

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

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Repeaters: 145.230 - 449.975 - Packet 145.030 - ATV 923.250, FN10se

February 2009

Next meeting Wednesday, February 18 at 1900

Rapho Township Municipal Building

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 2009 MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (SPARC)

Held Wednesday January 21, 2008 at the Rapho
Township Municipal Building

New Members:

Two visitors were in attendance:

Rich Regel (regelr@hotmail.com)

Gerry Wagner

(gerry.wagner@comcast.net)

Old Business:

- Ted Freedman is still looking for someone to take over as net coordinator.
- George Gadbois is always looking for articles to put in the club newsletter.

New Business:

- The trailer roof is currently under a blue tarp. No replacement rubber sheeting is available. The roof should be painted when warm weather arrives. George Gadbois

brought some roll roofing to the site. Recommended weighting the tarp with filled milk jugs rather than tying directly. The tarp is weathered and may need to be replaced.

- The newsletter made the front page of Ham Magazine. The magazine also included an article about portable EME.
- Fundraisers were discussed. Possibilities include providing staffing for a Barnstormers game, Dutch Wonderland, or Hershey Park.
- HEARS and ham involvement were discussed. Paul Herr continues to attend the amateur radio working group for HEARS. EMCOMM courses would be useful and should be considered.

Dave Sarraf. - [N3NDJ](http://www.n3ndj.com) Secretary

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, February 18 – Membership meeting at 7 PM..
- Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest, March 28-29, Timonium Fair Grounds, Timonium, MD
- York Spring Hamfest, Saturday April 18, 2009, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm ,

BROOKSIDE PARK, 4054 FOX RUN ROAD, DOVER, PA

- Sunday, April 26, 2009 – Tour de Ephrata Bike Race

Presidents Message

Hello SPARC members. My name is Harry Bauder, my call is WA3FFK and as of January, 2009 I am the new President of SPARC.

I have accepted the reins from Mike Warner, N3PXD. Mike has been a capable leader and has made great strides in leading the club through some rough times.

My first contact with SPARC was at the invitation of Roger Colvin, W3PWH (sk). I don't really remember the date but Roger asked me to do a presentation at one of your membership meetings. I spoke on the subject of aviation electronics in connection with my job as Avionics Manager at Harrisburg Jet Center. I liked what I saw and immediately joined the club and became involved in the RACES program. I have been Dave Payne's co-driver on the paper collection routes for the past three years. I have served on the technical committee and had been a member at large of the board before being elected president.

Two years ago I left Harrisburg Jet Center in order to pursue a second career in what had been a lifelong dream of working at a youth camp. In February of 2008, I was hired as the Challenge Course Manager at Camp Men-O-Lan, a Mennonite Camp, located in Quakertown, PA. This is a part time job, requiring me to be in Quakertown two or three days a week. It is a 90 mile commute from my home west of Elizabethtown

(actually in Dauphin County) so I overnight at camp several times a week.

Most of you are aware that we are not collecting paper for recycling at this time because of the collapse of the scrap paper market. Ironically this allowed me to accept the presidency of SPARC. As I mentioned above, I had been Dave Payne's co-driver for the paper pickups, but since we no longer are collecting paper at Masonic Village I can work Mondays and be home in time for SPARC's Wednesday meetings. On the down side, we are about \$18,000 short of having the mortgage on the Breneman Road property paid off. I fully expect that the paper market will come back but not at the level we once enjoyed. We are working on alternative money raising programs. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

I want SPARC to be an Amateur Radio Club. Amateur Radio is after all a HOBBY! I was looking forward to paying off the mortgage and getting out of the paper recycling business. Unfortunately, we were forced out about two years too soon. I am confident that we will make it through this, be able to retain our property, and will continue to grow. I am looking forward to serving SPARC in the coming year.

73, Harry, [WA3FFK](http://www.wa3ffk.com)

Editor's Notes

By now, I assume everyone knows that Congress extended the DTV changeover date to June 12th. Individual stations are permitted to change earlier. Stations with stressed budgets might elect to stop operating multiple transmitters.

WHYY, Channel 12 Wilmington, DE has announced that they will delay conversion to June 12th despite reduced coverage with their interim digital transmitter on channel 55.

The last report I read said that \$650 million is in the bail out package for more digital converter coupons. Those who let their coupons expire must pay full price. At this time, the only coupons being issued are for expired coupons that have been cancelled.

Late news reported by the Lancaster New Era, 11 February 2009: WITF and WLYH will convert to digital on the 18th. FCC reports that 491 of 1796 stations have said they will switch on the original schedule. 190 stations have already converted to digital.

No progress on the SPARC ATV repeater this month. Think Spring! Volunteers still needed.

Don't miss the White House QSL card near the end of this newsletter.

73, George, W3FEY

ARES/RACES



As part of the clubs commitment to emergency communications, the SPARC repeater system is maintained as available for linking with other area repeaters.

Lancaster County VHF Net is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 2030 hours

local time. Presently being held on the 145.230 and 147.015 MHz repeaters 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.

SPARC Nets

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

Club Officers

President Harry Bauder – [WA3FFK](#)

Vice-President: Rick Watson - [N3SWJ](#)

Secretary - Dave Sarraf. - [N3NDJ](#)

Treasurer - Ted Freedman - [K3KSA](#)

Repeater Trustee - Dave Payne - [N3LOM](#)

Past President - Mike Warner – [N3XPD](#)

Board of Directors - Jim Silvius – [KW3E](#)

Other Nets of Local Interest

Mobile Sixers Net Schedule (Delaware Co.)

Sunday 8:00PM 50.550 MHz USB

Cumberland Co.

Monday 9:30 144.160 MHz

Packrats 1296.100 MHz net Mondays at 2130 local time

Bob, W2SJ, Pennsauken, NJ, FM291w, is temporary net control while K3TUF is coaching Special Olympics. Bob has a good signal into Lancaster County.

QRZ News Publication

QRZ News is published monthly on the second Wednesday of each month, one week before the monthly meeting. Deadline for article submission is the Tuesday before publication.

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Can anyone provide copies of the issues missing from the archive?

January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes

Propagation in this area during the VHF contest was flat at best. K1JT organized a multioperator effort from his home station. Here is the result of that effort:

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Station: K1JT
Operator(s): K1JT K2TXB N2GJ WA3GFZ
Class: Multi-Op HP
QTH: FN20
Operating Time (hrs): 33

Summary:

Band	QSOs	Mults
6:	169	23
2:	219	54
222:	66	14
432:	80	15
903:	19	8
1.2:	18	6
2.3:	4	3

Total: 575 123 Total Score = 105,780

Club: Mt Airy VHF Radio Club

Comments:

Because of the station setup we operated essentially in a "Multi-Single" mode, and had a great time. Conditions were generally poor; we found no propagation enhancements of any kind.

One highlight was that 25 of our multipliers came from random QSOs on 2m EME -- mostly with Europeans, but also Asia, Africa, and of course North America.

Report submitted by Joe Taylor, K1JT

Ed. Note especially that 25 grids were worked via random EME contacts on 2m. This illustrates what can be done without sunspots or even schedules. Operator skill and an outstanding EME station are certainly important in this success story.

Working Europe on EME is most likely to occur during the early morning hours before local operators are up and on the air. For the big multiop stations, this is the time for eking out new grids via meteor scatter or other weak signal modes. Twenty or more grids in Europe are a big incentive for the multiop stations.

Namibia Interim Report

Dan V5/KT6Q is using my portable equipment (transverter, antenna, cables, etc.) in Namibia. He was able to work 16 different stations on 23cm so far. This is a result, that some bigger stations using a dish have not even achieved. Activity increases more and more and so it won't take long and you can work at least 25 stations with a single yagi.

vy 73 de Bodo, KT3Q, DL3OCH, HB9EHJ

Nigeria EME Expedition

By Bodo, DL3OCH

After many DXpeditions and 16 first ever activities on 23cm I am happy to announce another milestone in EME history. I will be working in Nigeria for several months starting in March. This gives me the opportunity to bring EME to Nigeria.

We have already formed an EME group (5N0OBA, 5N9AYM, 5N4BRJ, 5N0ATI and myself) which will be active on 2m, 70cm and 23cm. Our focus will be on 2m and 23cm. I am going to create a website that will inform you guys about all of our activities.

Right now I am collecting the equipment that I will take down to Nigeria. Some of the equipment will stay there at the radio club as a donation and further use. I would be happy to receive some donations (I will donate a new IC706mkIIG by myself) from you in order to leave as much equipment as possible there so that the activities do not have to stop once I go back to Switzerland. What I am still missing is a preamp for 2m. I would prefer a SP-2000 or any other kind that is reliable and includes the relays. I will take a 1kW PA down (tnx to Dan, HB9CRQ) and plan to be QRV with about 700W on 2m.

Please get in touch with me if you have anything suitable. I would like to test the entire equipment before departure. Unfortunately I will have to ship most of my equipment (at least the heavy stuff) by Feb 13. Donations are welcome at any time, while I am a bit in a hurry with the preamp.

So far, I want to thank Dan/HB9CRQ, Heinrich/DJ9YW, Frank/DL8YHR and Guy/DL8EBW for providing some of the equipment.

I am looking forward to working all of you.

Many thanks to all!

Vy 73 de Bodo, DL3OCH, HB9EHJ, KT3Q

Sunspots & Global Warming

The March 2009 edition of [Sky & Telescope](#), magazine has a very interesting article on the effect of sunspots on global warming by Kristina Grifantini. The article, 'Should We Blame the Sun for Global Warming?', is very well researched and covers the topic thoroughly. Data on the anthropogenic influences on global warming are included.

There is a small reduction in total solar irradiance when there are no sunspots. The Maunder Minimum, 1645 – 1715, was a period with no sunspots. This is in the middle of a period called the 'Little Ice Age' in Europe. Early sunspot records are rather sketchy. Serious studies of the sun started with orbiting satellites.

For a podcast by Solar physicist Judith Lean (U.S. Naval Research Laboratory) see [Solar Impact: The Sun-Earth Connection](#).

Solar Cycle Update

Predictions for cycle 24 range from very low to very high which sums up to nobody really knows for sure. Cycle 23 is now a full 12 years and counting. The latest ARRL solar update doesn't show much new activity.

There has been a general increase in sunspots since about 1900. Is the sun ready for a vacation or a new burst?

Report by George, W3FEY

Museum Club SOS

Dear Fellow Amateur,

The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club-WB2JSM is putting out an SOS (save our station) call for your help. The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club has been demonstrating amateur radio to the visiting public for over 35 years as an independent exhibit at the New York Hall of Science Children's Museum located in Queens, New York. The museum is undergoing a major renovation project and wants us out for good. We have started a petition which we want you to sign and circulate for us in order to help preserve a great ham radio asset by showing officials at the museum that you value what we do. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/6ljost> to read more about our plight and sign our petition. We have logged over 10,000 contacts from the station and even if you're not in our log your help will let us continue to talk up amateur radio and create the next generation of ham radio operators.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Golero KC2CBA

Club Liaison Officer

www.hosarc.org (the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club)

www.nyhallsci.org (the Hall of Science museum)

Ed: This plea is a symptom of the declining public image of Amateur Radio. This is just one of many places where Amateur stations are being replaced by other functions/exhibits.

How many of you remember when the White House hosted an Amateur Radio station? President Eisenhower, who was not a ham, talked on the air a few times.

The call used to be W3WTE in the 50's.

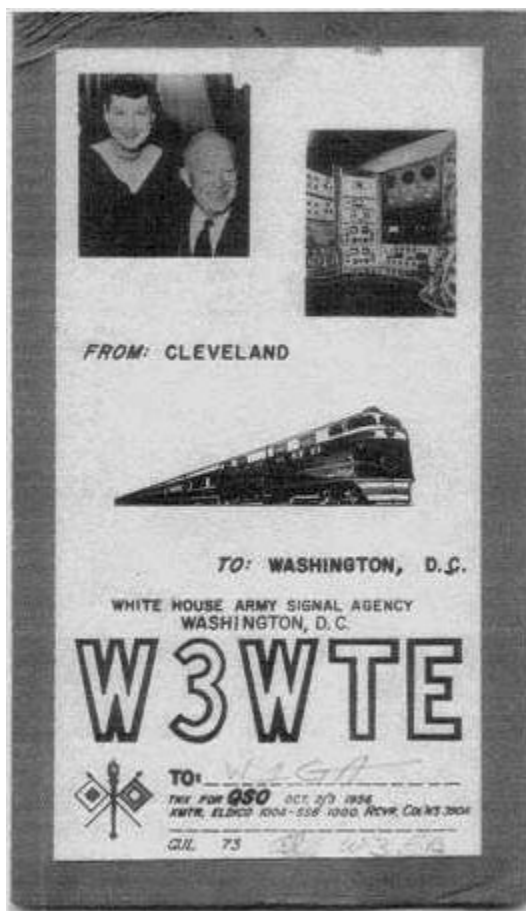
Thanks to Glenn Laser, W3WTE, for the scan and reading of the 1956 W3WTE QSL displayed below.

TO: W1GA

TNX FOR QSO 2/3 OCT 1956

XMTR ELDICO 100A SSB RCVR Collins R-390A

CUL 73 AL W3FB



What about the rest of the story? Does anyone have a 1950s Callbook and can look up W1GA and W3FB? It would be great to know who they are and where they lived at the time of this contact.

This W3WTE contact was in the time period when Gen Curtis Lemay and Art Collins, et al, were pushing to get SSB introduced into Air Force communications.

For more background information see <http://www.geocities.com/w8jyz/POTUS.pdf>

Will BPL Ever Go Away?

Here's another news item. BPL is rearing its ugly head in the UK and another battle is starting between hams, regulators, and the utilities.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/01/15/bt_vision_interference/

Dave Sarraf, [N3NDJ](#)
