

February 2026
Vol 64, Issue 02



Est. 3/10/1921

W3BN

W3CCH

RRC
B
U
L
E
T
I
N



Affiliated 02/17/1922

Meetings & Programs
(All Are Welcome to attend public RRC Events)

Board Meeting: February 10th, 2026 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)
General Meeting: February 13th, 2026 @ 7:30 (AG Center)
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - W3BN Repeater
Simplex Test: February 14th, 2026 @ 1 PM (146.55)
FLDigi Net: February 19th, 2026 @ 8 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)
Fox Hunt: Spring 2026. See "The Fox Hole" in the Bulletin
VE Exam: Planning for March 7th, 2026 - Berks Fire Training Center

2026 Board Of Directors & Officers

=====

PRES	Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS	(28)
VP	Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	(26)
SEC:	Ronald Dietrich, KC3WBA	(27)
TREAS.	Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	(26)
Tyler Scheirer, KC3LVS		(26)
Craig Wanner, K3CRG		(28)
Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI		(27)
Jason Potter, NG3F		(27)
Joe Morrissey, KZ3OWL		(28)

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 Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS (scott@viewneye.com) 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.

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. 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.

From the President's Desk



I want to start by thanking the Online Presence Committee for a great presentation at the January Meeting. They have done a great job on redesigning the website. Hopefully it will be live for everyone before the end of March if not sooner.

I was pleased to see a good turnout at the meeting in January. Still, I'd like to see more members coming out. We are working on getting Zoom setup so that those members who are unable to make it to meetings in person will be able to join in as well.

As I'm writing this, it's currently snowing outside. It's the perfect time to sit down at the radio and make some contacts. As I mentioned at the last meeting, the ARRL has the Worked All States 250 (WAS250) Contest going on now. There is also a America 250 Award on QRZ.

Only have your Technician license? Don't let that stop you, take the time to study for your general. Stuart and his team offer both in person and online exams and can be scheduled very easily. They have pretty much gone to paperless testing. Even the FCC Forms are electronic. The testing process is very simple. It can be done on a laptop or tablet. If you've ever done a practice test on a platform like hamexam.org, it's that same platform. Licenses are granted within 1 business day usually (pending any unusual circumstances).

Dave is planning to have a fox hunt in Early Spring. I was thrilled at how many people are interested. This is a great way to hone up our signal tracking skills.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the Field Comms team is also gearing up for both Field Day and POTA (Parks On The Air) Operations. Please reach out to Tyler, KC3LVS or to Nathan, KB3ZCC.

Another reminder, The July picnic will be Jim, W3ITH's last event as Chair for the Social Events Committee. We thank Jim greatly for all the work he has put in for the club over the many, many years.

We are actively looking for a few chairs for committees. Please volunteer. None of the committees are time consuming that are currently open. Please see the club website to see which positions are open. If you have any questions about a committee, please reach out to myself or to Ron, K3RJW.

Lastly, there is still some Hamware left for sale. Please contact myself if you are interested. Moving forward, most hamware will be ordered online as an on-demand type product. This will save the club money and resources.

Have a great month.

Scott, KC3PCS



The RRC Is hosting an online Technician Class. Class will run for 5 weeks starting February 2nd.

Register at: <http://training.w2slh.com> by February 2nd to participate.

Class Schedule

- Class: Technician License Training
- **Mondays (2/2/2026 - 3/2/2026) : 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**
- **Tuesdays (2/3/2026 - 3/3/2026) : 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
- Format: Online via Webex
- Test Session to follow in Person

You will shortly receive two emails that include the Webex calendar invite and link to join. Please be sure to accept the calendar invitation and plan to attend each session. While I strongly encourage live attendance, each class will be recorded, so you can replay the training content or the Q&A portion if you would like to review the material later.

If you have not yet downloaded the Webex application it for your PC or Mac, here is the link in case you need it.

<https://www.webex.com/downloads.html>

This is also a great time to order the optional ARRL study guide used in the course:

- ARRL Technician License Manual, 5th Edition
- ISBN: 978-1-62595-155-7 -- This book is available directly from the ARRL or through Amazon.

If you have any questions before or during the course, please feel free to contact me:

- Email: training@w2slh.com
- Phone: 484-339-3456

There will be an exam session March 7th, 2026 (Arrive 8:45 AM) at the Berks County Fire Training Center. The Exam will be on paper.

Please register using this link: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/697a7fb96a4936519997ad90/1>

Cost is \$15.00 per exam (pass/fail). However, if you pass Technician and/or General, you can take the next level exam at no charge.

FCC fee of \$35.00 is paid directly to the FCC for all new licenses. There is no FCC fee for upgrades.

RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Wow everyone, Im sitting here waiting for the big snow storm. I wish everyone luck, I hope everyone checks their antennas, coax and wires.

Its an important time of the winter when the winter field days are among us and with the solar flux and reports, I just went through the bands and they were DEAD. I didn't even hear distance commo. I use the FT710 and there were NO peaks of commo anywhere.

Its going to be a slow month with us not scrambling to get radios ready, locations ready, and all other stuff associated with our hobby,... THATS the way it goes.

SO I guess I can say its a GREAT time to get your gear up to optimum operating efficiency. Make sure your connections are tight, clean and working properly. Don't be crawling on your roofs to check mounts this time of the year, (right Scott?). Rearrange your ham shack, check your batteries, make sure your paperwork is ready when the bands open up. Time to also clean out the ham shack. ... Sell or give away items you haven't used in months or years, and maybe a newby can use some of that equipment.

Refreshing changes are happening at the club and lots of new stuff is happening. Try helping Scott the President and myself make our club better. I do see that more and more are stepping up and I am so happy for that. WE NEED YOU to make our club top notch.

Even though we are the second oldest club in PA, we could be the BEST. Look what we are doing with the upcoming NEW repeater/radio/solar/etc. on the mountain.

Stay tuned for new ideas, and information in the next few months. WE ARE GETTING THERE.

RON W K3RJW. Vice. Pres.

REPEATER NEWS

We are currently testing the repeater and controller. The internet aspect and hardware is all in hand. Our goal is to have the new repeater mimic the old repeater in behaviors such as the tone during the net, the courtesy tone and other settings.

There will be a PL Tone on both the input (ctcss) and output (Tone Squelch). This will help eliminate interference by limiting the opening up of squelch to those listening to the repeater.

As soon as we have the time / weather, the plan is to get the repeater up to the site and test everything.

Dave has an article further in the bulletin to explain the power aspect of the project.

The meshtastic part of the project is coming along as well. Most of that hardware has arrived and is being setup and tested.

We invite you to participate in the discussion about the repeater upgrade on the club Discord.



James G, KE3NE; John B, N3VKI; Thomas B, KC3KKI; Frank R, W3RO;
Shawn M, W3JZ; Cameron H, W2CMH

REPEATER REDUNDANT POWER UPDATE

These are pictures of the solar equipment to be installed for the RRC Repeater.

The board is 44 inches by 22 inches with a cover of sheet metal. The sheet metal provides grounding between the units and possibly reduce any interference caused by the operation of the equipment. Missing are the batteries and solar panel/s.

With this phase 1 of 2 the repeater will have a super Uninterruptable Power Supply. When phase 2 is completed the repeater could be running by solar power and not use commercial power.

I would like input from the members as to what type of batteries to install for the power storage when the sun goes down. I use Deep Cycle Marine Batteries for my home solar system but even though they are maintenance free, you still need to check and add water level in the individual cells. Lithium Ion batteries can't be charged in near freezing temperatures. The repeater is in an environmentally controlled building but if commercial power goes out there will be no heat in winter time and charging Lithium Ion batteries in freezing conditions is a no no.

I thank all of those who have and still will help in the design, installation, and maintenance of the solar project. Some are Ron, K3RJW, Ron, KC3WBA, Jason, NG3F, Chris, WI3W, and Stuart, W2SLH. I apologize if I missed anyone.

Dave, N3AMY



SIMPLEX RADIO TEST

FIRST SRT OF 2026 DRAWS MORE THAN 20 CHECK-INS

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

On a dreary, rainy and damp Saturday, a team of control operators made the climb into the hills off Church Lane Road and into the Five Points area of Exeter Township to stage the first Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test for the new year.

It was Jan. 10, 2026. (at least it wasn't snowing!)

While there were a few brief periods without rain – the clouds really let loose once the test started at 1 p.m. Al Melnyk K3AJM, Shawn Malone W3JZ and Mark Abramowicz NT3V, shared net control duties inside Al's Jeep with an external antenna attached to a mast up about 10 feet.

We were joined by an observer - Eric Dorn Sr., a Scouter friend of Mark's who allowed us to pull onto his Exeter Township property and set up.

Al's vehicle GPS digital readout showed we were positioned at a height of 840 feet above sea level, just above Oley Turnpike Road and the Jacksonwald Elementary School.

We attracted a healthy 21 check-ins with a four relays needed to pick up those who were using HTs or lower power at home or because of distance or obstructions couldn't get a good signal to us on 146.550 Megahertz Simplex.

Our most distant check-in with a very strong signal was Jeff N3RBG in Plymouth Meeting in nearby Montgomery County – to the east of our location.

We also got good signal reports from Laureldale, Wyomissing and the hills of Mohnton, Still no takers for a shot at that beautiful Pagoda Award certificate offered by the Reading Radio Club for 10 two-way contacts with an RRC member – not using a repeater.

Guess your author will have to dust off his local log sheet and add to his list of contacts to get an endorsement sticker for his Pagoda Award certificate! Check it out at: (<https://qsl.net/w3bn/pagoda.htm>) Maybe a group of RRC members could plan to get on the air for the next SRT and be available for contacts. AND, maybe some could check their own local contact list to get the award themselves or an endorsement. Remember: The point of the monthly Simplex Radio Test exercise is to test our preparedness as amateur radio operators to be ready to respond to an emergency call-up using Simplex frequencies in the event one or both of the Reading area repeaters are disabled because of conditions during an emergency.

The next Simplex Radio Test for Berks County will be on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026 at 1 p.m. EST (local time). Hope to hear you on the air!

RADIO ELECTRONIC EXPO

Georgetown Hamfest

SATURDAY
April 18, 2026

Sussex Academy
21150 Airport Rd
Georgetown, DE 19947



Jocelyn Quick, KB3RAR

Sponsored by
Sussex Amateur Radio Association
RadioElectronicsEXPO.com
Follow us on Facebook at Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics EXPO





Sussex Amateur Radio Association

- APRIL 18, 2026 -



Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics EXPO

Perfectly Positioned for Regional Access

Just 2–3 hours from Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Washington, D.C., Virginia Beach, Eastern Pennsylvania, and Southern New Jersey. Tax-Free Shopping • Free Parking • More Value for Vendors & Guests

Make It a Family Weekend at the Beach!

Speakers & Forums

Tower Safety

Jon Zaires AA1K

DMR Basics & Interstate System

Nick Fedirko N3YMS

Balun Basics: How To Build Your Own 4:1 and 1:1

Eric Hudson WG3J

Parks On The Air (POTA) Demo

Kerri Wright KB3WAV
Del Delfish N2NWK

ARRL Meeting & Update

Events & Attractions

ARRL State Convention Tailgating

Silent Auction Great Raffle Prizes

Free FCC Testing Guest Speakers

Forums QSL Card Checking

Lots of PAVED Parking Vendors

Food Trucks Satellite Mobile Bus

Operate W1AW/3 Station

Guests Pay \$10 To Enter!
(Under 18 FREE!)

Inside spaces \$20.00 - 1st Table
Tailgaters : \$10.00 - Each Space

For Information

Contact Jamie, W3UC

(410) 202-7690

hamfestdelaware@gmail.com

NEW HAMFEST LOCATION:



**Sussex Academy
21150 Airport Rd.
Georgetown, DE 19954**

**Gates open at 6:00 A.M.
Expo begins at 8:00 A.M.**

Event Schedule

6:00 AM	Gates Open
7:30 AM	Tailgating
8:00 AM	Indoor Venue Opens
9:00 AM	FCC Testing - No Walk-ins/No Test Fee See www.radioelectronicsEXPO.com for pre-registration link and other event information

TALK-IN: SARA Repeater

147.090 mHz PL 156.7

Schedule subject to change

Local Hotels

Tru by Hilton Georgetown
(3.4 Miles)
302.515.2100

Microtel by Wyndham
(2.9 Miles)
302.396.9719

Quality Inn & Suites
(3.3 Miles)
302.339.8506

JOIN US IN TAX FREE DELAWARE!

The Delmarva Radio and Electronics EXPO is sponsored by The Sussex Amateur Radio Association
A 501(c)3 corporation



www.radioelectronicsEXPO.com

Follow us on Facebook at Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics

The Fox Hole

At the last meeting, we asked for a show of hands of interest in a hound hunt in spring. There was quite a few. We will get a hunt scheduled for in early spring. Please contact Dave, N3AMY, if you are interested in having one before that.



MEMBER ITEMS WANTED / FOR SALE

Please email the editors if you want to post an item here.

You can also post items in the club discord.

=====

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 © 2026 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 k3pc@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