



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

Email address: SPARC.Inc@juno.com

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

MAY 2006

For those of you who missed the last meeting, the club's new theme is "change." Some highlights:

Meeting Format

We are attempting to return to our original format of having a short business meeting followed by a longer technical session. This past month was a talk about antennas, antenna construction, and SWR. Several example antennas were shown, mostly cut for the 2-meter band, including a "copper cactus" 5/8 wave J-pole, a standard 1/4-wave mag-mount, and a QHA or helical antenna for satellite work. The QHA was actually used a few years ago to receive audio from the Space Station. SWR and the effect of lossy transmission lines was discussed. An antenna analyzer was shown and used to check SWR and resonant frequency on many of the antennas. One member had some questions about placement of his antenna switch and tuner on a marine application. This generated some lively discussion and hopefully answered those questions.

Over the next few months we have scheduled several talks and tutorials, including

- How GPS works and how hams can make use of it.
- Repeater basics including autopatch, offsets, and PL tones
- Digital modes such as PSK31; hardware and software required and a live demo

- Interference and RFI problems and how to deal with them.
- DX'ing and QSL cards

There is a lot of expertise within the club and we want to make it available for the benefit of the members. If you haven't been to meetings in the past now is a good time to start attending. If you have a topic you would like to present please contact us. The format is fairly informal so you don't need to be an expert speaker. Just bring what you know and share it with the group.

Elections

As some of you are aware, we have been working without a treasurer for several months. More recently, our long-term president James "Yogi" Bear has asked to step down. Both of these positions need to be filled so we plan to have nominations and elections within the next month. These are important positions so please plan to attend, either to nominate someone or just to vote.

Operating Building

The operating building is now available for member use. You will have access to all of the antennas, including HF wire antennas for all bands and a rotatable tribander with a 40-meter kit. You will need to bring your own radio. Some power supplies are available. This is a good chance to hone your skills if you don't have or can't have a permanent shack or an antenna for a

QRZ News – May 2006

particular band. See a club officer at a meeting for more details.



ARES/RACES

Last month's drill was a success. Both SPARC and Excelon thank all RACES members who participated. One criticism was a lack of messages passed through the RACES network. This has been noted and was an unanticipated result of a last-minute change made at county control. Corrective actions are being discussed and will be made. Consider it a cloud with a silver lining and be glad it happened during a drill rather than a real event.

The next RACES net is on Tuesday June 5 at 20:30 hours. Following is the monthly net schedule

First Tuesday 2030 hours at 145.230

First Sunday 0800 hours 3993.5 LSB
The State callup is at 0800;
Central Section callup is at 0830.

SPARC INFO

2006 OFFICERS

President James "Yogi" Bear	WB3FQY
Vice President Jim Watson,	KA3AJD
Secretary Dave Sarraf	N3NDJ
Treasurer	Vacant
Directors Greg Martell, KB3GMV, Dave Payne, N3LOM, Harry Bauder WA3FFK, Mike Warner N3XPD	

APPOINTMENTS

Web site

Dave Sarraf. N3NDJ

Training Committee

Max Peters, KI6NJ; Dave Payne, N3LOM; Jim Ibaugh, AA3C; Yogi Bear, WB3FQY.

Tech Committee

Dave Payne, N3LOM; Mike Warner, N3XPD; Harry Bauder, WA3FFK; Jim Watson, KA3AJD

Newsletter:

Dave Sarraf, N3NDJ

Email: david.sarraf@paonline.com

Monthly Net

SPARC holds nets on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Tuesday (every Tuesday except the first) at 2030 on 145.230.