

W3BN W3CCH

# The Reading Radio Club Bulletin

Volume 59

### Issue Number 7 July 2021

The Reading Radio Club Was Established March 10th, 1921, ARRL Affiliated February 17, 1922

A Monthly Publication of the Reading Radio Club, Scott & Lori Scheirer Editors (kc3pcs@gmail.com)

Keep up to date with the RRC at http://www.readingradioclub.org



http://www.facebook.com/RRCW3BN



Next Board Meeting: Tues, July 6th at 7:30 PM via Zoom

Next General Meeting: Fri, July 9th, 2021 at 7:30 PM (Auditorium)

Topic: To Be Determined

Location: Berks County Agricultural Center—Rear Entrance

1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

All other Fridays, we have a **Meeting on the Air at 8 PM** on the W3BN Repeater.

### 2021 Board Of Directors & Officers

1)
2)
3)
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2 3 1 1 2 3

The two-digit number, in brackets, to the right of the BOD member's email address, is the year that their term ends on December 31.

(A normal 3-year term runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, three years later).

The four officers of the RRC are elected from the BOD by the NINE board members at the annual RRC Board of Directors Reorganization Meeting held in January of each year. Please note that ALL nine BOD members have voting power.

Please note: The Board of Director Minutes are available by written request or online at:

http://www.readingradioclub.org. Email Chris Schlegel, k3ada@arrl.net if you wish to participate in a board meeting.

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

ATTENTION TO \*\* (Person your sending to)
READING RADIO CLUB INC
PO BOX 13777
READING PA 19612-3777



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



 $146.91\ \text{MHZ}$  (Input  $146.31\ \text{MHZ})$  with a PL Tone of  $131.8\ \text{hz}.$ 



It is available from 5:30 AM until midnight.



Field Day 2021, in the books! While I did not get to participate much this year, I was very happy to see the crew band together and make things happen. Big thanks to Jim and Scott for heading things up, and a big thank you too those that helped along the way.

Our next big event, Hamfest, is now on the docket. Really looking forward to it, and I hope everyone else is too!

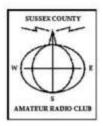
Last, but not least this month, I would like to say thank you to Joe for taking the reigns while I have been down and out.

73 for now, Chris, K3ADA

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.

### 42nd Annual SCARC Hamfest Sussex County ARC

## Sunday July 18, 2021



Sussex County Farm & Horse Show Fairgrounds
Acres of outdoor tailgate space
and 10,000 sq. ft. of indoor space.
Food, Door Prizes and Ample Parking too!
Gates open at 6:00 AM for sellers and 8:00 AM for buyers.



VE Session will start at 10AM at the Fairgrounds Administration Building

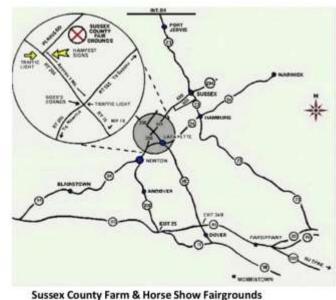
# BUY - SELL -TRADE! Starts 8:00 AM

#### **Door Prizes**

 3rd Prize Kenwood
 TM-281A

 2nd Prize Kenwood
 TM-281A

 1st Prize Yaesu
 FTM-7250DR



37 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ 07822

Lat. / Long: 41° 08′ 10.2″ x 74° 43′ 01.9″
(decimal 41.136200 x -74.717233)

NO PETS permitted on Fairground Property.

Absolutely NO Food or Drink sales are permitted.

Sellers must leave spaces clean.

### WRITE NOW ... RIGHT NOW!

Don't Wait ... get information and advance registration now.
WRITE TO: Dan Carter N2ERH
8 Carter Lane, Branchville, NJ 07826 Phone:
973-862-8197 - Email: hamfest@scarcnj.org

- Admission \$8
- Indoor Tables \$25
- Tailgate Space \$25 includes One Admission (\$8)
- Each Additional person \$8
- · No electricity outdoors.
- Bring your own table and chair.
- Saturday Setup after 6PM
- Overnight camping fees: RV \$35 / Others \$10

Talk-In is 147.30 (+) PL 151.4

For Hamfest information and reservations please contact

Hamfest@scarcnj.org www.sussexhamfest.org www.facebook.com/scarcnj Phone: 973-862-8197



### RRC MEETING ON THE AIR (RRCMOTA)

By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC (06.25.2021)

Check into the <u>RRC MEETING ON THE AIR</u> on the Friday evenings that we do not have an in-person meeting. The net, on 146.910 MHz, starts at 8:00 p.m. with the latest AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE REPORT from the West Coast.

We then have an exchange of information that may be of interest to the members of the Reading Radio Club as well as those that are not RRC members.

The last part of the net is a roll call where we usually have 13 to 56 stations check-in and test their two-meter FM analog equipment. The roll call is last, so that late comers are not missed.

**NOTE:** The Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System, (CTCSS) frequency is 131.8 Hertz (3B). The CTCSS is often referred to as "PL" (Motorola's trade name).

\_\_\_\_\_\_:

The net has been in operation since Friday January 21, 1994, when we had 13 check-ins during that first session, over 27 years ago.

On Friday June 25, 2021, we had session number 1163. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, was the Net Control.

The next RRCMOTA will be on Friday July 2, 2021, starting at 8:00 p.m., on the Reading Radio Club's 146.910 MHz, W3BN analog repeater. Dave Wiley, K3MXS, will be the Net Control for session number 1164.

**NOTE**: The next in-person RRC meeting is scheduled for Friday July 9, 2021, at the Berks County Agricultural Center, in Bern Township. Put the following address in your GPS device or GOOGLE MAPS:

1238 County Welfare Road Leesport PA

**FYI:** AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE is the "Amateur Radio's independent on the air news and bulletin service" and is not a service of the American Radio Relay League.

Everyone, RRC Members and those that are not members, are invited to tune in and check into the.

### READING RADIO CLUB MEETING ON THE AIR

Tune in Weekday mornings to the W3BN Repeater from 6 am until about 6:30 am for our informal morning group. We've been dubbed the "Sunrise Crew". Everyone is welcome to join in. No net control. We just have a nice roundtable discussion of different topics.

Be sure to also tune in to the ARES/RACES net on Monday night on 147.18 at 8 pm and QCWA net on the W3BN Repeater at 9 pm.

Don't Forget the 3/7/10 Initiative started by Rich Ahrens. Hop on the repeater at those times and see who is on. No net control, just friendly chat.



OK ITS OVER. The Field day weekend is over and I believe it to be a GREAT advance for me. I used My personal HF Radio and was able to contact many others across the States and Canada. I was very pleased with the Solar set up I had. My 100 watt solar panel kept the radio running all weekend, and at full strength.

My set up of two foxes were searched by 3 and using my equipment found them the way FOX hunting was supposed to be held. Deviously, I hid the foxes in trees well covered. This taught all three hunters the proper way to use the antenna (Yagi), along with how to get within 12 inches of the foxes and find them. They all listened to my instructions. This led to them having fun using the antenna while running the course towards the end result of seeing the FOX in the trees.

Thats all till the next time. Have a great summer and keep communicating.

RON K3RJW 73.

### From the Fundraising Committee

Please be sure to sign up for the 100 for 100. We thank all those that have returned their forms and donations. Forms are available at any meeting or by contacting Scott at kc3pcs@gmail.com.

**HELP SUPPORT** 

READING RADIO CLUB

(Non-Profit Organization)



ONE DAY ONLY - OCTOBER 20, 2021 SHOP 8AM - 11PM

### **DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:**

- 25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS
- REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD At every Boscov's store

### 100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

RRC Fundraising Committee Chair: Scott, KC3PCS, kc3pcs@gmail.com

or at any Reading Radio Club Event or Meeting (see http://www.readingradioclub.org)

For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends

### **Amateur Radio Help Needed**

We are looking for a bunch more radio operators to support the Eastern States 100 Ultra Marthon. Eastern States is a 103-mile single-loop trail race (98% single/double-track) in the Wilds region of the Allegheny Plateau in north-central Pennsylvania. The race circumnavigates a portion of the stunning Pine Creek watershed that includes some of our longest climbs and most technical and remote terrain. It visits storied trails like the Mid State Trail and the Black Forest Trail, and accumulates over 20,000 feet of climbing in the process — all in the glorious heat and humidity of August. This race is Saturday Aug 14 thru Aug 15 2021 Radio operators are need to help support Logistics and — Tracking runners at the 17 check points. We need Volunteers for the following aid stations at a minimum AS1, AS3, AS5, AS11, AS16, AS17. Other Aid Stations have slots open.

Please visit <a href="https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/PA/Waterville/EasternStates100#16697">https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/PA/Waterville/EasternStates100#16697</a> to sign up for and position labeled as Radio Operator.

Thanks,

Travis Best W3TMB tbest@w3tmb.com 570-279-1746

\*\*\*Quarter Century Wireless Association,
QCWA, Chapter 31 Reading\*\*\*

Breakfast Wednesday July 7 at 09:30

The Berkshire Family Restaurant 1714 State Hill Rd. Wyomissing, PA 19610 (near Berkshire Mall, off PA 222)

Purchase from menu.

Amateur Radio operators & guests are welcome



Bring a mask, just in case, given the new rules in effect on July 1st. We have a separate room.

QCWA.org Chapter 31 Informal net Monday Nights 9 pm 146.91, \_\_, 131.8 W3BN RPTR.

# Beat Beethoven Race Recap

June 20, 2021

### <u>BEAT BEETHOVEN RACE RECAP – SATURDAY, JUNE 19 @ 10;00 AM</u>

At 09;00, the day of the Race, the Team assembled on an Alvernia Parking Lot for a pre-race briefing and to have their photo taken. The Team then departed for their respective Guard Stations.

The Beat Beethoven Race is an annual event held at Alvernia University where the participants try to complete the Course before the Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra completes a Beethoven composition. The Reading Radio Club staffs seven Guard Stations along the Course. Each Station Staffer has an HT and is in touch with NET CONTROL. If a Runner has a problem and needs an ambulance or any assistance, the Guard Station notifies NET CONTROL and help is sent to the appropriate Station.

We have been participating in this Event since April 29, 2012 so this was our ninth year, because the Race not run in 2020 due to the Virus. The Team this year: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, NET CONTROL; Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD; Dave Wiley, K3MXS; Art Becker, KB3LDI, TEAM COORDINATOR; George Andrews, K3HGQ; Walt Urban, K3BUM; and Alan Melnyk, K3AJM.

Our German Shep Mascot was present to give tail wagging support.

Rich, W3WJC did an excellent job as NET CONTROL. The balance of the Team was very professional and the Race Officials sincerely appreciated their efforts. The Race had Guards at many locations but they had no means to communicate if someone was in trouble. RRC guards all had HT's tuned to 146.550 Simplex.

The Race was over by about 11:30 AM. The weather was cool and partly cloudy. We look forward to doing this again next year and hope to have enough volunteers to provide Guards for all Stations. This is what Ham Radio is all about: **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY!** 

Art Becker, KB3LDI

### **BEAT BEETHOVEN**

# 10K & 5K RACE SATURDAY JUNE 19, 2021





**Net Control Station Location (Near The Start/Finish Line)** 



June 19, 2021

By George Andrews, K3HGQ

L to R Walt Urban, K3BUM; Rich Ahrens, W3WJC; Al Melnyk, K3AJM; Art Becker, KB3LDI, with "Hannah Becker"; Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD; Dave Wiley, K3MXS



June 19, 2021

By Rich Ahrens, W3WJC

L to R Walt Urban, K3BUM; George Andrews, K3HGQ; Al Melnyk, K3AJM; - *Behind Art*; Art Becker, KB3LDI, with "Hannah Becker"; Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD; Dave Wiley, K3MXS

### Reading Radio Club 2021 Field Day at Heritage Park

Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, Field Day Co-chairman

The ARRL/RRC Field Day was held on Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27. But it really began months before as the Field Day Committee planned the many details of the event. On the Friday prior to Field Day, RRC members met at the antique train freight station at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring to then go to various locations and organize materials needed for the entire weekend. On Saturday morning, RRC members met at the Field Day site and began the actual set up of stations and antennas.

At noontime, the energetic amateur radio hams had lunch and then completed the set up of two thirty-foot tall towers and the off-center-fed HF dipole and G5RV HF dipole they supported. In addition, an end-fed HF wire was installed between the train station and a tree near the railroad tracks, and an HF vertical antenna was erected in the grass toward the north (Sinking Spring Fire Company) end of the site.

A 2-meter ground plane antenna and a 2-meter Ringo Ranger vertical antenna were set up near the train station porch for the VHF and Solar Power 2-meter station. For the W3BN Talk-In Station, using the RRC repeater (146.91/.31, tone 131.8), a 2-meter 5/8 wave mag mount vertical whip was employed.

This year, two HF stations and a digital/CW station were the main operating stations. Hence the RRC was competing in the 3A class, meaning a club using three main stations and generating power separate from the commercial power grid. The VHF station was an extra "free" station as were the Solar Station and the GOTA "Get on the Air" station. These do not count as "main" stations. The GOTA station used callsign W3CCH. Others used W3BN.

For those individuals who were not licensed, a "listen-only" HF station was available and provided an interesting hands-on activity for visitors.

At 2 p.m., operations began and contacts were made. The bands were very noisy as storm clouds continually passed by the site. Eventually, some rainfall appeared, but it was very little. The site was visited by the Director of the Berks West Side Emergency Management Agency, Tom Bausher, KC3KKI.

By 2:30 p.m., Harry Hoffman, W3VBY and his VE Team began administering Amateur Radio License Examinations. Eight candidates took VE exams. Assisting Harry were Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI; Nate Rosentlal, N2ADD; Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS; and Ron Waszk, K3RJW. This is a service to the community performed without compensation to the RRC or its members.

When a contact was made with another station, the RRC information designators passed were 3A and EPA, meaning three main stations and the eastern Pennsylvania location. Of course, callsigns are passed as well. The other station's information was likewise collected.

To document the contact and to add to our contact score, computers were again used to collect contact information and to prevent making duplicate contacts. Too many duplicate contacts can invalidate the club score. This information is later sent to ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT and it is compared to hundreds of clubs, small groups, emergency management centers and individual scores. Later in the year, the scores will be published in an issue of the ARRL QST Magazine.

At 5 p.m., a penne pasta dinner with meatballs was served to all. It was delicious. Cupcakes were a sumptuous dessert.

Operating continued into the night and the next day. Thousands of hams across the country and Canada participated. The gasoline-powered generators chugged along, feeding power to the busy transceivers. No commercial power was needed by the wireless ham communicators.

By 7 a.m. the hungry operators had breakfast and went back to work. During the 24-hour operating time, visitors from the local community stopped by to see the emergency exercise up close. Mike Urban, a journalist from the Reading Eagle Newspaper visited and penned a very nice story about the RRC Field Day which appeared in the Monday, June 28 edition.

At noon, lunch was enjoyed by all and the final push to the end of the event was on. The weather was in the 90s and the humidity was high. By 2 p.m., the transceivers were disconnected and the tear down and pack up began. By 5 p.m., the site was cleaned and vacated. Equipment was returned to storage and the train station was vacated.

(Field Day Continued from Last Page)

Bonus points that will be added to the RRC's score include those from having a public location, a site visit by a public official, usage of gasoline -generated power, media news, and offering an information booth with RRC and ARRL literature and applications for membership.

Again this year, those operating from home may credit the RRC when their score is sent to ARRL. Scores may be submitted on forms found at 2021 Field Day Packet rev 6-21a.pdf (arrl.org).

Scores should be sent to ARRL and be postmarked by July 28, 2021 or before. If you need scoring forms, copies will be available at the Friday, July 9, 2021 meeting at the Agricultural Center.

Co-chairman Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS and I would like to thank everyone who helped make the RRC 2021 Field Day a success!

### **RRC 2021 Field Day Committee**

Rich Ahrens, W3WJC Alex Nicholas

Art Becker, KB3LDI Jim Nicholas, W3ITH

Mike Cholewa, N3YQG Mary Anne Nicholas, N3TVT

Jon Durand, N8EUL Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI

Janine Galiyano, K4AJZ Duane Redline, W3UQH

Denny Goodling, N3JRW Lori Scheirer

Harry Hoffman, W3VBY Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS

Jerry Higgins, WB8JQG Chris Schlegel, K3ADA

Jessica Landis, KC3PIG Craig Wanner, K3CRG

Jeff Nash, KC3QLR Ron Waszk, K3RJW









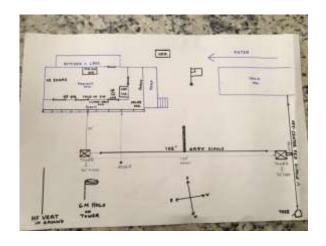








































































































































RRC VE TEST SESSION June 26, 2021

On Saturday afternoon, June 26, 2021 the Reading Radio Club sponsored its 103<sup>rd</sup> Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio Test Session. The Test Session was held at the RRC Field Day site at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring, PA. starting at 2:30 p.m. There were eight candidates in attendance.

The Rest results were as follows:

- 4- Technician
- 1- General Class

The candidates came from Douglasville, Reading, and West Reading. The candidates were invited to attend future RRC meetings and events.

Our Volunteer Examiners for this test session were: Harry Hoffman, W3VBY; Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI: Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD; Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS: and Ron Waszk, K3RJW.

Thanks to our VE Team for a job well done. The test session started early at 2:00 p.m. and was completed by about 4:00 p.m. The test materials were packaged and delivered to the Sinking Spring Post Office on Monday afternoon June 28<sup>th</sup> for shipment by Priority Mail to the ARRL/VEC.

The next VE Test Session will be held on August 7, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at our RRC Hamfest at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring, PA.

If you need more information on Amateur Radio testing or wish to register for an exam call the VE Team Liaison, Harry Hoffman, W3VBY at 610-678-8976 or send an E-mail to <a href="mailto:harryhoffmanjr@juno.com">harryhoffmanjr@juno.com</a>. The cost for participating in a test session this year is \$15 payable by check to the ARRL/VEC.

### 73, Harry Hoffman, W3VBY



Please note: Ads placed here will run for 2 bulletins unless you let the editor know you still want them posted, deleted, or changed.

### Got something for us to put in here? Please email it to kc3pcs@gmail.com

FREE: 15 "C" rechargeable NMH batteries. High capacity, 2500mah and 3500 mah. Used very little. Contact John, N3AOF at

jaugustinen3aof@gmail.com or 610 929-8850 (leave a message).

Thanks, John N3AOF

Please Note: The Editors and/or RRC are not responsible for items listed on this page.

Descriptions & Pictures are supplied by the Seller.

# Membership Statistics

Send all license and mailing address changes to:

RRC Treasurer Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD, at NateØ1PA@comcast.net or N2ADD@arrl.net
Please let us know if you upgrade your license. Email to Scott, KC3PCS, and Lori at

KC3PCS@gmail.com with updates.

By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC - RRC Historian (06.24.2021)

#### STATS AS OF JULY 1, 2021

Full Voting Members: 68

Associate (Non Voting) Members: 13

Supporting (Non Voting) Members: 2

Total: 83

1/4 of Full Voting Members required for a quorum. (17)

40 RRC voting members are members of the ARRL (59%).

To be a "Local Amateur Radio Club" affiliate of the ARRL, 51% of the voting members must be Full or Associate members of the ARRL. Note: This is the club's voting members, not necessarily the total membership.

"Life Member" Harry Hoffman, W3VBY By RRC BOD action on November 10, 2020.

"Honorary Membership for Life" Jim Nicholas, W3ITH By RRC BOD action on December 8, 2009.

"Life Member"
Rich Ahrens, W3WJC
By RRC BOD action on June 6, 2006.

83 = Total RRC membership as of July 1, 2021

 87 = July 2020
 99 = July 2009

 87 = July 2019
 102 = July 2008

 84 = July 2018
 116 = July 2007

 79 = July 2017
 115 = July 2006

 74 = July 2016
 125 = July 2005

 80 = July 2015
 125 = July 2004

 82 = July 2014
 135 = July 2003

 85 = July 2013
 130 = July 2002

 87 = July 2012
 127 = July 2001

 89 = July 2011
 124 = July 2000

 97 = July 2010
 123 = July 1999

There were 193 Members in 1978

Extra Class: 34 41 % Advanced: 5 6% General: 21 25 % Technician: 21 25 % 0% Novice: 2% No License: 2

May not total 100% due to rounding.

Data may not be up to date.

Checked FCC for upgrades Sep. 22, 2020,

by Rich Ahrens, W3WJC.

# RRC Calendar of Events July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	2 MOTA (8 pm)	3
4	5 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	6 RRC BOD Meeting ZOOM 7:30 PM	7 QCWA Breakfast	B Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	RRC Meeting AG Center 7:30 PM	10
11	12 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	13	14	15 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	16 MOTA (8 pm)	17
18	19 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	20	21	22 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	23 MOTA (8 pm)	24
25	26 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	27	28	29	30	31

### PLEASE NOTE:

July 6th, 2021—7:30 PM — Board Meeting— ZOOM

July 7th, 2021— QCWA Breakfast at Berkshire Family Rstrnt. (1714 State Hill Rd, Wyomissing) July 9th, 2021—7:30 PM — Club Meeting— AG CENTER (and streaming online)

On the Fridays, that we do not have an in-person meeting we will have a "Reading Radio Club Meeting On The Air" (RRCMOTA) on the RRC 146.910 MHz repeater starting at 8:00 p.m. The CTCSS is 131.8 Hz.

**July Birthdays**: Jonathan Durand, N8EUL; Calvin Wagner, KA3HYC; Janine Galiyano, K4AJZ; Joseph Morrissey, KZ3OWL; Arthur Becker, KB3LDI; Donald Cwynar, KT4JF; Frances Wagner, KB3GBB; James Stamm Jr, WA3KBH

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The PRIMARY purpose of The Reading Radio Club Bulletin, is to provide, to the membership, timely information about the activities of the Reading Radio Club, Inc.

IN ADDITION, 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 © 2021 by the Reading Radio Club, Inc. Opinions expressed in the RRC BULLETIN are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Reading Radio Club, Inc, the RRC BOD, or the RRC membership. Material from this RRC BULLETIN may be reproduced in whole or part, without Additional permission, if credit is given to the READING RADIO CLUB BULLETIN and the authors.

July 1st, 2021 - EMAIL VERSION STARTED ON FEBRUARY 10, 1998.

CIRCULATION: 90 RRC - 106 RRC ELIGIBLE NON-MEMBERS,

FIVE CLUBS WE SWAP BULLETINS WITH, PLUS 10 OTHER CLUBS.

THE FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION IS MONTHLY.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



Deadline for all bulletins is the 25th of the prior month. However, earlier is better. Please submit to kc3pcs@gmail.com. \*\* Please note that the editors reserve the right to accept, change, reject anything submitted for the RRC Bulletin.