

K3IR NEWS
February 2020

A publication of the Southern PA Amateur Radio Club

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Dave Payne, N3LOM, Repeater Trustee

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Tom Hartranft, W3COD, Member at Large

Harry Bauder, N3FMO, Newsletter Editor

CANCELED

The March membership meeting has been canceled due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The club site is still open for use by members. If you do visit the site remember to take the appropriate precautions - especially if you have pre existing medical conditions that place you in the danger group. Future meetings' status will be updated on a week by week basis.

Saturday Breakfast

SPARC holds a breakfast get together on the second Saturday of the month. The next breakfast is scheduled for April 11 pending the outcome of the Corona-virus restrictions.

Membership Renewal

Dues payments for 2020 can now be paid online at k3ir.org through PayPal. If you do pay using PayPal please take the time to also fill out the on line application. Even if you don't have any changes, filling out the application reduces the chance of your renewal being missed.

Fabricators Needed

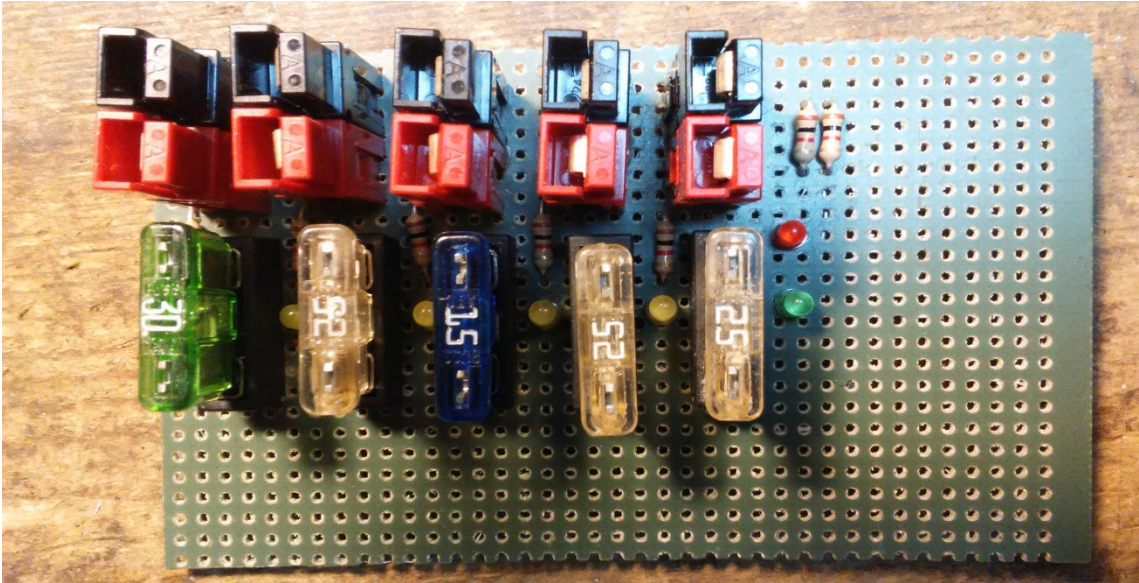
I should say "metal fabricators", not the other kind. From time to time we need brackets and other steel or aluminum parts made for antenna projects. With a major upgrade planned for the spring we could use your help. Anyone with experience and access to metalworking equipment please contact Mark k3mrk1@gmail or Harry hbauderm@gmail.

Ham Club Online

The Board of Directors is experimenting with an online service called Ham Club Online. You should have received an email concerning this. Peg and Mark are in the process of entering the club roster into the system. Once that happens you should receive a welcome email with a request that you go to the website to complete your registration. The service is free for now. It is still in the development stages so we are acting as a kind of test bed. More info coming.

Builder's Group

The Builder's Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month. In February we will start working on a power distribution panel. You may have seen these advertised in QST or online from various suppliers. The prices run about 50 to 70 dollars. Ham Radio Workbench was marketing a circuit board for an improved version but stopped offering the board. In the spirit of Ham Radio I designed a replacement board made out of perf board. A proffof concept version is shown below. This is not the final configuration. The board size and borders will be modified.



The green LED indicates that power is applied to the board. The red LED lights if reverse polarity is being supplied to the board. The amber LEDs next to the fuses light if that fuse is open. Costs is expected to be around \$20 including extra Power Pole connectors.

Next Project

I am looking for future kit builders' projects. One I am considering is the Pacific Antenna "TennaDipper II" featured in the March issue of QST. Price is \$45 plus shipping.

License Upgrade

There has been a request for license upgrade classes. Realistically we probably shouldn't plan on any in person classes until fall. One possibility would be on line or on the air sessions. Email to hbauderm@gmail.com if interested.