



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: December 2nd, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)  
General Meeting: December 5th, 2025 @ 7:30 (AG Center) - Election / Mini H-Fest  
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - NB3W Repeater  
FLDigi Net: December 18th, 2025 @ 8 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)  
Simplex Test: December 13th, 2025 @ 1 PM (146.55)  
Fox Hunt: TBD. See "The Fox Hole" in the Bulletin  
VE Exam: None Scheduled - Contact Stuart, W2SLH

## 2025 Board Of Directors & Officers

PRES	Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	(27)
VP	Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	(26)
SEC:	Ronald Dietrich	(27)
TREAS.	Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	(26)
Vacant		(26)
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](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 Directors Meeting Minutes that are posted online are from the prior month. 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.

The Reading Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated club and non profit organization made up of  
licensed amateur radio operators, friends, family, and other supporters.

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>  
Discord Server: <https://discord.gg/nv4BCY5nHC>  
Club Groups.Io Page: <http://www.groups.io/g/W3BN>  
Club Email: [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com). Bulletin Email: [kc3pcs@outlook.com](mailto: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.



It's hard to believe it's the end of year already. Christmas is right around the corner.

This year has brought some exciting changes to the club with more changes to come.

The repeater site will be getting a long needed upgrade. I'm hoping it will see more use once the project is completed.

We've had some great presentations this year at our meetings as well. We look forward to even more next year.

The Online Presence Committee is working on a complete redesign of the club's website and hopes to reveal that design in the near future. It will have a more modern and useful look.

While our groups.io page isn't seeing much use, our Discord server is seeing above average use which we like to see.

We highly encourage as many members as possible to attend the December meeting. It's important be there and to vote for the Board Members. It's also a great time for fellowship and attending our Mini Ham Fest.

Unfortunately, Jim had to give bad news that there will not be a Christmas Luncheon this year. Perhaps it was the change of venue or change of date that made that not a possibility this year. That being said, please consider volunteering to lead the Social Events Committee which handles the Luncheons, Dinners and picnics.

We hope to build attendance in the next year for the club at meetings and events. Remember the meetings will be back to the 2nd Friday next year. We will be putting the meeting schedule on the website.

We are also hoping to have a Ham Fest in August. This will depend on finding a reasonable location.

Lastly, please remember to be safe out there. Winter means sloppy weather. Roadways, rooftops, and other surfaces can be extremely slick. That contact isn't important enough to put yourself at risk.

FYI, There will be a Meeting on the Air on December 26th and January 2nd

Have a great holiday season and best wishes for a Fantastic 2026.

RRC Bulletin Editors

# RON'S RAVINGS

## by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

ENJOYABLE and IMPORTANT, and its a good thing we practice.

We had the Limerick drill in November and the whole night went quite well. We learned a lesson that "MURPHY" rules when using equipment, using the frequencies, and working with not only your Ham friends, but personal from another location that you would not frequent.

I had the location of Amity.. The personnel there were not only friendly, but helpful too. I commend them for running an emergency drill with expertise.

We had problems at our site, and I am not sure anyone else had problems because the leader, (AL, K3AJM) did his work with outstanding results. The problem we had at Amity was a tiny pin in the radio cable that was bent. Probably due to mishandling, but it took over 20 valuable minutes to find and correct. But we found it and corrected. It got a little frustrating for "BERKS" and we had to move to the second frequency to find it and correct our transmissions out to them.

The messages were coming through fast and furious and with our problem, we had a rough time sending messages back to Berks from the personnel at that site. We finally got it done due to our operator, ( Todd). The third person at the site, ( Ron) did and outstanding job on checking and correcting the lap top. There were a few settings that did not line up, but he got them corrected. I got the pin straightened and everything fell into place. I MUST SAY, the three of us worked together and helped each other.

The sandwiches and pizza were great, and it wasn't a small set up, there was plenty for all of us. They even allowed us to take a little home.

I want to thank EVERYONE from ALL the stations to include "Berks" operators for keeping this thing running professionally.

We were out of there with the antenna cable put back where it belonged, and all the equipment put away properly.

ALL IN ALL, it was an enjoyable evening working with everyone as I believe EVERY Ham that worked it were also enjoying how to work in a practice emergency .

THANK YOU ALL.  
RON W K3RJW VP

## **Looking Ahead to 2026: Exploring Fun Ways to Grow Our Club's Visibility and Support**

**by Tyler Scheirer, KC3LVS**

As we move into a new year, it feels like the perfect time to start a friendly conversation about activities that could help our club stay active, visible, and well-supported in 2026. This isn't a proposal or a formal plan, just an open invitation to think about small, enjoyable things we can do together to strengthen both our presence in the community and our connection as members.

Amateur radio has always been about people: learning together, helping the community, and keeping curiosity alive. Even small efforts can make a big impact, whether it's raising a little extra money for club needs or simply showing the public what amateur radio is all about.

When it comes to fundraising, not every idea has to involve a big commitment. Simple approaches like raffles, mini workshops, and donation jars at events can be effective without requiring much planning or risk. These methods give the club a way to generate some extra support without worrying about leftover materials or managing large inventories. If we decide to explore larger fundraisers such as selling food at an event, we certainly can, but those come with more preparation and higher risk compared to the smaller, low-stress options.

Visibility is also one of the best tools we have for attracting new people to the hobby and reminding our neighbors what we do. Setting up a small portable station or informational table at local festivals, community days, or preparedness fairs can draw a surprising amount of interest. Something as simple as an HF demo, a go-kit display, or a "program your handheld" station can spark great conversations. Even partnerships with local parks can help introduce amateur radio to new audiences. One idea that could be particularly fun and easy is to participate in a parade. We could set up a portable station on a small trailer, make contacts during the event, and hand out candy. It's enjoyable for those who take part and eye-catching for parade watchers, and it shows amateur radio in action.

Our club is also full of knowledge and experience that we can share with others. Workshops can be both fun and rewarding, strengthening connections within the club while helping newcomers get comfortable with the hobby. Basic antenna-building activities, introductory sessions for new hams, or programming and operating tutorials all offer opportunities to learn together. We could even invite teachers and students from local schools, sparking interest in the next generation of amateur radio operators.

All these ideas are simply conversation starters, with no pressure for the club to take on any activity. The goal is to encourage friendly discussion and see what inspires our members. If any idea catches someone's interest, perhaps a small informal group could explore it further. I'm always happy to support wherever I can, simply as part of our shared effort to keep the club active and connected.

Every member contributes something unique. If you have an idea, no matter how big or small, we would love to hear it. Feel free to share your thoughts at the next meeting or reach out anytime. With a little teamwork and creativity, we can continue building a vibrant, welcoming future for our club and for amateur radio.

## Coming soon! The Reading Radio Club Mini-Hamfest

The Reading Radio Club Mini-Hamfest will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025 after our regular monthly meeting. We will have our normal business meeting, including voting for candidates to the RRC Board of Directors.

After the voting is completed, RRC members will have a chance to win a door prize. Members will be given door prize tickets, the number of which corresponds to how many RRC activities they have attended. Prizes include Baofeng HTs, mobile/base speakers, candy bars and other items.

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



Jori M, KC3ZNX; Earl W, KR2L; Brian B, KC3QB; Charles Z, W3CMZ;  
Kevin S, N3SYT; Dave Fix, N3AMY; Keith S, N3LUU; Jason P, NG3F;  
Craig H, K3CWH; Evelyn A, KB3JPY; Don B, WA1ELA.

# REPEATER NEWS

At the last meeting, the club members approved a motion to purchase a new repeater and associated equipment.

At this time, the equipment ordering is in process.

Please note that there will be times that the repeater is up and down for testing.

Please stay tuned to the Club Discord for more information.

Phase one is underway with replacement of the repeater and controller. This phase also includes adding internet to the repeater site (with the goal of removing standard telephone service which has been very unreliable over the last few years). Adding Internet also will give us more capabilities such as digital modes in the future.

We will also be adding a more robust backup system including batteries and a solar charging system.

Stay tuned for the exciting updates. The Repeater Committee looks forward to the new system being used.



PLEASE NOTE: The RRC Christmas Luncheon scheduled for Saturday, December 6 at the Heidelberg Family Restaurant has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

The RRC Social Events Committee is looking for a new chairperson for 2026. Consider being a part of the committee.



# SIMPLEX RADIO TEST

Did the fall weather contribute to slim November SRT turnout?  
By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

The monthly Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test drew 16 check-ins on Saturday, Nov. 8 – a bit below the average number of check-ins for the monthly test.

Al Melnyk K3AJM and Shawn Malone W3JZ and Mark Abramowicz NT3V served as net controls for the exercise. The team set up just off Mohn's Hill Road outside of Gouglersville near Route 222 southbound - the Lancaster Pike - in western Berks County.

The crisp fall weather might have kept some folks busy with leaf blowers and rakes or taking in the college football games.

Nonetheless, the team learned the location may not have been as productive for reception because of a relay and a phone call from one regular check-in who reported he couldn't hear us clearly from his location.

That's the point behind moving the monthly test – locating areas where coverage might be good or not so good.

The test location results help the ARES/RACES leadership to plot areas where operators can be dispatched to provide communications coverage on simplex in the event one or both of the Reading area repeaters fail.

The next monthly Simplex Radio Test will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. local time on 146.550 Mhz Simplex.

It will be the last Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test for 2025. We hope to hear you on the air that day!

## **Limerick Drill tests preparedness of Berks amateur radio operators**

### **By Mark Abramowicz NT3V**

It started with an unusual event at the Limerick Nuclear Generating Station – now known as the Limerick Clean Energy Station.

That was a little after 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025.

The notifications of area amateur radio operators went out shortly thereafter as check-ins were accepted in Berks County on the 147.180 Mhz repeater.

But this was a TEST, a DRILL.

There WAS NOT anything unusual at all for which the public needed to be alarmed.

It was an EXERCISE to test the preparedness of communities within a 10-mile radius of the Limerick nuclear plant in the event of an emergency there.

By 5 p.m., six municipal outposts in southeastern Berks County lying within the “emergency zone” were staffed with amateur radio operators set up to receive instructions from the Berks County Emergency Operations Center in Bern Township to relay to municipal officials.

Each amateur outpost had a two-meter radio attached to an antenna at the municipal building, a computer equipped with Fldigi programming, a SignalLink interface, and a printer.

The radio operators took training in advance of the exercise to receive and send digital messages to the Berks EOC using Fldigi and printing any messages received and delivering them to the municipal officials.

The exercise scenario accelerated rapidly as radiation releases were reported, a site emergency was declared and a state of emergency issued by the PA governor’s office.

The PA Department of Agriculture and PA Fish and Boat Commission were activated to help protect livestock and to prevent boat traffic along waterways in the emergency zone.

Following the issuance of a General Emergency, the PA Health secretary advised the distribution of potassium iodide tablets.

Finally, an evacuation order was issued for all within the 10-mile zone.

Nobody moved because this was a TEST, this was a DRILL.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency were monitoring all elements of the exercise at a variety of locations, including the role of the amateur radio operators.



By 8:30 p.m., stand down orders were relayed to amateurs on the Berks side of the exercise and they began to secure their positions and go QRT.

Radio operators in Chester and Montgomery counties also were assisting municipal officials during the exercise as well.

Al Melnyk K3AJM, the Berks County Emergency Coordinator for ARES/RACES, was pleased with the professionalism of the team of Berks radio operators.

And, even though there were some “glitches” along the way, all ended smoothly and the exercise provided some valuable lessons for all.

Congratulations to the 19 radio operators who stepped up to help make the drill a success!

The Limerick drill is held every two years and Al is hoping for a good turnout of volunteers for 2027.

Mark Abramowicz	NT3V	Washington Township
Shawn Malone	W3JZ	Washington Township
Tom Lucca	GMRS	Washington Township

Dave Fix	N3AMY	Colebrookdale Township
Mike Fesh	N4WXM	Colebrookdale Township

Stan Pugh	K3STP	Earl Township
Nathan Lis	KB3ZCC	Earl Township
Jason Graul	GMRS	Earl Township

George Fazio	N3GQF	Douglass Township
Scott Fausel	N9JK	Douglass Township

Ron Waszk	K3RJW	Amity Township
Ron Dietrich	KC3WBA	Amity Township
Todd Fox	W3TFF	Amity Township

Paul Berthinet	AE3U	Union Township
John Gaul	AC3NO	Union Township
Jori Masho	KC3ZNX	Union Township
Jon Durand	N8EUL	Berks EOC
Don Boulanger	WA1ELA	Berks EOC
Al Melnyk	K3AJM	Berks EOC



Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, confirms receipt of message inside of the Washington Township Municipal building in Barto during the Limerick Nuclear Drill on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025

# The Fox Hole

SORRY THERE ARE NO SCHEDULED FOX HUNTS AT THIS TIME HOWEVER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN, BUILD, WITNESS A HUNT JUST CONTACT DAVE FIX, N3AMY, 484-529-1746 AND SEVERAL OF US INTERESTED IN THIS PART OF THE HOBBY WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST YOU. THANKS



AS MY TERM ENDS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE READING RADIO CLUB I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND THOUGHTFULNESS HAVING HAD TO PUT UP WITH ME. I HOPE I SERVED ALL OF YOU WITH YOUR NEEDS, QUESTIONS, AND THOUGHTS. I AM CUTTING BACK AND I AM GOING TO TRY RETIREMENT 2.0. THIRTEEN YEARS AGO I RETIRED FROM MY JOB BUT I KEEP WORKING. THAT IS WHY I AM CUTTING BACK AND NOT RUNNING FOR THE B.O.D. BUT I WILL STILL BE ACTIVE IN OTHER CLUB ACTIVITIES. ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU ALL. - Dave Fix, N3AMY

## MEMBER items WANTED / FOR SALE

Don't Forget, December is the mini ham fest. Please bring your unused radio related items to the meeting for sale before and after the meeting.

## **Cub Scouts explore the fun of ham radio at Fleetwood STEM event**

### **By Mark Abramowicz NT3V**

More than 75 Cub Scouts and their families went searching for “Foxes,” learned about what the sounds of those dits and dahs meant, and heard and spoke to a POTA station on HF and local hams on HTs.

It all happened during the Hawk Mountain Council Frontier District Fall Fest featuring Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics activities on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Fleetwood Community Park.

A hearty crew of Reading Radio Club volunteers and friends braved the damp and cold to staff two stations for three hours featuring three aspects of amateur radio – Fox Hunting and HF and VHF operating.

The smiles and the excitement poured out of the pavilion as the Cubs (boys and girls) were captivated by the pursuit of separate foxes – one under the direction of Dave Fix N3AMY and Ron Dietrich KC3WBA and the other by Dr. Bill Hewitt W3FRB.

Larry Wolfgang WR1B also assisted on the hunts and offered support and encouragement to the youngsters and their families who wondered what this ham radio thing - or Jamboree on the Air as the HF operation was branded – was all about.

Dressed in his Scout uniform and equipped with a big smile, Larry was an easygoing instructor who made sure everybody got a chance to see and hear what was going on with this ham radio station.

Chris Schlegel WI3W supervised the HF station tuning in stations on 20 meters – especially a few POTA operators – and handed the mic to a few brave Cubs to say “Hi.”

Chris convinced the “mic-shy” Cubs to make contact on an HT tuned to 146.590 Mhz, the VHF simplex frequency being used by the Crew 59-sponsored team at the Fleetwood location.

Jason Potter NG3F and Mark Abramowicz NT3V and Dr. Bill Hewitt W3FRB answered the call from Chris to speak to the youngsters – all of whom were “first-timers” on the radio.

And, Chris introduced the youngsters to the sound of CW and demonstrated how to use it, instructing them how to send and receive a few basic letters, including spelling out their names.



The Scouting STEM event organizers were impressed by the enthusiasm and professionalism of the ham radio team. They said they never realized the applications of what some might call “old technology” employed in new ways by ham radio operators would be so interesting.

While satellite passes, especially the International Space Station, didn't line up this time, they got to see and touch a hand-held satellite antenna used for such contacts.

Each Cub Scout who took part got to choose a vintage RRC QSL card featuring either the night-time shot of the Pagoda or the twilight shot of the Pagoda.



Dave Fix, N3AMY guides a Cub Scout using the antenna to triangulate the signal to find a "Fox"

Chris Schlegel, W13W, describes how an HF Station Works



## 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 OR OVER, \$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 ensure 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.*



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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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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](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)