



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”

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Repeaters, 145.230 – 449.975 – Packet 145.030 – ATV 923.250

June 2008

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY 2008 MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (SPARC)

Held Wednesday May 21, 2008 at the Rapho
Township Municipal Building

A donation in memory of Roger Colvin,
W3PWH, was made to Red Bird Mission.

Dave Payne reported that the last cylinder on
the passenger side of the truck engine blew the
head gasket. Dave had the head ground. The
head and intake manifold have been reinstalled.

Due to the death of Roger Colvin, we need a
new newsletter editor. George Gadbois
volunteered for the job. Ted Freedman will
provide him with a current list of club email
addresses.

Ted Freedman reported that he received a letter
from Red Rose Races 2-3 days before the race,
asking for our help. Ted called the contact
person and told him there wasn't time to recruit
people to help. Ted told him we would be glad
to assist in the future, but we need more notice.

Field Day: Ed Albright, Ross Kauffman, Paul
Herr and Harry Bauder expressed an interest in
holding the event. Ted Freedman will procure a
port-a-john for the event.

August 16 there will be a hospital drill. Paul
Herr will provide more information when it
becomes available.

Rick Watson, N3SWJ

Next meeting Wednesday June 18, 2008
at the Rapho Township Municipal
Building, 971 N. Colebrook Rd., Rapho
Twp.

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Field Day Announcement

Editors note: [Ross Kaufman, W3ZKU](#), has volunteered to be the Field Day team leader. Contact Ross if you have questions or can loan a generator or other equipment.

Full Disclosure, I have never participated in a contest or field day but I am willing to give it a try for the fun of it. It would be nice to use the Club call sign for the event if no one objects. The Field day exercise will be held at the SPARC tower site in Rapho Township. I invite everyone that is interested to participate even if you can only be there a short time.

I do not plan to operate through the entire time period and would probably shut down around midnight and begin again in the morning. A shelter from the sun is another item which would make the ordeal a bit less taxing. If it rains, I submit we move to the operating building.

I do not have a generator to use so we might have to get power from the SPARC Buildings. If anyone can supply a generator that would be great ($\geq 800W$)! We will have a High Sierra HF Screwdriver antenna to work with an Orion I Transceiver at the event. I hope to have the rig set up for some PSK31 contacts as well as SSB phone.

I do have 2m & 70cm equipment that we can use so that both HF and VHF/UHF bands can operate simultaneously if we have enough operators.

The ARRL Field Day Operation times begin Jun 28 @ 1800 UTC (2:00PM EDT) and end Jun 29 @ 1800 (depending on the setup time.) The ARRL Field day rules are available at the [ARRL web site](#). Don't get too involved with them or it may spoil your

day. The main objective is to contact as many stations as we can. We are not trying to win the contest.

I intend to be at the SPARC Site around Noon on Saturday for setup. This is my preliminary view of Field Day.... but as always may be subject to change. I would like to receive any comments or suggestions that you may have to make Field Day a fun event.

More Info next week. I'll Be happy to coordinate the event...BUT ...Keep in mind my opening statement (Above)!

Let's make it a fun day for SPARC members and visitors!

73,

Ross, W3ZKU

Addendum from Ross:

1. There is no water and no stores near the site and anyone planning to participate should bring their own water, food, and tanning lotion. There will be a Portapotty.

2. My primary goal is to get on the air with a basic setup, which includes at least one HF and one VHF Transceiver and antenna systems, hopefully run off generator. If a generator does not materialize we will get power from the building.

3. Harry told me that SPARC has a tent type shelter we can use. I will stop at the site this Wednesday to investigate what is involved to get it setup.

4. I am inclined to schedule a set up day on Friday June 27 starting at 1 PM. To get the tent set up and perhaps a few vhf antennas for the Field day Exercise.

5. Additional equipment and suggestions are welcome but will depend on the availability

of equipment and people to setup and operate said equipment.
Hopefully over the next couple of weeks we will have a better idea of how many bodies and how much equipment might be available

I will update everyone by email as the plans firm up.

73,
Ross Kauffman
W3ZKU
w3zku@comcast.net

Recycling Program Update – Let's Get Greener!

The Green points from our recycling program pay the mortgage on the club site. At the end of January, Armstrong stopped taking recycled paper from non profit organizations. The bad news is that our new recycler pays less for recycled paper. The good news is that we can now recycle corrugated cardboard and it brings a better price than paper.

Here are the present rules for recycling paper and other materials:

1. All clean paper including newspapers, magazines, cereal boxes, etc. are recyclable. By clean we mean no trash or garbage included. Sometimes recycle bins are used as trashcans.
2. No plastic or Tyvek. Plastic doesn't make good paper products.
3. Corrugated cardboard should be flattened for efficient handling and kept separate from other paper.
4. Aluminum cans, copper, brass, and stainless steel all bring good prices these days and can be recycled. Keep these materials separate from paper recycling.
5. We have an outlet for hard and soft cover books in good condition. Do

not tear off the covers. Readers Digest condensed books and damaged books are only worth the paper they are printed on. Covers must be removed.

The recycle bins at the club site are available for drop off or you can bring what you have to a club meeting. Dave Payne maintains a small recycling center for his friends and neighbors. If this is more convenient than the club site, you can drop material off there. If you have any questions, contact [Dave Payne, N3LOM](#).

I have friends who are avid recyclers and they are happy to recycle via SPARC because we take much more than the minimums recycled by the Townships. I have met people who drive for miles to recycle more effectively. Maybe you know someone who would like to use SPARC as their recycler.

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 and 147.015 MHz repeaters 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.

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.

Coming Drills and Exercises

There will be an ARWG (Amateur Radio Work Group) HEARS (Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio System) drill 16 August 2008. Paul, KD8WY, is planning this drill.

The [SCTF](#) has scheduled a major exercise for 16 – 18 October 2008. This will be much larger than the Green Cloud exercise last September.

Editor's Comments

This is my first issue of QRZ News and I am indebted to many for their help in getting the mailing list and formatting features previously used. I'll need a lot of help gathering information for publication. I would like others to write articles, but if you don't want to write yourself, please send me the information to be published. I don't know much about the club Packet and ATV repeaters and I am sure I am not the only one. Can someone write status reports for those repeaters?

In the area of emergency communications, I am seeking articles on any relevant topics.

The national magazines such as QST and World Radio cover things on a national scale, but what is going on in this area?

There is an increasing need to transmit documents during drills and emergencies. We have seen this in the nuclear plant drills and the HEARS drills. Who is active on these modes? What is the best method for digital in possibly difficult conditions? What plans exist for MARS/Amateur intercommunications?

My personal interest in Amateur radio is mostly on VHF/UHF DXing. At the end of this issue you'll find a small contribution on the microwave beacons in this area.

An increasing number of Amateurs are putting multimode radios in their mobiles. They are getting good simplex coverage with SSB in mobile service. This even with vertical antennas. The normal DXing mode is horizontal polarization to enhance over the horizon scattering, but vertical works just as well locally. During sporadic E events, the polarization is not so specific and mobiles can work a lot of DX on 6m. We are in the middle of the summer sporadic E season. When skip gets short on 6m, look for E_s on 2m.

73,

[George, W3FEY](#)

Club Officers

President: Mike Warner - [N3XPD](#)

Vice-President: Rick Watson - [N3SWJ](#)

- Secretary: Position Open, VP Rick Watson, N3SWJ is presently acting as secretary.
- Treasurer: Ted Freedman - [K3KSA](#)

- Repeater Trustees: Dave Payne - [N3LOM](#)
- Past President: Dave Payne - [N3LOM](#)

Coming Events

[June VHF contest](#) 14 – 16 June local time.

Chris, W3CMP, will join a 6 & 2m [Dxpedition to Sable Island](#) June 25th to July 7.



Microwave Beacon Update



The MWL (Microwave Lunch Group) beacons have been updated with a new 5760 MHz beacon and a better location on the Red Lion tower. Thanks to Ron Boudier, KA3CNT, who did the tower work.

The MicroWave Lunch group consists of John, W3HMS; Fred W3MMV; Joe WA3PTV; Charlie K3VDB; and George W3FEY.

Beacon ID includes info including P/S Voltage, inside box temperature, fans ON/OFF and xmit power.

More information can be obtained by contacting [John, W3HMS](#).

Please send reception reports to W3HMS.

[Author Charlie Heisler, K3VDB](#)

Frequency MHz	Grid	Power Out mw	Antenna Type	Polarization	Altitude ASL Ft..
1296.063	FM19qv	1500	Alford Slot	Horizontal	1130
2401.00	FM19qv	1100	Lindenblad	RHCP	1130
5760.21	FM19qv	210	8 slot	Horizontal	1130
10368.90	FN10ni	250	8 slot	Horizontal	1300