



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

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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)

September 2016

President's Message

The Only RF Interference we have are the Ones we Create.

Recently we had two ham guests from Sweden over at our site. They were traveling the area visiting interesting sites of America's industrial past. One thing they commented on was the club's site must be RF quiet.

I pointed out the fields behind and the Amish neighbor across the way and made the statement that titles this article. As I reflect on the fortune of our quiet club site I begin to have a different take on this phrase. While yes it is true our site is locally quiet in RF, our society as a whole has become more populated with unintentional antennas than any other time in history.

As per the FCC an unintentional antenna is anything within an electronic device that emits RF, and was not intended to emit RF. Many devices are exempt from testing for unintentional RF transmission. We focus our attention on these types of devices, broadband over power line, power inverters, commercial lighting ballasts (known as Class A equipment) all fall within this class of exempted devices. Everything else comprises of devices that are required to pass the testing. They pass not

because they have an RF radiation of 0 but have a power output that is below a threshold.

A great reference on this topic can be found below.

<http://www.edn.com/design/systems-design/4338748/EMI-and-emissions-rules-regulations-and-options>

You add up enough of these devices and you see we are surrounded by RF. What does this mean for us, well it could explain this solar cycles apparent low propagation, I will explain how.

The double hump of Solar Cycle 24 gets a lot of flack. In a recent article in QST we see that cycle 24 has been upgraded in value. The subjectivity of counting spots makes it difficult to stay consistent. So if this cycle wasn't as bad as we all anecdotally claim it to be, then what else is happening.

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I propose that our zero has reset from the last solar cycle. That the noise floor has increased over the past 11 years. Think of what wasn't in our life in 2002. No smart phones, few LCD monitors, our TVs were still 2 feet thick. Wall transformers were big and heavy, The Xbox 1 was just announced, and USB 2.0 was just introduced.

Our lives were different, our lives had less unintentional antennas, our noise floor was lower as a result. When we look at the near future as we climb down off the cycle 24 mountain to the valley of 25 we need to focus on reducing the noise in our life. Now I am not saying move to Montana and live a life without, but being cognoscente of the unintentional antennas you introduce to your QTH is a start.

All this technology might also be our savior. Advances in software defined radio, digital signal processing, and protocols like JT-65 allow us to interact using smaller and smaller signal to noise ratios. This will allow us to continue interacting with others while the world around us gets louder.

Your President

Kevin Lampo
K3LLC

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.

Note that the October 8 work day was cancelled due to a conflict with the PA QSO party. That work was being completed by our intrepid tower climbers just as this issue of the newsletter was being written.

Nov 12

- Prep for winter
 - Move everything inside
 - Check antenna connections where possible
 - Complete all tower work

Coming Events

Tuesday 27 September 2016 7:00PM

Regular SPARC membership meeting at the SPARC club site 1715 Breneman Rd., Rapho Twp. (Manheim P.O. 17545 for GPS).

The topic for the September meeting will be a demonstration of the club's Orion radio by Harry Bauder.

A short business meeting will follow.

Saturday October 8-9

SPARC will be participating in the PA QSO contest. The event will be held at the club site, and it is open to the public. Setup will start Thursday evening at 6 PM. Saturday we will start at 8AM with the on air starting at 11. Sunday the action restarts at 8AM.

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.

Astronomy / Earth Science

The Geomagnetic Blitz Of September 1941

Seventy-five years ago a massive geomagnetic storm disrupted electrical power, interrupted radio broadcasts, and illuminated the night sky in a World War II battle theater. The aurora was seen as far south as Maryland, radio communications were greatly affected, and an Allied convoy was lit up by the Northern Lights. See the link below for an interesting and informative article.

<https://eos.org/features/the-geomagnetic-blitz-of-september-1941>

September 22 is the **Fall Equinox**, where the sun shines directly over the equator and our night are of equal length. Days will continue to get shorter through December. With the reduced amount of daylight expect the increased openings and lower noise on the lower HF bands.

September 28 sees **Mercury** at its Greatest Western Elongation. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

Other News

The ARRL reports that the **Ham Radio Parity Act** (H R 1301) recently passed the House of Representatives by voice vote. See <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-passes-in-the-us-house-of-representatives> for more detail.

Morse Code was used in a university study to show how the brain learns and to demonstrate plasticity, or the ability of the brain to change over time. The experimenters observed their subjects in an MRI scanner as they learned

Morse code letters and phrases. Both the speech-producing and hearing portions of the brain were activated. The areas involved in processing text were also activated, but the degree of activation changed over time as the subjects' Morse skills improved. For the short story see

<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/sfb874/rise/morsecode.html>

For the full paper go to this link:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hbm.22939/full>

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

Skywarn Spotter Training

You are invited to attend a free **Skywarn Spotter Training** course hosted by Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency and delivered by The National Weather Service-State College. This course will be held on October 6, from 7:00pm-9:00pm at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center, 101 Champ Boulevard, Manheim, PA 17545. The training flyer is attached.

The Skywarn Spotter program is a voluntary program in which the public can participate and interact with their local National Weather Service (NWS) Office. Skywarn spotters are encouraged to relay critical weather information to their local NWS Office, in support of the Warning and Forecast Operations. The information they provide routinely helps the NWS Forecasters make better/more informed forecasts, and helps them to warn others of impending dangers or hazards.

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the Skywarn program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or those who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become spotters.

Registration for this training is required at:
<http://www.lancema.us/training-calendar-detail.php?SkyWarn-Training-33>

SPARC Nets

[SPARC holds nets every Tuesday at 2100](#)

local time on 145.230 MHz minus offset and PL of 118.8Hz. The **[449.975MHz](#)** PL of 114.8 Hz 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,

Home Phone=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
Lancaster County Two Meter Emergency
Net** 9:00 PM on the 145.450MHz repeater.

(Ed Note: The EARS web site no longer exists. The Monday night net is still in operation .)

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](#)

YORK NETS - Summer TUESDAY

DIGITAL NET is on Summer Hiatus
Feel free to use this time for informal practice amongst yourselves
8:00 PM on 146.97 MHz repeater , PL 123.0 HZ

ELMER NET will continue

at 9 PM 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 the 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, N3FMO
