

K3IR NEWS

November 2022

A publication of the Southern PA Amateur Radio Club
Mark Walton, K3MRK President
Michael Newman, K3MJN VP
Dennis Buckler, W3DEN Treasurer
Peg Hamm, KB3SCA, Secretary
Dave Payne, N3LOM, Repeater Trustee
Harry Bauder, N3FMO Past President
Larry Laughman, K3LWL – Member at Large
Jim Dunbar, W3JGD – Membership Chairman

November Meeting

The November Membership meeting will be held at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center on Tuesday November 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM. The LCPSTC is located just off the Salunga Exit of PA 283. GPS address is 101 Champ Blvd. Manheim, PA The meeting will begin with a brief business meeting followed by a program. Zoom option will be available.

PLEASE NOTE: The membership meetings will be held at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center through April. All other events will continue at the club site.

Holiday Party

Our annual Christmas Party will be held at the LCPSTC on December 13. More to follow.

License Test Sessions

The old testing software is no longer supported so we are now using EXAMTOOLS for testing. There is a bit of a learning curve for the VEs but the actual test is somewhat similar to the old system.

You can pre register at Hamstudy.org. There is a link on the K3IR web site. Also, go to fcc.gov and register for a FRN (Federal Registration Number).

Testing is still conducted at the SPARC site on the first Tuesday of every month. Something in the future is remote testing. We will be moving in that direction in the coming months.

If you would like to volunteer as a VF please contact N3FMO, Harry at hbauderm@gmail.com.

For more information on whats happening at SPARC check our website at www.k3ir.org

Columbia Halloween Parade

Seven SPARC members assisted with the Columbia Halloween Parade. Thanks to all who came out. A good time was had by all.

General Mobile Radio Service Coming to SPARC

So, you may be asking “why is a ham radio club installing a GMRS repeater?”

Well there are actually two main reasons.

1. Many ham radio licensees have family members who are not interested in getting an amateur license. GMRS gives these family members another way of communicating if cell phone system fails.
2. And probably most important. SPARC, and indeed Amateur Radio in general exist to provide a trained pool of radio operators to provide communications in times of emergency. GMRS allows more individuals to access the emergency network. GMRS is listed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in their Auxiliary Communications Service plan, along with amateur radio, CB radio, and cell phone service.

The GMRS is available to an individual (one man or one woman) for short-distance two-way communications to facilitate the activities of licensees and their immediate family members. Each licensee manages a system consisting of one or more transmitting units (stations.) The rules for GMRS limit eligibility for new GMRS system licenses to individuals in order to make the service available to personal users.

The General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) is a licensed radio service that uses channels around 462 MHz and 467 MHz. The most common use of GMRS channels is for short-distance, two-way voice communications using hand-held radios, mobile radios and repeater systems.

An FCC license is required to operate GMRS system. Licenses are issued for a ten-year term and can be renewed between 90 days prior to the expiration date and up to the actual expiration date of the license. After a license expires, an individual must request a new GMRS license.

You may apply for a GMRS license if you are 18 years or older and not a representative of a foreign government. If you receive a license, any family member, regardless of age, can operate GMRS stations and units within the licensed system. All users must identify with their FCC issued system call sign.

We are in the early stages of this project. We have many of the components needed but there is still a lot of work to do.

New Remote Radio Access

Just in case you didn't know here is the full story. Several years ago a TenTec Omni VII was donated to the club. This radio is available for membership use via the internet. To access the system you will need a piece of software called 588 One Plug.

Here is the procedure for obtaining software and setting up your connection:

Go to: www.tentec.com

pull down "products"

click "588AT-OMNI-VII-RT"

Near the bottom of the page find:

"588 One Plug Installer v1.2" Download and install this file.

On the connect page:

Radio IP Address is: sparc.freedomdns.org (this is a change from previous address)

1st UDP Port of Radio is 50000

No need to worry about pass code

Press Connect to Radio button – Yellow boxes should turn green.

On the main page click "Start Rip'n" (turns on audio)

Anyone can use this radio to receive. If you are going to transmit be sure to use your call sign and stay inside your band privileges. Have fun If you have audio problems go to "settings", "systems", "sounds" and scroll to the bottom. Click on "apps" Look for UDP 588. Select you speakers and mic.

CPIN Cameras Back

The CPIN cameras, maintained by the Central PA Repeater Association are back on line. The IP address is <http://174.59.234.96:7080/>

The new user name is "viewer@cpra.org" and the password is "CPINcam". Note, Quotes are not part of username or password!

There are a number of new cameras on the system. Have fun.

New Yaesu Dealer

The New Holland Radio Shack is now a Yaesu dealer. Store is located at 331 E Main St, New Holland, PA 17557 Give them a call at [\(717\) 354-2200](tel:7173542200)

Upcoming Hamfests

1/14/2023

WinterFest

Location: 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club

Website: <http://www.w3uu.org/oktoberfest/>

Equipment for Sale

A SPARC member has some equipment for sale.

1. Yaesu FT-8800 VHF/UHF mobile with RT systems programming software and cable.
2. An MFJ 295B antenna analyzer. This unit covers 1.8 through 170 MHz.

For more information and pricing contact Ted Freedman at tedflo1@comcast.net

