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Affiliated 02/17/1922

Meetings & Programs

(All Are Welcome to attend public RRC Events)

Board Meeting: May 7, 2024 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)
General Meeting: May 17th, 2024 @ 7:30 (AG Center) (3rd Friday)
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - W3BN Repeater
FLDigi Net: May 2nd, 2024 @ 7:30 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)
Simplex Test: May 11th, 2024 @ 1 PM (146.55 Multi County)
Fox Hunt: Not Scheduled
VE Exam: June 22nd, 2024 - Train Station - 9:00 PM (Arrive 8:30) - Must Pre-Reg

2024 Board Of Directors & Officers

PRES Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI (24)
VP Ronald Waszk, K3RJW (26)
SEC. Vacant (25)
TREAS. Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD (26)

Janine Galiyano, K4AJZ (24)
Jason Potter, K3WDF (Acting Secretary) (24)
Craig Wanner, K3CRG (25)
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Editor (25)
Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD (26)

You can reach the Board of Directors via email at w3bn.rrc@gmail.com.

3 Year Terms runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31, Number in parenthesis is term end. Officers are chosen by the Board at the January Board Meeting each Year.

Please note: The Board of Director Minutes are temporarily not currently up to date online. Email Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI (JFP0250@comcast.net) if you wish to participate in or have something brought up at the board meeting.

Send ALL USPS Mail pertaining to the Reading Radio Club to :

READING RADIO CLUB INC
ATTN: (Person you're sending to)
PO BOX 6453
Wyomissing, PA 19610-6453

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The W3BN Repeater is owned & operated by the Reading Radio Club and is located in Alsace Township up on the mountain.

146.91 MHZ (Input 146.31 MHZ) with a PL Tone of 131.8 hz.

It is available from 5:30 AM until 12:30 AM.

There are currently 90 active members of the Reading Radio Club consisting of multiple license classes and supporting members.

Keep up to date with the RRC at <http://www.readingradioclub.org>
Manage your club profile & email address at <http://www.hamclubonline.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/RRCW3BN>

Club Email: w3bn.rrc@gmail.com. Bulletin Email: kc3pcs@outlook.com

The Reading Radio Club is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) organization holding tax identification number 23-1660585. Contributions to the Reading Radio Club are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The RRC sends it's Condolences to the Hoffman Family.

The RRC has made a \$100.00 Donation in memory of Harry and Lydia to CEF of Reading & Berks County.

We are looking for Field Day Volunteers.

We will need volunteers for setup, operating and take down.

Please let Tyler or Scott know at the next meeting or via email.

We will be holding a special board election to replace Harry Hoffman.

As of now we have 2 nominees: Tyler Scheirer, KC3LVS and David Fix, N3AMY.

We will have the vote at the May Meeting.



H.A.M. HELP A MEMBER

We are going to try something a little different with this section.

Are you really good at something in radio and want to help others?

Are you in need of help on the radio?

Send your skills or needs to the editor and we will post them on here.

We will NOT post your personal emails (everything will be forwarded by the editor to the proper person to make connections).

Let's help grow the community and Help a Member.



Tyler S, KC3LVS; John F, K3CBE; Ron A, KC3FJY; Robert W, KC3OWK;
Susan Z, KB3JQE; Mark A, NT3V; Jeffrey O, WN3DX; John E, AB3SR;
John A. Jr, N3AOF; Thomas M, KC3VZJ; Frank L, KC3JQT; Todd F, W3TFF;
Eric W, K3OGL

RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Hey everyone. I am pleased and disappointed all at the same time. Let me begin with the pleased portion of my Ravings for this month.

I am so pleased with the committees that I have started, and the ones that others have taken over:

Mark with SRT, and other commitments,

Dave F with the FOX hunts,

Troy with Pagoda award,

Amy with taking over chair and doing a wonderful job on the Bylaws.

and even though I didn't have anything to do with the Field Day set up, I want to thank Tyler for the help hes doing with Scott's assistance.

Paul for the outstanding job of FLDIGI on the first Thursday of the month.

These people show that they care and how they want to make the club a better club with the work they do.

Now for the disappointment part.

I am kind of set back by the amount of members that do not help with what the guys listed above are doing for us. We have over 90 members but have a very low participation rate. The exception to this is the SRT, where you can sit home and participate. On the SRT, we had 18 members on the VHF side of the radio, and 14 on the UHF side. Those numbers are above the normal 10 % that a lot of other things normally draw for a good showing. We do not even get the 10% that could make things better on those other events/happenings.

I understand that people work on many weekends, and with the way things are, in trying to live as we used to. I thought we could have many more join in the events we have for the club.

I am grateful for the amount of personnel that join us to put up and take down the towers for Field Day in June, but a lot disappear when its time to talk on the radio. It usually only leaves a small handful of guys and ladies to work the radios. This is the opportune time for the "techs" to get on long distance (HF). We don't do it for ourselves, we do it for the club.

Its rough assigning jobs to those that want to help, but getting assigned more than one job really wears out the helpers. I appreciate what Scott and Tyler do, and get a lot of flack for. However, with only a handful of people to pick from that volunteer, its a rough job.

Thats it for now. I have so much more, but this is long enough. I need to get this to Scott to implement it in the bulletin.

RON 73

“SURPRISE FOX HUNT” FEATURED DURING APRIL SRT

For those who missed the April 12, Reading Radio Club meeting at the Berks County Agricultural Center, you missed hearing about the special event the Simplex Radio Test team was planning for the next day – a “surprise” fox hunt!

Right at the 1 p.m. start of the Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test for Saturday, April 13 came the announcement from one of the net controls - Ron K3RJW - that a fox had just been activated!

Yes, it would be at the location of the SRT and all were welcome to begin the hunt or guess where it might be.

Dave N3AMY had custody of the fox and monitored the 146.910 repeater for guesses on where the fox might be.

Congratulations to Cameron W2CMH and Stewart W2SLH for making the trek from the Morgantown area to locate the fox at our SRT site – Schlegel Park baseball field parking lot south and slightly west but still in the City of Reading!

There were 18 check-ins for the 146.550 Mhz VHF simplex test for the April event. There were 14 check-ins for the 70cm side of the test on 446 MHz simplex.

Thanks to Stan K3STP for the relays!

Al K3AJM, primary net control for the 146.550 VHF simplex test appreciated the assist.

Even though we thought we had some height advantage sitting off Lancaster Avenue and up on the hill, it wasn't quite enough for stations trying to reach us from the north and the west.

That's all part of why we're doing the Simplex Radio Test monthly. It's a chance for us to see where a net control station can quickly set up and hear stations checking in.

In the event we lose one or both repeaters, Simplex frequencies may be our only point of emergency contact and it could take time to get people into a position. We're trying to identify good positions throughout the area. And, at the same time, we're finding a few locations that aren't so good for radio signals.

If you haven't gotten on the air for the Simplex Radio Test, give it a try. Our next one is a BIG one. It's a Multi-County Simplex Radio Test on Saturday, May 11 at 1 p.m. from the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower on Skyline Drive overlooking Reading.

More about that test in a separate article in this month's RRC Bulletin.

MULTI-COUNTY SIMPLEX RADIO TEST HITS THE AIR MAY 11

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

Many of us know the Boy Scout Motto is “Be Prepared.”

And for many of us, we’ve learned it doesn’t just apply to those who are or have been members of the Boy Scouts of America – now branded as Scouts BSA.

It’s a good way to live – prepared for whatever life puts in front of you.

That’s the goal of the Multi-County Simplex Radio Test sponsored by the Reading Radio Club and scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2024 beginning at 1 p.m. Local Time.

This exercise will be conducted on 146.550 MHz VHF Simplex.

For those who are familiar with the monthly Simplex Radio Test conducted in Berks County, you know our purpose is to enable a check of the simplex set-up of a base, mobile or hand-held unit for power output and receive of the radio.

The test is conducted as part of our amateur radio responsibilities tied to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Simplex may be the only VHF means of communication in the event our repeater systems go down during an emergency.

On Saturday, May 11, we will be expanding our reach of this Simplex Radio Test calling for check-ins from not only Berks, but surrounding counties and beyond.

The Simplex Radio Test Team will be setting up operations at the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower along Skyline Drive overlooking the City of Reading.

We will be putting our antenna at the top of the fire tower’s porch and using high power to reach out to amateurs with an invitation to check in – providing their call sign, name and location.

Multiple net controls will be handling the check-ins from the counties.

We will begin this special net with a call of the list we have for the monthly Simplex Radio Test in Berks.

We will then call for check-ins from the following counties: Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, and York.

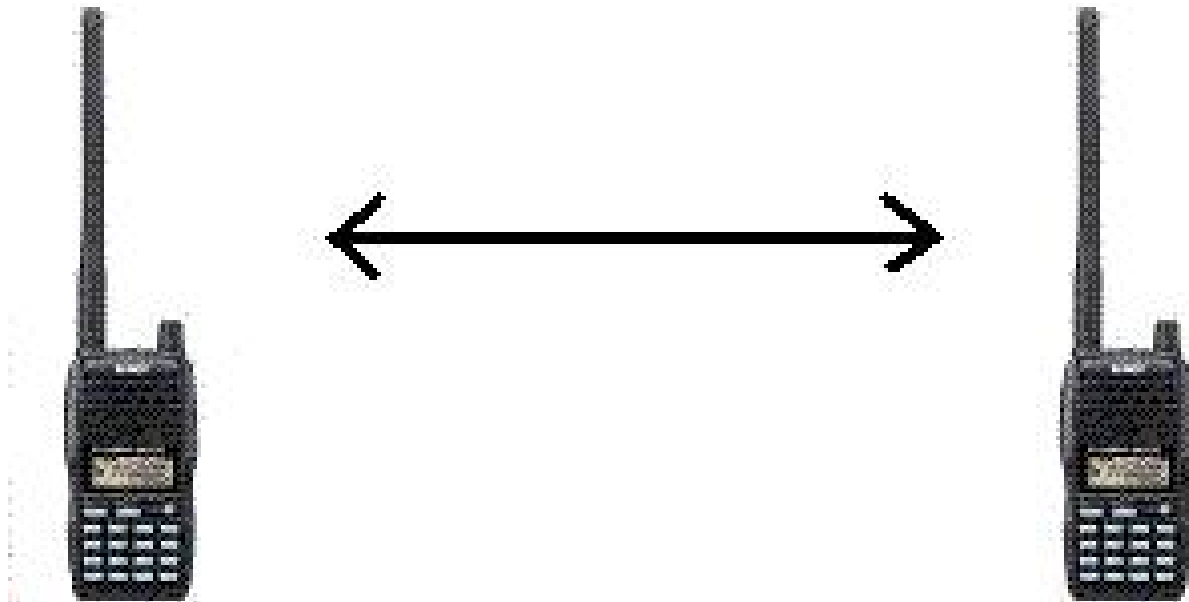
After running each of the counties, we will call for any late check-ins from any operator who hears us regardless of the county in which they live. Depending on radio conditions that day, we could skip beyond the counties we're planning to call and reach even further.

Once the test is completed, lists of all who checked in will be provided to the emergency coordinators in each of the counties for analysis and discussion of possible coordination and emergency planning.

You are the key to making this Simplex Radio Test a success.

There will be emails, announcements on nets, social media posts and lots more to get out the word. Do your part to talk to your fellow hams and make sure they know how important this May 11 net event is.

Be prepared! It's a motto we, as amateurs, should practice as part of our operating routine!



The Fox Hole

On Saturday, April 13, 2024 during the RRC Simplex test, a transmitter was operating on 147.570 MHZ. Several people guessed the location where we were but all were wrong. Suddenly, Scott and Lori Scheirer pulled up so they were the first not only to guess but came right to it. Shortly thereafter, Cameron (W2CMH) and Stuart (W2SLH) drove up to us.

My apologies to all that were awaiting the news as to where we were, but after the hunt and communicating with several hams at the site, I forgot to announce the location.

It was a great experience in that two stations used their beams to help in triangulating the location and they were spot on. Chris, WI3W from Fleetwood area gave a heading of 230° from his location. Tim, W3UCA from near the 91 repeater gave a heading of 190°. Those crosshairs came pretty close to our location.

The importance of triangulating can put a team of searchers close to where a disruptive operator could be. This then helps those close enough to the triangulating spot to zero in on the signal.

It is also a fun thing to do. You don't need expensive equipment to hunt. I remember one hunt where we were to not only go to the location but find it in the area. I shielded my HT with my body and when the signal went down I knew the direction was behind me.

I would like to help anyone interested in transmitter hunting to contact me. Until the next hunt 73.

Dave Fix N3AMY
4845291746
electriciandhf@yahoo.com



APRIL FOOL'S RUN IN KUTZTOWN GETS RRC RADIO-ACTIVE

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

Sixteen radio operators, many of them members of the Reading Radio Club, helped the Crew 59 Association provide communications for the annual Kutztown Fool's Run held Saturday, April 6. It was cool, with sun and some showers along the race course. But that didn't dampen the spirits of the runners and the radio operators who manned eight positions along the more than 10-mile course.

Each of the positions reported on the progress of the race to KC3BSA net control manned by Charlie Beck KB3JMZ, chairman of the Crew 59 Association.

Teams of radio operators using the Crew frequency – 146.590 MHz VHF Simplex – reported on the pace of the lead male and female runners. They also were available to radio back to the net control any problems along the way. The race proceeded without incident with the last runner crossing the finish line just before 11:30 a.m.

Radio operators worked well with fire police personnel at each checkpoint to ensure vehicle traffic didn't interfere with the runners.

Congratulations and thanks to the following operators:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Al Melnyk K3AJM | Stan Pugh K3STP |
| Dave Fix N3AMY | Ron Waszk K3RJW |
| Steve Dobbs NE3F | Ron Dietrich KC3WBA |
| Craig Wanner K3CRG | Paul Berthinet AE3U |
| Jason Potter NG3P | Chris Schlegel WI3W |
| Jon Abramowicz KC3KUZ | Nick Hofke KC3SGN |
| Don Boyer K3OP | Nathan Lis KB3ZCC |
| Charlie Beck KB3JMZ | Mark Abramowicz NT3V |
| And Thomas Wolfinger Crew 59 Association | |





YARD



Amateur Radio Yard Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2024
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
32 Pricetown Rd.
Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ham radio estate sale with over 100 pieces, including test equipment, six ham radios, and a variety of antennas. In addition, also includes lots of parts, tubes, coax and whatever else is found. Rain or shine. Cash and carry.

Keith Redline, N3KLJ
kredliner@gmail.com

Repeater Committee Update and Status

As many have probably heard, there has been a good deal of control operator commotion on the W3BN repeater. Joe, Jason, and myself have been familiarizing ourselves with the ACC RC-850 controller and the capabilities. In the recent weeks there were a couple of power outages that required attention with some lessons that we learned. While the exact programming in place is still a little bit of a mystery, we have a handle on everyday operations. In a recent trip up to the repeater site, we took some detailed pictures of the hardware and site for further analysis.

There are two planned trips up to the site in the near future. May 11th, I'll be taking a small crew up to start some testing and measurement of the equipment. On May 25th, there will be a larger crew assembled to do some yard work and finish any testing and measurements. We have received many notifications of noise on the repeater. The testing and measurement parts of this are largely to assess the condition of the hardware as well as to try and pin point any internal noise in the repeater hardware. There are several things at play and the committee is investigating all avenues.

One of the avenues we are looking at is noise external to the repeater. In order to gather as much data as possible we are asking members to report, to us, what kinds of noise they are hearing and when. As much detail as possible will help, recordings will help even more. I personally have been using my smart phone's sound recorder to record directly from the radio speaker. Works just fine. I'll also ask that members making reports give us a rough location the noise was received i.e. Wyomissing or near intersection of Rt. 61 and 222 bypass.

These reports and any repeater related questions, concerns, or reports can be made to w3bn.controlops@gmail.com.

More detailed information, pictures, Q&A, and future plans will be presented at the May RRC monthly meeting held on the 17th.

73 for now,

Chris, WI3W

Pagoda Award:

First, we had one Pagoda Award winner, for March, W2CMH - Cameron Higgins, and for this month W2SLH - Stuart Higgins. I would like to congratulate them both on a job well done.

Come on guys and gals, it's very easy to get an award. All you need to do is go on the SRT. At the end of every SRT is a chance to make contact with other members so you can get your award. Although, you don't have to wait for that, it is the easiest way to achieve the award.

Please keep the log forms coming. We present the award at the general meeting following submission and verification of contacts. Please be advised, we do not normally mail out certificates. If you are unable to attend a meeting due to medical or any special circumstance, please contact the board and arrangements will be made to get your award to you.

The forms for the award are available on the club's website or by seeing me at the meeting. Email them to pagodaawardk3tkl@yahoo.com or mail them to the clubs PO Box.

Troy.



RRC FIELD DAY: YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME "RADIO ACTIVE"

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

It's time for Amateur Radio's biggest "open house" event of the year – Field Day.

This year, Field Day falls on Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23.

The Reading Radio Club will be operating from the historic site of the former Sinking Spring Railroad Station on the Heritage Park property behind the Sinking Spring Fire Company.

We'll be operating at least three stations – possibly four – including a dedicated digital station, SSB stations, a solar-powered station, and, if we can get operators, some CW.

The club is looking for volunteers to help get the site set up on Saturday, June 22 and tear it down on Sunday, June 23. Field Day operators also are being sought.

The club plans to serve the following meals: Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch.

There will be snacks and cold and hot beverages available throughout the weekend and plenty of room inside and outside the train station for socializing with your fellow RRC members and friends.

You're invited to sit down at one of the operating stations and make a few contacts. If you're a little shy, no worries! Someone from the Field Day team will be happy to sit with you and show you how it's done and how much fun it can be!

Our networked computers will be available to log your contacts.

If you're looking to get your license or upgrade, we will be having a test session at 9:00 AM. Pre-registration is required. Please see the next page for Test Information.

The on-air fun begins at the RRC site on Saturday, June 22 at 2 p.m. and wraps up Sunday, June 23 at 2 p.m.

Activity will be brisk on the HF bands as some 40,000 amateur radio operators from across the United States and Canada will be on the air from locations like ours to make contact with their fellow hams.

While some view Field Day as a contest – it's actually much more than that. Field Day has elements of a simulated emergency exercise that requires an accurate exchange of information between the sending and receiving stations.

Many clubs like the RRC operate under “field conditions” and they invite community and emergency officials to the site to observe amateur radio operators at their best.

Want to learn more?

Come to the Reading Radio Club meeting at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Bern Township on Friday, May 17. The meeting is being held a week later than the normal second Friday of the month because of a Berks County event.

So, we'll look for you on Friday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. to learn more about the Field Day plans.

ANNOUNCEMENT - RRC VE TEST SESSION

The Reading Radio Club will be holding an amateur radio exam session at two upcoming events.

The first is Field Day on June 22nd and the second is the RRC Ham Fest on August 3rd. Both exam events will be held at the Reading Radio Club field house located at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring PA.

Exam candidates are asked to arrive by 8:30 AM with the exam to begin promptly at 9:00 AM.

A FRN is required to take the exam. They can be acquired for free on the FCC Cores Website.

Directions to the events can be found on the RRC website.

Unfortunately, there are no walk-ins allowed at this time, so please pre-register for any of the exams – no obligation.

To register for an exam, please contact Stuart (W2SLH) at 484-339-3456 or email him at exam@w2slh.com.

The cost of the exam is \$15 paid to Reading Radio Club during the event

There is a \$35 payment made to the FCC for any new license or new call sign. Upgrades do not pay the FCC \$35.00 Fee.

WARMINSTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

2024 HAMFEST & ARRL EPA SECTION CONVENTION

Sunday, May 5, 2024 (rain or shine)

Gate opens at 7 am (6 am for vendors)

LOCATION:

Bucks County Community College -
Lower Bucks Campus
1304 Veteran's Hwy (Route 413)
Bristol, PA 19007

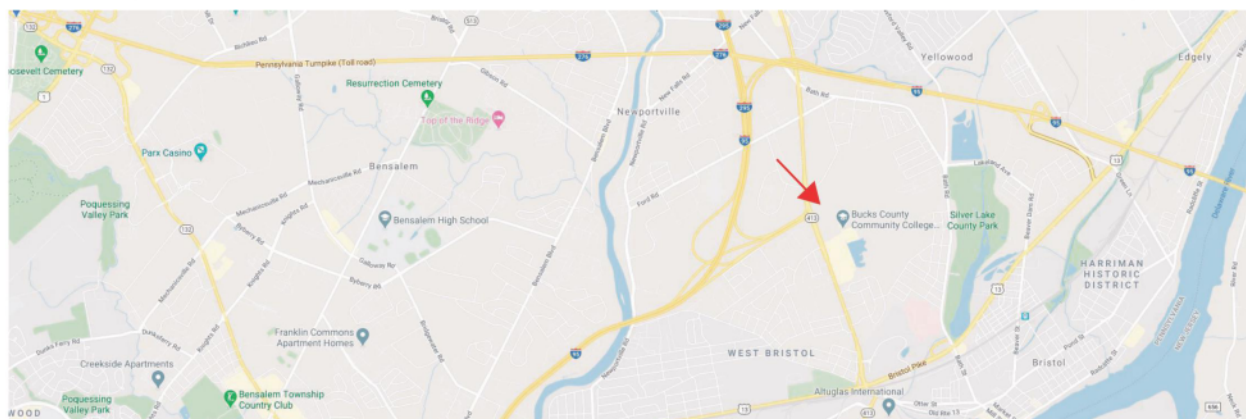
GPS Coordinates:

Latitude: 40.112755 | Longitude: -74.876504

Talk-in 147.09+ (131.8) / 443.95+ (131.8)

- New & Used Ham Radio & PC Equipment
- Equipment check-out table
- VE Testing at 10:00 am
- DXCC card checking
- Door prizes every hour
- Food service available
- Presentations:
 - 8:30 am - AREDN MESH Networks Overview & Demo
 - 10:30 am - ARRL Atlantic Division/EPA Section Forum

- Gate admission: \$8/person
- Unlicensed spouses & under 13 free
- Student free with valid ID
- Tailgating: \$10/car-width space (plus admission)
- Indoor tables: \$20/table (plus admission)
- Handicap parking available



For more info:
Web: www.k3dn.org
Contact: hamfest@k3dn.org



The National Association for
ARRL Amateur Radio[®]
Sanctioned HAMFEST

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The main purpose of The Reading Radio Club Bulletin, is to provide, to the Membership and other readers, timely information about the activities of the Reading Radio Club, Inc.

Additionally, the RRC BULLETIN provides an easily searchable and accurate historical record. The RRC strongly recommends membership in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) as well as membership in a local Amateur Radio Club. The READING RADIO CLUB BULLETIN is copyright © 2024 by the Reading Radio Club, Inc.

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The RRC Bulletin Email Version was started on February 10th, 1998
It is emailed to most RRC Members, Other Clubs and Friends of the RRC.
It is published on a monthly basis.

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PLEASE NOTE: The Reading Radio Club is using Ham Club Online to help manage the club. The bulletin and other email messages may come from a new address. Please DO NOT respond to the email the bulletin comes from.

Please email w3bn.rrc@gmail.com about the club or kc3pcs@outlook.com about the bulletin.

We are also using the site to keep track of attendance, and events.

They use the latest encryption and are very secure. Nobody's information is public (other than what the FCC Records list).

If you have any questions, please contact us at w3bn.rrc@gmail.com