

W3BN W3CCH

The Reading Radio Club Bulletin

Volume 58

Issue Number 12

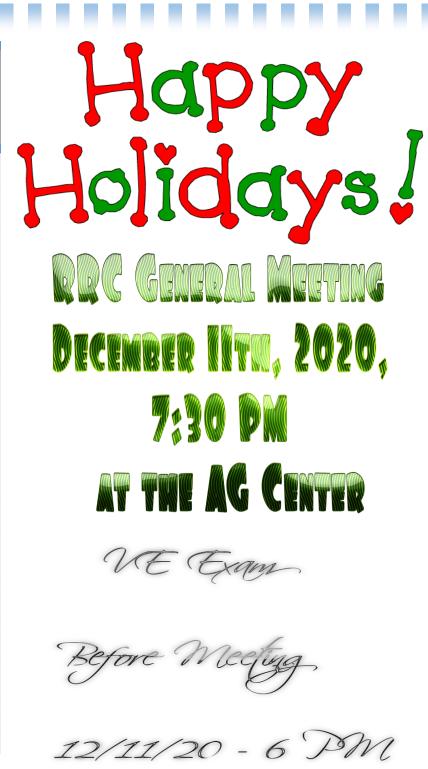
December 2020

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

A Monthly Publication of the Reading Radio Club Scott (KC3PCS) & Lori Scheirer, Editors (kc3pcs@gmail.com)

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YOUR 2020 RRC OFFICERS

January 10, 2020

By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC



L to R - Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, Secretary - Ron Waszk, K3RJW, VP Chris Schlegel, K3ADA, President - Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD, Treasurer

Board of Directors & RRC Officers

2020 RRC OFFICERS

			= = = =
PRESIDENT	Chris Schlegel, K3ADA	Sutehk.CS@gmail.com	(20)
VICE PREZ	Ron Waszk, K3RJW	PolishPICL@aol.com	(20)
SECRETARY	Harry Hoffman, W3VBY	HarryHoffmanJr@juno.com	(22)
TREASURER	Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	NateØ1PA@comcast.net	(20)

2020 RRC AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

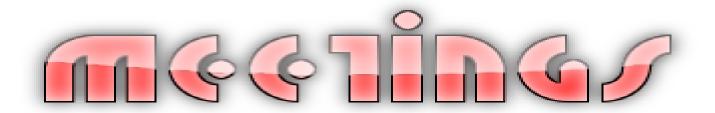
Art Becker, KB3LDI	ABeckerBeConCo@msn.com	(21)
Jason Potter, K3WDF	Radio.K3WDF@gmail.com	(21)
Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	JFP0250@comcast.net	(21)
John Engle, AB3SR	(Email Currently Unavailable)	(22)
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS	scott@viewneye.com	(22)

The two-digit number, in brackets, to the right of the BOD member's email address, is the year that their board of director 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 online at https://www.qsl.net/w3bn/BOD.html or in written form by request.



Next Board Meeting: December 8th, 2020 (Zoom Meeting—Email Chris Schlegel, k3ada@arrl.net to be included)

Next General Meeting: December 11th, 2020 7:30 PM

Topic: Mini Ham Fest, Elections, Eyeball QSOs, Refreshments.

Location: Berks County Agricultural Center

To find the Berks County Agricultural Center,

1238 COUNTY WELFARE ROAD, LEESPORT, PA 19533

(Bern Township). Go north on Route 183 out of Reading, pass the Reading Regional Airport, continue about a mile to the traffic light controlled exit intersection and take a LEFT at "W. LEESPORT RD" (A CVS is on the northwest corner). Pass the "BERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH" on your right. Then take the RIGHT at the next "STOP" sign (County Welfare Road). Go about a mile; the Berks County Agricultural Center is on your LEFT. Use the entrance at the **REAR** of the building.

ANNOUNCEMENT - RRC VE TEST SESSION

The Reading Radio Club has scheduled a <u>VE Test Session</u> on Friday evening <u>December 11, 2020</u> 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.

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, and test elements you wish to take. 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.

Technician Applicants, Please apply for your FRN at https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/regEntityType.do. It is required to take your test. We are no longer accepting social security numbers on the application form.

The RRC General Meeting follows starting at 7:30 PM and everyone is invited to stay for the meeting. We expect to have a mini-hamfest of equipment and a good time of fellowship.

73 Harry W3VBY

WEB PAGE OF THE READING RADIO CLUB

Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Web Page Committee Chair

www.readingradioclub.org

or

just Google W3BN



http://www.facebook.com/RRCW3BN maintained by Chris Schlegel, K3ADA

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE MAIL (USPS)

Send **ALL** USPS Mail pertaining to the Reading Radio Club to the **OFFICIAL**, and long term, (Since Oct. 1986), Reading Radio Club mailing address:

ATTENTION TO **
READING RADIO CLUB INC
PO BOX 13777
READING PA 19612-3777

** = Officer, title, or name of the person or persons to whom your correspondence is specifically addressed.

By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC

(09/29/2018) (updated 1/27/2019)

You do not need to be IDing on repeaters over a period of a few weeks before you conclude that most repeaters throughout the United States are underused. You ID your station. "This is KA3XYZ listening on 91" and no one returns to your call ID –

IT MAY BE THAT NO ONE IS LISTENING.

Here is an idea that MAY, MIGHT, COULD stimulate some conversation (QSOs) on the Reading Radio Club 146.910 MHz repeater. We might call it the "Three, Seven, Ten" gathering or maybe "T S T" for short.

The thought is to turn on your 2-Meter transceiver at 3:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. Identify your station and see if anyone comes back and wants to shoot the breeze. No net control, just some informal Ham Radio conversation.

Let us try this and see if we can pep up activity on the Reading Radio Club, W3BN, 146.910 MHz repeater. The CTCSS is 131.8 Hz.

Catch up with Jim, N3PRJ, he is usually on the 3:00 p.m. session. Thanks Jim for being a regular on the RRC 146.910 MHz repeater.

Support Your Reading Radio Club Renew your Membership Today.

Article 4, Section 4 of the RRC Bylaws state that member dues are due and payable by the January 10th, 2021 monthly meeting. You can pay your dues at the regular monthly meeting or mail them to the PO Box shown on the form. Mailed dues payments will be considered timely if the postmark is on or before that date. Make checks payable to Reading Radio Club. If you want a membership card, include an SASE or see me at a meeting

There is a renewal form towards the end of the bulletin.

Nate N2ADD

RRC Treasurer

What do your membership dues cover for the RRC?

- Repeater Operation / Maintenance
 - Fox Hunts
 - Field Day
 - Programs / Speakers at meetings
 - Summer Picnic
 - Future Kit / Project Builds
 - Storage Shed
 - Holiday Dinner
 - And more





Seems like things are going to swing for the worse this winter, and as such, there is a great deal of unpredictability. I would like to thank our members for their patience with the Board as we try to do what is best for the club. There have been significant upticks in the spread of COVID, and this is something the Board has been paying close attention to.

Board of Directors nominations will close on December 5th to leave preparation time for voting at the December 11th monthly meeting. Again, nominations can be made by email to at least 3 Board members. Email addresses can be found in the latest issue of the club's newsletter, The Reading Radio Club Bulletin. There was a nomination made at the November meeting, however, this nomination had to be overturned due to a by-laws infringement. There have been no further nominations made as of this writing.

At this time the three incumbents, Nate Rosenthal (N2ADD), Ron Waszk (K3RJW), and myself Chris Schlegel (K3ADA) are all seeking reelection. If we receive further nominations, and a quorum is present, the vote will proceed as normal. Voting can be done from the parking lot for those who wish to stay isolated from the meeting. If we receive further nominations, and a quorum is NOT present, voting will be suspended until such time that a vote can take place. If we do not receive further nominations, the three incumbents will be considered elected.

The Board has investigated several options and at this time, with the questions and issues found with the alternate balloting methods, this is the most appropriate course of action for the good of the club.

At the November meeting Scott, KC3PCS, was experimenting with live casting of the meeting and had good results. This is something we will be trying to work on for future meetings so those who can not attend will be able to be there virtually. This is, of course, something that will take time to perfect and finesse to our usage.

Looking to the future, all Board meetings will continue to be held virtually (on Zoom) as the Ag Center conference rooms are too small to meet in safely. Harry assures me that we have the December meeting locked in. However, with the growing concern for the spread of COVID there is a chance everything could go back into shutdown and we will no longer have a meeting place. Please, keep an eye out for any future updates and announcements.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for their continued patience as we deal with the extraordinary conditions in which we are trying to operate.

73, Chris, K3ADA

NON'S NAUNGS UICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Including The Fox Hole, Simplex Meeting on the Air, and More.

by Ron Wazsk, K3RJW

OK all, hope everyone had a great, but cautious Thanksgiving.

The items I have are:

First of all, We were very happy with the ZOOM meeting with FLDIGI as the subject. Harris, KC3PBI, did an outstanding job on the class. We hope to have others join the fldigi net happening weekly on Thursday evenings on 146.910 at 1930. Its always a learning experience and fun too.

Second, Not looking for a fox hunt due to the circumstances, but I am still willing to give fox hunting classes anytime during the week or weekends. Just contact me for the date and time so I can set up the foxes and make sure the batteries are full. I still do have antennas for sale, and they are CHEAP but work very well. as others have found out.

There is a SMOTA Scheduled for December 12th, 2020 at 1300 Hours. I will be transmitting at a different location.

That's all for this month. Holidays are upon us, so EVERYONE be careful out there. Both with driving and the virus.

RON K3RJW



₹

Editors' Remarks

by Lori & Scott (KC3PCS) Scheirer

Happy Holidays from the Scheirer Crew. I wanted to start out this column by saying a HUGE thank you to Harris, KC3PBI for helping out with fixing the RF noise on my go KIT. I look forward to getting on the air on our next trip.

December is always a great month for our family and the radio club. We have the elections for the Board of Directors. We also have our mini ham fest. If your looking to upgrade your license or get a license, be sure to reach out to Harry Hoffman (See Page 3) as we are having an exam at the December meeting.

It's been a really strange year, with the presidential election, COVID-19 and of course the beginning of the new solar cycle happening. It was great to have a few in person meetings. What this means is we should hear more people on the air. It's great to hear some of our new licensees and members on the air almost daily.

Thanks to Andy, KA3NKN, there is a cool crossword puzzle on the next page. Hopefully next year, we will be able to resume the fox hunts along with other club activities.

From our family to yours, no matter what holidays you celebrate, may you have a great holiday season and a fantastic 2021. I know we're looking forward to it.

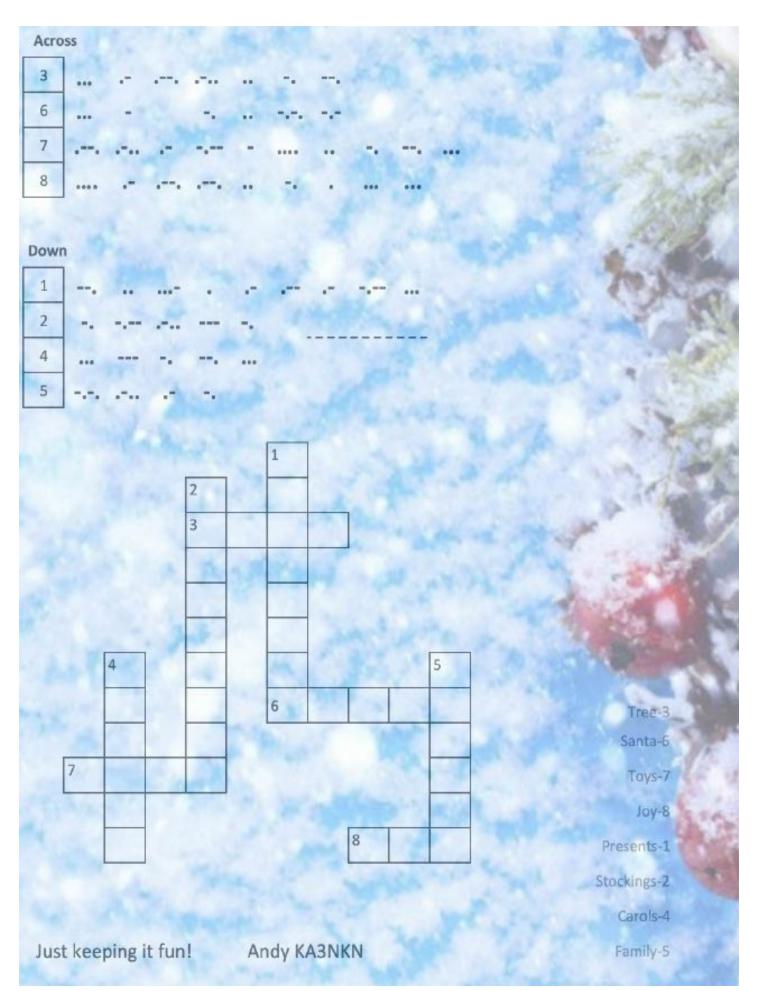
Look for a redesigned website next year as well. Chris Schlegel, K3ADA, Ron Waszk, K3RJW, and I are working on a new design. I want to send a big thanks to Dave, K3BN for all his years of hard work on the website.

Please note, there will be no FLDIGI net on Christmas Eve or New Years Eve. There will also be no Meeting on the Air (MOTA) on Christmas Day. Please be sure to check the calendar at the end of each bulletin. We will be adding a new calendar to the website as well.

There is also a change to the 2021 Meeting Schedule. The General meetings have not changed. The board meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice. Feel free to email Chris, k3ada@arrl.net if you wish to attend a meeting.

Lori & Scott, Editors







Part 2

Digital mode hardware & computer setup

Your computer doesn't need to be anything special. More or less anything made in the past 10 years has enough power to get on the air, though a faster machine will allow for faster decoding.

All of the most common software packages are available for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux, though there may be slight limitations here and there.

Using digital modes on FM or SSB radios typically depends on a full duplex audio link between the transceiver and the computer sound card. This is very likely a second sound card, beyond what came with the machine. You want multiple soundcards so that you can hear ordinary notification sounds while producing tones for transmission. You don't want to accidentally route other audio to the radio, so the sound card dedicated to the radio should only be in use in your radio software- never as the default or main output for the computer.

How hard can it be to plug a radio into a computer soundcard? Sometimes very. While it isn't hard to match the audio levels, it is unfortunately very common for a radio to leak RF currents through the audio path and into the computer with unpredictable results.

Sometimes you can choke and filter your way out, but not always. A popular solution is to use an external USB sound card with isolation hardware on the audio path. The Signalink or the Rigblaster are two commercial interfaces that can adapt most any radio to the computer. Some ham transceivers (such as the Yaesu FT-991A) include an isolated sound card feature.

The system in my own shack is a Macbook Air computer with multiple external sound cards. I have a Tigertronics Signalink connected to my Baofeng BF-F8HP desktop 2m rig. There is also an ordinary USB sound card with the TI/Burr-Brown chip connected to the Xiegu CE-19 interface pod for my G90 HF transceiver.

This setup allows me to work any mode on either radio, as applicable.

Audio is just the beginning- you also need to work out a strategy for transmit/receive control, aka Push-To-Talk.

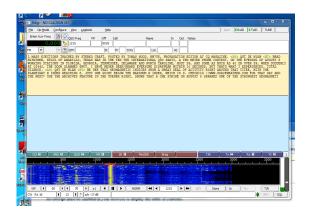
Devices like the Signalink incorporate a sensitive VOX circuit to trip a relay wired to the radio's external PTT connection. Other setups involve activating VOX directly on the radio itself, or triggering xmit/rcv via serial CAT control.

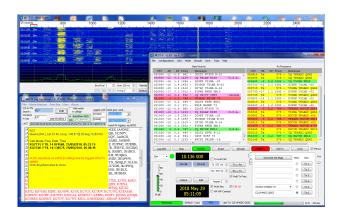
Once you have a proper audio path set up and a PTT strategy, you need an accurate clock. The underlying protocol for WSJT-X and JS8CALL require that sender and receiver's clocks be within two seconds, and there's no better way to do this than to ask everyone to get within 2 seconds of current real time.

I have my rig set up to sync the computer clock to the Network Time Protocol servers at pool.ntp.org. There are a number of safe, accurate public resources for timekeeping.

You may wish to add a script or a utility application for automatic re-synchronization, or just remember to periodically resync.

Don't be shy, jump in wherever you can. And if you have any questions or need some more direct coaching, call me on the repeater sometime!









50 YEARS AGO IN THE RRC - NOVEMBER 13, 1970 MORE CATCH UP OR IS IT KETCHUP

By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, RRC Historian

(11.21.2020)

The officers serving the Reading Radio Club, Inc. in November 1970 were:

President - Rich Ahrens, W3WJC

Vice President - John Freeman, K3CBE

Secretary - Al Brailer, W3UQC, (SK)

Treasurer - Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, (SK) (Not a BOD Member)

Other RRC Board Members serving the RRC in November 1970 were:

Bill Ader, WA3GTR (SK)
Gerry Baldauf, W3WX (SK)
Russ Frederick, W3CDS (SK)

Art Gantert, W3OLG (SK) Leo Hood, WA3FBP (SK) Bob Wagner, W3GII (SK)

The Editor of the December 1970 READING RADIO CLUB BULLETIN was William "Bill" Ader, WA3GTR, (SK).

The following is, in a large part, the republishing of the "Highlights" of the November 13, 1970, monthly meeting taken from the December 1970 issue of the RRC BULLETIN, and written by the RRC Secretary Al Brailer, W3UQC, (SK). Other information has been added that has been taken from the RRC BULLETIN, personal notes, and meeting agendas.

The Friday November 13, 1970, monthly meeting was held in the UGI Auditorium "Flame Room" on Route 10, the Morgantown Road.

RRC President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approximately 45 members and a few guests were in attendance. However, it was necessary to pull 20 names out of the box before all the door prizes could be given away. (*Must be present to win*). Laverne Bloedow, W3RXN, was the winner of the 1970 ARRL Handbook.

RRC President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, called attention to the results of the 1970 ARRL Field Day that were published in the November 1970 issue of QST. The RRC placed 44th nationally out of 142 entries in the four transmitters operating at the same time class. This outstanding effort placed the RRC third out of the fifteen entries in the W3 call area. The 1970 RRC Field Day Committee was commended for a job well done. The 1970 RRC Field Day was held at the Mt. Penn Fire Tower.

Volunteers for the RRC 1971 Field Day Committee are:

Bill Ader, WA3GTR John Freeman, K3CBE Bob Plummer, W3ETJ / W3RP Sam Rachlin, K3ALQ Bill Schwartz, WA3MAQ Jim Stamm, WA3KBH

(Continued on Next Page)

(50 Years Ago Continued)

Nominations were taken for candidates for the RRC Board Directors election. The following were nominated:

Al Brailer, W3UQC Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO (Declined)

Russ Fredericks, W3CDS John Freeman, K3CBE Ed Kennedy, WA3FSL

Stew Ringler, W3EYN (Declined)

Jim Stamm, WA3KBH

Ballots will be mailed to all RRC Members in good standing. The sealed paper ballots will be opened and tallied at the December 11, 1970 RRC Annual Membership Meeting.

A simulated Civil Defense exercise, conducted by the Pennsylvania State University, under the direction of Mr. Donald King, is scheduled for Thursday December 17, 1970, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The simulated exercise will take place in the Berks County Civil Defense Headquarters in the basement of the Berks County Court House, on Court Street, in Reading, PA. It is expected that all the CD divisions will be represented: Communications, Medical, Police, Fire, etc. plus representatives of the local and state governments.

The Reading Radio Club Amateur Radio station, W3CCH, will be on display for this simulated exercise.

The Transmitter Hunt Committee announced the results of the Sunday October 18, 1970, and the Sunday October 25, 1970 RRC Transmitter Hunts. Both hunts started at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday October 18, 1970 Transmitter hidden by Fred Davidson, W3UCA

Transmitter was hidden in a bush on the front lawn of Fred's property. However, the antenna was 200 feet away, at the end of a long run of hidden coax. It was a tough HUNT to find THE transmitter.

1st K3YIZ, George Ganter – 16 Minutes

2nd K3RQL, Lloyd Hartman – 16 Minutes

3rd K3MŇI, Leroy Flamm – 20 Minutes

4th K3JSW, Lew Parker – 22 Minutes

5th K3SWL, Dave Schearer – 61 Minutes (Was KC3QS, then W2VHF, and now K3BN)

6th WA3LOY, Les Hoffman

Sunday October 25, 1970

Transmitter hidden by George Ganter, K3YIZ Somewhere along the Schuylkill River.

1st W3UCA, Fred Davidson & Son Tim – 50 Minutes

2nd K3MNI, Leroy Flamm & Family

3rd WA3LOY, Les Hoffman

4th K3RQL, Lloyd Hartman - (*Cancelled 11/02/2018*)

(50 Years Ago Continued)

The evening's entertainment was a presentation by Mr. William E. Beadle, a Supervisor, at the local Bell Telephone Laboratories located in the Western Electric Building at the end of North 11th Street in Muhlenberg Township. Mr. Beadle's topic was the American Telephone and Telegraph's (AT&T) "Picturephone" project and he told us about the components that are manufactured here at the Western Electric plant. Mr. Beadle's talk was very interesting and was just a preview as to what will take place in the future.

RRC President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, suggested that everyone save the copy of the RRC BY-LAWS that was included in the November 1970 issue of the RRC BULLETIN.

Rich, W3WJC, reminded the group that at the December 11, 1970, RRC Annual Membership Meeting, the election of 1971 Officers will take place. He said that the meeting will be held in the UGI "Flame Room" auditorium. He went on to said that the entertainment at the December 11, 1970 meeting would be colored slides of the Philmont's Communication Bus that were taken at the September 11, 1970 meeting, that was held at the MetEd building on Route 61 in Muhlenberg Township. In addition, there will be slides of the visiting Radio Amateurs from Germany that were hosted by Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, and his XYL Carroll.

President Rich, W3WJC, informed the group that the ARRL announced that they will no longer, because of increasing postage costs, be sending the ARRL OFFICIAL BULLETINS out in the United States mail. The OFFICIAL BULLETINS will now only be transmitted by W1AW on the various frequencies used by the ARRL. Ed Artz, WA3APN, has volunteered to copy these BULLETINS and make them available for the RRC BULLETIN as well as the monthly meetings.

Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, talked a little about the event in 1970 that made it a tough and rough year for the RRC. From March through May 1970, much effort (*Read Hard Work*), by the members was put forth in getting out of our Club Building #437, at the north end of the Reading Airport. He emphasized that in the future the RRC should avoid dealing with political entities and either purchase or long-term lease future RRC buildings or other facilities.

RRC Treasurer Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, announced that your 1971 RRC dues are now payable. Frank, K3MGO, said that the deadline to keep your name on the RRC Roster is February 28, 1971.

Rich, W3WJC, discussed how well the Tulsa Oklahoma six-meter repeater has been heard, on and off, in Berks County for the last few weeks. Their output frequency of 52.640 MHz is the same as the RRC six-meter repeater output frequency.

Reading Radio Club President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, adjourned the meeting, for a time of fellowship and refreshments.





Harriz Upham KG3PBI



that's my Xiegu G90 HF rig on a Radioddity stand with a thermostatically controlled muffin fan below. I added the two gauges below- battery voltage and "gas tank" on a 2 sec cycle on the left gauge. DC-DC converter output voltage in red on the right gauge, TX heat sink temp in °F in blue via remote probe. The actual power supply is the cast aluminum slug below: 16-42vdc in, regulated 13.8vdc out. 20A worth, 275W. Quiet, and a simple choke makes it silent.

Power source is a Greenworks 40v lawn tool battery. I have a few of these for taking care of the lawn, so now I've just found another use for them. They power both rigs on a common 40v bus.





My 2-meter repeater beater is getting weirder.

A scrap wood stand holds my stuff in a vertical arrangement, fits the space available.

That's a Drok 7A DC-DC power supply doing the 40v-8v conversion to feed a battery eliminator shell. The radio is a Baofeng BFF8-HP, feeding a 5/8 in the attic.

I have all the audio fed through the Signalink patch now, with the bonus switch cutting the radio between the speaker/mic and Signalink.

Red Rose Repeater Association Welfare Net

Hear Ye, Hear Ye,

Have you heard about the Red Rose Repeater Association's Welfare Net?

This net takes place every day at 7:45 pm on the W3RRR repeater (147.015 Mhz PL Tone 118.8 hz)

Per their website:

"This serves as a public notice for amateur radio operators in the area of Lancaster County (including those on the fringes of the repeater footprint). There will be daily nets on our 2m repeater, named the 'Welfare Net'. The purpose of this net is to daily bring together the local amateur radio community and allow for round-table updates with respect to this area. If you are concerned, if you have input, please tune in to our VHF repeater every evening 1945EDT for a brief Wellness and Welfare update. Hosted by RRRA just to give everyone in the listening are a chance touch base amid the current COVID-19 situation. Drop in, connect and say 'HI'! If you have neighbors in your immediate area with a specific need, this might be an opportunity to share and provide needed relief."

Participants are encouraged to offer information and/or observations with respects to where they are located.

Be sure to check in if you can. Let's help them make this a great resource during the COVID 19 outbreak.



Jean Shepherd is best known for his role in the film "A Christmas Story' which he co-scripted and for his narration in the film. A story largely based on his own semiautobiographical life. Who can ever forget Ralphie, the 'Old Man', the dogs of the Bumpus family, the bar of soap, the decoder pin, Christmas dinner at the Chinese restaurant and the infamous 'triple dog dare'. Over the years viewing this film has become a Christmas tradition to many families.

But did you know Jean Shepard aka Shep K2ORS also had a lifetime association with amateur radio.

Why not treat yourself to a small diversion this evening. Fix yourself a cup of hot chocolate, turn down the lights, jump into your favorite comfy chair and have a listen to this fascinating 40 minute broadcast from 1965 of Jean Shepherd discussing Morse Code, Signal Corps Code School, and Propagation! I kid you not, you will find this both informative and entertaining.

Merry Christmas to everyone at the Reading Radio Club! - Andy KA3NKN

Grab your laptop, tablet or smartphone – here's the link address:

https://morsecode.ninja/files/ShepardWORCodeSchool1965.mp3



November 13th, 2020, 7:30 at the Agricultural Center

Section in **bold** added by editor for information.

RRC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 13, 2020

By: RRC Secretary Harry Hoffman W3VBY.

The Friday evening November 13, 2020 RRC General Meeting was held in the Main Auditorium of the Ag Center in Leesport, Pa.

Masks must be worn due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- 1. Prior to 7:30 p.m. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, was taking attendance.
- 2. RRC President Chris Schlegel, K3ADA, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. In attendance were 19 RRC members and 3 guests for a total of 22.
- 3. RRC President Chris Schlegel, K3ADA, led the group in the pledge to the American Flag.
- 4. The microphone was passed around and RRC members and guests introduced themselves. The guests were: Lori Scheirer; Chuck Zechman, W3CMZ; and Mrs Zechman.
- 5. RRC President Chris Schlegel, K3ADA, presented RRC Associate Member Letters to Kevin Stodart, N3SYT; and Joe Morrissey, KZ3OWL. Welcome to the RRC!
- 6. RRC Secretary Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, announced a VE Test Session to be held on December 11, 2020 starting at 6 pm in the Ag Center Main Auditorium. Please try to pre-register if possible. Announcement flyers are available up front. You must have a FRN to take the test. There will be a computer available to register for your FRN on site. E-mail me at harryhoffmanjr@juno.com or call 610-678-8976.
- 7. Vice President Ron Waszk, K3RJW, announced that no Fox Hunts have been scheduled because of the COVIS-19 restrictions.
- 8. Vice President Ron Waszk, K3RJW, announced a simplex net to be held on Saturday November 21, 2020 at 1 pm on 146.55 MHz. Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI will run the simplex net on Saturday December 12, 2020 at 1 pm on 146.55 MHz. This is a good opportunity to make simplex contacts and earn your Pagoda Award. See Ron Waszk tonight for the paperwork.
- 9. A ZOOM Meeting on FL-Digi will be held on Thursday evening November 19, 2020 at 7:30 pm. It will be a Hands-on show & tell type event led by Harris Upham, KC3PBI. If interested give your name and e-mail to Ron Waszk, K3RJW.
- 10. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, announced that the Christmas Dinner at Wegmans has been cancelled.
- 11. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, announced that our December 11th RRC General Meeting at the Ag Center will feature a mini-hamfest. Jim also has other items for sale and the proceeds will go to the Club.

(Meeting Highlights Continued on Next Page)

(Meeting Highlights continued from last page)

- 12. Tonight we had nominations of members to serve on the RRC BOD. The incumbents are: RRC Vice President Ron Waszk, K3RJW; RRC Treasurer Nate Rosenthal. N2ADD; and RRC President Chris Schlegel, K3ADA. All three are willing to serve again for another term.
- Note: A nomination was made for Janine Galiyano, K4AJZ. Janine holds a Technician Class License. The nomination has been withdrawn since the RRC By-Laws require that the nominee be a General Class or higher to serve on the BOD. We appreciate the work Janine has done for the Reading Radio Club!
- 13. The entertainment for tonight; was a presentation by RRC President Chris Schlegel, K3ADA, on lead acid storage battery manufacturing. Chris works for East Penn Manufacturing which was started in 1946. East Penn Manufacturing is a private family-owned company operating the largest single-site, lead battery manufacturing site in the world. Chris showed some very interesting videos of the facility. East Penn produces about 75,000 batteries a day. East Penn manufactures about 500 different products including DEKA Batteries. The plant facility covers many acres and has a factory store and medical building. The plant has rigid health and safety requirements. East Penn has its own electrical sub-station and the electricity bill is about 6.5 million dollars per year. All water is recycled and 100% of battery waste including tons of lead is recycled. Thank you for a very informative presentation!
- 14. Our next <u>RRC BOD Meeting</u> will be held on Tuesday evening, <u>December 8, 2020</u> by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.
- 15. Our <u>Next RRC General Meeting</u> will be held on <u>Friday December 11, 2020 at the Ag Center Main Auditorium</u> starting at 7:30 p.m. We will have a mini-hamfest.
- 16. RRC President Chris Schlegel, K3ADA, adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m. for a time of fellowship and refreshments.



The 2020 RRC Christmas Gathering has been cancelled due to Covid-19 Precautions.

Jim Nicholas, W3ITH



RRC MEETING ON THE AIR (RRCMOTA)

By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC

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(11.16.2020)

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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 146.91 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 FM two-meter analog equipment.

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) or "Channel Guard" (GE/Ericsson's trade name).

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

On Friday November 27, 2020, we had session number 1141. Dave Wiley, K3MXS, was Net Control.

The next RRCMOTA will be on Friday December 4, 2020, starting at 8:00 p.m., on the Reading Radio Club 146.910 MHz W3BN analog repeater. Art Becker, KB3LDI, will be the Net Control for session number 1142, on Friday December 4, 2020, starting at 8:00 p.m. local time.

NOTE: As announced in the October 2020 issue of the RRC BULLETIN, (page 5), there is an in-person RRC meeting scheduled for Friday December 11, 2020, 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

Face MASKS must be worn

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. (ARRL).

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



50 YEARS AGO IN THE RRC - DECEMBER 11, 1970

By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, RRC Historian

(11.22.2020)

The officers serving the Reading Radio Club, Inc. in December 1970 were:

President - Rich Ahrens, W3WJC

Vice President - John Freeman, K3CBE

Secretary - Al Brailer, W3UQC, (SK)

Treasurer - Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, (SK) (Not a BOD Member)

Other RRC Board Members serving the RRC in December 1970 were:

Bill Ader, WA3GTR (SK) Gerry Baldauf, W3WX (SK) Russ Frederick, W3CDS (SK) Art Gantert, W3OLG (SK) Leo Hood, WA3FBP (SK) Bob Wagner, W3GII (SK)

The Editor of the January 1971 READING RADIO CLUB BULLETIN was William "Bill" Ader, WA3GTR, (SK).

The following is, in a large part, the republishing of the "Highlights" of the December 11, 1970, monthly meeting taken from the January 1971 issue of the RRC BULLETIN, and written by the RRC Secretary Al Brailer, W3UQC, (SK). Other information has been added that has been taken from the RRC BULLETIN, personal notes, and meeting agendas.

The Friday December 11, 1970, Annual Membership Meeting was held in the UGI "Flame Room" Auditorium at 225 Morgantown Road, Reading, Pennsylvania.

RRC President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The December 11, 1970 Annul Membership Meeting was attended by 24 RRC members and a few quests.

The door prize was won by Les Hoffman, WA3LOY.

RRC President Ahrens, W3WJC, appointed three tellers to open the sealed ballots and tally the results of the Board of Directors election. Out of 90 ballots mailed, using the United States Postal Service, only 72 ballots were returned. The results were:

> Al Brailer, W3UQC -John Freeman, K3CBE Russ Fredericks, W3CDS 39 Votes - ELECTED

63 Votes - ELECTED

57 Votes - ELECTED

Jim Stamm, WA3KBH 34 Votes Ed Kennedy, WA3FSL 19 Votes

Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, introduced three new RRC members:

Paul Bayan, WA3JFN Walter Heister, WA3GRQ David Hottenstein, M.D., W3DEJ

(Continued on Next Page)

(50 Years Ago Continued)

Entertainment for the meeting consisted of color slides of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club's Communication Bus. The slides were taken at the Friday September 11, 1970 RRC monthly meeting that was held on the MetEd parking lot on Route 61, in Muhlenberg Township.

In addition, colored slides were shown of the German Radio Amateurs that were guests at RRC Treasurer Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, and his wife Carol, at their home in Wyomissing. The German Hams were in the United States under the Ham Exchange Program whereby a reciprocal agreement has recently been set up for United States and German Radio Amateurs to visit one another.

RRC Treasurer Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, once again, announced that your 1971 RRC dues are now payable. (\$6,00 for Senior Members). Frank, K3MGO, said that the deadline to keep your name on the RRC Roster is February 28, 1971.

RRC President Ahrens reminded the group that the Friday January 8, 1971 and the Friday February 12, 1971 RRC monthly meetings will be held at the UGI "Flame Room" auditorium on Route 10. Future meeting locations and dates, as they are firmed up, will be announced at the monthly meetings.

Before closing the meeting RRC President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, thanked Bill Ader, WA3GTR, as the Editor, for doing an outstanding job publishing the monthly RRC BULLETIN. In addition, thanks to the following members that give Bill help each month with the printing, assembling, mailing, writing articles and gathering information for the RRC BULLETIN:

Rich Ahrens, W3WJC Ed Artz, WA3APN Gerry Baldauf, W3WX Al Brailer, W3UQC Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO Russ Fredericks, W3CDS John Freeman, K3CBE Bob Jensen, K3HIU Stew Ringler, W3EYN Bob Wagner, W3GII

Plus, a special thank you goes out to Sylvia M. Taylor, who beings a smile to our faces every month with her loveable "K9" cartoons.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and the best of New Years, the Reading Radio Club President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, adjourned the meeting, for a time of fellowship and refreshments.





Have an idea that would help other hams? Are you a ham with a question that has stumped you? Do you have equipment you need to test, but aren't sure how, or if you have the parts to test it with? This is the section for you. In this section, we will post requests for help / offers for help. Please send your questions or suggestions to kc3pcs@gmail.com. We will post solutions here when appropriate.



Repeaters & Nets

ACTIVITIES ON THE RRC REPEATER 146.910 MHz RPTR - CTCSS = 131.8 Hz (3B)

QCWA READING CHAPTER 31 NET Mondays at 9:00 p.m.

RRC MEETING ON THE AIR NET (RRCMOTA) Fridays at 8:00 p.m. (Started January 1994) (Other than Club meeting nights)

THE THREE MINUTE TIMER IS PRESENTLY DISABLED

*** DIGI Net ***

Run by Harris, KC3PBI, Thursdays at 7:30 PM on the W3BN Repeater.

Check in and learn how to use FLDIGI and the digital modes.

ARES/RACES Repeater County of Berks Weekly Net—Monday's 8 PM.

147.18 (PL Tone 110.9)
All are welcome to check in and pass along information.

Digital FM net on Thursday Evenings at 7 PM using the Brandmeister PA Crossmode Talkgroup 31425. All amateurs are welcome.

We can communicate using just about every digital mode. Visit the EPA Section Webpage, https://epa-arrl.org for more information.



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

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

Descriptions & Pictures are supplied by the Seller.

LOOKING FOR USED RADIO

Hi all, I'm looking for a used radio to use as a HF base station. I'm looking to spend \$500 or less. I'm also of need of a power supply and tuner. I'm willing to spend up to \$700.00 for a full setup.

Any help is appreciated.

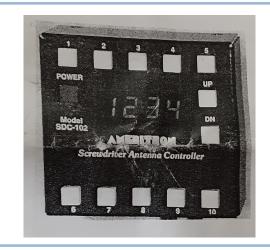
Please contact Nathan Lis, KB3ZCC at wilsonweather@gmail.com.

Does anybody have the push button controller in the picture.

I would like to buy it.

Don Mckinney, W3FCT

610 693 5945



REPEATER ETIQUETTE

From the Michiana Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
South Bend, Indiana, W9AB

The suggested items listed below are generally considered appropriate terms and methods to use on any repeater.

GUIDELINES

Take the time to listen to a repeater before you talk. Speak like you were talking to someone face to face. Key the microphone, and then start to talk.

Do not start speaking as you key the microphone. Repeaters have a short delay before transmitting. If you start speaking too soon, your first few words may not be heard. Make sure you have finished talking before you un-key the microphone, give your call sign clearly, and slowly.

Use plain English and avoid jargon as much as possible. Q codes are a Morse Code shorthand. They are sometimes used on SSB in HF contesting and on Field Day but should not be used on repeaters. Common examples are: QSL, QSY, QRT, XYL. Also, giving your call then saying your "on the side" this is not Citizen Band (CB).

Avoid phonetics unless asked to do so. When using phonetics, use standard phonetics, "Alpha, Bravo, Charlie" etc. Phonetics are commonly used when checking into nets. If you are listening and would like to have a conversation, just give your call sign. You can add "monitoring", or "listening". Using the term "CQ" on a repeater is generally discouraged.

When you wish to communicate on a frequency, listen for a while before talking, there may be a conversation in progress.

If you want to join into a conversation, just give your call between transmissions rather than using the term "break break". You should be acknowledged and allowed into the conversation.

If you want to talk to a certain person, call them using their call sign once or twice, then your call sign. If they do not answer clear the repeater or say your monitoring. In an emergency, give your call and say "emergency" rather than using "break break". Saying "emergency" will make it clear why you are interrupting, and it will also get more attention from those just listening.

Make sure you ID (state your call sign) according to the rules. But avoid over ID'ing. If you are using a repeater system, the repeater has a timer so that it can ID every 10 minutes. Whenever you hear the repeater ID; that is a good time to send yours.

There is no need to say your call sign, then "for ID". Your call sign is your ID. Just say it!

When you are ready to clear the repeater, just give your callsign and say your clear. You do not have to give the other persons callsign, they are responsible for doing that, not you.

Never "ker-chunk" a repeater. That means keying up your radio for just a moment so that the repeater transmits, usually you hear the "Courtesy Beep" afterwards. This is also annoying to the repeater owners and control operators. if you want to make sure you are transmitting okay, just give your call sign, and ask for a radio check if one is needed or give your callsign and say that you are testing.

Have fun. These are just a few pointers to help you sound like an old pro.

Just because others violate these guidelines does not make it right. Be the example others will follow.

Do not forget to thank the repeater owner for the use of the machine!

Sentral Pennsylvania Simplex Hxercise

QST

All Interested Amateur Radio Operators:







Central Pennsylvania Simplex Exercise

Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. EST.

In an on-going effort to explore alternative means of passing emergency traffic in the event that area repeaters should fail, The Central Pennsylvania SkyWarn Group (CPSG) and Dauphin County ARES/RACES Group are collaborating to conduct a simplex test on Saturday, December 5th. This is a follow-up to the simplex test conducted by the SkyWarn group last July which turned out to be great fun as well as yielding a lot of data as to which stations were able to communicate with one another.

Dauphin County ARES/RACES or The Central Pennsylvania SkyWarn Group are located within shouting istance of PEMA Headquarters and Pennsylvania State Police Headquarters north of Harrisburg and are thus able to make simplex contact with hams stationed at these agencies. Therefore, **ALL hams who may need to pass emergency traffic at a time when one or more repeaters have failed are invited to participate in this simplex exercise**. You need not be a member of ARES/RACES or The Central Pennsylvania SkyWarn Group in order to join in.

The exercise will begin on the **145.110 repeater at 7:00 p.m.** This is a wide-area coverage repeater with voting satellite receiver inputs. It covers from Adams County in the southwest to the State College area of Center County (including the National Weather Service Office there) and to Delaware and Montgomery Counties in the east. The repeater has an **offset of -600 KHz** and uses a **PL tone of 131.8 Hz on its input.** Stations will initially check in on the repeater net. Net Control for the repeater check-in will be W3DLB, Dave. Once checked in, all stations will then QSY for the simplex net.

The simplex net will be conducted on **146.500 MHz with no PL.** Net control for the simplex net will be WA3ATV, Dan. **Additional information** and a **Log Sheet** can be found at this link:

Central Pennsylvania Simplex Test

It is our hope to conclude this exercise by 8:30 p.m. in order to avoid conflict with the Lancaster County Simplex net. We hope you will be able to join us for what will be a fun and useful exercise!

73,

CPSG and Dauphin County ARES/RACES

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 (11.23.2020)

STATS AS OF DEC. 1, 2020

Full Voting Members: 67

Associate (Non Voting) Members: 22

Supporting (Non-Voting) Members: 2

Total: 91

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

52 RRC Members are members of the ARRL (57%).

91 RRC Members receive the RRC BULLETIN via email (100%).

80 RRC Members have a Broad Band ISP (88%).

"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.

91 = Total RRC membership as of Dec. 1, 2020

89 = Dec. 2019106 = Dec. 200892 = Dec. 2018118 = Dec. 2007= Dec. 2017 118 = Dec. 2006= Dec. 2016 127 = Dec. 2005= Dec. 2015 124 = Dec. 2004= Dec. 2014 138 = Dec. 2003= Dec. 2013 131 = Dec. 200289 = Dec. 2012134 = Dec. 200191 = Dec. 2011134 = Dec. 200097 = Dec. 2010127 = Dec. 1999103 = Dec. 2009129 = Dec. 1998

There were 193 Members in 1978

Extra Class: 39 (43%) Advanced: 5 (6%) General: 24 (26%) Technician: 21 (24%) Novice: (0%) No License: 2 (2%)

May not total 100% due to rounding

Data may not be up to date

Checked FCC for upgrades Sept 22, 2020

By Rich Ahrens, W3WJC

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December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	4 MOTA (8 pm	5
6	7 ARES/RACES 147.18 (8 pm.)	8 7:30 pm Board Mtg–Zoom	9	10 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	11 6:00 PM VE Exam 7:30 pm Meeting AG Center	12 SMOTA 1 p.m. 146.55 MHZ
13	14 ARES/RACES 147.18 (8 pm.)	15	16	17 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	18 MOTA (8 pm)	19
20	21 ARES/RACES 147.18 (8 pm.)	22	23	24 NO FLDIGI Net	25 NO MOTA	26
27	28 ARES/RACES 147.18 (8 pm.)	29	30	31 NO FLDIGI Net		

PLEASE NOTE:

December 8th, 2020—Board Meeting 7:30 PM—Zoom

December 11th, 2020—VE Test—6 PM, General Meeting—Berks County AG Center 7:30 PM December 12th, 2020—SMOTA—1 pm—146.55 MHZ

Every Thursday 7:30 PM—Digi Meeting on W3BN Repeater

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.

December Birthdays: Brian Beitler, KC3QB; Kevin Stodart, N3SYT; Keith Schmehl, N3LUU; Jason Potter, K3WDF; Craig Huntsinger, K3CWH; Evelyn "Cookie" Augustine, KC3JPY; Don Boulanger, WA1ELA; Michael Schmehl, N3QIG;

READING RADIO CLUB, INC

2021 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

The RRC 2021 annual dues are payable starting November 1, 2020. This is the only notice that will be issued. The dues are payable in full by January 1, 2021. The dues are unchanged from 2020 and are per the following schedule for Full and Associate members.

OR • AGE 18 OR OLDER, \$21.00 • SUBSEQUENT FAMILY MEM THE SAME HOUSEHOLD – H. • REJOINING, \$5.00 INITIATION	5.00	
• DONATION (Tax deductible – v	we are 501(c)(3)) (OPTIONAL) \$	
	TOTAL\$	
Please complete the following information to insure credit to your membership account and to confirm our records. Also, if your US mailing address, email address, telephone number, or license class has changed in the past year, please print the new information on the "NEW INFO" lines below.		
NAME:	CALL SIGN:	
NEW INFO:		
NEW INFO:		
LICENSE CLASS: (circle one) EXTRA A	ADVANCED GENERAL TECHNICIAN NO LICENSE	
LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE:		
MEMBER OF THE ARRL: (circle one)	YES NO EXPIRATION DATE:	
INTERNET SERVICE: (circle one)	BROAD BAND (DSL, CABLE) or DIAL-UP	
EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE RRC BULL	ETIN:	

IF paying Treasurer at RRC Meeting please bring this form with you. Thank You! PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: READING RADIO CLUB, INC.

IF MAILING PAYMENT, INCLUDE THE ENTIRE COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT.

(DO NOT CUT FORM APART)

THE CLUB ADDRESS IS (USPS format):

READING RADIO CLUB INC TREASURER PO BOX 13777 READING PA 19612-3777

Thank you for your payment and continued support of the READING RADIO CLUB.

2021 Reading Radio Club – Meeting Dates at Ag Center

Tuesday – BOD Meeting - 7:30 PM BY COMPUTER ZOOM	Friday – General Meeting 7:30 PM in the Ag Center Main Auditorium
ZOOM	(max 25)
January 5 th	January 8 th
February 9 th	February 12 th
March 9 th	March 12 th
April 6 th	April 9 th
May 11 th	May 14 th
June 8 th	June 11 th
July 6 th	July 9 th
August 10 th	August 13 th
September 14 th	September 17 th (3 rd Friday)
October 5 th	October 8 th
November 9 th	November 12 th
December 7 th	December 10 th

Ag Center Meeting Dates entered by Susan, Dawn, Lisa Hetrick, Penn State Cooperative Extension Office

Tel 610-378-1327 FAX 610-378-7961 on 10-21-2020 (revised)*

(Dates & Meeting locations have been entered in the Ag Center schedule book)

(Ag Center Security Telephone # 610-373-0776 Ext. 2538)

From – Harry Hoffman RRC Secretary Tel 610-678-8976 FAX 610-670-0135

The AG Center address is: 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA. 19533

The Heritage Park / Freight Station - entrance is at the end of Clematis St (GPS: 992 Clematis St, Sinking Spring, PA. 19608)

The Reading Radio Club, Inc. is a support service of the Berks EMA and is supported by an organized group of local volunteers who are FCC Licensed Amateur Radio Operators.

Other Events:

(Field Day - June 26th-27st, 2021 at Heritage Park, Sinking Spring, PA) weekend

(Picnic – July 17, 2021 at Heritage Park, Sinking Spring, PA) - Saturday

(Hamfest – August 7, 2021 at Heritage Park, Sinking Spring, PA) - Saturday

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 © 2020 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 author.

December 1st, 2020 - EMAIL VERSION STARTED ON FEBRUARY 10, 1998. Circulation: Over 100 Members & Non Members, Clubs and Organizations. THE FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION IS MONTHLY.

Got an idea or an article for the Bulletin? Be sure to send it to us kc3pcs@gmail.com. All submissions are welcome.



Deadline for the RRC bulletin is always the 25th of the month. However, earlier is better. Please submit to kc3pcs@gmail.com.