



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"

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July 2007

Ed. note: This issue reconstructed from a paper copy.

Hello Again

In order to give Mike Warner, N3XPD, help with the newsletter, I have volunteered to share his load. Mike has done a very good job in serving as president of the club and his efforts are appreciated to do the newsletter. Doing both put a heavy load on his shoulders, those of us in the retired category do have more time than those who are still going to work every day. This first edition will be shorter than what we would want but given some time to get up and running, I hope you will understand.

Since we are hoping to keep costs down for the newsletter, it will only be distributed by email. From past experience all members do have email.

I have had some problems this past year with equilibrium, but that has been going away with some help from the physical therapist at the Lancaster Health Campus.

I would also add that I have been downsizing my hamshack of items that I would never use again. Most are still useable and I have put some in the operating building at the club site. The technology has also outdistanced many of us. It takes a steady hand and a tiny soldering iron to mess around with surface mount technology.

Being a ham for 58 years and having arrived at the 80 year mark, tells me not to climb towers anymore. CW is still a favorite which I fortunately got from Uncle Sam in the Navy. See you at the next meeting.

Roger Colvin, W3PWH



ARES/RACES

Nets: RACES MONTHLY NET first
Tuesday: 2030 -145.230

HF RACES NETS 3993.5 LSB
First Sunday: 0800 State Callup
Every Sunday: 0830 Central Section
SPARC CLUB NETS: 2ND, 3RD, 4TH
5TH TUESDAYS AT 2030 - 145.230

Members are encouraged to be active in the ARES/RACES program and be prepared to be activated to various sites in the County to provide back-up communication for the Emergency Management Agency. Operation has been 2 meters and members take their own equipment for operation. Past experience in such operations has revealed the need to take antennas as well.

ARES and RACES differ in that the first is sponsored by the ARRL and the second comes under the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Generally RACES sponsors most operations and does provide insurance coverage to its' members. A very complete RACES handbook is available for its members

President: Mike Warner, N3XPD

Vice President: Rick Watson, N3SWJ
Secretary: Dave Sarraf, N3NDJ

Treasurer: Ted Freedman, K3KSA

Past President: Dave Payne, N3LOM

Director: Harry Bauder, W A3FFK

Repeater Trustee: Dave Payne

Web Site: Dave Sarraf, Rick Watson, Mike Warner

Training Committee: Max Peters, Dave Payne, Mike Warner

Tech Committee: Harry Bauder, Dave Payne, Jim Ibaugh

Newsletter: Roger Colvin

What is a Club?

A club by definition is a group of persons who are interested in a similar activity for the purpose of sharing and receiving information and fulfilling a common goal. In our case it is the operation and technology of amateur radio. Over the years this has changed from spark gap transmissions to digital codes. World War II helped to create a large group of veterans whose main operation was CW. A decade or so later Single Sideband came to replace AM. In the 70's radio clubs were created to support a VHF repeater. Where there was largely one

club in Lancaster County, the Lancaster Radio Transmitting Society, LRTS, and since Repeater operation was mostly a single set of frequencies, other groups established their own clubs. The principle funding source was to promote Hamfests. Hamfests were a prime source for electronics parts. Since Heathkit withdrew from the kit market and equipment became more sophisticated, building rigs decreased and hamfests were not needed to find parts.

SPARC like many others depended on the good will of community organizations to offer meeting sites, as well as those who also allowed antennas on their towers. When the Ironville Fire Department merged with Silver Springs, the property was sold to the Township who made it into a family Park. SPARC had to leave town. The opportunity came for the club to purchase a commercial microwave tower site which had itself become obsolete because of newer technologies. Studies were made by club officers and presented to the club with the opportunity to purchase the site in Rapho Twp. The members accepted the challenge. The Rapho Township Supervisors offered a meeting place for the clubs monthly meetings. The source for supporting our projects was recycling paper and this has been the funding for our site. Few clubs have as complete a site as our own.

This source of income has to depend on as many members as possible to help in the recycling project. We have turned to that end and it is appreciated by the leaders. New leadership has given us a new emphasis and purpose. Since the priorities have shifted, we can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. It is to our benefit to pay off the mortgage as soon as possible. Since the site is well equipped with antennas and equipment, it gives us the opportunity to pay down the mortgage. It also could

mean a careful analysis of future purchases. I was born during the depression in 1927. Those were meager years and learning to do without or making do with what you had was a way of life. We have a good club with very good leadership and a supportive membership. Mike Warner is to be commended for accepting the presidency and providing excellent leadership, Ted Freedman has carefully reported our finances, Dave Sarraf continues a complete reporting of the minutes and Dave Payne has made the paper recycling the backbone for financing our payments. Rick Watson has stepped in as vice president when necessary. Harry Bauder has spent a great deal of time keeping the equipment functioning. This does not mean others have not contributed time and effort to support the club. Max Peters has helped with topics to give us insight into future communications. To all we say thanks. It is our club and the members make it what it is.

Roger Colvin, W3PWH