

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: k3ir@arrl.net

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

May 2009

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

Held Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at the Rapho
Township Municipal Building

Old Business:

- Harry Bauder reported that the 2m interference problem has been corrected. It was being caused by a paging system on the WGAL-FM tower.
- Ted Freedman reported that not all club members have received their 2009 membership cards.

New Business:

- Harry Bauder would like to schedule a work day at the repeater site. We need to repair the roof of the Operating Building and the water-damaged ceiling inside. We need to clean up the grounds and tower and repair/remove some antennas from the tower. Harry will send an email to members with possible dates.
- Dave Payne will check if we need to help Rapho Twp with recycling this month.
- Harry Bauder noted that we need to schedule another Adopt-a-Highway clean up of Brenaman Road.

- Dave Payne noted that club members need to start recording the hours they spend on club-related projects. This is important when applying for grants and assistance. Harry Bauder will create a spreadsheet to track this time. All club members should report the time they spend to Harry Bauder.
- Dave Payne reported on the TMI drill Tuesday evening, April 14th. Three club members (Dave Payne, Harry Bauder and Jon Rudy) participated in the drill. There were only 4 messages passed by Amateur Radio.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, April 19, is the annual Walk MS, starting at noon from Clipper Stadium.
- Sunday, April 26, is Tour de Ephrata bike race. Two Hams are needed to monitor the race.
- Saturday, May 2, is a South-Central Counter Terrorism Task Force drill from 10 AM to 2 PM. Paul Herr has operators to cover all of the hospitals in our area. Paul noted that Dan Sullivan is the new head of the Amateur Radio Working Group.
- Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19, is the MS Bike Tour.

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.

Following the official meeting, Harry Bauder gave an interesting presentation on aircraft black boxes.

Next SPARC meeting 7:00PM, Wednesday May 20, 2009 at the Rapho Twp municipal building, 971 N. Colebrook Rd, Rapho Twp.

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

Field Day 2009 at K3IR

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Field Day on June 27-28. SPARC plans will be discussed at the club meeting Wednesday May 20, 2009 at the Rapho Twp. Municipal building.

Contest chairman Ross Kauffman, W3ZKU

Ed Note: See the news article on Field Day 1951 near the end of this newsletter.

Recycling Program

As you probably know, the bottom has fallen out of recycled paper prices with no signs of recovery. SPARC paper recycling remains indefinitely suspended. We cannot recover the cost of transportation at this time.

The recycle prices for aluminum, copper, copper alloys, and stainless steel are down but still viable as sources of revenue. Please collect these materials and bring them to a club meeting or deliver them to Dave Payne's mini recycling center at 1373 Malleable Rd., Columbia, PA.

With recycling in deep recession, SPARC needs new sources of revenue. Can you help?

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. 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.

The June RACES meeting will be held on Thursday June 18th 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

June 27 – 28 Field Day. SPARC will be participating.

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Editor's Notes

The afternoon of May 2nd was the first significant Es opening I observed for the summer season. Stations in the south central area were coming in around 2200 UTC. This was not one of the big mid summer openings where anyone with a wet noodle antenna and 5w comes in S9. Stations were workable for a few minutes at a time and patience was required. I worked one station in Kansas.

I was surprised to hear TI7/N5BEK in Costa Rica in and out of the noise for about an hour. He was answering mostly stations at the first hop distance in the middle of the country. I did not get through the pile up. I heard stations reporting that TI7/N5BEK had been coming in all day.

Randy, WA3HLP, worked Costa Rica and Aruba. Shows what elevation and a beam will do.

For reference, my antenna is an M2 loop at about 30' with ~120w. Definitely not a big gun station.

No sunspots required to work Es! Yes, we still have essentially zero sunspots. Makes one wonder if the sun is going into a new minimum or resting up for a new outburst. The experts don't agree.

By this time next month the conversion of high power TV broadcast stations to digital will be over. I haven't checked recently, but after the Feb changeover date local retailers had very few digital sets in inventory. Kmart was selling off the last few floor samples. There should be new inventory by now. Apparently, more than a few people still aren't ready.

The ARWG hospital communications on May 2nd revealed more pager interference problems than previously reported. One conclusion is that interference filters need to be installed or we can cede 2m simplex to the pagers. Actually, only very strong repeater signals will work without

interference filters. SPARC members participated at Lancaster Regional, Heart of Lancaster, and Ephrata Community Hospital.

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, 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.

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

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, FM291w, 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

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. Documents are in PDF format.

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

Six Meter 8R Guyana DXpedition

Chris Patterson, W3CMP, is part of a 6m expedition to activate 8R Guyana from June 16, 2009 – July 6, 2009. See

<http://6meterbeaconproject.org/8R2009.html>
for the latest information.

Operating Parameters

Grid Locator - GJ06wt

6M7JHV on the Ocean (the Oceanview
International Hotel)

3CPX800A7 amplifier

Icom 7000 & K3 for radios

Rig will be in permanent beacon CQ
mode 24/7

frequencies will be posted soon...

Operators

TEAM 1

June16 - June26

Dave N3DB



Chris W3CMP



TEAM 2

June 27 - July 6

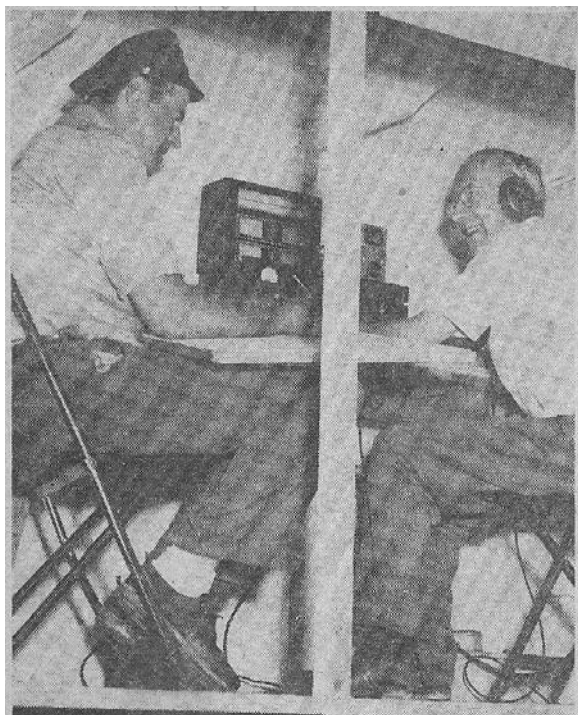
Terry K4RX



Ken AC4TO



Field Day in the 1950's



New Era Photo

Radio Unit in 24-Hour Contest (June 1951)

Arthur W, Jenkins, W3GJA, left, and Robert P, Nick, W3LN, right, at their stations in a mobile radio transmitting unit on the farm of Wilson Chambers, W3EYY, Willow Street R1.

They are members of the Lancaster Radio Transmitting Society which is holding its annual 24-hour Field Day exercise, ending at 5 p. m. tomorrow. Members will be on duty in shifts throughout the night.

The local program is part of the field day contest for amateur radio operators from all parts of the U. S. and Canada.

Lancaster New Era, Saturday, June 23, 1951

The following photos are undated.



LRTS Gypsy Wagon Field Operations Unit



Floyd Jury, W3OLV, standing center, Ed Gates, W3AKC, sitting center. Others unidentified.



L-R Ed Gates, W3AKC; Unknown; Bob Carvell, W3NOI; Floyd Jury, W3OLV

LRTS information and photos supplied by Lloyd and Floyd Jury.

VHF Contesting, Why Bother?

You probably have noticed that TV broadcasting is losing a lot of spectrum in the digital TV conversion. This is because many services are looking for more VHF/UHF spectrum. This puts pressure on all users to justify the continued use of spectrum. One of the statistics that ARRL uses to justify retention of spectrum is usage. Thus, VHF contest logs are scrutinized for data on the number of active stations on the air. In recent years, VHF contesting has slumped while HF contesting is booming despite the dearth of sunspots.

Do you need to submit a log to be counted? Not really. Just make sure your call is in the log of a few of the big contest stations and it will be found and reported. Why work more than one? Well, a singular report may be rejected as a wrong callsign.

Wouldn't you like to know just how good your station is? SSB and CW will get you more DX, but FM simplex will also work. Please avoid the national 146.52 calling frequency. Try 146.55. Note that the local coordinators have used the simplex channels below 146.52 for 1 MHz split repeaters.

Other bands are not similarly constrained. For example, in this area 223.500 is used for coordination and contacts by stations not equipped for 222 SSB/CW. 446.00 FM simplex is also good. I don't know about 6m FM simplex.

Note that the dedicated contesters will not be looking for FM simplex contacts when the band is open and DX is coming in. 6m is likely to be open with Es during the

afternoons and early evenings. The higher bands will likely be slow in the afternoons after the first flush of contacts when the contest begins. Sunday afternoon is usually very slow.

I only have a vertical antenna for 144/432 but I can still work quite a few stations. There is a ~20db loss in signal for cross polarization, but many stations are much stronger than that. Wait for the big stations to turn their antennas this way and go for it.

I can usually work W2SZ in western MA on 2m. I have heard them several times on 223.5 FM simplex, but they haven't heard me. I run 100w to a Ringo on 222. I understand that W2SZ runs 250w on 222 FM.

See you in the contest June 13-14.

George, W3FEY
