

July 2025
Vol 63, Issue 07



Est. 3/10/1921

W3BN

W3CCH

RRC B U L L E T I N



Affiliated 02/17/1922

Meetings & Programs

(All Are Welcome to attend public RRC Events)

Board Meeting: July 8th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)
General Meeting: July 11th, 2025 @ 7:30 (IBEW)
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - W3BN Repeater
FLDigi Net: July 3rd @ 7:30 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)
Simplex Test: July 17th, 2025 @ 1 PM (146.55)
Fox Hunt: TBD. See Page 11.
VE Exam: Contact Stuart (exam@w2slh.com) to schedule.

2025 Board Of Directors & Officers

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PRES	Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	(27)
VP	Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	(26)
SEC:	Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD	(26)
TREAS.	Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	(26)

Ronald Dietrich, KC3WBA	(27)
Craig Wanner, K3CRG	(25)
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Editor	(25)
Jason Potter, NG3F	(27)
Dave Fix, N3AMY	(25)

You can reach the Board of Directors via email at 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 Directors Meeting Minutes that are posted online are from the prior month. Email Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI (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

W
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B
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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 92 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.w3bn.org>
Manage your club profile & email address at <http://www.hamclubonline.com>

Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/RRCW3BN>
Club Groups.Io Page: <http://www.groups.io/g/W3BN>
Club Email: w3bn.rrc@gmail.com. Bulletin Email: kc3pcs@outlook.com

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.



July is here. That means heat, heat, and more heat. Of course everyone says to drink lots of water. In our case, we like to go to Dorney Park. One of the things I like to do is take my radios with and see how far I can hit with my HT.

My challenge for everyone this month is to see how far you can reach with your HT. That could most definitely help if there is a time of emergency. While our simplex tests do check for that, they are checking from each location to a central location. It's always a help to see how far each of us can reach. You can also use this exercise to get your Pagoda Award if your making contact with other RRC Members.

Right around the Corner is 13 Colonies (see the article down farther in the bulletin). It's a great activity and a new manager of the event this year. Try to get all 13 colonies plus the bonus station. Get one station or all and you can get a certificate.

One other thing to note this month. Moving forward, we will no longer publish the monthly meeting minutes in the bulletin. They will remain available on the club website <http://www.w3bn.org>.

Have a great month and stay cool.

RRC Bulletin Editors



Chris C, N3PVZ; Jon D, N8EUL; Cal W, KA3HYC; Janine G, K4AJZ;
Joe M, KZ3OWL; Shawn P, W3SMP; Ron D, KC3WBA;
Phillip G, KC3YSJ; James S, Jr, WA3KBH

Due to the Berks Agricultural Center Building renovation project being behind schedule, The Reading Radio Club will continue to have our in person General Meeting's at the IBEW743 Building.

The address is 20 Morgan Drive, Sinking Spring.

As any information becomes available to the RRC about our return to the Agricultural Center for meetings the RRC will let you know.

RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Hey folks, as most of you know, Ive spen a lot of time in the hospital for three kidney stones that they must finally go in for with robotic arms.

Unfortunately, I can't sit at the computer for long periods of time so I wont be able to write an article for the bulletin.

I'll be back next month as my operation will be on July 22nd. Until then, I am DOWN for the count.

I do thank everyone for checking in on me. It's very much appreciated.

Sorry for not being able to give you a better article this month.

Ron W, K3RJW
Vice Pres.

MINI HAM FEST

The Reading Radio Club August Mini-Hamfest Friday, August 8, 2025

I'm sure that by now you've heard about the fire at the Heritage Park freight station and the cancellation of the 2025 RRC Hamfest. In order to raise our spirits, the RRC will be hosting a mini-hamfest on Friday, August 8 at 7:30 p.m. We'll have our usual business meeting first, then have the mini-hamfest in the same meeting room-rain or shine.

Please note: We will be at a different location, NOT at the Berks County Agricultural Center. We will be at the IBEW Local 743 building at 20 Morgan Drive in Sinking Spring (intersects Rt. 724, not far from Lowe's).

Type in "Reading" instead of Sinking Spring if you are using a phone app or GPS.

The Ag. Center is having renovations done, so going forward for an unknown period of time, we will meet at the IBEW building. Thanks to Dave Fix, N3AMY, for arranging this location.

Members and non-members may bring items to sell and set up their ham gear or computer items for sale on tables (at no cost). If you plan to sell items, you may set up at 6:45, well before the start of the meeting at 7:30 p.m. All sales are cash and carry and are final with no returns at the mini-hamfest.

The RRC assumes no liability for any sales. If you sell something, the RRC Treasurer, Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD, will be available if you wish to donate a percentage to the RRC.

Jim Nicholas, W3ITH
w3ith@arrl.net

RRC Club Picnic

Reading Radio Club Picnic
Saturday, July 12, 2025
11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Eat at Noon

Please note:

We will be at a different location this year--The Bicentennial House, 201 Playground Drive, West Reading, PA 19611. (Behind the West Reading Fire Department and very close to the West Reading Playground.)

Tune into the Reading Radio Club Repeater (146.91/.31 tone 131.8) for directions if needed.

The event is free for RRC members and significant others.

The RRC supplies hot dogs, American cheese, hamburgers, rolls, potato salad, chips, pretzels, sodas, ice cream, water, napkins, utensils, mustard, ketchup, table cloths, and ice.

To reserve a seat, please see Jim Nicholas, W3ITH at an RRC monthly meeting, or email him at w3ith@arrl.net.



When a group of radio operators begin calling “CQ International Dog Day” in August, they’re not just looking for QSOs.

They are in search of people who have room in their hearts to help the abandoned, abused and homeless dogs around the world in whatever way they can. These dozen or so special event operators know the power of rescue because they’ve been deeply involved in it themselves : Hanz YL3JD and his wife opened their home – first in Holland, later in Latvia – and have given needy dogs a second chance at a new family. In Australia, and later in Germany, Ed DD5LP and his wife discovered – several times – that their household was incomplete without canine company. Many of the other operators’ rescued dogs were adopted after hard lives on the street; others were at the pound, hours away from being euthanized.

International Dog Day (and in the US, National Dog Day) is August 26 every year. The tradition was created by US pet advocate Colleen Paige as a day to recognise the needs of society’s unwanted and cast-off dogs and affirm the commitment to adopt, donate or raise awareness of their special needs.

Hanz amplified the original message by adding an amateur radio component in 2022, taking the special-event callsign YL1DOG and operating as a single station. The following year he was joined by Chris, G5VZ, and David, G4YVM, in the UK. By 2024, a team of eight US rescue-dog advocates, operating as K2D, had come on board. This year is the biggest yet, as hams in Germany and other countries run with the pack. All operators will be looking to hear from dog-lovers and supporters in either CW or SSB on HF, on VHF/UHF simplex, or via DMR and Echolink.

The international team has added incentive certificates, including special endorsements such as “Full Kennel,” the equivalent of a clean sweep. Their website, dogdayradio.org, is updated regularly with the operators’ special-event callsigns, their operating schedules, a chance to meet the dogs who inspired them and hear their stories.

In case you are wondering where the cats are – well, they’re running ahead of the dogs! International Cat Day will be operating as a separate event, two weeks before the Dog Day operators get on the air – and they will be carrying a similar message for cat-rescue awareness. See catdayradio.org for details.

For live updates of both events, to search for the different callsigns, to see the operators' schedules or to apply for and download award certificates visit these links when they become available:

<https://hamlog.online/icd>

<https://hamlog.online/idd>

Meanwhile, be aware that all special-event operators will be working like dogs – and why not? – because they want to hear and share as many rescue stories as they can.

Caryn Eve Murray KD2GUT
United States Team Leader for K2D





The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event

GB13COL

TM13COL

WM3PEN

NY - K2A

VA - K2B

DE - K2E

MA - K2H

NH - K2K

RJ - K2C

MD - K2F

NJ - K2I

SC - K2L

CT - K2D

GA - K2G

NC - K2J

PA - K2M

LEADERSHIP CHANGE FOR 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT

(The following story aired on Amateur Radio Newsline and is republished with permission here by the author, Mark Abramowicz, NT3V)

News Anchor intro: One of the summer's most popular HF operating events here in the US is honoring its founder as he steps away from 16 years at its helm. Mark Abramowicz NT3V has the details...

If you haven't heard of the 13 Colonies Special Event or heard stations calling in the annual activity between July 1 and July 8, you have missed a unique opportunity to celebrate the history of the US and mark the American Revolution.

Ken Villone, KU2US, who conceived the idea of activating stations in the 13 original colonies, is going into semi-retirement.

Villone is passing on the responsibility for event coordination to Tony James N4ATJ, of McAdenville, North Carolina, long-time 13 Colonies coordinator for his home state's K2J station, Villone will remain involved as the New York state coordinator for K2A.

Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, who joined Villone more than a dozen years ago in his passion to promote American history via an amateur radio special event, is helping to ensure a smooth transition.

Josuweit is coordinator for WM3PEN, a bonus station that recognizes Philadelphia's role as the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence.

Josuweit said that in its first year, the event recorded some 12,000 QSOs. That grew to a breathtaking 292,426 contacts in 2024. It also attracted operators who now run bonus stations in Great Britain GB13COL and France TM13COL, recognizing the role the two countries played in America's war for independence.

This year's 13 Colonies certificate will recognize the work Villone has done to make the event so popular. Villone, however, shared a different perspective on why the event is such a success. In an email sent recently to all hams

involved, he wrote: "I just only started this event and I tried to keep it going. But it was you folks who also through your participation and dedication managing your states and special bonus stations (Philadelphia, England and France) that made this whole thing work!"

To find out more about the 13 Colonies Special Event, go to the text version of this story at arnewsline-dot-o-r-g and click on the link (<http://www.13colonies.us/>)

FROM THE AUTHOR: This is an exciting HF operating event designed for all amateurs. There is plenty of activity on the air – SSB, CW and FT8 _ with each of the colonies having a couple of stations on every day. Check your local DX Cluster or DX Summit to find out where they are. I'd recommend starting to chase them on the opening day – July 1. Remember, these are volunteers running the stations. Some are experienced operators (maybe a few with contesting in their backgrounds). Others have limited experience handling a pile-up of operators calling them. Be patient! It's well worth it! And, send for the State QSL Cards, and ones from WM3PEN, GB13COL, and TM13COL! There's also a beautiful commemorative certificate! Check out the 13 Colonies website and QRZ.com to find the QSL routes and how to get the certificate. Good luck and have fun!

17th Annual 13 Colonies Special Event

JULY 1ST - 7TH 2025

★ K2A/NY

★ K2B/VA

★ K2C/RI

★ K2D/CT

★ K2E/DE

★ K2F/MD

★ K2G/GA

K2H/MA ★

K2I/NJ ★

K2J/NC ★

K2K/NH ★

K2L/SC ★

K2M/PA ★



1776

THIS CERTIFICATE CERTIFIES THAT ARS: **KU2US** HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ON - AIR AMATEUR RADIO EVENT HONORING THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONY STATES, OUR INDEPENDENCE, & OUR ACTIVE MILITARY / VETERANS. 

THIS YEAR'S EVENT HONORS KEN VILLONE (KU2US), WHO CREATED THE 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT IN 2009



ALL
SSB



WM3PEN



13

CONTACTS

Notes From The Field Comms Committee

Well, another field day is in the books.

We had a great start. Teams started showing up at 8 am. by 11 am we had everything set up. Dale and his crew set up a great lunch and dinner. We did have a storm around 7 pm and had to disconnect for around 45 minutes.

Unfortunately, one of our antennas failed and we ended up down to 2 HF radios for awhile but we kept the 2 meter up so we remained 3A.

We are thankful for all those who came out and operated. It really was a great time.

That being said, we had our lowest turnout ever. We don't know if the different location made it more difficult to get to? We had ample parking near the building. A/C kept us cool and we had GREAT fun.

We are actively looking for a location for next year's field day. The ideal location will have lots of trees for the antennas (at least 3 antennas), lots of sun for the solar station. We would like to find a place with cover and where we can run the generator without disturbing the people in the area. We know that in the past, we've operated both outdoors and indoors. Let's try for outdoors or maybe a hybrid, some stations inside, some outside. Let's show what amateur radio is all about. We definitely want to have a location where we can invite the public.

We will post the results next month from Field Day.

We would also like to gauge the interest of the club in having a RRC Winter Field Day event this year? Would the membership be interested in operating one day or both? Is operating overnight an idea? Please let us know.

One of the concerns of the Field Comms is that there is not enough participation in club activities. The organizers of all club activities spend a considerable amount of time to plan for these different gatherings for the club. When we have a low turnout, it becomes very frustrating.

We will again try for a POTA Activation in July or August. Stay tuned to the MOTA and your e-mail for more information on that.

Have a good month.

RRC Field Comms
rrcfieldcomms@outlook.com

PARKS ON THE AIR

BY: RRC FIELD COMMS

On May 31st, 2025, three club members KC3LVS, KC3PCS, and KC3PIG headed out to PA State Game Lands 280 (US-8974) for a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation.

While we didn't make any contacts during this outing, the experience was still productive and enjoyable.

We had both SSB and FT8 stations on the air and were receiving plenty of signals across multiple bands. Despite working equipment and clean transmission reports, we weren't able to get our own signals out. After some troubleshooting and discussion, we concluded that the issue likely stemmed from our operating location, which may have been in an RF "hole" or terrain-shielded area that limited propagation.

Even with no QSOs in the log, the day was far from a loss. It gave us an opportunity to operate portable together, refine our deployment techniques, and better understand the importance of site selection in successful POTA operations.

As we continue planning future POTA activations, we strongly encourage more club members to get involved. These outings are not only a great chance to operate on the air, but also a fun way to connect with fellow hams, learn new skills, and promote amateur radio in our community. Whether you bring your own gear, help with setup, or simply come to observe and socialize, your presence makes a difference. No experience is necessary just an interest in radio and a willingness to participate.

We look forward to seeing new faces at our upcoming events!

73,
Tyler
KC3LVS

The Fox Hole

Cameron, W2CMH hid the fox. He turned it on at 1:00 PM.

I was the hunter (N3AMY). I started out at the North Lookout of Mt Penn. Surprise, surprise, I could not even hear it from there.

I wanted to try from the Pagoda but surprise, surprise, the road was closed due to the Duryea Hill Climb.

Coming down off of Mt Penn, by way of List Road, I started to get a faint signal. At some point, I received help from Stuart, W2SLH. He was saying to try 170 degrees from Mt Penn. I then worked my way through Mt Penn, Part of Exeter, onto the Morgantown Expressway.

I thought I would hear I would hear it from that high spot just before the Flying Hills exit but alas, still no signal. I got off at that exit and went North to get on top of the hill at the Reading Rehabilitation Center. I was still not getting a signal. I turned around and went South on Route 10.

Finally, as I was going up the hill towards Plowville, I got a signal. I didn't hear it at Plow Church but I kept going on Plow Road. I was finally able to start zeroing in on the fox.

After close to an hour, I finally found it. The fox was hidden in the William Penn Forrest Buck Hollow parking lot.

I talked Cameron into letting me hide the fox for him. I drove maybe 15 minutes and set up at St Pauls United Methodist Church on Georgetown Road.

I think Cameron found the fox within 15 minutes or less after I had turned it on.

I had a good time even though I got frustrated when I couldn't hear it.

See you next time when we play "Find The Fox".

Dave F, N3AMY

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Reading Radio Club's 2025 Raffle

Date: August 2, 2025 at 4:30p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per ticket

Prizes:

- 1. \$300 Visa Card**
- 2. \$125 Amazon Card**
- 3. \$75 Target Card**

Drawing Held At:

Tractor Supply Parking Lot

5370 Allentown Pike, Temple

You do not need to be present to win.



Proceeds benefit the Reading Radio Club, Inc. Please visit www.w3bn.org to find out more about our organization and what we do.

For tickets contact Amy Lindenmuth at 610-406-2238
or w3bn.rrc.tickets@gmail.com.

SGOC License No. G-25-045910-M

Reading Radio Club's

Kauffman's Chicken BBQ



Date: August 2, 2025

(Rain or Shine)

Time: Pick up 2 - 5 pm

Cost: \$12.00 per dinner



Chicken BBQ Dinner includes:

½ chicken, baked potato, and water

Tickets must be purchased in advance
by July 27, 2025.

Pick Up At:

Tractor Supply Parking Lot

5370 Allentown Pike, Temple

For tickets contact Amy Lindenmuth at 610-406-2238
or w3bn.rrc.tickets@gmail.com.

SIMPLEX RADIO TEST TEAM FINDS “DEAD ZONE” IN JUNE

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

It was simply one of those spots that looked good for height and distance. But...it turned out to be a DUD!

That's what happened when the SRT team set up on what we thought might be a good location along Route 61 near the former animal hospital at the top of the hill in Perry Township overlooking the Shoemakersville area on Saturday, June 14.

We were down one of our net control operators due to illness. So, it was decided because of the weather to simply use a mobile antenna on the vehicle to see how we would do.

Dave Fix N3AMY and Mark Abramowicz NT3V began the test at 1 p.m. and netted only 8 participants – the lowest in many months!

As it turned out, those who were able to check in reported our signal strength from the location was quite low. In fact, we had a relay station let us know one station had responded but we weren't able to hear him.

What did we learn?

Well, that location WOULD NOT be a good spot to dispatch someone in a time of emergency should one or both repeaters go down and we had to QSY to a Simplex frequency to make contact.

That's actually part of the reason for the monthly exercise – for us to find locations that would be suitable for radio communications and those that might not be.

Now, would things have been better had we erected an external antenna – say up about 10 to 12 feet as we normally do.

Perhaps.

But not everyone dispatched during an emergency has access to such an antenna and would likely be doing exactly what we did – using the mag-mount antenna on the car with 45 watts of power from the radio.

Thanks to those who were listening on 146.550 Megahertz Simplex, but couldn't hear us to check in.

Your participation in the monthly Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test is very important to our emergency preparedness responsibilities

The July Simplex Radio Test will be held a week later than usual so members can attend the Reading Radio Club picnic in West Reading.

So, look for the July SRT on Saturday, July 19 at 1 p.m. local time. That's Saturday, July 19 at 1 p.m.

And, a promise from the net control team that you'll be able to hear us and we'll be able to hear you this time.

CU on the 19th.

Mark, NT3V

RRC HAMWARE

We have RRC merchandise for sale at each RRC general meeting. See Amy Lindenmuth for jackets, hats, and t- 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 \$16, 2XL/3XL \$18

Next Level Long Sleeve T-Shirt: Small–XL \$18, 2XL/3XL \$21

Hooded Sweatshirt: Small-XL \$24, 2XL/3XL \$28

Sweatshirt: Small-XL \$19, 2XL/3XL \$21

Gildan Full-Zip Hoodie

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



Hats \$15

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 © 2025 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.
It is published on a monthly basis.

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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 about the club or 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