



W3BN W3CCH

# The Reading Radio Club Bulletin

Volume 59

Issue Number 10 October 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>

## MEETINGS

Next Board Meeting: **Tues, October 5th at 7:30 PM via Zoom**

Next General Meeting: **Fri, October 8th, 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

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PRESI. Chris Schlegel, K3ADA	Sutehk.CS@gmail.com	(23)
VP Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	JFP0250@comcast.net	(21)
SEC. Harry Hoffman, W3VBY	HarryHoffmanJr@juno.com	(22)
TREAS. Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	NateØ1PA@comcast.net	(23)
Art Becker, KB3LDI	ABeckerBeConCo@msn.com	(21)
Jason Potter, K3WDF	Radio.K3WDF@gmail.com	(21)
John Engle, AB3SR	No Public Email	(22)
Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	PolishPICL@aol.com	(23)
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Editor	kc3pcs@arrl.net	(22)

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

It is available from 5:30 AM until midnight.

# TAKE NOTE

Due to time constraints, there will be no Prez Says this month.

The **50 Years Ago** column is available on our website. Be sure to check out the history of the club from 50 years ago written by Rich Ahrens, W3WJC. He takes a lot of time combing through notes and writing this section.

## ANNOUNCEMENT - RRC VE TEST SESSION

**The Reading Radio Club** has scheduled a **VE Test Session** on Friday evening **November 12, 2021** to be held at the **Berks County Agricultural Center main auditorium starting at 6:00 PM.**

The Berks County Agricultural Center is located at 1238 County Welfare Road, **Leesport, PA.**

### **NOTE: MASKS MUST BE WORN**

We would prefer **pre-registration** for the test session. We would like to have the following information: Full name, Address, telephone number, e-mail address, call letters if any, FRN Number, and test elements you wish to take. **The FCC now requires everyone to have an e-mail address.**

Please give your information to Harry Hoffman, W3VBY. My e-mail is [harryhoffmanjr@juno.com](mailto:harryhoffmanjr@juno.com) or telephone 610-678-8976.

You will need one form of identification or copy of license. The cost for taking the test is \$15 and we prefer payment by check made out to ARRL/VEC. Exact cash payment is also acceptable.

The RRC General Meeting follows the test session at 7:30 PM, and everyone is invited to stay for the RRC General Meeting.

73 Harry W3VBY

IS THERE A TOPIC OR PRESENTATION YOU'D LIKE TO SEE AT A CLUB MEETING? ARE YOU WILLING TO PUT ON A PRESENTATION?

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS SCHLEGEL, K3ADA AT [K3ADA@ARRL.NET](mailto:K3ADA@ARRL.NET) WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS OR VOLUNTEER TODAY.

**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.**

## RRC Purpose & Accomplishments 2021

The Reading Radio Club, Inc. has been in existence for over 99 years. It was formed during the early years of radio experimentation. The RRC has an IRS 501(c)(3) tax status. Many of its members have contributed greatly to the development of Radio, television, emergency communications, and the electronic industry over this period of time.

Amateur Radio people (called "hams") are well known for our communications support in disaster and post-disaster situations. We also provide communication services to the public during special events.

We are called "amateurs" because we are not paid. Our services are provided at no charge. Like amateur sports, we do it for the love of it! We may be called "amateurs" but our communications services are professional.

Amateurs and their equipment can interface with both public safety efforts and event organizers.

Our equipment can be made operational quickly inside a building, in a mobile command post or out in the field.

There are over 700,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and 3 million worldwide. To get your Amateur Radio License you need to take a 35-question, multiple choice exam. The Reading Radio Club Volunteer Examiner Team is certified by the Federal Communications Commission and has administered 103 such Amateur Radio Test Sessions over the past 36 years. We have processed 893 candidates during this period. Many of them have gone on to earn advanced licenses and chosen electronics as their career as a result of the training administered by the Reading Radio Club members.

We hold weekly on the air testing of our equipment and are available at a moments notice in case of an emergency. Our local repeater system covers a radius of about 30 miles. We would like to add emergency power to our repeater system.

We have a monthly Radio Club Bulletin which covers upcoming events and educational subjects on technical issues. Many of our members make do it yourself projects. Some have helped local science teachers with projects, such as balloon launch and tracking by radio, etc.

Our monthly Reading Radio Club meetings are open to all, young and old. Membership is not a requirement. We show educational videos, have group and individual discussions, etc. Members are able and willing to help, especially with technical help.

I hope this gives an idea of what the Reading Radio Club does and how it contributes to the local community.

Harry Hoffman, W3VBY Secretary

## **CLEAN UP - At the REPEATER site on OCT. 23, 2021**

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By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, Chairperson RTAOC (09.19.2021)

Jason Potter, K3WDF, RRC BOD Member

During a visit to the RRC W3BN, 146.91 MHz, repeater site, on Wednesday Sept. 15, 2021; one of our ninety-degree days! We found the entrance to the building blocked by an unbelievable overgrowth of vegetation of all varieties. Some growth as tall as twenty feet!

We were unprepared for this situation being dress in short sleeve shirts, shorts, and sneakers. Not having the equipment to tackle the overgrowth, we did not enter the building and went home.

The last clean-up of the repeater site property was done on Tuesday July 21, 2015. Eight members cleared the property of debris that consisted of low growth vegetation, fallen leaves, and a few one-inch diameter early growth trees. Check out the picture below of the property taken 11-02-2019. As you can see the growth in four years was moderate and of a low level.



Look at the picture below, taken during our visit on Sept. 15' 2021.

The rapid growth in less than two years is amazing. The hot temperatures of the last few summers along with more than adequate rainfall has stimulated super growth of all types of weeds.



This as a call to users of the Reading Radio Club, W3BN, 146.91 MHz Repeater to assemble on:

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 2021, AT 10 A.M.**

to assault Mother Nature and clear the property of the overabundance of vegetation. This will require some equipment, proper attire, and a good supply of volunteers. If you can supply the necessary physical labor the members of the Reading Radio Club will be most grateful.

Tune in to the RRC Meeting On The Air, (RRCMOTA), on a Friday at 8:00 p.m. for details, and to volunteer to help.

## **Reminder:**

The October meeting is the last chance to get Friends Helping Friends Coupons. Only 5.00 to save some money and you support the club at the same time.

The 100 for 100 anniversary fundraiser is still looking for more people to sign up. Be sure to see Scott or Jim at the October meeting (or email us) about the 100 for 100. It's 12.00 for the year (or more if you'd like to donate more) and it all goes towards our 100th anniversary celebration next year.

# RRC MEETING ON THE AIR (RRCMOTA)

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By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC (09.19.2021)

Check into the **RRC MEETING ON THE AIR** 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 **C**ontinuous **T**one **C**oded **S**quelch **S**ystem, (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 September 24, 2021, we had session number 1173. Dave Wiley, K3MXS, was the Net Control.

The next RRCMOTA will be on Friday October 1, 2021, starting at 8:00 p.m., on the Reading Radio Club's 146.910 MHz, W3BN analog repeater. Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, will be the Net Control for session number 1174.

**NOTE:** The next in-person RRC meeting is scheduled for Friday October 8, 2021, starting at 7:30 p.m., 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. ]

## BRING MASKS BE PREPARED BERKS COUNTY COULD CHANGE THE GUIDELINES

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

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**Tune in Weekday mornings to the W3BN Repeater from 6 am until about 7 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.**

# RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Well we finally started back up with the SMOTA and thinking of holding a Fox hunt in October.

I would like the thoughts and ideas for the Fox hunt whenever you can get the ideas to me.

Things have been going well on the FLDIGI practices on Monday evening on 147.180 and on Thursday evenings on 146.910 with usually four or five guys really doing well. Anyone is welcome to join us and join ARES/RACES on Monday. Al (K3AJM) does a great job of working with us and preparing us for the November practice at Limerick. Even though I run the net on Thursdays, Dave (K3MXS) is the brains there with ANY information you would need to get into the discussions.

FLDIGI is a free download and Dave, Myself , or AL can direct you to download it and set it up. JUST ASK PLEASE. We are here for you. It really IS a fun project and even though you use a computer, IT DOES NOT use the internet. It is direct radio to radio, or through the repeater. FLDigi Software is at the following link: [W1HKJ Software](#)

So there you go, this months bulletin write. Enjoy, stay safe, and THANKS for being a Ham operator.

RON (K3RJW) 73

SMOTA 09/24/2021

Ron operated from Schlegel Park across from the former Queen City Restaurant. There were 20 check-ins. Be sure to listen to the MOTA for the next SMOTA.



Ron's SMOTA Set Up:  
Dipole to mobile rig with a 1.3 to 1 SWR



**Last Chance. Buy one for yourself or family and friends.**

**HELP SUPPORT**

READING RADIO CLUB

(Non-Profit Organization)



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For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

RRC Fundraising Committee Chair: Scott, KC3PCS, [kc3pcs@gmail.com](mailto:kc3pcs@gmail.com)

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

For more details visit [boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends](http://boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends)





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](mailto:kc3pcs@gmail.com)

For Sale

Collins Collectors' Items (Circa 1966—All units will need work.):

Collins KWM-2 Transceiver	\$ 499
Collins KWM-2A Transceiver	\$ 499
Collins 30L-1 Amplifier	\$ 499
Collins 312B-4 Station Controller	\$ 175
Collins VFO 312B5	\$ 199
Collins 312 B3 Speaker	\$ 199
RF Concepts 2M Amplifier, 45 watts in, 170 out.	\$ 399.00
Icom 756PRO III Transceiver, 160-6M w/ Mic..	\$ 1,400.00

Contact Jim Nicholas, W3ITH  
W3ITH@arrl.net

FOR SALE: RRC Baseball Hats. \$15.

Contact Rich, W3WJC,  
at W3WJC73@gmail.com or  
610.929.8829 with an answering machine.

Only five remain from the last order of twenty.

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

(09.19.2021)

## STATS AS OF OCT. 1, 2021

Full Voting Members: 70

Associate (Non Voting) Members: 16

Supporting (Non Voting) Members: 3

Total: 89

1/4 of Full Voting Members  
 required for a quorum. (18)

41 RRC voting Full 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, (Full 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.*

89 = Total RRC membership as of Oct. 1, 2021

89 = Oct. 2020	102 = Oct. 2009
91 = Oct. 2019	105 = Oct. 2008
92 = Oct. 2018	118 = Oct. 2007
85 = Oct. 2017	118 = Oct. 2006
77 = Oct. 2016	126 = Oct. 2005
82 = Oct. 2015	124 = Oct. 2004
86 = Oct. 2014	138 = Oct. 2003
87 = Oct. 2013	131 = Oct. 2002
87 = Oct. 2012	130 = Oct. 2001
88 = Oct. 2011	129 = Oct. 2000
97 = Oct. 2010	124 = Oct. 1999

There were 193 Members in 1978

**Extra Class:** 34 38 %

**Advanced:** 5 6 %

**General:** 23 26 %

**Technician:** 24 27 %

**Novice:** 0 0 %

**No License:** 3 3 %

May not total 100% due to rounding.

Data may not be up to date.

Checked FCC for upgrades Sep. 4, 2021,  
 by Rich Ahrens, W3WJC.

# RRC Calendar of Events

## September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 MOTA (8 pm)	2
3	4 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	5 RRC BOD Meeting ZOOM 7:30 PM	6 QCWA Breakfast	7 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	8 RRC Meeting AG Center 7:30 PM	9
10	11 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	12	13	14 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	15 MOTA (8 pm)	16
17	18 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	19	20	21 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	22 MOTA (8 pm)	21 Repeater Site Cleanup 10 AM
24/31	25 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	26	27	28 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	29 MOTA (8 pm)	30

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Oct 6th, 2021— QCWA Breakfast at Berkshire Family Rstrnt. (1714 State Hill Rd, Wyomissing)

Oct 5th, 2021—7:30 PM — Board Meeting— ZOOM

Oct 8th, 2021—7:30 PM — Club Meeting— AG CENTER (and streaming online)

Oct 21st, 2021 — 10:00 AM — Repeater Site Cleanup

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.

**October Birthdays:** Rich Ahrens, W3WJC; Allen Hewitt, KC3EWJ; Norman Dorward, AA3PO; Bradley Wegman, KC3HKR; Roger Schropp, N3IVY; Ron Waszk, K3RJW; Duane Redline, W3UQH; Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD

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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.

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October 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.

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