



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: September 30th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)
General Meeting: October 3rd, 2025 @ 7:30 (AG Center) - Ham Clock
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - W3BN Repeater
FLDigi Net: October 16th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)
Simplex Test: November 8th, 2025 @ 1 PM (146.55)
Fox Hunt: TBD. See Page 11.
VE Exam: October 3, 2025 - 6:30 PM - Berks County AG Center (See Exam Page)

2025 Board Of Directors & Officers

=====

PRES	Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	(27)
VP	Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	(26)
SEC:	Vacant	(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
3
B
N

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

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

It is available from 5:30 AM until 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.



First off, we want to thank Chris Althouse for the excellent presentation in August. There is a lot of fun and usefulness to Meshtastic. Lots of options as well.

It was great to see members speak up at the last meeting about topics pertaining to the club.

We are in need of volunteers. We have a club of almost 100 members. Let's get some activity going. Most of the committees only meet a few times a year (some via online meeting platforms).

October starts our meetings on the first Friday (at least for now), back at the AG Center. We are having a VE Exam Session at 6:30. Be sure to tell anyone you know who wants to test. There is a registration link further in the bulletin. The topic for the meeting is the awesome Ham Clock.

The repeater upgrade project is in full swing as well.

The last thing is that we would like to remind everyone about the Discord Server. You can join it from the <http://www.w3bn.org> page. It is free and very easy to use. It is organized by topic.

We hope to see many of our members at meetings going forward.

Have a great month.



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

RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Hi all. A very active month for the club in the endeavors we are trying to do. Many ideas became apparent at the last meeting, and everyone is working on those possible changes.

With the newest situation of MESHTASTIC coming into the idea of communicating, There are quite a few that are interested in that new way.

I am interested in it, but also have other feelings the way it is. Each of you has to make up your own mind in whether you would want to get into the cheap way of communicating with each other in case of Grid down. the Mestastic system will work if that happens. You need to check out the system yourself if interested. A great point of contact for that is Scott (KC3PCS). He will be able to answer all your questions.

I have agreed to assist Dave F (N3AMY) on the solar side of the newer repeater system on the mountain. Ron D (KC3WBA) has also agreed to help. It is important that we get others to volunteer a little bit of their time to help Chris (former president) and Jason on setting up equipment on the mountain where our repeater is. I hope we can have this all done by the time winter sets in to keep us communicating. I hope more members start using the new system when its operating.

Don't forget the new dates for our meetings , AND THE LOCATION CHANGE TOO.

Please read the bulletin for all happenings new and old.

RON W K3RJW

VE Test Session

We have scheduled an exam for Friday, October 3rd at 6:30 PM. This is just before the RRC General Meeting held at the Berks County AG Center.

Pre-Registration is requested.

Cost is \$15.00 (checks made out to ARRL VEC). The FCC Fee gets paid directly to the fcc for new licenses. License upgrades do not have an FCC fee.

Please bring your current license for upgrades or a state ID with for new test takers.

Please use the following link to register:

<https://ham.study/sessions/6893f3dfc2fadbb4d25fd648/1>

or email exam@w2slh.com

Tell your friends as well. This is open to anyone looking to test.

Thank you IBEW Local743

On behalf of the Reading Radio Club I have personally thanked the officers and staff of IBEW Local 743 for providing our club the temporary meeting location we have had there.

I would like to thank all those who have attended a meeting at the HALL, as it has been reported back that we left the place as found it if not better.

As I have used the term, you all get
ATTA-BOY/ATTA-GIRL

73's Dave N3AMY

Reading Radio Club 2025 Christmas Luncheon

PHONE:
(610) 693-5060

FAX:
(610) 693-8638



910 WEST
PENN AVE
ROBESONIA
19551

LUNCH BUFFET

INCLUDES:

- SOUP OF THE DAY -- Chicken Noodle
- HAMBURGER BBQ & ROLLS
- 2 COLD CUT TRAYS
INCLUDES HAM & FRESH
SLICED TURKEY
- CHEESE TRAY
- FRESH FRUIT TRAY
- VEGETABLE TRAY
- POTATO CHIPS
- MACARONI SALAD
- COLE SLAW

Dessert

Apple & Cherry Crumb Pie

Beverage

Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, & Soda

Sat., December 6, 2025 ALL YOU CAN EAT

Doors open at 11:30 a.m., luncheon begins at noon.

\$20.00 total Contact Jim, W3ITH @ w3ith@arrl.net by Dec.1.

AREA HAMS WERE “RADIO ACTIVE” FOR SUMMER SRTs

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

For so many of us, summer is such a busy time with vacations, picnics, gardening, amusement park visits, relaxing with family, and enjoying the longer days and warm weather.

But all the summer activity didn't discourage local VHF “radio activity” by the ham community and participation in the monthly Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Tests conducted in July, August and September.

Three different locations throughout Berks County were identified as worthy candidates for testing 146.550 Megahertz Simplex.

For the Saturday, Sept. 13 SRT, Al Melnyk K3AJM led the team that set up on the back parking lot of Granite Point medical building in Wyomissing overlooking the Route 222 side.

Al was joined by Dave Fix, N3AMY, in handling net-control duties.

Fifteen hams checked in but some needed relays to reach the net controls.

Al and Dave used a vehicle-mounted mobile antenna for the Granite Point operation figuring the lack of any foliage at the location and the height of the spot would be good for RF signals to reach them.

But Al said he was disappointed with the results from the west and wants to revisit the site at some point in the future.

For the Saturday, Aug. 9 SRT session from the State Hill Boat Ramp overlooking Blue Marsh Lake, there were 20 check-ins. Al Melnyk K3AJM and Dave Fix N3AMY once again shared the net control duties.

Conditions were ideal and the elevation proved to be an effective transmit-receive point thanks to the external antenna positioned at nearly 20 feet above ground. The July 18 Simplex Radio Test session was conducted along Skyline Drive from the overlook south of the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower.

The location is prime for covering the county and beyond. Al Melnyk K3AJM and Shawn Malone W3JZ shared the net-control duties and recorded 16 check-ins.

There will be no Simplex Radio Test for October to give local hams a chance to participate in the annual Pennsylvania QSO Party on Oct. 11 and 12.

While most of the activity will be on the HF bands – 40 and 80 meters for in-state contacts– there will be mobile and rover stations passing through Berks County on Saturday and Sunday and could be checking VHF simplex frequencies. So, keep the radio on and monitor for any activity.

The next Simplex Radio Test for Berks County will be conducted on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025 at 1 p.m. EST local time. (yes, we return to Eastern Standard Time on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025)

If you haven't checked in lately to the SRT, safety reflex test, mark your calendar and get your radio ready.

Our obligation as hams is to be prepared to assist the community in times of emergency.

The monthly Simplex Radio Test is a way to test our preparedness for simplex operation which would be the mode used in the event one or both of the Reading repeaters were disabled during an emergency.

We apologize but HAMWare

(Shirts, Sweatshirts, Jackets, Hats)

are unavailable at this time.

They will be available in the near future.



W3BN Members Launch Club Discord Server

The Reading Radio Club Online Presence Committee is excited to announce the launch of a new Discord server, providing members with a new space to connect, share, and learn outside of our regular meetings and on-air activities. The server currently features several channels designed to cover a wide range of interests: general-chat for casual conversation, bot-commands for interacting with our custom club bot, VE-chat for licensing and exam discussion, swap-meet for trading or selling gear, POTA (Parks on the Air) for portable activations, Meshtastic for our mesh networking enthusiasts, cricket-chat for early risers to greet the morning and chat on the air, and learning-questions for members seeking help or guidance on technical topics.

A key highlight of the server is our custom bot, created by KC3LVS and hosted on a dedicated server. The bot allows members to quickly look up callsigns, check weather, access test prep materials and upcoming VE test sessions, monitor MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency), view solar-terrestrial data, and track APRS information. This makes the server not only a social hub but also a practical tool for operators in the field or at home.

Discord provides members with real-time chat, voice channels for impromptu ragchews, and the ability to share files, images, and links. It's accessible from computers, smartphones, or tablets, making it easy to stay connected wherever you are. Beyond just supporting current members, the server is an excellent way to attract new and younger operators to amateur radio. By offering a modern, familiar platform for discussion and collaboration, it lowers barriers for those new to the hobby and extends the club's presence beyond in-person meetings and on-air activities. It's a place where curiosity, learning, and mentorship can happen naturally, helping to grow the club's membership and foster a vibrant, engaged community.

The new Discord server is designed to strengthen our club community, provide easy access to resources, and support both new and experienced hams in their radio activities. Members are encouraged to join, explore the channels, ask questions, and make the most of the tools and discussions available.

Keep an eye out for the invite link distributed to members and available on our website. Come be part of our growing online ham radio community!

73,
KC3LVS

The Fox Hole

If your interested in fox hunting, please contact Dave Fix, N3AMY. The foxes are hibernating for now.



MEMBER items WANTED / FOR SALE

There are currently no member items listed for sale / wanted.

Please let the editors know if you want something listed.

Thank you.

PA QSO PARTY ROLLS OUT NEW INCENTIVES FOR 2025

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

One of the most popular QSO parties in the nation – the PA QSO Party – is only days away!

The annual event begins on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025 at noon EDT local time, takes a pause at midnight and resumes on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025 at 9 a.m. EDT local time and concludes at 6 p.m. Activity is on SSB and CW.

It's called the "Friendly QSO Party" because it welcomes all operators regardless of contest experience to take part and have some fun.

PA (in-state hams) work those set up in the 67 counties that make up Pennsylvania. They also try to make contacts with as many hams as they can in the various ARRL sections, Canada sections, and some DX and islands.

For this year's event, the PA QSO Party organizers have rolled out a series of incentives to up the activity levels on 10 meters, 15 meters and 20 meters. Plaques will be awarded in a variety of entry categories to those PA stations who make the most contacts on 10 meters through 20 meters. At least 100 contacts must be made to qualify.

The idea is to draw more hams from around the country Canada and DX into the fun of the PA QSO party. There are already plaques and awards set aside for out-of-state entries in various categories.

Also this year, the PA QSO Party organizers will be recognizing in-state (PA) stations with special certificates for working 50 sections, and certificate endorsements for making sweeps in the various ARRL, Canada, and DX and Islands sections.

For example to qualify for the Northeast Sweep, you would have to work stations in all sections of the 1, 2, and 3 call districts. There will be recognition for doing the Southwest Sweep, Central Sweep, Western Sweep, DX and Islands Sweep, and Canada Sweep.

You can find out more at: <https://www.paqso.org/awards-certificates.html>.

Even if you're a bit mic shy and don't feel comfortable finding a frequency to call stations, the second best way to score contacts is to start at the bottom of the band you select – say 40 meters – and work your way up the band contacting the stations already calling on frequency.

There is LOTS of activity on 40 and 80 meters (evening and night) and you'll be surprised to see how many counties you can work.

Switch to 10, 15 and 20 meters to find the various sections to the west and you'll find stations looking for PA stations.

It's easier to keep track of your contacts if you have a computer program to help you log them. I use the N3FJP logging program and like its features for the PA QSO Party.

You'll find suggestions and more about the PA QSO Party rules at:

<https://paqso.org/>

Don't forget to send in your log to qualify for a certificate recognizing your achievement!

My team will be operating KC3BSA from the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation in Schuylkill County. Look for us! Work us! Every contact counts!

Most importantly, have some fun on the air!

READING RADIO CLUB, INC

2026 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

The RRC 2026 annual dues are payable starting November 1, 2025. This is the only notice that will be issued. The dues are payable in full by January 1, 2026. The dues are unchanged from 2025 and are per the following schedule.

- 18 YEARS OF AGE, \$21.00 \$ _____
- UNDER AGE 18, \$5.00 \$ _____
- SUBSEQUENT FAMILY MEMBERS AGE 18, OR OVER, LIVING IN
THE SAME HOUSEHOLD – HALF RATE, \$10.50 \$ _____
- DONATION (Tax deductible – 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 ADVANCED GENERAL TECHNICIAN NO LICENSE

LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE: _____

MEMBER OF THE ARRL: (circle one) YES NO EXPIRATION DATE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CLUB COMMUNICATIONS: _____

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)

MAILING ADDRESS FOR DUES PAYMENTS:

READING RADIO CLUB, INC
C/O NATHAN ROSENTHAL, TREASURER
148 WEST ST
POTTSTOWN, PA 19464

YOU MAY ALSO PAY USING THE PAYPAL LINK ON OUR WEBSITE (SMALL FEE APPLIES).

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

=====

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.

Opinions expressed in the RRC BULLETIN are those of the writers, editors, and article sources. They 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 not be reproduced in whole or part, without permission.

=====

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.

=====



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