

QRZ NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
PO BOX 422- Mount Joy, PA 17552

(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

Club site 1715 Breneman Road, Rapho Twp. (Manheim P.O. 17545 NO DELIVERY)

April 2016

President's Message

Spring Brings Community Service

Spring is the time to put all those long night improvements to good use. Propagation changes from winter bands to summer bands, the weather turns nice enough for field operations to commence, and we get to enjoy the fruits of our winter labor.

Spring is also the time that SPARC kicks into service mode. We start with projects around the site. We held 2 work days at the site and accomplished many things. The list of the next three months of scheduled work are posted later in this newsletter. Service also means giving to the community.

SPARC is first and foremost a service club. We help out where we can with our ability to communicate. No where is this better demonstrated than the MS walk. This year the walk will be Sunday April 24th. We meet at noon at Clipper Magazine Stadium.

Other activities SPARC members participate with the striking and disposal of towers, they help with estate and silent key wishes, community outreach through events like Field Day, and participation in the Columbia Mardi Gras Parade.

We are always open to new ideas to give back to the community, and are always looking for people to help make these activities possible.

Let's put our radio's, our antenna's and our knowledge to use by helping the community this spring.

Your President

Kevin Lampo, K3LLC

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Monthly Projects List

SPARC will hold monthly work days through the spring and summer at the site. We meet on the second Saturday around 9:30 AM. This is the same day as our monthly breakfast at Gus' Restaurant in Mt Joy.

Here are the scheduled tasks for the next three months. We have many tasks to complete this year and need all the hands to accomplish the list.

May 14th

- Finish off the old Op building

- Raise up Gin pole and Lower 2M 4 bay antenna
- Continue on Electrical get ready for final inspection
- Hang new Heliac to top of tower

June 11th

- Prep for FD
- Rehang the 2M antenna
- Antenna to have new harness installed
- Bond to antenna to Tower
- Connect to new Heliac
- Finish Punch list of electrical

July 9th

- Build out network and RF cabling in Op building
- Outdoor RF cable management
- Replace Repeater AC unit
- Install Wall insulation

Christopher P. Charron, KOPE SK

On March 25, 2016 Christopher Charron passed away unexpectedly. He was 55. Now some of you may be wondering why I am writing about the passing of a ham from zero land, or as Chris liked to say ten land.

Chris was the father in law of my boss, Jon, at Black Rock Retreat in Quarryville. About a year ago Jon's wife, Jenna found out that I was a ham. She gave me her father's call. In early March Chris sent me an email saying that he was going to be in the area visiting his daughter and, more importantly, his granddaughter. Chris was an avid bike rider and was planning some bicycle mobile during his stay. I gave him some local repeater frequencies. One day I heard KOPE on the SPARC repeater and went back to him. We had a nice chat while he drove to the local hardware store to get parts for a

couple of plumbing repairs at the kids' house. Sound's familiar.

I had invited Chris to the March SPARC meeting. Before the meeting we met up at the site and all he could say was "what a neat place to play". By the time the meeting was over he said he felt like a member! Good job all you SPARCies! He also said he recalled working K3IR during Field Day on CW. Didn't know who he talked to but said the guy was really fast.

After the meeting we talked about having a kid living more than 900 miles from home. (Our daughter lives in Grinnell, about an hour from Maxwell IA). We only half kidded about setting up a time share agreement to use each other's houses for a few weeks each year.

That was Tuesday. The plan was for Chris and his wife to drive home Monday. On Friday I received an email from the Outdoor Ed Coordinator at Black Rock saying that Jenna's father had passed away in his sleep Thursday night.

I read the email several times, thinking I had missed something. I sent an email to the SPARC board, then went back and reopened the email from Titus, thinking again that I had misread something.

Later in the day I went back and looked again, hoping that I would find another email saying that the first one was a mistake. No it was true.

Every now and then you meet someone and immediately know this is a special person. Chris, if you are reading this we will miss you.

Harry, WA3FFK

Coming Events

Tuesday 26 April 2016 7:00PM

Regular SPARC membership meeting at the SPARC club site 1715 Breneman Rd., Rapho Twp. (Manheim P.O. 17545 for GPS). The technical topic for the evening will be an open discussion session.

A short business meeting will follow.

Monthly Breakfast

The second Saturday of every month at 0800 is a SPARC breakfast at Gus's Keystone Restaurant, 1050 W. Main St, Mt Joy, PA.

Contact [Gerry Wagner, KB3SSZ](mailto:Gerry.Wagner@KB3SSZ), for more details. Everyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to attend. See <http://guskeystone.com/> for restaurant details.

Other Events

18 March 2016 Sunrise at the North Pole. The Sun appears on the horizon and is visible all day. The edge of the Sun is visible at the horizon.

20 March 2016 12:30AM EDT Spring Equinox

General License Class to be held in New Oxford, PA at the Cross Keys Villlage. Classes are Saturday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM from March 26, through May 14, with testing on May 21.

Note that the instructors will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, and Perry Wood, WB3JKT.

Register with Rich Harley, N3BVT, at reharley16@gmail.com

Editor's Notes

When I moved to Lancaster in 1955, the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, W3YA, was very active at Penn State in State College. I recall several electronics businesses that grew up in the area. Because I am interested in the continuing activities at Universities and Colleges, I recently looked up W3YA and found that the club still exists, but a new entity "The Penn State Amateur Radio Club" is now operating the University ARC facilities. See <http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/k3cr/index.htm> for details on their present status.

Just in case you thought that is all there is in State College, look up K3PSU. The Happy Valley Amateur Radio Club, 1649 Dogwood Circle, State College, PA 16803. It seems that Amateur Radio is alive and well in State College.

In the 50s and 60s, I made trips to Happy Valley to get in on the action. I can't do that anymore. Perhaps some PSU alum would like to be a reporter.

Please send six meter DX reports to Chris Patterson for inclusion in his monthly column. Please also report extraordinary events on higher bands. For example, double hop Es on 70MHz, 144MHz or any Es on 222MHz would be worthy of a report.

73,

George, W3FEY

Six Metre DX Report

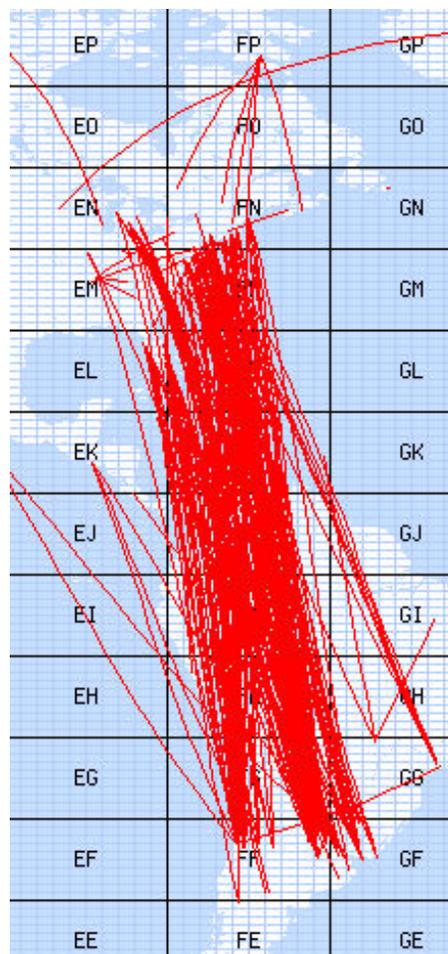
9 April 2016

Opening Remarks

Hello again everyone.

It's 9th April and ordinarily the weather would be warm and sunny and I'd be scrambling to complete my first offer of payment to the IRS and state and local Departments of Revenue. However, this not being a normal year here in the States, things are a bit out of kilter. The tax returns have been completed, and after a tease of warm almost summer-like weather in the Mid-Atlantic U.S., we are experiencing record low temperatures and today, snow. It's been cold enough to kill many of the blossoms on the fruit trees in the orchard; only time will tell how much damage has been done. Six metres has followed the weather pattern-for most of us there have been long lulls in propagation interrupted by occasional, brief teases of propagation.

Ironically, since the 31st March cutoff for reports there have been two reasonably good TEP openings to South America. On 3rd and 4th April a good number of stations in the eastern half of the U.S. worked into Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. The ON4KST DX map for 4th April shows the intensity and extent of the second opening.



ON4KST DX map for 4th April, 2016, showing strong TEP opening from eastern U.S. deep into South America. (See full size at the end of this issue.)

As usual, I missed both openings. They began while I was still at work and even had I been at home the station has been disassembled while the K3 is being updated. I should have the K3 back on line just in time to begin working outside in the yard.

As you read through this issue's column you will notice many short reports. I appreciate them, however brief. It is a challenge to put this column together and without your input this column would be a failure. Every quarter I send out more than 60 emails to six metre operators to ask for reports, and I'm sure I miss a number of you who have interesting items worth publishing. If you do have something

you think may be of interest to other members, e.g., experience with a new antenna, new rig, portable operation, etc., please send me a report. One of the best aspects of this hobby and this column is the sharing of ideas and experiences with other enthusiasts.

Next week the first VHF super conference is being held near Washington, D. C. The three day event is being sponsored and hosted by several of the best VHF organizations in the States. More than two hundred VHF enthusiasts have signed up to attend. I look forward to seeing a lot of friends and getting some tidbits to include in future columns. Finally, there are plans for another crack at the ever mysterious propagation from HH. A number of local hams may be going down to the Port au Prince area for a work project in late June, and we are hoping to include six metres and perhaps another band that may be of interest to many members. Further information will be provided on the UKSMG Yahoo chat group:
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/UKSMG/conversations/messages>.

April 2016 Solar Report

KH6/K6MIO

04/09/2016-Solar Cycle 24

Cycle 24 has just completed its seventh year. The, now well-established, trends in Cycle 24 sunspot activity continue to persist, in both the Sun's northern and southern hemispheres. While perhaps this sameness may be a bit boring to the regular reader of these reports, the Cycle *may* be on the verge of moving into some uncharted territory.

Based on history going back to 1875: By now, both the solar northern and southern hemispheric activities should have dropped to about 50% of their respective peak values. However, now this is true for the southern solar hemisphere, but not at all true in the north.

The northern hemisphere Rn index maximum was about 60 in late 2011 and early 2012. Figure one shows that at this writing, Rn is hovering around 38 or 39. This is around 64%, not 50%. On the other hand, the observed southern solar hemisphere Rs index seems to be declining in a more normal fashion. What is even more curious about Rn is that it has been hovering there since the second quarter of 2013. With some earlier fluctuations, both up and down, it has remained remarkably steady since the beginning of the second quarter of 2014.

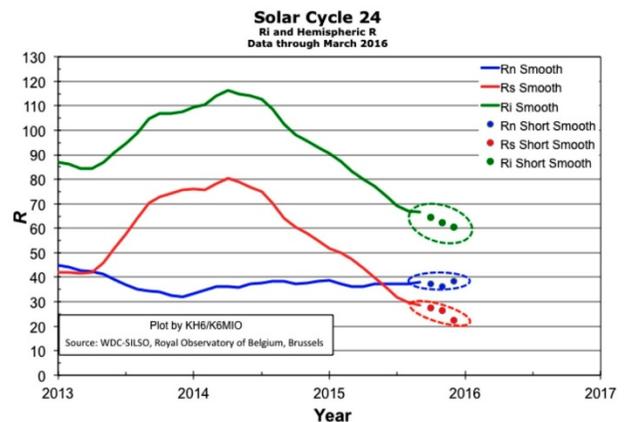


Figure 1. Chart of overall solar activity Ri, and indices of northern solar hemisphere Rn and southern solar hemisphere Rs through March 2016.

The last time this sort of thing happened over this long a period was in Cycles 12, 1879-1890 and Cycle 13, 1890-1901. In these two cycles, it was also the northern solar hemisphere Rn values which showed the same behavior as now. However, in both earlier cases the values showed stronger month-to-month variations. In the meantime, the current Cycle 24 southern Rs index seems to be headed downward in a rather linear fashion. If this trend continues, it will be reaching values of 10 or less by June of this year, and likely will stay in that region – again based on history. If Cycle 24 will end up like Cycles 12 and 13, then we can expect that the currently flat Rn values will also drop,

perhaps rather suddenly and sharply, sometime in the next very few months.

If the R_n continues to hold up near its current values and the R_s continues to decline, then we may see a period with numbers in the 30-40 range for some time to come. This would be breaking new ground, not that it will help F-region propagation very much.

Looking again at Figure one, the solid lines show the standard 13-month smoothed values, while the dots represent “short-smoothed” data, averaged over 11, 9, and 7 months respectively. Based on the recent experience with this approach during the earlier phases of Cycle 24, these short-smoothed data are quite reasonable indicators of what the fully smoothed values will be, as further data points are collected and processed, unless there are sudden changes. The following three months’ unsmoothed data points, not shown here, are still quite consistent with the two trends – R_n flat, and R_s downward – continuing throughout the current six months of the “less than standard” smoothing.

Regarding the possible future for Cycle 25: Looking backward, Cycles 12 and 13 were also low cycles, and they were then followed by three more consecutive cycles that were still even slightly lower. Cycle 25 could go like that, too. This scenario is quite consistent with the views of a lot of folks in the solar physics world.

At the same time, never forget that solar activity only seems to play a significant role in F region ionization as far as propagation is concerned. Sporadic E doesn’t seem to be effected very much, if at all. Es at solar minimum can be, and often is, quite good.

73,
Jim KH6/K6MIO



Jim KH6/K6MIO at the famous KH6EME Mauna Loa beacon site at 9700 feet in February 2016. Jim KH6/ K6MIO is the trustee of the KH6HME call. Photo courtesy of Fred KH7Y.

Local DX Reports

K1HTV (Rich reports from FM18AP)
Hi Chris,

Nil here on six metres since last Christmas when I worked three ZLs. Hopefully the Es season will start early this year. I've been chasing DX on HF, especially looking to up my top band totals. I worked K5P Palmyra, VP8STI South Sandwich, and VP8STG South Georgia on 160 metres to up my 100 watt top band total to 227. Still waiting for some propagation to VK0EK Heard Island and FT4JA Juan de Nova to add a few more on 160 metres.

Let’s keep our fingers crossed that this year will start an upward trend on 50MHz for Es DX, better than in the past three or four years, which have been poorer than normal.

73, Rich - K1HTV

K1TOL (Lefty reports from FN44VG)
Chris:

I have been monitoring every day that I am home. Complete NADA - worst January to March in 15 years here.

Lefty

K2ZD (Mario reports from FN21NR)

Hi Chris,

I had one day of an opening to South America. On 18th March from 22.54z to 23.21z I worked LU1FKR 59, LU4FPZ 559, LU1FAM, 599, PP5JD 57 and CX6DRA 559. The opening seemed to favor FN21 and I hope that this is a good start to the Six Meter season.

73, Mario

K3WC (Dusty reports from FN10MF)

Hi Chris,

I haven't even tuned six since the ZL day. Not a thing has changed here except more noise from different sources to keep me from hearing the stations I need. Hope we have a good season this year as I could stand to work a few new ones.

73, Dusty - K3WC

NZ3M (Dave reports from FN10PD)

Hey Chris,

Sorry, I really don't have anything for the column. Patiently waiting for some propagation and killing time with occasional meteor scatter.

73

Dave NZ3M

On 4th April Dave added:

Hi Chris,

I got in on the opening yesterday 3rd April. I first heard a CX station about 22.15z calling CQ on 50.110MHz but did not call him as he faded out quickly. Over the next two hours or so, there were beacons and stations coming in and out from South America. I managed to work two LU stations, three CEs and one PY. As the DX faded out, I started to hear Florida coming in on Es; I guess that was the link.

Was nice to finally hear something, long dry spell here.

W7GJ (Lance reports from DN27UB)

In January, I was pleasantly surprised to see F6BKI up and running with his new array of four cross polarized LFA yagis. Jacques was an easy contact for many of us, and greatly assisted F2DX in preparing for the six metre EME operation from FT4JA. Also in January, I completed with OH6MIK who was only running 65 watts, SM5KWU, OH6WD, 5B4ALJ, and I8KPV.

OH6MIK has a new array of 4x9 element LFA yagis and F6BKI has a new array of 4x7 LFA XPOL yagis.

I have updated my web page to show antenna photos of some of these recently contacted stations:

<http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/6mEMEstns.htm>.

In February, I worked VE7DAY. In March, I completed with F2DX and F6ECI. The contacts with SM5KWU, 5B4ALJ and VE7DAY were their first on six metre EME. Also in March, E51WL North Cook

Island, appeared on six metre EME. Warwick worked many stations from that rare DXCC with his new

ACOM 1500 amplifier. FK8CP reports some damage to his six metre antennas, so he is not spending so much time on six metre EME anymore. Rene is concentrating instead on the much

easier two metre EME.

There were a number of HF DXpeditions this spring, but unfortunately most of them never bothered to try EME although they had equipment for it. As a result, most of them did not work anything on six metre at all, despite being sponsored by UKSMG to be active on that band.

Upcoming stations on six metre EME are FT4JA, 9J2HN, HP/VY2SS, 9K2WA, VP5VJG and NW0W. Also

watch for news about ZS4TX, who is planning some additional six metre EME DXpeditions to a rare DXCC in Africa. Felipe CE5WQO, has also expressed interest in operating EME from CE0X, which would certainly be a very rare catch. And I will see you from T8 and V6 in August. I have now finalized operating sites in both T8 and V6, and the antenna will have a great view of the ocean on both moonrise and moonset. I am in the process of updating the new DXpedition website and will be passing that link along as soon as it is ready. GL and DX to all.
Lance

Parting Remarks

That's about all there is to report for now. For me it's time to figure out how much this week's below freezing temperatures have damaged this year's the fruit crop and to get the Harley Davidson ready. Oh yeah, there's also work to do in the shack. We are still close enough to the Equinox that there may be some surprises and we are approaching the beginning of the summer E season. The next issue of Six News will be out in August; I look forward to reports for the first half of the summer E season. I want to thank the following: 9K2OD, 9Y4D, AC4TO, CO2KK, *CQ Six - 50 MHz DX Information*, CT1FJC, CX8DS, *DX Summit*, DL8YHR, DU1EV, DU7/PA0HIP, E51WL, EI4DQ, EI7BMB, EI7IX, G4FJK, G5WQ, G6TGO, G8BCG, G8VR, G0IAS, GD0TEP, IK0FTA, K1HTV, K1TOL, K2ZD, K3WC, K4RX, K5AND, K5QE, K5RK, K6QXY, K7CW, K7JA, KH7Y, KA9CFD, K0GU, KG6DX, KH6/K6MIO, KZ4RR, LU5FF, MM0AMW, N5JEH, NW0W, N0JK, NZ3M, *SixItalia Weekly*, V51YJ, VE2XK, VE3IKV, VK4CZ, VK4MA, W7GJ, YS1AG, ZL1BMW, ZL3NW, ZS6NK, *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin*, and everyone else who contributed to this column. If I forgot anyone, please excuse the omission. In honor of the ongoing presidential election here in the U.S., the controversies surrounding the candidates and their churlish behavior, I

offer the following: "Things are more like they are now than they have ever been." President Gerald Ford.

If you have anything you would like to see in upcoming columns, or anything to submit, please contact me at DXNEWS@UKSMG.org, or W3CMP@comcast.net. This is your column, and your reports, comments and ideas make it what it is. I welcome all reports.

73,

Chris, W3CMP

Ed Note: The report above is a small excerpt from Chris' "What's on Six" report for the UK Six Metre Group. See <http://www.uksmg.org/landing.php> for more information. Internet only membership in UKSMG is available worldwide for £10.00. Paypal works fine.

P.S.

From Lance Collister, W7GJ
Refer to the following links for information on Lance's planned DXpeditions for 2016.

<http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/Palau%20and%20Yap%202016.htm>

<<http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/Palau%20and%20Yap%202016.htm>>

GL and VY 73, Lance

ARES/RACES



As part of the SPARC commitment to emergency communications, the SPARC repeater system is maintained as available for linking with other area repeaters.

Lancaster County RACES VHF Net is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 2030 hours local time on the 145.310 MHz repeater in Rawlinsville.

The Lancaster County primary ARES/RACES repeater is on 145.310 MHz 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.

EPA NBEMS Net, Tuesday, 7:30pm local EST, 3.5920mhz Mode: Olivia 8/500 1khz, Net Mgr: WA3WSJ@arrl.net

SPARC Nets

[SPARC holds nets every Tuesday at 2100](#) local time on 145.230 MHz minus offset and PL of 118.8. The [449.975MHz](#) repeater is linked to the 2m repeater for the net.

Club Officers

President Kevin Lampo – [K3LLC](#)
Vice President Scott Lithgow – [KN3A](#)
Secretary – Peg Hamm – [KB3SCA](#)
Treasurer – David St. Pierre - [AB3VJ](#)
Repeater Trustee - Dave Payne - [N3LOM](#)

Membership Info Update Request

Please send all changes of address, email, and ham status to me for the MDB to Gerry Wagner at 1309 Willow Creek Drive, Mount Joy, PA 17552 or Gerry.Wagner@ComCast.Net, Cell=[717-344-1427](tel:717-344-1427),

Home Phone=[717-653-0659](tel:717-653-0659) (Fax Opt); Skype
Thanks Gerry Wagner KB3SSZ

Nearby Nets of Local Interest

If you need information on access tones etc, the referenced web sites below will usually provide the information needed. For more information, see <http://arcc-inc.org/arc-fdbas.html>

Monday [Ephrata Area Repeater Society](#) Net

9:00 PM on 145.450MHz.

Monday [Keystone VHF Club](#) Combined Club & ARES/RACES Net 8:30PM on 146.970MHz.

[Monday South Mountain Radio Amateurs](#)

SMRA Club Net 9:00PM on [145.430MHz](#)

SSB net 9:00PM on 146.210MHz. Net has been cancelled.

Tuesday [Digital Net](#) 8:00 PM on the York 146.970MHz Repeater -- This NET is for practicing Digital Communications
NCS: Dick Goodman WA3USG
backup NCS: Jack Dellinger KC3JD or whoever starts the net.

At 9 PM following the digital Net, we will hold an **ELMER NET** on the 146.97 MHz repeater, PL 123.0 HZ

this NET is for newer HAMs and anyone else who may have questions, or wish to discuss projects.

Morse Code Net Tuesday, 2000 local time (8:00p). [SMRA](#) repeater 145.430- (67.0 Hz) with alternate frequency of 146.460+ (1,000 kHz offset, tone 67.0 Hz)

Wednesday York County SSB Net 7:45PM on 50.135MHz. Informal net getting started. Contact Steve Cruse, K3WHC, for more information.

Wednesday [Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club](#) 8:30PM 50.130MHz Contact [Leonard, WV3P](#) for more information.

Wednesday [Red Rose Repeater Association Net](#)9:00PM on 147.015MHz.

Wednesday [QCWA Net](#)9:00PM on 146.97MHz.

Thursday [Lancaster Radio Transmitting Society Net](#)9:00 PM on 145.390MHz

PACKRAT VHF/UHF NETS

Visit the Mt Airy VHF Radio Club at: <http://packratvhf.com/airtimes.htm> for the latest information on VHF/UHF nets.

NTS Eastern Area Phone net

3.917 at 4:00 PM daily for traffic going to EPA, MDC, WPA and Maryland. We have a callup, pass any traffic, after that a round of comments. Traffic manager is WA3QPX. Net could use more checkins from EPA as we normally only get one checkin from EPA and sometimes none. This is where the Fone traffic for EPA net normally comes from. Any questions I will be on 3.917 at 4:00 PM. 73 , [Paul, WA3QPX](#)



Two EPA Nets Now Accessible via Echolink

Posted By: [egroups_n3sw](#) [egroups_n3sw](#)
Mon Aug 27, 2012 11:40 pm

<>The EPA AA3RG and Echolink Traffic Net (EAETN) has been accessible since its inception via Echolink at node AA3RG-R (#149493). See the group Calendar for more information. [*Thursday 8:00PM*]

<>Now the Capital Area Traffic Net (CATN) is also accessible via Echolink at node N3TWT-R (#743026). See the group Calendar for more information. All (*licensed hams*) are welcome to join in on these nets.

73 -Scott N3SW EPA STM-

AA3C note: To visit our group on the web, go to NTS-EPA Group web site:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nts-epa/>

Both nets will utilize the 146.640(tx-) MHz.

Transmit access tone: 82.5 Hz.

AA3RG Repeater. <http://www.aa3rg.org/>

QRZ News Publication

QRZ News is published monthly. The deadline for submission of items for publication is 11 days before the regular membership meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month. If material is not copy and paste ready for publication, more lead time is required.

We operate on an exchange basis with other not for profit publications. Articles printed in QRZ News may be reprinted in a not for profit publication provided proper credit is given.

QRZ News is archived at <http://www.k3ir.org/>

For Sale By SPARC

SPARC has the following items for sale to members or other interested Hams.

12 sections of used Rohn 25 tower - 10 foot sections - will need to be sanded and painted

2 top sections - tapered at top.

Most of the tower sections have surface rust but are solid. The top sections have had some of

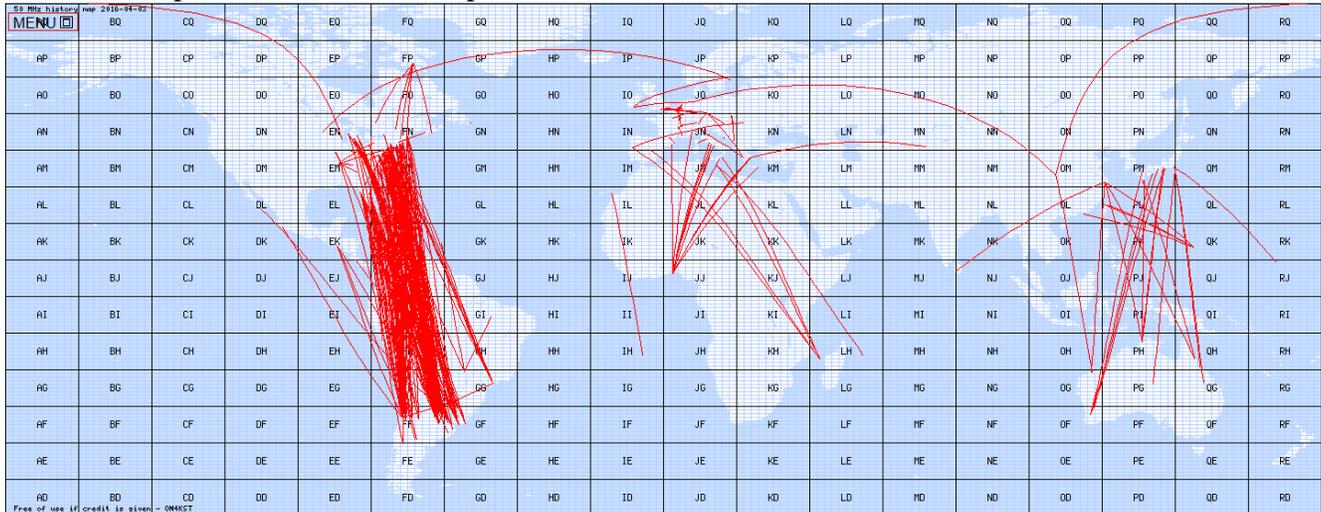
the cross bracing cut to accommodate rotor installation.

Looking for \$20 per section. Delivery can be arranged.

Also if you are building wire antennas we have a large quantity of insulated wire from 14 gauge to 18 gauge.

Contact Kevin, K3LLC or Harry, WA3FFK

ON4KST Map for Six Metre DX Report



ON4KST DX map for 4th April, 2016, showing strong TEP opening from eastern U.S. deep into South America