

# 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: [SPARC.Inc@juno.com](mailto:SPARC.Inc@juno.com)

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

## September 2006

***As you may notice I am experimenting this month with a single column format for the newsletter.***

***Comments are most welcome.***

### Membership Meetings

#### ***August Meeting;***

***General Business:*** The general business section of the meeting was conducted as normal with readings of previous meeting minutes, treasures report, etc.

#### **Old Business**

- The 146.230 machine is back on line and is better than it has been in a long time.
- Mike Warner reported no activity on the packet machine. He had been considering changing it to an APRS beacon station. After some discussion by the membership it was agreed to keep it a packet machine. Roger noted that we can decide to use packet as a club but we cannot unilaterally decide to use it for RACES. Mike promised to give a demo on its use at the next membership meeting. He will try to have two stations set up at the meeting.
- Grant Application – Yogi did apply for a reimbursement grant from the county for equipment that the club uses or maintains for RACES use. The new repeater was included in that application.
- Another net control operator is needed. Dave Payne strongly recommended that others volunteer for the position to get practice time.
- Mowing – The mower has been repaired. The PTO bearing had gone bad. It was used twice since being repaired and appears to be OK to use.

#### **New Business**

- Mortgage – Dave Payne took \$5k from checking to pay down the mortgage to a current balance is about \$46k. The building original purchase price was about \$77k; the first mortgage amount was \$75k. We paid down the loan to \$65k over the first three years at a rate of 5.8%. At that point the mortgage was converted (by the bank) to a floating rate and is currently at 9.2%.

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Dave was able to negotiate two different packages. The first has a 20 year rate but a 6.5 year term (with balloon payment). The payment was \$409 per month and the final balance would be about \$35k. The second option was a monthly payment of about \$805 with an ending balance of zero.

On a motion by Max Peters and a second by George Gadbois the members present voted to take the first option of a \$409 monthly payment and to pay more each month as we are able. There were no dissenting votes.

- Dave Payne mentioned that Jim Watson had recently resigned to pursue an out-of-state work opportunity with his wife. That leaves an opening for treasurer. Dave asked for volunteers wanting to fill the office until the end of the year. Having none present themselves this leaves Grant Beauchamp as the acting treasurer. He had made know his wish to fill the position at the last BOD meeting.
- Dave also asked for someone to lead a nominating committee. We will need a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and possibly a Secretary when their terms expire at the end of this year. After some discussion Max agreed to run for president for a one year term and Roger volunteered to run for VP. Their names will be formally nominated this November and acted on by vote along with any other competing candidates this December.
- This Saturday is adopt-a-highway. Harry Bauder to organize. He must contact the Rapho Township office to make the date official and to get credit for the activity.
- Ken DeLucca spoke. He teaches electronics at Millersville University and is organizing a student branch of the ARRL. He is applying for a grant from the ARRL to purchase some equipment. Ken asked if SPARC would be interested in supporting him by providing technical support / mentoring and by writing a formal letter of support to be included with his grant application. Max Peters agreed to be that contact person and signed Ken's application. Ken will write a letter of support to be printed on SPARC letterhead and signed by Dave Sarraf.
- Harry Bauder and Dave Sarraf will be organizing JOTA (Boy Scouts of America /Jamboree on the Air) on the weekend of October 15-16.
- Dave Payne mentioned that the Columbia Halloween parade is also in October and hams will be needed to help with traffic control.

Upon a motion by Harry Bauder and a second by Max Peters the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

### • **Technical Section**

Max Peters gave a talk on interference and its mitigation. He explained basic concepts such as inteferer and victim, means of signal transfer including conduction and radiation, and means of mitigation such as shielding and distancing.

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### ARES/RACES

#### RACES Nets



Lancaster County Net is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 2030 hours local time. Presently being held on the 147.015 MHz repeater with minus offset and 118.8 PL.

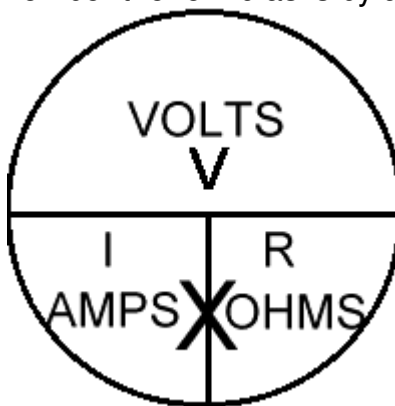
Pennsylvania RACES HF Nets are held at 3993.5 kHz LSB on all Sundays except holidays. The statewide net is on the first Sunday of the month at 0800 hours local time. The Central Area (including Lancaster County) net is at 08:30 local time.

**Tech Section:**

*This is a new item for the newsletter and I'm hoping to expand and improve on it in the future. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to this or a topic they would like to see please let me know.*

**Ohm's Law** -- A basic law of electronics. Ohm's Law gives a relationship between voltage (E), current (I) and resistance (R). The voltage applied to a circuit is equal to the current through the circuit times the resistance of the circuit ( $E = IR$ ).

An easy way to remember the formulas is by using this diagram.



To determine a missing value, cover it with your finger. The horizontal line in the middle means to divide the two remaining values. The "X" in the bottom section of the circle means to multiply the remaining values.

- If you are calculating voltage, cover it and you have  $I \times R$  left ( $V = I \text{ times } R$ ).
- If you are calculating amperage, cover it, and you have  $V$  divided by  $R$  left ( $I = V/R$ ).
- If you are calculating resistance, cover it, and you have  $V$  divide by  $I$  left ( $R = V/I$ ).

**Note:** The letter **E** is sometimes used instead of **V** for voltage.

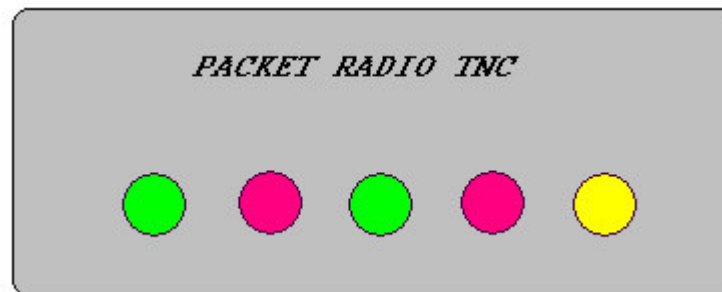
Note; Ohm's Law info above was gathered from the various Internet sources.

## QRZ News – May 2006

### **Digital Modes:**

*This is a new item for the newsletter and I'm hoping to expand and improve on it in the future. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to this or a topic they would like to see please let me know.*

### ***A bit about Packet***



### ***Note from N3XPD***

***As some of you already know, packet radio is one of my main interests in amateur radio.***

***I would like to take this space to encourage anyone else who may be interested in this mode to not give up and to please have patience while the clubs packet systems are reconfigured.***

***The club packet sysop (me) is presently very much in the learning stages of this responsibility but I can report to you that progress is being made.***

Here are a few Internet links to packet info that you may find useful.

Outpost Packet Website

<http://www.cupertinoares.org/projects/outpost/>

Win Packet discussion group on Yahoo

This is where I found the latest issue of the program.

The original "official" site is now a bad link.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/winpack/>

## QRZ News – May 2006

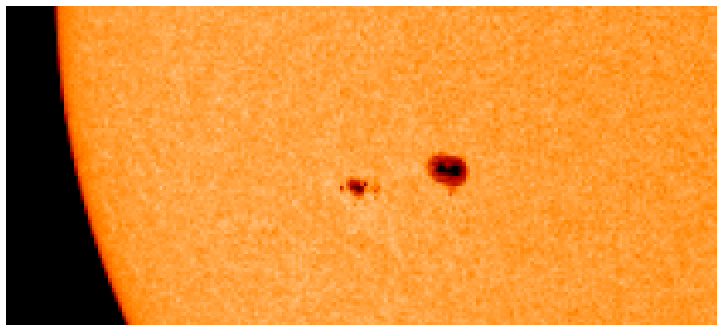
### General News:

*This is a new item for the newsletter and I'm hoping to expand and improve on it in the future. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to this or a topic they would like to see please let me know.*

***For the HF enthusiasts and Dxers out there. We are beginning to see lots of confirming information that the sunspot cycle has hit bottom and is now on the up swing into cycle 24.***

And this from Space Weather at <http://spaceweather.com/>

**BACKWARD SUNSPOT:** Evidence continues to mount that the next solar cycle (Solar Cycle 24) is beginning. For the second time in a month, a [backward sunspot](#) has appeared. The first backward spot, sighted on July 31st, was tiny and fleeting. The latest, however, is big and sturdy, bipolar sunspot 905:



A SOHO magnetogram shows the magnetic poles of sunspot 905.

"Backward" means magnetically backward. Compared to how sunspots have been during the past 11-year solar cycle, the north and south magnetic poles of sunspot 905 are reversed. This is what happens when one solar cycle gives way to another--sunspots [reverse polarity](#).

The onset of Solar Cycle 24 is big news, because the cycle is expected to be [intense](#), but don't expect any big storms right away. Solar cycles take years to ramp up to full power. The next Solar Max is expected in 2010.

### Hamfests this month:

**Sept 9 Stroudsburg, PA** - Eastern PA ARA (EPARA) and Pocono ARK (PARK) (*Pocono Area Hamfest & Electronics Expo*). <http://poconohamfestplus.com>

**Sept 9-10 Gaithersburg, MD** - Foundation for Amateur Radio *48th Annual F.A.R.Fest Maryland/DC Section Convention*. <http://www.farfest.org>

**Sept 22-23 Kutztown, PA** - Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club, *Antique Radio Meet & Auction* <http://www.dvhrc.org>

## QRZ News – May 2006

### **2006 OFFICERS**

President: Dave Payne, N3LOM

Vice President: Rick Watson, N3SWJ

Secretary: Dave Sarraf, N3NDJ

Treasurer: Vacant since Jim Watson has tendered his resignation.

Directors: 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

#### **Newsletter:**

Mike Warner, N3XPD

Email: [n3xpd@comcast.net](mailto:n3xpd@comcast.net)

#### **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.

*That's all for now,*

*Hope to hear you all on the air and see you at a meeting or club event.*

*73,*

*Mike Warner, N3XPD*