



QRZ NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
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Ed. note: This issue reconstructed from a paper copy.

Club Meeting Notes

Dave, N3LOM, reported that he has a different location for accepting books with hard covers. This means we do not have to enlist members to cut the covers off of books. Books continue to be an important part of the paper collections. The other paper materials, newspapers and magazines are collected in the same manner as before at the club site. Dave reported that due to the support in paper collections, we are able to make an extra substantial payment on the mortgage. Members endorse this mortgage as a primary concern of the Club.

It was noted as soon as we entered the Township Building that the conference room seating had been changed with the tables at the end of the room. Of course, we did not fill all the seats but that might be nice.

There was some discussion about a hamfest but we do not have the volunteers which such a project requires. Red Rose Repeater Assoc. is sponsoring such a hamfest in October.

An inquiry was raised about the vehicle which had been used to pull the van. Roger reported the paperwork has been forwarded to the proper County officials. He will ask his son to inquire. The vehicle is not operational so would have to be taken away. It is the property of the County.



Emergency Operations

A report was given by those who were involved in the new program under the sponsorship of FEMA. Most operators were assigned to a hospital location. This program encompasses an 8 County area with similar assignments throughout the State. It was to be noted that this is a volunteer operation and not sponsored by any Club in particular. Thus SPARC is not involved as an organization and reports do not have to be made at any SPARC meeting. What effect this new program has on RACES which is a County program is not known; however, RACES is also an organization on a Countywide basis under the direction of the local County Emergency Management Agency and not a project of any individual Club.

Antenna Restrictions

Amateurs have been plagued by the Covenant restrictions that have been placed on new communities as a way to protect the properties from towers that are considered

unsightly and wires running here and there. Yet ham radio operation depends on some kind of exterior arrangement for best operation on the low bands (160-10 meters). Some efforts are being made by legislators to pass laws that would permit some reasonable accommodation.

Obviously the high towers are the main objection. Until the laws are changed it calls for ingenuity. You may remember those "slinky" toys that could be stretched out. If you have an attic of some size, the "slinky" has been used as a stretched under the roof with a coax finding its way through a closet to get to the rig. They are on the market for sale by some companies.

If you have a cover of trees at least on one side of the property a wire can be run a few feet off the ground with small to keep it off the ground. The coax can be buried up to the house. This is used by the military called the nuvis antenna. You can say it is there to keep the dogs out

Since the purpose is to prevent the antenna from being observable, one person found that most rain gutters are plastic and a wire could be run just under the spouting.

There is also the "flagpole" antenna. While most flagpoles are made from metal, a hard vinyl plastic pole which may never see a flag, only the cords can be used. An aluminum rod can be run through the center and a coax attached to the pole. No doubt some kind of antenna tuner would be necessary for any of these arrangements.

Or you can stay away from those "plastic" communities and buy a house at least 30 years old with some trees and tell the neighbors you are a member of the FCC (Free Community Covenants). I don't

recommend the "Isotron" antennas. I have a couple if anyone wants them, no charge!

The Editor, W3PWH

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Club Meeting

The next Club meeting is scheduled for October 17th, 7:00 PM at the Rapho Twp Building off Colebrook Road. Your attendance is needed to help plan for our future programs and activities. Mike Warner, N3XPD, our president, has been working hard to center our time on activities of the club. As well Dave, N3LOM has been very serious about our paper collections which are used largely to pay off the mortgage for the club site. Much progress has been made in this direction. Thanks Mike and Dave,

BOOK COLLECTION

Dave, W3LOM, has found a place for the hardback books so the covers do not have to be removed. An individual has a use for them so we can put our cutters away but still bring the hardcover books to Dave. The books should be in a decent condition.