



W3BN W3CCH

The Reading Radio Club Bulletin

Volume 59

Issue Number 11 November 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, November 9th at 7:30 PM via Zoom**

Next General Meeting: **Fri, November 12, 2021 at 7:30 PM (Auditorium)**

Topic: To Be Determined, Board Nominations

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

=====		
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

W
3
B
N

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.

ARTHUR BECKER KB3LDI (SK)

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Art Becker, KB3LDI. He was a longtime member of our Reading Radio Club. He took great pride in our club. He's been a member of the board, vice president, refreshments along with many other committees. Those of us who saw him operate the HF station during field day will also remember that fondly. He also loved doing the fox hunts with Ron.

73 until we meet again Art.

Arthur Becker, 90, of Reading, passed away on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at his residence. He was predeceased by his current wife Mary Ann A. (Dykty) Becker, on February 21, 2021, his second wife Helen E. (Reead) Becker on January 16, 1993, by his sister Aileen Rosenthal, and his niece, Jill Leibhaber. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he was a son of the late Max and Bessie (Durchin) Becker. Art is survived by: his son, United Airline Captain Scott Becker (retired) of Oceanside, CA; a stepson, Robert J. Englebach, spouse of Frank Kutryb, of Wyomissing Hills; a stepdaughter, Margie Haile, wife of David Haile, Reading; two step grandchildren: Colleen Grey and Josef Haile; one niece, Diane Rosenthal; and his beloved German Shepherd, Hannah. He was a graduate of Midwood High School, Brooklyn, NY, in 1949, the Academy of Aeronautics, Queens, NY, in 1955 and the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, in 1963. He was an Aeronautical Engineer. He attended Penn State, Berks, for several Managerial Accounting courses. Art was a private pilot, earning his license at the age of 17. He loved to fly and continued to do so until his death. He was a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association since June, 1950, and of the Quiet Birdmen- Reading Hanger, since October 2014; a pilot's organization. He was a member of the Berks Pistol Club since 1967 and served as club secretary for many years. Art was also an amateur radio operator and a member of the Reading Radio Club, serving as Vice President and on the Board of Directors for many years. He was also a member of SCORE for several years, counseling people starting their own business. Starting as a draftsman, Art worked on naval gunfire control and radar systems. He attended college at night while working for a Queens, N.Y. aircraft instrument company working up to Design then Project Engineer. He was awarded a Patent for an aircraft instrument lighting system. Art managed a 30 engineer Production Design Group prior to coming to Reading in 1963 as Chief Engineer for the Pennsylvania Optical Company. He worked as a senior Engineer for Reading Industries, Inc. for two years and then became Plant Manager of their Read-Fin Manufacturing Company metal fabrication facility for 14 years. He worked at several other facilities in manufacturing management in Reading and Lancaster and started his own business, BECONCO/Becker Consulting Company, in September, 1993. Art was a member of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom since 1965. At one point he served as President of the Brotherhood, on the Finance Committee, as a member of the Board of Trustees, and Chairman of the Ritual Committee. He was the High Holiday Service Coordinator for many years. Art was also a Mason, a member of Lodge 62 F. & A.M., West Reading. Services will be held Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10:30 AM at the Temple Oheb Shalom, 555 Warwick Dr., Wyomissing, PA 19610, with burial to follow at Forest Hills Memorial Park. Contributions may be made to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, PO Box 709, Yorktown Heights, N.Y. 10598 (GuidingEyes.org). Edward J. Kuhn Funeral Home Inc., West Reading is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be expressed at www.kuhnfuneralhomes.com.

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 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 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.

Drez Says

By: Chris Schlegel
K3ADA

As many have heard by now, Art Becker KB3LDI, passed away. Art was a great friend, mentor and advisor to myself. I got back into ham radio in 2014 after a very long hiatus from being licensed as a kid. I had never operated on HF before! At the RRC's 2014 Field Day, I sat with Art at the HF station to log for him. I had been a little reluctant and timid, as many are starting out in the hobby, and Art coached me on the logging and was very patient. He coaxed me along until I felt comfortable. After a time, Art offered an opportunity to be the operator and try my hand at a few contacts. Again, Art coached me along with patience. We worked together all night making contacts for the club. This became our annual ritual, working the night shift together. When our ears would start to get sore from listening, we would take a break and just have a friendly chat and drink. To me, Art embodied the spirit of Amateur Radio and set an amazing example for others. He had a phenomenal relationship with his family. Art was always willing to help out and volunteer when he could. Most of all, Art always had a passion to try and learn new things. Art...we will miss you dearly.

73,

Chris, K3ADA

OPERATORS NEEDED

Every odd-numbered year, the emergency management agencies of Berks, Montgomery, and Chester counties take part in an exercise to check preparedness for any emergency involving the Limerick nuclear power plant. This year, that exercise will be held on Tuesday, November 16. The ARES/RACES groups of these three counties take part in that exercise to show that they are prepared to communicate in case normal channels have failed. In Berks County, we are asked to provide operators for six municipal Emergency Operations Centers in the eastern part of the county, as well as the county EOC.

The Berks ARES/RACES group is looking for a few more operators to help us during this exercise. In particular, we need operators who are familiar with using any of the digital modes. We use the FLDIGI programs, but it is easy to learn these programs if you have experience with other digital setups. No equipment is needed – the county has provided all the locations with radios and roof-mounted antennas, and with kits that contain a computer with the necessary software, a printer, and an interface to the rig.

If you have any experience in using digital modes (packet, Winlink, FT-8, WSJT-X, etc.) and are available to assist on the evening of November 16 (dinner will be provided at all EOCs for participants), please contact me at k3ajm@ptd.net, or call me at 610-621-2187. We will also have a brief meeting on Tuesday evening, November 9 at 7PM at the Berks Fire Training Center to go over the details of what will occur during the exercise.

Amateur radio has a long history of providing communications in an emergency, and this would be a great opportunity to test your skills at setting up a station and passing messages in a simulated emergency situation.

Alan Melnyk, K3AJM
Berks ARES/RACES Emergency Coordinator



Reading Radio Club Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, Co-Chairperson
Mary Anne Nicholas, N3TVT, Co-Chairperson

This year, we will again meet at Wegman's Restaurant, 4401 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA 19605. That is the same location as the 2019 Christmas Dinner. We did not have a Christmas Dinner in 2020.

The RRC has had many banquets and breakfasts at Wegman's. In earlier years, the restaurant was known as Reeser's Restaurant and later Wegman - Reeser's Restaurant.

Doors will open at noon, and dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. in the Pine Room, which is the large room at the rear of the restaurant. The cost is \$ 17.00 per person and includes all costs and gratuities. We have been able to keep the cost down due to donations made by RRC members.

The event is handicapped accessible and there is a large parking lot available. All are welcome.

The dinner includes the following all-you-can-eat holiday meal: fruit cup, tossed salad with dressing, roast turkey, grilled ham, potato filling, French fries, corn, green beans, coffee, iced tea, and hot tea. This is the family-style dinner we enjoyed in 2019 and it was truly great.

After dinner, we'll have cake with a whipped cream icing and ice cream. Also after the dinner, we all will join in playing a trivia game in which the prizes are candies. As usual, the RRC 146.91/31 repeater (tone 131.8) will be monitored during the event, just in case someone gets lost. Jim's cell phone number is 610-781-5508 and that will be monitored as well.

Tickets will be on sale at the next general meetings of the RRC. You may also reserve a ticket by calling Jim on the phone at 610-678-9243 and leaving a message. Or email at w3ith@arrl.net. Just mention how many tickets you need to reserve. Leave a call-back phone number as well.

Another way to reserve a dinner ticket is to check into the Friday 8 p.m. Meeting On The Air on the club repeater (when we do not have a general meeting at the Berks County Agricultural Building) and tell Jim you need a ticket reserved. Remember, we have a Friday evening Meeting On The Air when we do NOT have an in-person monthly general meeting.

RRC MEETING ON THE AIR (RRCMOTA)

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By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC (10.24.2021)

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 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 October 29, 2021, we had session number 1177. Dave Wiley, K3MXS, was the Net Control.

The next RRCMOTA will be on Friday November 5, 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 1178.

NOTE: The next in-person RRC meeting is scheduled for Friday November 12, 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 RAWINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Here you go guys, I have 4 subjects to report on...

1. FOX hunting,, I WILL have a fox hunt on Saturday, November 13 at 1300 hours. It will be a close hunt in that there will not be a lot of driving due to the high cost of gas. Stan and I will be putting out the location that I HOPE is close enough to many of you. I'm hoping many of you come out and enjoy some fun. This will be a memorial hunt in Art's name as he was my most favorite hunter that came out to every hunt with only ONE MISS at my hunts.
2. The SMOTA is still a "HIT" as we had 22 check-ins. I was stationed at Schlegel park, at the top parking lot, with a homemade dipole on a fiberglass pole. Here is a picture of the antenna I used to contact those 22 hams.



3. Pagoda award. I am still waiting for members to turn in their lists for the Pagoda award. It's a nice award and the instructions are on the website for all to download. You can also pick up a copy of the rules and the sheet to fill in at any of our meetings. I will have them there.
4. I was kinda discouraged that we only had 8 helpers at the repeater site. The guys and lady there really worked hard. They cleaned up the area in about 2 hours. However, they could have used about 5 more people to help get it done faster and the guys there would not have been as sore afterward. I was very proud of the guys that were there in that they really busted their tails in getting the work done. At the same time we were cleaning up, Rich was taking readings on our repeater in the building. This will help us set up some sort of power to keep that repeater running during commercial power down. It was all good and he gave all the readings that we needed to try and figure out what we need in the way of solar or generator power to keep it on the air during those times. THANK YOU RICH.

Thats all I got for now.. Stay SAFE out there the crazies are out driving.

RON K3RJW 73



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

For Sale
Yaesu FT- 950 HF/50MHz transceiver w/
mic,
metered external power supply, power cable
and manual.
Cosmetically and functionally very good.
\$ 700
Call Bill Wentzel, K3BW at 610-488-0231.

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.



Free to a good home.

Interested parties, please contact
Joel Berish (WB3ADK)
at berishjoe@gmail.com

Or
610-823-9218

Please Note: The Editors and/or RRC are not responsible for items listed on this page. Descriptions & Pictures are supplied by the Seller.

WEED WAR II OCTOBER 23, 2021

WEEDS THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY

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By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, Chairperson RT&OC (10.24.2021)

On Saturday October 23, 2021, eight (8) volunteers from the Reading Radio Club membership launched an attack on the unbelievable overgrowth of vegetation, of all varieties, during a visit to the RRC W3BN, 146.910 MHz, repeater site. The weather did cooperate, with a light drizzle going to the site, at 10:00 a.m. and then NO rain until we left the site, around 12 noon, with another light drizzle just starting.

A LARGE thank you, and a job well done, to the following Reading Radio Club volunteers that came armed with the right equipment to attack this overgrowth:

Chuck Zechman III, W3CMZ
Chuck's XYL Nancy
Ron Waszk, K3RJW
Brad Wegman, KC3HKR
Stan Pugh, K3STP
Jason Potter, K3WDF
Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI
Rich Ahrens, W3WJC

The last major clean-up of the repeater site property was done on Tuesday July 21, 2015. Eight (8) 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 on Saturday November 2, 2019. As you can see the growth in four years was moderate and of a low level.



By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC – November 2, 2019

Since July 21, 2015, the repeater site has been visited on twenty occasions. (20). It is just in the last two years that the growth has gone crazy. The warmer than usual summer temperatures and the abundance of rain, at the right time, during the last two years may have something to do with this overgrowth.

Look at the picture below, taken during our visit on Sept. 15' 2021. Twenty-foot-high weeds! WOW!



By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC – September 15, 2021

Look at the picture below to view a job well done:



By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC – October 23, 2021

AND the crew of volunteers that did it:



By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC – October 23, 2021
L to R: Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI; Stan Pugh, K3STP;
Ron Waszk, K3RJW; Jason Potter, K3WDF; Brad Wegman, KC3HKR;
Nancy Zechman; Chuck Zechman, W3CMZ.

During this visit to the repeater, Jason Potter, K3WDF, and Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, collected data relating to the power consumption of the repeater during receiving only and transmitting.

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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

(10.24.2021)

STATS AS OF NOV. 1, 2021

Full Voting Members:	69
Associate (Non Voting) Members:	16
Supporting (Non Voting) Members:	3
	Total: 88

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.

88 = Total RRC membership as of Nov. 1, 2021

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

There were 193 Members in 1978

Extra Class:	34	39 %
Advanced:	5	6 %
General:	23	26 %
Technician:	23	26 %
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

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	2	3 QCWA Breakfast	4 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	5 MOTA (8 pm)	6
7	8 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	9 RRC BOD Meeting ZOOM 7:30 PM	10	11 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	12 RRC Meeting AG Center 7:30 PM	13 Fox Hunt 1 PM
14	15 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	16	17	18 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	19 MOTA (8 pm)	20
21	22 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	23	24	25 	26 MOTA (8 pm)	27 Repeater Site Cleanup 10 AM
28	29 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	30				

PLEASE NOTE:

Nov 3rd, 2021— QCWA Breakfast at Berkshire Family Rstrnt. (1714 State Hill Rd, Wyomissing)

Nov 9th, 2021—7:30 PM — Board Meeting— ZOOM

Nov 12th, 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.

November Birthdays: Marty Korecky, W3MJK; Alan Harris, N3ATH;
Alexander Scheirer, KE1FIE; Eric Cintron-Ortiz, KN3M; David Shearer, K3BN

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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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November 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. ** Please note that the editors reserve the right to accept, change, reject anything submitted for the RRC Bulletin.