



# 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: [k3ir@arrl.net](mailto:k3ir@arrl.net)

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

## June 2009

### SPARC Field Day June 27-28, 2009 Items

\* Setup begins at SPARC site at 1400 hrs Local time June 26 Setup includes installing antennas and set up of the operating tent This setup required at least 4 people to complete. I plan to provide a B&W folded dipole and a High Sierra screwdriver antenna for 80 through 10 Meter operations. I expect to use some Vhf/Uhf antennas at the SPARC site that we can mount on poles.

\* Field Day operations begin at 1400 hrs local time June 27 Should be at least 3 operators on location to get started. I plan to arrive there at 1200 Hrs local time.

\* Field Day Operation ends 1400hrs local time June 28  
Cleanup and disassembly of the antennas and tents ideally requires at least four people.

\* Hope to have at least 2 HF and 2 VHF/UHF operating positions during the contest. Suggest we operate phone only during the daylight hours and operate digital modes after sunset so computer screens are visible. I can provide one HF rig and a Vhf/Uhf Rig for the setup. If anyone can provide equipment

please let me know.

\* I know some of you have been investigating computer logging and the ARRL required logging information for FD is as follows: Frequency, Mode, Date, UTC time, Call of Station worked, FD class/ARRL Section  
Example: 40M, SSB, June 27, 1802hrs, W1LI, 3A/WPA

\* I have emailed several members that provided equipment last year to see if they can provide the equipment this year. Dick Hess (KB3LOJ) will provide the generator and Mike Warner (N3XPD) the insulated poles to mount antennas.

\*Gerry Wagner has graciously volunteered to provide some food for FD. Perhaps someone could provide water and soda for the group. Maybe dessert too!

Please feel free to make any suggestions no matter how outrageous they may be. The whole idea of SPARC's participation in Filed day is to have FUN and to practice our skills in operating under field conditions.

There will more info Emails in the days to come.

73

Ross

[W3ZKU@comcast.net](mailto:W3ZKU@comcast.net)

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## President's Column

Well it looks like summer is finally upon us. I just wish it would rain! Anyway activity appears to be on the increase on the HF bands and 20 meters has been open to Eastern Europe several times this week.

Field day is coming June 27 and 28. SPARC will be operating from the repeater site on Breneman Road. Your humble president cannot be there due to a commitment to a higher calling but I wish all who participate good conditions and high scores.

As I write this article Skywarn is up on the 145.23 repeater for heavy rain and a tornado warning in Lancaster and Chester Counties. As the threat lessened net control disconnected the county link and returned the repeater to normal use. A member called another member with non-emergency traffic and wondered if the net was still up. The link had been disabled. An easy way to tell if the county link is up is to listen to the courtesy tone. If it is a single high pitch beep the link is still up. If you hear a tone that consists of a two-tone warble the link is not in use.

After the camping season is over for the summer I hope to put together a technical program on the SPARC repeater system and operation for one of the membership meetings. Stay tuned.

Harry Bauder, WA3FFK

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### **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2009 MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (SPARC)**

Held Wednesday May 20, 2009 at the Rapho Township Municipal Building

The following members, visitors, and guests were present:

Dave Sarraf, N3NDJ  
Gerry Wagner, KB3SSU  
Steve Hass, KB3SJU  
George Gadbois, W3FEY  
Rick Watson, N3SWJ  
Ross Kauffman, W3ZKU  
Rebekah Bowers  
Jim Silvius, K3WE  
Yale Eastman, K3VPA  
Ted Freedman, K3KSA  
Paul Herr, KD8WY  
Ken DeLucca, WA3KD

The meeting was called to order by Rick Watson, N3SWJ, at 19:01 hours, with a round robin introduction by name and call.

Dave Sarraf read the minutes of the April membership meeting. On a motion by Gerry Wagner and a second by George Gadbois, the minutes were approved with no objections noted.

Ted Freedman presented the Treasurer's Report. Amounts shown are as of April 30, 2009. All outstanding bills have been paid. Ted noted a \$7 discrepancy. On a motion by Ross Kauffman and a second by George Gadbois, the report was approved as presented pending correction of the error with no opposition noted. (Ted later found that the discrepancy was an interest posting that he had not made in his books.) Ted noted that we are spending below our revenue predictions, so our funds will last a little longer than expected. After reviewing the form, Ted provided a check to Dave

Sarraf for the corporate Change of Registered Address form being submitted to the State.

#### New Members:

Two new membership applications have been received: Steven Hess, KB3SJU, and the Rudy family (3 additional members). On a motion by George Gadbois and a second by Paul Herr, these new members were accepted with no opposition noted.

#### Old Business:

- The site work day had not yet been scheduled. Dave Payne did the Adopt-a-Highway pickup the same day as the prior Rapho Township paper recycling event.
- Harry Bauder now tracks volunteer hours worked. Please tell him what you have done so he can keep his sheet updated. This includes paper recycling and events such as HEARS (Paul Herr).
- The MS Walk was successful, with 6-7 hams participating.
- The Ephrata Bike Race had 3 participants.
- Paul Herr reported on the May 2 HEARS drill. There was good participation from the club. Ephrata and Lancaster General Hospital were covered. Filters (cans) are needed to mitigate against interference from the hospital pager system. Ephrata and Heart of Lancaster both use 152.18. Paul will meet with the HEARS committee on Thursday at York to discuss this problem. They have a problem and is open to suggestions for a fix.

#### New Business:

- Ross provided an update on Field Day preparations. We didn't have the lowest score last year, which he felt was encouraging. Ross explained the concept and situation of Field Day for the newcomers. The tent was discussed – it should still be at the site. Ross wants to have VHF and UHF set up as well, since they can be run concurrently with HF without interference. He will be doing some early tests on HF to make sure everything is working properly prior to the official setup time the day before. CW operators are especially desirable as their contacts are worth double over a voice contact. He will circulate a roster / signup sheet to cover the event. Gerry Wagner offered to help with food. The membership agreed that a port-a-pot is mandatory. Ted was directed to get one on site for 2 months, since the weekend rate is the same as the monthly rate. Logging software was discussed. We should submit logs, as it verifies other clubs' contacts; however, it had been too bright last year to see computer screens so Ross planned to use paper logs with dupe sheets.

#### Upcoming Events

- The MS Bike tour is July 18-19 at Millersville PA. Dave Payne has been the usual contact.
- The Keystone Trails event is September 12<sup>th</sup>. Red Rose is coordinating the event and will be contacting us for help.
- The new DTV changeover date is June 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. Ross recommended resetting and re-scanning converter boxes as the channel assignments will change on that date.

On a motion by George Gadbois and a second by Gerry Wagner, the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. There was no technical portion this month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Sarraf, N3NDJ  
SPARC Secretary

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## Coming Events

June 13-14, ARRL VHF QSO Party 1400 local Saturday to 2300 local Sunday. All bands 50MHz and up including light. Required exchange is call sign and grid square. Look yourself up to get your grid square from [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com). Check the map to be sure your location is correct.

The SPARC club site is an excellent operating location for VHF/UHF. The K3IR grid square is FN10se. You don't have to be a club member to operate a rover from the parking lot.

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The June RACES meeting will be held on Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Lancaster County Training Center. Agenda will follow in the next few weeks... I am also meeting with LEMA about letters and ID cards for members next week.

Thanks,  
Chris Bunting  
Lanco RACES

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June 27 – 28 Field Day. SPARC will be participating. The public is invited to visit at the club site in on Breneman Road in Rapho Twp.

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## MS Bike Tour

Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19, is the MS Bike Tour. Operators are needed for both days.

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## CQWW VHF Contest

6 & 2m only Starts 1800UTC Saturday and ends 2100 UTC Sunday. This contest is within the summer Es season and conditions are frequently very good.

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Saturday, September 12, is the Keystone Trails hike in southern Lancaster County. The Red Rose club is coordinating communications for the event. They will be contacting SPARC for operators.

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## Editor's Notes

Many radio clubs sponsor Field Day operations open to the public. If you know of anyone interested in learning about Amateur Radio, invite them to visit the SPARC FD operation at the club site. LRTS also operates from their site at Cornwall. There are similar operations in the surrounding counties.

As this issue goes to press, the conversion of high power television to digital is just a day away. News reports indicate that there are still many TV viewers who have not prepared for the change. Next month I plan to publish a wrap up article on the subject.

What the satellite providers will do to deliver the secondary channels remains unknown. I subscribe to DishNetwork and they do not deliver the secondary channels from WITF. DishNetwork ignores customer queries on the subject.

Don't forget to look for Chris Patterson, W3CMP, in Guyana between June 16, 2009 and June 26, 2009. Double hop Es is required to work Guyana via Es. This

makes it difficult, but by no means impossible. Chris will be alert for Lancaster stations. See the article below for more detail. Guyana will be on the air through July 6<sup>th</sup> with other operators.

Many thanks to those who have helped identify local hams in old photos and contributions of additional photos. I have many more photos that need to be flattened for scanning. This will take months to complete.

Does anyone know what happened to the F&M College Radio Society, W3RDK? This club was active circa 1960. There must be some F&M grads who can research this.

Reports on the Monday night York County Elmer net indicate that this is a great success. See the other local net listings below for details.

73,  
George, W3FEY

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## 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, 145.310 and 147.015 (+ offset) MHz repeaters with minus offset and 118.8 PL.

The Lancaster County primary ARES/RACES repeater is on 145.310 MHz with minus offset and 118.8 PL.

Combined York County Amateur and ARES/RACES NET convenes at 8:30 PM (2030) Mondays on 146.97.

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.

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## Lancaster County RACES Meeting – April 27, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 7:04pm

### Good Evening

Chris Bunting, K1CWB introduced himself as new RACES coordinator.

Introduced Ron Small, WB2OOB as ARES coordinator

### Introductions of everyone

**RACES Applications** – background checks – county is supposed to get letter out to everyone after applications approved

Was decided to go with committees instead of officers, with one person heading up each committee

**Training Committee** – Ron Small  
WB2OOB – Chairman

**Membership/Recruitment** – Karen  
Lesmeister K3LPA – Chairwomen, Joe  
Smith WB3JWS

**Assistant Coordinator** – none as of now

**Planning Committee** – Rick Watson, N3SWJ – Chairman, Mark Vreeland KB3NCJ

*Discussion:*

Rick Watson asked “Is there a change in attitude of county”

Chris’s goal to get organization running and will push for county assistance.

Joe Smith says there is a problem above Phil & Randy

**Technical Committee** – Kurt Harnish, N3TUQ – Chairman, Ed Albright KB3OWF, Ren Angelini, N3NRO

**Training and exercises:**

NIMS 1 & 700 on FEMA free, all RACES members must have these 2 classes

Skywarn Training – might be class at county, is on calendar, unsure if it is correct

CPR Class + First Aid- Karen can teach, will solicit interest and see if there is enough to hold class. 6 ppl max each class

ARES 1-3, 1 was required previously, 2+3 may be combined

KY & CO classes are available online free

Chris asked how many in room have ARES , 1,2,3 levels.

5-10 people had levels 1,2 or all 3

**Mailing** – hold off on mailing all amateurs until some support from county

**Net announcements** – promote RACES meetings and events on NETS

**Webpage** – there is a county webpage, Chris is hoping to get access to this so it can be updated.

**Applications** – Chris has all now and will submit for background checks

Question on background checks, previously Randy told members no credit check, that is believed to still be the case

**ID Cards:** County will issue cards, need letter first from county. Obtain at firemans association

Chris would like everyone to get a new card, as new info will be added

Callsign

Drivers license #

Lancaster County, PA

Trailer – Question was asked about drivers, Chris says county has a truck that can pull it, unaware of who can drive truck, will find out

**TMI Drill After Action Reports:**

*County EOC:*

Need better ventilation or different lighting, extremely hot

Outside door locked after 5pm and no intercom/phone available outside.

Kenwood G707a, faceplate moves and powers off rig.

HF Rig – still does not work Kenwood 430

Ron Small: Need better computers, with internet for radar. Delormi Mapping program cd-offline, Webcad from within EOC

Chris has 2 used computers from LGH for trailer

There was a lack of traffic from EOC to other locations. Faxes were being received and never given messages to send over radio

*East Donegal:*

Vern Keihl, great facilities in basement, great people, lack of traffic. Asked about digital test, Chris said was a last minute decision to try out at 2 locations this time, next time will have more locals and printer.

No radio at ED, their kenwood radio has ham repeaters programmed and can be used if needed

Only 1 AC outlet for entire cubicles

### *Conoy Township:*

No antenna, from Ted Freedman: if replacing antenna consider dualband, digital is the way to go.

FEMA suggested using headsets, was hard to hear in same room with radios squelching.

IS213 forms available on ARRL, we may use excelon forms, will check with county to see what they prefer. There was a lot of info on excelon form that would save time to use their form if we need to send messages in this format.

### *Elizabethtown:*

No power supply  
Antenna was good, SWR great, 2m and possible 440 on 2<sup>nd</sup> coax

Had internet access (wifi)

Downloaded form IS213 to use

Joe Smith: Randy called and asked if all objectives were met, we did not have a list to tell him yes or no.

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Many locations – hard to hear, headphones recommended. John Lesmeister recommended noise cancelling mics to alleviate background noise. Splitters for headphones,

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### Future Meetings:

Bi-monthly, training/committee meetings  
inbetween Chris: Next meeting TBD , will be in June 2009 at LCPSTC again. Will poll membership for best weekday. Mondays do not work for county. Need to set up 1 year of meetings with training ctr to assure we have room

RACES NET: Will be on 145.310 p118.8

Net Coordinator: Vern N3VK

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

Announce on all freqs 5 minutes before net if possible.

Chris: RACES repeater is up and running, backup power, can run for weeks without a refuel in

emergency. Hub repeater is also at this site now. Ephrata is now able to link to hub

Chris listed website

<http://lema.co.lancaster.pa.us>

And his email [races@lema.co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:races@lema.co.lancaster.pa.us)

Thank you for coming!

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Task Force Hospital Drill – Radio Test – Simplex and Repeater

RACES can staff county EOC, let Chris know if coming. 10am-2pm

Need to get radio at training center for MACC, Chris will check with county on progress.

73's

Chris, K1CWB

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## 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.

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## Club Officers

President Harry Bauder – [WA3FFK](http://www.wa3ffk.com)

Vice-President: Rick Watson - [N3SWJ](http://www.n3swj.com)

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

Treasurer - Ted Freedman - [K3KSA](http://www.k3kza.com)

Repeater Trustee - Dave Payne - [N3LOM](http://www.n3lom.com)

Past President - Mike Warner – [N3XPD](http://www.n3xpd.com)

Board of Directors - Jim Silvius – [KW3E](http://www.kw3e.com)

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## Other Nets of Local Interest

### Delaware Co. Mobile Sixers Net Schedule

Sunday 2000 50.550 MHz USB

### Cumberland Co.

Monday 2130 144.160 MHz USB

**Packrats** 1296.100 MHz USB net Mondays at 2130 local time

Bob, W2SJ, Pennsauken, NJ, FM29lw, is temporary net control while K3TUF is coaching Special Olympics. Bob has a good signal into Lancaster County. He looks west ~ 2135-40.

Combined York County Amateur and ARES/RACES NET convenes at 8:30 PM (2030) Monday on 146.97.

Technical/Elmer NET -- following Monday Combined York NET

For discussion or questions in reference to Amateur radio, the club, equipment, operating procedures, etc, have them ready to ask. If you just want to talk about something particular to Amateur radio, we can do that too. The net will start at 9 PM on the York 146.97 repeater. If the regular net runs longer than this, it will start when the normal Monday night net ends.

If you would like to volunteer to discuss a topic, for 5 to 10 minutes, please send your name and topic to the NET Manager, Richard Reese at "kr3ee@frontiernet.net". Rich will schedule you.

Sandy Goodman, N3ECF

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## 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 second Tuesday of each month.

We operate on an exchange basis with other non-commercial publications. Articles printed in QRZ News may be reprinted in a not for profit publication provided proper credit is given. Reprinted articles require permission from the original source.

QRZ News is archived at [http://www.k3ir.org/QRZ\\_News.html](http://www.k3ir.org/QRZ_News.html). Documents are in PDF format.

Thanks to Jim Silvius, KW3E and Dave Sarraf, N3NDJ for providing many missing issues for the archive.

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## Six Meter 8R Guyana DXpedition

See <http://6meterbeaconproject.org/8R2009.html> for the latest information. Expected start up is the afternoon of June 16, 2009.

### Latest News... June 5, 2009

2 call signs approved today 8R1DB and 8R1TO. Team one will use 8R1DB and team two will use 8R1TO

The operating frequency will be chosen after set up in Guyana and interference potential is evaluated.

For more details see the May issue of QRZ News at [http://www.k3ir.org/QRZ\\_News.html](http://www.k3ir.org/QRZ_News.html)

73,  
Chris, W3CMP

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## 6m Es Report from Montana

de Lance Collister, W7GJ

I usually get one or two openings a year into the SE PA area. It is very unusual for the Es clouds to all drift far enough north to line up for a path out to W1, W2 or W3. Often this happens late at night - after 10 pm your local time. So, before you hit the sack, listen out this way on 6m ;-)

I am pretty much a newcomer to 6m. Since my novice days, I was always hooked on 2m; however, after surviving a very serious hiking accident in 1995, I decided to try 6m. I built my first antenna and amp and got on the air in 1996. Since then, I have spent most of my time on 6m.

We don't have nearly the propagation out in western Montana that you enjoy along the East Coast or from the East Coast to Europe, but I keep myself busy with 6m EME when there is no F2 or Es out here ;-). I am up to 140 DXCC now on 6m, with 90 of those also worked on EME. My goal is to "clean up" my 6m DXCC with 100 countries worked using EME by the end of 2009. I have been averaging about 1 new DXCC by EME every month for the last year or so, so I am optimistic about making this goal :-)

I have worked a number of stations in SE PA, but usually there are not too many stations around out there when the band opens from out here. 90% of catching 6m Es openings is to be there ;-). I find it extremely helpful to watch the movement of the Es clouds (in the center of the single hop contacts) on the map of contacts shown on this 6m chat page:

<http://www.on4kst.info/chat/login.php?band=7>

Es clouds typically drift to the NW at a couple hundred miles per hour, so it is very helpful to be able to watch the map and try to predict when the clouds will finally move "within range" of my QTH (Frenchtown, MT). Usually, they will start out in the eastern USA, and we have to watch with envy as you guys work the Carib, EU and the eastern USA as we anxiously wait for Es links to drift up far enough to the north and west to come within 6 or 7 hundred miles of here.

I think I contacted Chris, W3CMP, once on Es, but he is not around very often. He also may have his antenna toward more exciting places than Montana ;-). From out here, it requires 3 to 4 hops to get down into the Carib and work another country, whereas it is a very frequent path for you guys!

The more northern path develops as the season progresses. The best time from out here (and I think out there also) is the last week in June and the first week in July.

The best tool I have found to monitor for 6m band openings is my little SDR-IQ receiver (about the size of a pack of cigarettes!). So far, I use it primarily for just WATCHING, although it also provides a really excellent wide band noise blanker if you want to listen to it. I split the RF coming out of my 6m preamp, with one line going to my 6m receiver and the other line going to a Hamtronics 50-28 MHz receive converter, which in turn feeds into the SDR-IQ. The USB cable on my SDR-IQ plugs into a computer, and you can watch up to a 196 kHz wide band.

Hope to see you again this summer! GL and VY 73, Lance

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Lance Collister, W7GJ (ex: WN3GPL, WA3GPL, WA1JXN, WA1JXN/C6A, ZF2OC/ZF8) P.O. Box 73 Frenchtown, MT 59834 USA

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2m DXCC #11, 6m DXCC #815