

# 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@arrrl.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)

## December 2016

### President's Message

#### Elves Hard at Work

The call was made and the truck delivered, 27 sheets of 10-foot drywall were waiting to be hung. Thanks to Dave Sarraf, Harry Bauder, Peg Ham, Gerry Wagner, Dick Hess, Tom and Linda Hartranft, and Larry Laughman, the building is dry walled.



Our original goal was to hang the area where the operating positions would be. That turned into the entire North wall, and by the time we made the third turn we decided to go all the way.

We have seams and holes to do next, then the decision on paint color, but that will be for the next administration. The conversation was good, and the pace was outstanding.

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We will call another work day to mud, keep an eye on your email for the next work day. Until then we kinda have the station off air again. Everything is more or less piled into the middle of the room. Club meetings will begin happening at the township building, the officers and the project teams will need to mind the dust and mess, but there are 2 tables folded so there is room to meet.

If you want to use the station this winter for an event please feel free to email myself, or Harry and we can make sure you will have space and antennas.

If we can manage the temperatures inside the building, we should be able to get things mudded and painted by the spring. This means we can start thinking about floors and ceilings, again for the next administration to decide.

The building progress is coming along and I can see where by this time next year we will have a finished building.

I want to thank everyone who pitched in so far to help make the new operating building a success. We are starting to see the end of the tunnel, and a few more boxes left on the list and we will be finished.

Your president  
Kevin Lampo  
K3LLC

## DIY Night

After a short delay waiting for the kits to arrive, Gerry Wagner and his group of four kit-builders began assembly of their Capacitance Meters on the evening of December 13<sup>th</sup>. Along with some good progress on assembly, there were a few lessons learned about the facility and equipment. The portable electric heaters do a good job at keeping the room warm, however lighting was not great – a task

light and a magnifier, or a ring light would have been very helpful. Dennis brought a good DVM and this should be available for the next time. Gerry anticipates having a box of kit-building supplies available as we get more settled in to the new operating building. The next session is expected to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, which is January 31, 2017, to connect the finished products up to a power supply and fix any remaining problems.

Suggestions for new kits are welcome. Contact Gerry Wagner, KB3SSZ at [gerry.wagner@comcast.net](mailto:gerry.wagner@comcast.net)

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## Coming Events

### SPARC 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.

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## Astronomy / Earth Science

Several planets are visible to the naked eye this month. Venus is a very bright star visible at dusk. Mars is just east of Venus and is visible through late evening. Jupiter is visible just before dawn. Saturn is lost in the Sun's glare, not to return until late in December.

December 21 brings **Winter Solstice**, the shortest day of the year. Those of us who really minded the darker evenings when the time changed a few weeks ago can take heart that the days will soon begin to grow longer.

The **Ursids Meteor Shower** runs from December 17-25, with the best viewing on the early morning of December 22. This shower

produces 5-10 meteors per hour and is residue from the comet Tuttle.

The **Quartrnids Meteor Shower** peaks the night of January 3, 2017, with up to 40 meteors per hour expected. The moon will have set shortly before midnight which leaves a dark sky and good viewing conditions for those hardy souls willing to venture out in the wee hours of early January.

## The Bucket Truck

Greetings from Mike - N3XPD,

This is just an attempt to describe some antenna and tower work at my home QTH. I hope it helps someone out or is at least of some interest.

About 18 years ago I installed 40 ft. of Rohn 25 antenna tower at my home QTH. Mounted on this was an HF beam antenna with rotor and a 2 meter vertical antenna on top of the mast. There was also a cross-arm where I mounted the midpoint of a 40 & 80 meter dipole antenna. The tower was bracketed at about the 22 ft level to the side of the house.

Back then the installation was done by me doing the climbing and using a gin-pole with ropes and pulleys and with the help of my wife and a neighboring ham operator as ground crew.

Recently it became necessary to take the tower assembly down in order to work on the side of the house. I was trying to decide on a best method to do this and saw my options as follows:

- A reverse of the installation method with help from my family and or SPARC club members, as my friendly neighboring ham had long since moved away.

- Hire an electrical or mechanical contractor.
- Hire a crane service.
- Hire a radio, TV, electronics repair shop (remember them?) if I could locate one who still does antenna work.
- Other?

Well, one day as my wife and I were on a walk around the neighborhood we came upon a crew doing some tree work and I noticed on one of the work trucks the words "Bucket Truck Services" and a phone number. When we arrived home after the walk I called the phone number and after discussing the tower job with Nick, the business owner, made the arrangement to have the work done.

On the day of the work I climbed the tower one last time to disconnect and remove the feed lines from the antennas, the rotor cables, and remove the wire dipole. I also removed a 2 meter and 440 vertical that was mounted to the nearby roof peak so it was out of the way. I then unbolted the lower above ground tower section from the concrete imbedded base section.

At the arranged time Nick arrived with his truck and after we looked over the job we decided that it could be done even easier than I thought as the bucket truck was equipped with a davit crane that could lift up to 1000 lbs. Nick then proceeded to work from the bucket to remove the HF beam (see photo) and 2 meter vertical from the tower and lower them to me on the ground where I was guiding the decent with tag lines. He then rigged the crane to the tower top section and unbolted the tower to house bracket connection, then with what looked like a very slight tug the tower was lifted free from it's base and was slowly lowered to the ground.

All in all I will guess that this work took about 2 relatively easy hours to complete and if I decide to reinstall the tower and antennas, here or at a different QTH, I will certainly use this method and if I can this company again.

I have no financial interest in the "Bucket Truck Services" company other than what I thought was a very reasonable fee charged for the work he did here.



## License Upgrade Class

Several people have contacted me saying that they are interested in upgrading from Technician to General Class. I will be starting a general class starting in mid to late February. Actual starting date and location are yet to be determined. Meeting options are Wednesday or Friday evenings or Saturday morning. Let me know what works best for you.

Class will use the Gordon West General Class Manual as a text. SPARC will supply the books. Format of the class will be as follows:

We will meet and discuss a section of the text. You will be given a reading assignment. The next class we will answer your questions and provide some hands on demonstrations. After a few weeks we will start taking practice tests using QRZ.

If you are interested please contact me at [harrybauder@comcast.net](mailto:harrybauder@comcast.net) or phone 717-944-7235.

Harry, N3FMO

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## Entry-Level License Classes

Preparation classis and testing for the Technician Class license will be held in Dallastown, PA.

Classes:

February 18, 2017 (0800-1600)

February 19, 2017 (0800-1200)

Testing:

February 19 (12-3)

Inclement Weather Reschedule:

February 25-26, 2017

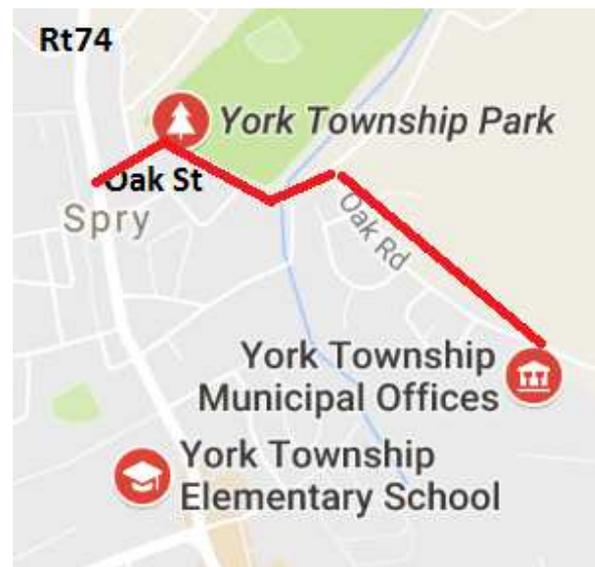
There is no charge for the class. There may be a \$15 FCC License testing fee; that fee is

determined by the testing team that is independent of the instructor. Some teams have no fee and I work with them if possible.

Come with an open mind, pen and paper. We discourage the use of smart phones in the class except for emergencies. (Please put on vibrate) A simple calculator and a Windows PC are useful.

Contact Ralph Brandt K3HQI, by phone at 717-885-3063 or at [ralph.brandt@comcast.net](mailto:ralph.brandt@comcast.net) Pre-registration helps planning but payment is at the time of testing on Sunday. Please give a phone number where you can be reached in case of bad weather

York Township building, 190 Oak Road, Dallastown, PA 17313



## 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](mailto:WA3WSJ@arrl.net)

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## 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.

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## 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](#)

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## Membership Info Update Request

Please send all changes of address, email, and ham status to Gerry Wagner at 1309 Willow Creek Drive, Mount Joy, PA 17552

email: [Gerry.Wagner@ComCast.Net](mailto:Gerry.Wagner@ComCast.Net)

cell [717-344-1427](tel:717-344-1427)

home phone=717-653-0659 (Fax Opt);

Thanks! Gerry Wagner KB3SSZ

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## 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

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### **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/>

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## **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/>

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## 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

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W3UU - Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club – WinterFest

**Saturday JANUARY 21<sup>nd</sup> 2017**

**WINTERFEST**

**“A Harrisburg Pa. Hamfest”**

**Vietnam Veterans of America**

8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg Pa. 17111

40.26807 -76.75216

**8:00 am to 11:00 am**

**TALK-IN 146.76 (PL 100 hz)**



- ◆ Admission, \$3.00 per person.
- ◆ **First table free. Additional tables \$3.00 each!**
- ◆ Food and drinks available
- ◆ **VE Testing:** Be there by **8:30 am**, Testing at 9 am Sharp. **Preregistration required.** See [www.w3uu.org](http://www.w3uu.org) for registration.
- ◆ DXCC/WAS/VUCC QSL Card checking on site
- ◆ Please, be courteous to your fellow hams by using reasonable table space. If you can use ½ table, please do so. (based on demand)

General Admission: 8:00 AM

Web Site: [www.w3uu.org](http://www.w3uu.org)

For further information or questions contact: Tim Lehman 717-982-8550 kb3oza@arrl.net