



# 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"*

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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)

## May 2018

### President's Message

#### Spring Greetings

Spring has sprung and the world has turned green. All this rain has had me mowing the lawn almost every day that it's not raining. This the perfect time to get outside and operate in the great outdoors. Personally, I've had a pretty full schedule between work and doing Spring chores on the weekends. 2 weeks ago, I had the good fortune of visiting a lodge in the backwoods of Maine. I was there for a wedding, so the schedule was pretty full for the trip as well. I debated whether to bring some radio gear along and remembered all those times I'd wished I had a radio when travelling. So I sneaked the portable radio box in the trunk the night before in the dark. I threw in my ammo box battery box as well.

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As it turned out, my daughter and her husband rented a lakeside cabin for the weekend. As I sat on the deck and the rest of the crowd did their thing. Getting ready for the wedding, socializing and walking around checking the place out. All the sudden, I was sitting on the deck alone. This was my chance. I scurried over to the car and grabbed my gear. I set everything up in just a couple of minutes. I had about a 30ft wire in my box of tricks, so I flung it over a pine branch about 10 feet of the ground and the end landed on the ground. It was about 1:00pm on a Saturday, but the CW bands were buzzing. I knew my friend Joe, N2CX would probably be operating from a park somewhere that day. He does it every day. I'm usually too close to work his 5 watt portable station from home. He is usually within 500 miles of his home in NJ. I knew the frequencies he worked and started looking for him. As I tuned down to 7034khz there was a booming signal popping through the noise. It was Joe. I was running about 15 watts from my FT857 and wire in the tree. First call, "HI MARK 599". I gave him the same and he really was 599 with his 5 watts and an endfed. My set up was working fine. I didn't have much time. I banged out a couple more QSOs on 40, then my Granddaughter showed up to see what I was doing. She doesn't know the code, so I switched over to 20m SSB, cranked the power up to 25 watts and looked for someone to call. It was some



**Venus** will continue to be steady and bright in the western sky an hour or more before sunset.

**Mars** continues to brighten in the evening sky as it nears its closest approach to Earth in about 15 years.

**Saturn** will begin to rise nearly after twilight and as the month wears on will gradually climb to as much as 20 degrees over the horizon in the south-east. Those with telescopes can see Saturn's rings at nearly maximum tilt.

**Jupiter** is brilliant at magnitude -2.5 in the evening sky. Jupiter is at its greatest opposition to the sun, which means that it is visible nearly throughout the night.

The **Bootid Meteor shower** will be active from June 26 through July 2, with a peak on June 28-29<sup>th</sup>. These meteors will appear to originate almost straight overhead at 10:00 pm between the Big and Little Dipper, Hercules, and Bootes. This is considered to be a minor shower, with only 1-2 meteors per hour.

## In Memoriam

Long-time member Don Muston, N3PAV, passed away on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 80. As Scoutmaster of troop 51, Don and his troop regularly attended the fall Jamboree of the Air event at the old Ironville site.

## Site Notes

Mark, John and Harry worked for several hours getting the repeater building looking somewhat better. Let's try to keep it that way. We found a lot of stuff for the Hamfest in late June and moved a lot of stuff to the recycle pile.

Peg Hamm set up a first aid kit for the shack and would like to offer CPR training to the club.

## Air Wave Friends

by Gerry Wagner, KB3SSZ

Some of you know I am a rag chewer and when Dave, our NL Editor, challenged us all to participate more in this club's publication, the thought came to me that some of you out there might enjoy hearing about some of the interesting amateurs with whom I have talked . And since all this info was broadcast on the ham bands and was available to anyone with a radio, I am not revealing any personal secrets about anyone not available there or on line.

Those of you rag chewers know that every ham has a unique story and like me you may find each interesting. I log every contact in the Amateur Radio Logger by N3FJP and take copious notes so that I can recall the ham when I happen on him again. Maybe some of you have the same habits and would like to share some of your contacts too; jump on it!

Ladies first so let's start with KN4AYW Ruth from Ashville NC that I had my 2<sup>nd</sup> QSO with just recently on 29 April. She defies the odds as you know being a female and a rare find on the bands. Unlike the more prevalent model where the male predominates and the female tolerates, Ruth reports that her hubby has lost interest in the hobby as she became more active. She has one of the rather popular MyAntenna end fed wire antennas using 100 watt on her Yaesu 857, the radio I have in my Escape. Our discussion centered on amplifiers as I was using my Ameritron ALS-600. She's been thinking about getting one if her hubby approves (that's a switch). Her dog even participated in the QSO, on and off mic.

QRP is alive and well (when the bands and the QRN allow) and in this case of KD1NA with whom I had a QSO on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I rated

his call Q4 (Scale 1-5) at the start of the call and he did drop to Q2 at the end due to conditions. Bob was not my first BitX QRP contact and was using the Micro BitX on 10 watts at 7.165 MHz. I must get my kit together to join the fraternity.

My current HF situation has me exclusively on the 40 M band with my little “L” shaped home made dipole since my Diamond CP6AR vertically oriented antenna died a year back. But 40 M has long been my favorite band and still works during the current drought on the higher HF bands. It continues to surprise me just recently getting a ground wave call from KT3KCK on my home frequency of 7.160 MHz from the Masonic Village in E-town. Roger claims to be a SPARC member and knows all the guys from there that we know.

On the other extreme, was an answer on 4/26 to my CQ starting with DK where I was sure I had only a partial sign. But it was confirmed to be DK4EI from the center of Germany near Hanover owned by a Dean with whom I had a long chat. Turns out he knows the USA very well having been here several times and even leading a group of his local ham on a trip to Dayton. He was running an Anon SDR at several hundred watts and produced a Q4 signal for me.

These are but a few of the some 3000 entries I have in my log since starting the hobby here in Lancaster after retirement and moving from NJ in 2008. Let me know if these ramblings interest you and I'll share more as time goes by. I have no contest certificates on my shack walls but my log book has a lot of info from my contacts that I enjoy refreshing myself with when I retouch base with an old amateur friend. TEHO.

## Note from your Newsletter Editor

Please help the club and help yourselves by forwarding articles, photos, and article ideas. All but the most frugal of us have smartphones – snap a picture of someone or some thing SPARC related and send it with a short text. I'll contact you and turn it into an article. We have nearly weekly events – there should be no end of pictures from meetings, work days, operating events, the SPARC breakfast, or whatever project you are working on currently.

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### 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 at 145.310 MHz on the N3FYI 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)

## Nearby Nets

### ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) in EPA

The primary HF traffic nets within the Eastern Pennsylvania Section are:

- **EPAEPTN** daily at 6pm ET 3917 KHz LSB
- **PTN** daily at 7pm/10pm 3585 KHz CW (statewide)

### Hurricane Watch Net

(Main frequency during Hurricanes) 14.325 MHz.

### SPARC Nets

SPARC holds nets every Tuesday at 2100 local time on 145.230 MHz neg offset and PL of 118.8Hz. The 449.975 MHz, PL of 114.8 Hz repeater is linked to the 2m repeater for the net.

### Nearby Nets of Local Interest

#### **Sunday**

#### **Monday**

8:30 PM, Keystone VHF Club (York combined club and ARES/RACES), 146.970 MHz, neg offset, PL 123.0.

9 PM, Ephrata Area Repeater Society W3XP, 9PM, 145.450 MHz, neg offset, PL 100.0 and 444.650, pos offset, PL 131.8

9 PM, South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA), N3TST, 145.430MHz, neg offset, PL 67.

#### **Tuesday**

Sources for more information about the NTS in general:

- <http://www.arrl.org/nts> or the NTS chapter in any edition of the ARRL Operating Manual.

Sources for more information about the NTS in EPA:

- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nts-epa>, or <http://www.arrl.org/sections/view/eastern-pennsylvania>
- Point of contact: Scott Walker N3SW, EPA STM, [n3sw@arrl.net](mailto:n3sw@arrl.net)

8PM, Morse Code Net, SMRA, 145.430 MHz, neg offset, PL 67.0, alternate 146.460, pos offset 1,000, PL 67.0.

8 PM, Keystone VHF Digital Net, 146.97 MHz, PL 123.00. On hiatus over the summer.

8PM, Lebanon Valley Society of Radio Amateurs (LVSRA) Emergency Net, K2LV, 147.315 MHz, pos offset, PL 82.5.

9PM, SPARC, K3IR, 145.230 MHz, neg offset, PL 118.8, and 449.975, PL 114.8.

9 PM, Keystone (York) VHF Elmer Net, 146.97 MHz, neg offset, PL 123.0.

#### **Wednesday**

7PM, W3WAN, York, 146.935 MHz, Lebanon, 146.880, neg offset, PL 74.4.

8 PM, Harrisburg (Etters), W3UU, 146.670 MHz, neg offset, PL .100.

9PM, Red Rose Repeater Association, W3RRR, 147.015, pos offset, PL 118.8, 449.575 MHz, neg offset, PL 114.8.

## Thursday

9PM, Lancaster Radio Transmitting Society  
(Cornwall), W3AD, 145.390 MHz, neg offset, PL  
111.8.

## Friday

8PM, Reading, K3TI, 145.490, neg offset, PL  
114.8.

## Saturday

8 PM, Tristate Radio Association, KX3B,  
146.745, neg offset, PL 114.8.

## HF Nets

Sunday, PM, Lebanon, 28.450 MHz.

Monday thru Friday 9 AM to 12 Noon, Ragchew,  
7.272 MHz.

Monday thru Saturday, 12 Noon, Salvation Army,  
14.265 MHz.

Monday thru Saturday, 8 AM thru Midafternoon,  
ECARS, 7.255 MHz.

8 AM thru Midafternoon, MidCARS, 7.258 MHz.

Tuesday, 8 PM, Red Rose Repeater Association,  
10M net 28.400MHz

7 Days a week, 12 Noon to 9 PM, Maritime  
Mobile Service Net 14.300.

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## Club Officers

Mark Walton, K3MRK, President  
Larry Laughman K3LWL, Vice President

Margaret Hamm, KB3SCA, Treasurer  
Gerry Wagner, KB3SSZ, Secretary  
Kevin Lampo, K3LLC, Past President  
David Payne, N3LOM, Repeater Trustee  
Harry Bauder, N3FMO, Membership Chair  
Tom Hartranft, KB3ZGF, Member-at-Large

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## Membership Info Update Request

Please send all changes of address, email, and ham  
status to Harry Bauder, 4319 Snavelly Rd  
Elizabethtown, Pa 17022  
email [harrybauder@comcast.net](mailto:harrybauder@comcast.net)  
home phone 717-944-7235

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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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## Free or For Sale by SPARC

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

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

Contact Mark, or Harry, N3FM