



Est. 3/10/1921

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Affiliated 02/17/1922

Meetings & Programs

(All Are Welcome to attend public RRC Events)

Board Meeting: October 8th, 2024 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)  
General Meeting: October 11th, 2024 @ 7:30 (AG Center) - Come out and see!  
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - W3BN Repeater  
FLDigi Net: October 3rd, 2024 @ 7:30 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)  
Simplex Test: November 9th, 2024 @ 1 PM (146.55 then 446.00)  
Fox Hunt: Not Scheduled  
VE Exam: October 12th, 2024 - Fire Training Center

2024 Board Of Directors & Officers

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PRES Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI (24)  
VP Ronald Waszk, K3RJW (26)  
SEC: Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD (26)  
TREAS. Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD (26)

Janine Galiyano, K4AJZ (24)  
Craig Wanner, K3CRG (25)  
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Editor (25)  
Jason Potter, NG3F (24)  
Dave Fix, N3AMY (25)

You can reach the Board of Directors via email at [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com).  
3 Year Terms runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31, Number in parenthesis is term end. Officers are chosen by the Board at the January Board Meeting each Year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are currently 95 active members of the Reading Radio Club consisting of multiple license classes and supporting members.

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

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

Club Email: [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com). Bulletin Email: [kc3pcs@outlook.com](mailto:kc3pcs@outlook.com)

# H.A.M. HELP A MEMBER

We've gotten very little response. I know there are those out there with specialized skills!!

We have not gotten enough responses to publish a list on the website.

Please let us know if you have a special skill.



Rich A, W3WJC; Allen H, KC3EWJ; Brad W, KC3HKR; Roger S, N3IVY;  
Ron W, K3RJW; Joel F, K3JPF, Amy L, KB3FSD

As you may have heard, the Berks County Agricultural Center is being renovated. We are temporarily moving the meeting. See below for details.

FOR EVERYONE THAT REGULARLY ATTENDS THE RRC GENERAL MEETINGS YOU HAVE SEEN THE NEW ADDITION AND REMODEL OF THE SOUTH WING THAT IS STILL GOING ON AT THE BERKS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER. HOWEVER, WHEN THAT PHASE OF THE PROJECT IS DONE THEY WILL BE REMODELING THE MAIN PART IN WHICH WE HAVE OUR MEETINGS. THEREFORE WE HAD TO AND DID FIND A TEMPORARY PLACE TO HOLD THE MEETINGS WHEN WE CAN'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE AG CENTER AUDITORIUM. THAT LOCATION WILL BE AT THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 743, 20 MORGAN DRIVE, SINKING SPRING. THE PROJECTED TIME FOR THIS TO HAPPEN WOULD BE OUR NOVEMBER MEETING AND CONTINUING UNTILL THE AG CENTER BECOMES AVAILABLE AGAIN. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS COULD CHANGE AT ANY TIME BECAUSE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SOMETIMES ARE ON SCHEDULE AND SOMETIMES NOT. ALL PERSONS WHO THINK THEY WILL GO TO THE MEETINGS AT 743 SHOULD DRIVE THERE, AND EVEN DO A DRIVE THROUGH DURING THE WEEKENDS BECAUSE IN NOVEMBER AT MEETING TIME IT WILL BE DARK AND GETTING A LITTLE FAMILIAR WITH THE PLACE BEFORE THEN WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.

#### DIRECTIONS

MOST PEOPLE WILL TAKE 222 BYPASS NORTH AND SOUTH AND GET OFF AT ROUTE 724 SHILLINGTON/SINKING SPRING EXIT. EITHER DIRECTION WHEN YOU EXIT AND GET TO 724 YOU WILL TURN RIGHT AND GO DOWN A HILL. (ON THE LEFT WILL BE A WEIS MARKET AND ON THE RIGHT WILL BE STORAGE BUILDINGS.) AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL TURN RIGHT ONTO MORGAN DRIVE AND 743 WILL BE THE LAST BUILDING ON THE RIGHT JUST BEFORE OLD FRITZTOWN ROAD. WHEN YOU TURN INTO THE DRIVEWAY FOLLOW THE BUILDING BY GOING RIGHT, AT THE END OF THE BUILDING TURN LEFT AND SOON YOU'LL COME TO AN OPEN PARKING LOT. YOU EXIT BY DRIVING TO THE RIGHT OF THE BUILDING. THE DOOR TO USE GETTING INTO THE BUILDING IS A WALKWAY ALONG SIDE THE EXIT DRIVEWAY.

IBEW Local 743 - 20 Morgan Drive, Reading, PA 19608

Find it on your computer by clicking on or scanning the QR Codes with your phone.

[iPhone Maps](#)

[Google Maps](#)

[Waze](#)



IBEW  
Complex



## RRC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

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By: RRC Secretary, Amy Lindenmuth (KB3FSD)

The Friday, September 13, 2024, RRC General meeting was held in the Main Auditorium of the Ag Center in Leesport, PA.

1. Prior to the meeting, the RRC hosted a memorial service for Silent Key, Steve Dobbs (NE3F). Many of Steve's family and friends attended the memorial service.
2. Prior to the meeting, Jim Nicholas (W3ITH) was taking attendance and selling 50-50 tickets. T-shirts were available for sale.
3. RRC President, Joe Pietruszynski (AC3DI), called the meeting to order after the memorial service. In attendance were 23 RRC members and many friends of Steve Dobbs (NE3F).
4. See Joe Pietruszynski (AC3DI) if you did not receive your RRC badge.
5. The next FLDIGI is October 3, 2024, at 7:30pm on 146.91.
6. There will be no SRT in October due to the PA QSO party.
7. See Amy Lindenmuth (KB3FSD) if you are interested in an RRC jacket, hoodie, long sleeve t-shirt, or hat.
8. The PA QSO party is October 12 and 13, 2024.
9. The RRC is holding a special event on September 21, 2024, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Reading Railroad being incorporated.
10. The 50-50 drawing was won by Dave Fix (N3AMY).
11. Reminder for VE's, you must participate in at least one ARRL test session in a five-year period to remain active.
12. The location for the November 2024 through February 2025 general meetings will be at the IBEW building on 20 Morgan Drive.
13. Walt Skavinsky (KB3SBC) provided details for the special event on September 21, 2024. Please reach out to Walt to sign up for an operator spot.
14. The next RRC BOD Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, by ZOOM starting at 7:30pm.
15. The RRC General Meeting will be held on Friday, October 11, 2024, at the Ag Center Main Auditorium at 7:30pm.
16. RRC President, Joe Pietruszynski (AC3DI) adjourned the meeting for a time of fellowship.



# RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

OK members. and others. The Railroad event is over. Al M, Cameron H and Myself did a great job on the mountain.

The furthest we hit were Myerstown, Pottstown, and Morgantown on a simplex frequency. We were kinda busy at first , then it slowed down and got constant. We were on for 1 hour and 15 minutes. We had 35 calls. which really works out to about one call every 2minutes 15 seconds. SO it had us writing, answering and entering in the laptop.

We used Netlogger and Cameron was happy with the way it worked. After we ended, Cameron saved it to where I could make a ADIF file and send it to Joe for confirmation on getting your certificate.

Thank you for all that called in to our QRZ call on the simplex. I am glad with the set up we had and we did it comfortably on that set up. I attached the picture of Al and Cameron setting it up.

I am proud of the set up as its my "emergency" deploy or a display set up for those that might be interested in seeing how we can operate.

Again, thanks everyone for "hitting" us on the frequency. The Reading Railroad event was a success on the VHF portion,

RON 73  
Ron





# Technician Class & Exam Session

The Reading Radio Club is offering a Technician Training Class for anyone interested. The two-day in-person class will be held at the Berks County Fire Training Center, Morgantown Road, on October 5th and 12th, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. An online session will take place during the week of October 6th for additional content and questions.

To register for the free training class, please contact Stuart at 484-339-3456 or email [training@w2slh.com](mailto:training@w2slh.com).

An exam session will be held on October 12th at 2:30 PM for students and the general public.

To Register for the Exam please email [exam@w2slh.com](mailto:exam@w2slh.com) or use the following link: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/66ccc483dded4fdd6a79d05b/1>

Please pass this on to your family and friends as it is a unique opportunity to both learn and gain the information necessary to pass their Technician Exam.

The ARRL exam fee is \$15 for those over 18 and \$5 for those under 18, payable to the Reading Radio Club. New licensees must also pay a \$35 FCC fee, while there is no FCC fee for license upgrades.

## SRT TEAM WELCOMES NEW NET CONTROL FOR SEPTEMBER TEST By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

The Reading Radio Club-sponsored monthly Simplex Radio Test featured a new voice serving as net control for the Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 test.

Cameron Higgins W2CMH accepted an invitation to join the SRT Team and made his debut in September drawing nice comments from those who took part.

There were 21 check-ins on the 146.550 Megahertz Simplex portion of the test. The 70-cm side recorded 13 check-ins on 446.000 Megahertz Simplex.

Cameron capably handled the “heavy lifting” on the 2-meter side of the test with announcements and check-ins flowing smoothly. Ron K3RJW was net control for the 446.000 Megahertz test.

Mark NT3V made a call for Pagoda Award contacts. Unfortunately, there were no takers. Mark promises to make a push for this unique award offered for contacts with Reading Radio Club members.

Further information about the Pagoda Award is available in the Reading Radio Club Bulletin, or the club’s website, [QSL.net/w3bn](http://QSL.net/w3bn). Or, you can contact Troy K3TKL who is in charge of the award.

The team set up for the September test on the parking lot of the Shillington Plaza Shopping Centre near Route 222, Lancaster Pike, in Cumru Township, just south and west of Reading. There will be NO SIMPLEX RADIO TEST FOR OCTOBER to free up operators to work the PA QSO Party which begins at noon EDT on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024 and concludes at 6 p.m. EDT on Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024.

The next Simplex Radio Test will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024 at 1 p.m. Eastern Standard Time – that’s right we return to EST on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024. Save the date – next SRT on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024!

# FLDIGI - SIMPLEX TEST

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Hey group. We had an impromptu SRT for FLDIGI ONLY. We held it on 146.550 and had 9 of us try to talk on SIMPLEX ONLY. We did use 147.180 to get our ducks in a row, but it worked.

We found problems, and corrected them. We ran into OLD problems and was able to correct them too. There was a mess up in changing freqs, in that we had bad noise on 55 until we found out what it was. A bad cable. That got corrected.

IT was a very good learning experience. Everyone was surprised that we reached out that far. The ONLY one that could not hear us was Al in Morgantown. YET Cameron DID hear us and copy everything that was sent on FLDIGI. Cameron could have been a relay for Al.

Lucky the rain stopped, but I had my easy up set up and was prepared. I had asked permission from Ocean JOB LOTS to use the edge of the parking lot and they had no problem letting not only me, but when we used that for the SRT last month too.

We were able to cover the WHOLE county which was a learning lesson too,

We were also assured that we could get messages through to each other and not have a lot of scammers understand what we were saying.. DURING and emergency, that is most important.

We did learn MORE about operating at Limerick too. We learned our radios reach, our laptops problems, ( mine was cold finger tips and the touch pad could not react to the cold tips, Had to warm them up rubbing my leg to get the warmth back).

Hope more and more join the FLDIGI group. EVERYONE is welcome and we enjoy hearing from anyone that wants to join.

We have great instructors on how to do things, and we have a few experts that can get you through the learning experience.

Come join us,  
RON 73



## MY MEMORIES OF STEVE DOBBS NE3F

By Hal Messer K3ATO

One of the first times that I met Steve was when the Reading Radio Club was operating ARRL Field Day at a location near his house. Steve and all who helped set up for the ARRL Field Day that year didn't forget a single thing. At that time I was very involved in photography, so I was delighted when Steve turned down his chance to ride in the State Police helicopter and gave me an opportunity to take pictures of the Field Day layout from the helicopter.

Shortly after that Field Day Steve and a few of his RRC friends, who were also members of the Frankfort Radio Club, brought an audio recording of several high speed CW pile-ups to one of the RRC monthly meetings. They were trying to recruit new CW ops for FRC. They played the audio tape which contained several CW pile-ups and gave any member, who was able, an opportunity to write down call signs from the pile-ups. This exercise provided me and several other members an opportunity to apply for membership to the FRC.

I made many trips to Philadelphia with Steve and other members of the RRC to attend FRC meetings. During one of our first trips Steve explained split frequency operation to me. Apparently Steve had heard me trying to work a DX CW station who was operating split. Not knowing what split frequency operation was, and not even having a transceiver capable of operating split, I had been calling the DX station on his transmitting frequency. Other CW ops who were trying to work the DX station were sending UP, UP, UP I was trying to figure out why they were all telling me that his call started with UP when I was sure that it was something else. Little did I know that they were telling me to transmit to UP frequency. Steve never laughed at me, at least not out loud, for making such a foolish mistake.

When I got hooked on working DX, it was Steve who helped me set up packet radio so that I could receive the DX spots. Before packet radio I would frequently get a call from Steve asking if I had a certain DX country confirmed, and if I didn't, he would supply me with the necessary info needed to work that new country. When N1MM came along it was Steve who loaned me a PC and helped me set up N1MM. Countless times it was Steve who walked me through LOTW so that I could upload my logs. When I needed a linear, it was Steve who provided me with an ALPHA 76A at half the market price. If you needed anything, Steve either had it or knew where you could get it.



CW contesting from NE3F's station was a pleasure, usually just one call was needed to make contact. NE3F may have been one of the first stations who started logging contacts on a computer. Initially they used Atari 800 computers and there was a computer for each band. When I arrived late on a Sunday afternoon every station that I could copy had already been logged on the Atari computer.

When we started using a PC the computer it would often stop working in the middle of the night and I would need to wake Steve to reboot it. He did this so many times that he would not remember getting up to help us get the logging program working again.

The best part of working the night shift at Steve's station was the breakfast that Bev would provide the next morning which always included strong hot coffee. Their dogs would be ever present in the shack, always looking to be petted or to share some of your snacks. You knew when you entered the house, if you weren't greeted by a dog, you were at the wrong house. Steve and Bev just loved their dogs and treated them as members of the Dobbs household.

Steve was always willing to provide help, even when it was not radio related. On one occasion my wife and I were returning to Reading from a car show in Lancaster when I ran out of gas along 222, a few miles from Steve's house. I called him and within 15 minutes Steve showed up with 5 gallons of gas and with a friendly recommendation that I should get the gas gauge fixed on my 52 Chevy.

I must also say that Steve Dobbs was an excellent salesman. Many years ago I bought a pair of running shoes in Boscov's North Store and decided to visit with Steve while I was in the store. When I told him that I had just purchased a new pair of running shoes he talked me into buying a treadmill. In addition to getting a great price on the treadmill, Steve personally delivered it to my house and then helped me carry it up two flights of steps. The last thing he told me before he left that day was that when I was ready to get rid of the treadmill that he would most likely be out of town. Six months later he sold and delivered an exercise bike to us which still use.

Steve was always there for me and so many other people, he will be missed by so many

# READING RAILROAD 100TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT RECAP

100th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS DRAW WIDE RANGE OF READING RAILROAD ENTHUSIASTS TO RRC'S W3BN, W3CCH

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

Hams were waiting patiently for the callouts spotting W3BN and W3CCH shortly after 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

And, when the four HF stations hit the air the pile-ups began and continued throughout the day.

At W3BN, activated at the contest QTH of SK Steve Dobbs NE3F in Spring Township, Berks County, it was non-stop activity with operators working at a brisk pace throughout the day and well into the night.

Shawn W3JZ, Jay N3OW, Mark NT3V and Chris WI3W, managed contacts with 1,155 stations worked at W3BN. Some of the operators calling in shared family memories of connections to railroads across the country. A few fondly recalled the Reading Railroad's history, their appreciation for its activities, and unique place in the railroad culture.

Operators from throughout the United States and Canada, including Gabe a VY0 station who identified as "aeronautical mobile" flying in a 747 over western Canada, eagerly called and pushed their way through the pile-ups. There were DX stations who also worked W3BN as all pressed to get their call signs in the log and qualify for the special, personalized color certificate.

Many looked at the QRZ pages for both stations as they were "waiting in line" to work them and praised the certificate design and planned to email [rdgrr100@gmail.com](mailto:rdgrr100@gmail.com) to get theirs.

Chris WI3W said he had never experienced anything like it in all of his years as a ham - especially the pile-ups on 20 meters. Mark NT3V - who had coordinated the W3BN plan with Steve NE3F - months before his passing - said the close-knit group of operators felt Steve's presence in the radio room. Each called it a tremendous operation that he would have been proud to see and hear.

At W3CCH, three stations (two HF radios and one VHF radio) were set up inside the baggage car of The Latrobe Inn - a retired passenger rail car parked on the tracks outside the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in

Hamburg. The Locomotive Engineer Mobile Train Unit also was parked on the scene as part of the public celebration of the railroad anniversary .

Walt KB3SBC was the “conductor” in charge of keeping the W3CCH stations on the track.

He welcomed a hardy group of operators to the radios: Cameron W2CMH, Larry WR1B, Craig K3CRG, Nate N2ADD, Ron KC3WBA, Nick KC3SGN, Dave, N3AMY, Amy KB3FSD, Joe KZ3OWL, Dennis N3JRW, Joel NF3R, Jori KC3ZNX/AG, Tom KC3VZJ, Tyler, KC3LVS, Jessica, KC3PIG, Troy, K3TKL, and Nathan, KB3ZCC.

The group logged 367 contacts during the 12-hour period.

Walt and Nick welcomed some 75 non-ham visitors who were visiting the railroad museum to the train cars and explained what was going on and conducted tours of both rail cars.

And, there was the VHF activation of W3CCH by Al K3AJM and Ron K3RJW. The dynamic duo, capably assisted by Cameron W2CMH, who logged all the contacts, worked 35 people in a little over an hour sitting atop Skyline Drive overlooking the City of Reading near the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower.

The station was activated on 146.550 Megahertz Simplex to give those who didn’t have HF radio access a chance to work the Special Event Station and qualify for a certificate.

Ron said the trio had a great time with lots of nice comments from those who called in to work W3CCH from their location.

So, if you worked either W3BN or W3CCH or both, now is the time to send an email to get your certificate. Send your log data confirming the contact – time, date, band, mode and your call sign and name and send it to: [rdgrr100@gmail.com](mailto:rdgrr100@gmail.com).

As of the deadline for this article, Joe AC3DI, RRC president and designer of the certificate, said 130 emails requesting the Special Event certificate already had been received.

There was some great publicity in the ham community about the event, including social media posts from club members as well as from American Radio Relay League officials.

Special thanks to Amateur Radio Newsline editor Caryn Eve Murray KD2GUT; ARRL Letter/ARRL Audio News anchor-editor John Ross KD8IDJ; ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director Martin Pittinger KB3MXM, who put out social media posts that were widely circulated; and Bob Wilson W3BIG, ARRL EPA Section Manager, who published an article on the EPA website.

Walt KB3SBC called the Reading Railroad 100th Anniversary Special Event operation a “resounding success” saying it achieved its objectives of celebrating a historic milestone and engaging the amateur radio community.

“The event not only honored the legacy of the Reading Railroad but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and historical appreciation among participants,” he said.

# After Action Report for W3CCH (Reading Railroad 100th Anniversary) By: Walt Skavinsky

The setup for the event ran from about 2300 hours on September 20, 2024, until about 0330 hours on September 21, 2024. We had three radios located in the baggage compartment of the Latrobe Inn, a dormitory baggage car built in 1949. The radios included an Icom IC7300 HF connected to an Inverted L (Rybakov) antenna, an Icom IC7100 HF connected to an end-fed half-wave antenna, and an IC5100 VHF connected to a vertical antenna. The maximum power used was 100 watts, and the radios were powered through the railcar's shoreline. Nick Hofke KC3SGN, Mike Bast (railcar owner), and I handled the setup.

The kitchen in the Latrobe Inn was put to good use, serving coffee, eggs, French toast, and bacon for breakfast. Lunch featured sweet Italian sausage and meatballs in a homemade tomato sauce.

Operations started at 0900 hours and continued non-stop until 2100 hours. The 20-meter band was the strongest performer, while the 40-meter band had fewer contacts, and VHF had only a handful. The operators were outstanding, and the teamwork and shared learning were the best parts of the event. Joel NF3R and Larry W1RB did the majority of monitoring, while Nick KC3SGN and I acted as hosts, providing meals, conducting tours, and greeting visitors. One challenge was monitoring the operators' water intake as temperatures rose during the day, but no heat-related issues were experienced.

We had the pleasure of being visited by approximately 75 non-hams who were there for the museum. Nick and I spent time explaining the event to these visitors. The tours of the Latrobe Inn and the LEMTU were a big hit! Many visitors got a selfie at the engineer's stand in the LEMTU, making it look like they were running the train.

Two of our visitors were newly upgraded general class operators. One operator, Jori KC3ZNX, jumped on the radio and became a QSO machine under the close tutelage of Joel NF3R.

An exciting moment occurred in the afternoon when smoke was noticed in the operating area. This raised a brief alarm, as a 70-year-old train car is not the place to have a fire. A quick inspection found that the source was a faulty light ballast in the LEMTU.

Teardown was completed by Nick and me, as the railyard in the dark was too hazardous for the operators to navigate.

It would also be nice to recognize our key operators. Joel, Nick, and Larry especially should be acknowledged for their efforts and exemplification of the amateur radio operator's code: "The radio amateur operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation, and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit." I would also like to see Nate N2ADD included in that list. Nate gave up his spot to operate to a newly upgraded ham. Nate did not complain and stayed with the new operator, providing guidance and encouragement.

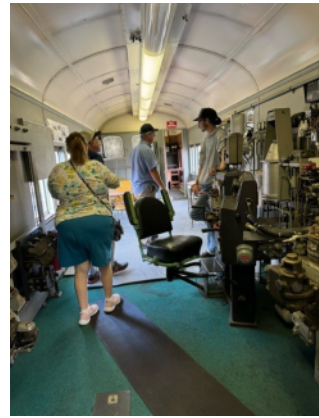
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this event !!!

Walt, KB3SBC

**W3CCH OPERATORS  
AT THE  
HAMBURG TRAIN MUSEUM**

| Name            | Call Sign |
|-----------------|-----------|
|                 |           |
| Walt Skavinsky  | KB3SBC    |
| Nick Hofke      | KC3SGN    |
| Joe Morrissey   | KZ3OWL    |
| Amy Lindenmuth  | KB3FSD    |
| Nate Rosenthal  | N2ADD     |
| Larry Wolfgang  | WR1B      |
| Craig Wanner    | K3CRG     |
| Ron Dietrich    | KC3WBA    |
| Cameron Higgins | W2CMH     |
| Joel Rubincam   | NF3R      |
| Dennis Goodling | N3JRW     |
| Jori L Masho    | KC3ZNX    |
| Thomas Mounce   | KC3VZJ    |
| David Fix       | N3AMY     |
| Tyler Scheirer  | KC3LVS    |
| Troy Lantz      | K3TKL     |
| Nathan Lis      | KC3ZCC    |
| Jessica Landis  | KC3PIG    |















Saturday, October 12th, 2024 1600 - 0400 UTC  
Noon - Midnight EDT

Sunday, October 13th, 2024 1300 - 2200 UTC  
9:00AM - 6:00PM EDT

<http://www.paqso.org>

## **“THE FRIENDLY QSO PARTY” IS THIS MONTH IN PA**

**By Mark Abramowicz NT3V**

The PA QSO Party hits the HF bands the second weekend of October – Oct. 12 and 13.

It’s a “no pressure,” operating event that has been growing in popularity in the Keystone State in recent years.

And, it has become a favorite among hams from many nearby states including Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia. It attracts operators from as far away as California, Texas and New Mexico as well as those from throughout Canada.

So what justifies “The Friendly QSO Party” label?

Simple: If you’re listening to the activity on the air, you can hear the exchanges among most of the operators from PA who take their time, don’t really sound like “contesters,” and are appreciative of each contact and careful to make sure you got the exchange.

That’s right, you really DON’T have to be a contester to play in the PA Party. Many people take their time, are patient and really helpful in coaching first-timers.

Just turn on your HF radio – especially to 40 and 80 meters - and start spinning the dial up the band and listen for the PA stations as well as stations in other states. Listen to what they’re saying. Key your microphone and put out your call.

All you need to give the operator on the other end is the number of the contact (in other words is he the first contact you made, second, or third, etc.) and give your county – in our case, Berks.

So the exchange would go like this between myself and Larry WR1B in Schuylkill County who is calling on a frequency.

Example:

Mark: “NT3V.”

Larry: “NT3V. Thanks for the call! You’re number 28 from Schuylkill – Sierra Charlie Hotel. QSL?”

Mark: “WR1B from NT3V. QSL your number 28 from Schuylkill. You are 25 from Berks – Bravo Echo Romeo.”

Larry: “Thanks Mark for 25 from Berks. 73 and good luck. QRZ PA Party, this is WR1B.”

It’s that simple!

If you’re comfortable using a computer logging program – N3FJP is a popular one as is N1MM used by DX contesters.

If not, there’s always paper logging, but you’ll want to keep a dupe sheet to avoid calling someone you might already have worked.

The whole point of the event is to have some FUN and maybe learn some geography about Pennsylvania. Did you know there are 67 counties in PA?

Wow! That’s a lot of counties!

So, are there hams in every county in PA? Not necessarily. That’s why hams will go out and operate portable – set up in a “rare” county. Or, operators will go mobile and run through multiple counties.

That’s how all the counties get activated!

What happens if I work all 67 counties? The PA QSO Party Association, which runs the event, has a nice colorful certificate for you! Plus, you can order a plaque to commemorate your achievement!

The best source of information about the PA QSO Party is the group’s website: <https://paqso.org/>

Explore the site and find out more about how it works.

Look for KC3BSA operating from the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation in Schuylkill County this year on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters. Operations will be primarily on SSB, but look for us at times on CW on 40 and 80 meters. Our team is made up of the following: Mark Abramowicz NT3V, Larry Wolfgang WR1B, Chris Schlegel WI3W, and Camp Ranger Kevin Huneke.

We hope to work you on the air in this year’s PA QSO Party!



# RRC HAMWARE

We have RRC merchandise for sale at each RRC general meeting. Stop by and see Jim Nicholas for short sleeve t-shirts, and Amy Lindenmuth for jackets, hats, and long sleeve shirts. Amy is taking orders for RRC jackets. The next jacket order will be placed when we have 12 people signed up to purchase a jacket. See below for pricing details.

**Gildan Short Sleeve T-Shirt:** Small \$13, M-XL \$15, 2XL-3XL \$18

**Gildan Long Sleeve T-Shirt:** Small-XL \$18, 2XL \$20, 3XL \$21

**Next Level Long Sleeve T-Shirt:** Small-XL \$21, 2XL \$23, 3XL \$25

**Hooded Sweatshirt:** Small-XL \$27, 2XL \$30, 3XL \$32

**Sweatshirt:** Small-XL \$21, 2XL \$24, 3XL \$25

**Gildan Full-Zip Hoodie**

| Size | Price   |
|------|---------|
| S-XL | \$40.00 |
| 2XL  | \$46.00 |
| 3XL  | \$48.00 |
| 4XL  | \$50.00 |
| 5XL  | \$50.00 |



Hats \$20

**Port Authority Light Weight Jacket**

| Size | Price   |
|------|---------|
| S-XL | \$58.00 |
| 2XL  | \$59.00 |
| 3XL  | \$62.00 |
| 4XL  | \$63.00 |
| 5XL  | \$65.00 |
| 6XL  | \$66.00 |



**Dri Duck Torrent Waterproof Jacket**

| Size | Price   |
|------|---------|
| S-XL | \$87.00 |
| 2XL  | \$89.00 |
| 3XL  | \$92.00 |
| 4XL  | \$94.00 |



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

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

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The RRC Bulletin Email Version was started on February 10th, 1998  
It is emailed to most RRC Members, Other Clubs and Friends of the RRC.  
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PLEASE NOTE: The Reading Radio Club is using Ham Club Online to help manage the club. The bulletin and other email messages may come from a new address. Please DO NOT respond to the email the bulletin comes from.

**Please email [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com) about the club or [kc3pcs@outlook.com](mailto:kc3pcs@outlook.com) about the bulletin.**

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact us at [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com)