJ; Dave Payne, N3LOM; Jim Ibaugh, AA3C.

#### **Tech Committee**

Harry Bauder, WA3FFK; Dave Payne, N3LOM; Mike Warner, N3XPD

#### **Newsletter:**

Mike Warner, N3XPD

Email: [n3xpd@comcast.net](mailto:n3xpd@comcast.net)

#### **SPARC Nets**

SPARC holds nets on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday (every Tuesday except the first) at 2030 local time on 145.230 MHz minus offset and a PL of 118.8.

*Comments are most welcome.*

*I would also like to make note that if anyone has information that they would like to have added to the newsletter, all are welcome to make submissions to the editor.*

*This can include just about anything that could be related to club activities or about amateur radio, electronics or science in general.*

*So any of you would be authors out there can use this forum to get your word out!*

*That's all for now,*

*Hope to hear you all on the air and see you at a meeting or club event.*

*73,*

*Mike Warner, N3XPD*