



W3BN W3CCH

The Reading Radio Club Bulletin

Volume 59

Issue Number 8 August 2021

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A Monthly Publication of the Reading Radio Club, Scott & Lori Scheirer Editors (kc3pcs@gmail.com)

Keep up to date with the RRC at <http://www.readingradioclub.org>



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

MEETINGS

Next Board Meeting: **Tues, August 10th at 7:30 PM via Zoom**

Next General Meeting: **Fri, August 13th, 2021 at 7:30 PM (Auditorium)**

Topic: To Be Determined

Location: Berks County Agricultural Center—Rear Entrance

1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

All other Fridays, we have a **Meeting on the Air at 8 PM** on the W3BN Repeater.

2021 Board Of Directors & Officers

=====		
PRESI. Chris Schlegel, K3ADA	Sutehk.CS@gmail.com	(23)
VP Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	JFP0250@comcast.net	(21)
SEC. Harry Hoffman, W3VBY	HarryHoffmanJr@juno.com	(22)
TREAS. Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	Nate01PA@comcast.net	(23)
Art Becker, KB3LDI	ABeckerBeConCo@msn.com	(21)
Jason Potter, K3WDF	Radio.K3WDF@gmail.com	(21)
John Engle, AB3SR	No Public Email	(22)
Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	PolishPICL@aol.com	(23)
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Editor	kc3pcs@arrl.net	(22)

The two-digit number, in brackets, to the right of the BOD member's email address, is the year that their term ends on December 31.

(A normal 3-year term runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, three years later).

The four officers of the RRC are elected from the BOD by the NINE board members at the annual RRC Board of Directors Reorganization Meeting held in January of each year. Please note that ALL nine BOD members have voting power.

Please note: The Board of Director Minutes are available by written request or online at:

<http://www.readingradioclub.org>. Email Chris Schlegel, k3ada@arrl.net if you wish to participate in a board meeting.

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

ATTENTION TO ** (Person your sending to)
READING RADIO CLUB INC
PO BOX 13777
READING PA 19612-3777



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 midnight.

Drez Says

Hard Drive rot, no I'm not talking about the swiss cheese upstairs. Also known as "bit rot", is more accurately stated as the decay of information in a hard drive due to age and lack of use. I came across a good example of this the other day cleaning out my ham shack and taking a load of electronics to the recyclers. The hard drive in question was sitting in the corpse of my sister-in-law's computer from many years ago and hadn't been powered on in at least 8 years. I had asked her what she wanted me to do with the computer and received the expected reply of "Get rid of it, but see if you can get the info off of the hard drive." After realizing that the other computer (that was to be recycled) was the only other computer in the house that could possibly read the drive due to the connection type (IDE), I set to work trying to get the computer booted up so I could pull the data off. That was a chore in itself, the other machine was running Windows XP. Should give some idea of the age of the computer. Needless to say, to no avail was I able to pull the information off of her hard drive. The boot sector of the drive and the data overall were completely unrecognizable by the operating system. In a magnetic storage device such as a mechanical hard drive, the "bit rot" comes from the magnetic fields that store information slowly decaying over time. When the drive is powered on, the read heads will recondition the data sectors and essentially re-energize the magnetic fields. Solid State Drives suffer the same condition, albeit through a different methodology. Lesson learned, if you have storage drives that have been sitting for a while, you might want to give them a look over. If you have data that you want saved, power the drive up every few months.

Chris, K3ADA

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.

ARRL AND ICAO PHONETIC ALPHABETS

A	ALPHA	N	NOVEMBER
B	BRAVO	O	OSCAR
C	CHARLIE	P	PAPA
D	DELTA	Q	QUEBEC
E	ECHO	R	ROMEO
F	FOXTROT	S	SIERRA
G	GOLF	T	TANGO
H	HOTEL	U	UNIFORM
I	INDIA	V	VICTOR
J	JULIET	W	WHISKEY
K	KILO	X	X-RAY
L	LIMA	Y	YANKEE
M	MIKE	Z	ZULU

ARRL American Radio Relay League

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization

The Phonetic Alphabet is not only used by the military, but also by Pilots, Air Traffic Controllers, Amateur Radio Operators and Customer Service Agents within the Airlines. It is a great way to make sure you are understood. Since a B, P, T, and V sound hauntingly similar when spoken. de Rich, W3WJC

READING RADIO CLUB HAMFEST

Saturday August 7, 2021

Location: Heritage Park, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania

Off routes 422 & 724 - look for signs

SINKING SPRING, PA (Reading area) - Reading Radio Club Hamfest

Heritage Park, Sinking Spring, PA. West on 422 at Rt. 724, after one mile left on Park Ave (just past the Sunoco station on the right); Park Ave 0.3 miles to dead end, left onto Clematis St. 0.2 miles to the entrance to Heritage Park.

Look for signs.

GPS: N 40 deg 19.320 min W 076 deg 01.950 min

Closest home to Heritage Park entrance: (992 Clematis Street, Sinking Spring, PA 19608)

Website: <http://readingradioclub.org>

Sponsor: Reading Radio Club, Inc.

Type: ARRL Sponsored Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.91/.31 tone 131.8

Opens: 8 a.m., Vendors 7 a.m. (Ticket prizes awarded at intervals)

COST: \$ 5 entrance fee or \$ 8 tailgate fee for sellers (per space)

NO ENTRANCE FEE for: those taking license exams, Amateurs under 18 years of age, unlicensed spouses, and children under 18 years old.

Handicap Accessible Rest room facilities and refreshments available inside Freight Station

Test Bench with limited AC power and HF antenna provided near Freight Station

ARRL VE License Testing at **8:30 am (inside Freight Station)**

Cost \$ 15 (we prefer check written to ARRL/VEC). Exact cash payment is also acceptable.

Please bring one form of ID. (A copy of your license or CSCE is sufficient) You must provide an e-mail address and FRN number.

Public Contact: Harry Hoffman, W3VBY

104 Evans Ave, Sinking Spring Pa 19608

Phone: 610-678-8976

Email: harryhoffmanjr@juno.com

BERKS ARES/RACES TO HOLD REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Berks ARES/RACES will have a reorganizational meeting on Tuesday evening, August 24 at the Berks Fire Training Center. Among other things, plans for the upcoming Limerick Drill in November will be discussed. All members of Berks ARES/RACES should attend this meeting. In addition, any radio amateurs who are interested in helping provide emergency communications to the county should attend to find out more about ARES/RACES.

Berks ARES/RACES works with the county's Department of Emergency Services to provide operators in case of the breakdown of normal communications systems during an emergency. The county provides the 147.180 repeater for amateur use and has a number of easily-deployable kits that contain dual-band 2m/440MHz rigs including power supplies and antennas, as well as computers and printers to enable voice and digital communications over standard amateur VHF/UHF channels. If auxiliary or emergency communications capabilities are needed, Berks ARES/RACES members would respond to assigned locations, set up communications with the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and pass message and tactical traffic over the air.

This reorganizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24 at 7PM. The Berks Fire Training Center is located at 895 Morgantown Road (Rt. 10) in Reading, just South of the Angelica Park entrance on Rt. 10.

If you have any questions, please contact Alan Melnyk, the Berks County RACES officer and ARES county emergency coordinator, at 610-621-2187, at K3AJM@ptd.net, or on the 147.180 repeater. The ARES/RACES group holds a net every Monday evening at 8PM on that repeater.

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RRC MEETING ON THE AIR (RRCMOTA)

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By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC (07.19.2021)

Check into the **RRC MEETING ON THE AIR** on the Friday evenings that we do not have an in-person meeting. The net, on 146.910 MHz, starts at 8:00 p.m. with the latest AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE REPORT from the West Coast.

We then have an exchange of information that may be of interest to the members of the Reading Radio Club as well as those that are not RRC members.

The last part of the net is a roll call where we usually have 13 to 56 stations check-in and test their two-meter FM analog equipment. The roll call is last, so that late comers are not missed.

NOTE: The Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System, (CTCSS) frequency is 131.8 Hertz (3B). The CTCSS is often referred to as "PL" (Motorola's trade name).

The net has been in operation since Friday January 21, 1994, when we had 13 check-ins during that first session, over 27 years ago.

On Friday July 30, 2021, we had session number 1167.

The next RRCMOTA will be on Friday August 6, 2021, starting at 8:00 p.m., on the Reading Radio Club's 146.910 MHz, W3BN analog repeater. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, will be the Net Control for session number 1168.

NOTE: The next in-person RRC meeting is scheduled for Friday August 13, 2021, starting at 7:30 p.m., at the Berks County Agricultural Center, in Bern Township. Put the following address in your GPS device or GOOGLE MAPS:

1238 County Welfare Road Leesport PA

FYI: AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE is the "Amateur Radio's independent on the air news and bulletin service" and is not a service of the American Radio Relay League.

Everyone, RRC Members and those that are not members,
are invited to tune in and check into the,

READING RADIO CLUB MEETING ON THE AIR

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Tune in Weekday mornings to the W3BN Repeater from 6 am until about 6:30 am for our informal morning group. We've been dubbed the "Sunrise Crew". Everyone is welcome to join in. No net control. We just have a nice roundtable discussion of different topics.

Be sure to also tune in to the ARES/RACES net on Monday night on 147.18 at 8 pm and QCWA net on the W3BN Repeater at 9 pm.

Don't Forget the 3/7/10 Initiative started by Rich Ahrens. Hop on the repeater at those times and see who is on. No net control, just friendly chat.

The Reading Radio Club 2021 Hamfest

Saturday, August 7, 2021

By Jim Nicholas, W3ITH

The RRC 2021 Hamfest will be held at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring on Saturday, August 7. Of course, the Hamfest is ARRL sanctioned, and a notice has been placed in the July QST Magazine.

The Hamfest location is easy to find. From Reading, go west on 422 past the MacDonald's at Rt. 724. After one mile go left onto Park Ave. (just past the Sunoco station on the right). Travel on Park Ave. 0.3 miles to a dead end, then take a left onto Clematis St. Go 0.2 miles to the entrance to Heritage Park. Look for signs. The talk-in station will be W3BN, on the RRC repeater (146.91/.31-tone 131.8). Telephone is 610-781-5508.

For those using a GPS, the information is N 40 deg, 19.320 min., and W 76 deg, 1.950 min. The closest residence is 992 Clematis St., Sinking Spring, PA, 19608.

The hamfest opens at 7 a.m. for vendors and 8 a.m. for buyers. We usually conclude at noon. The cost is \$5 for hams over 18 years of age. Those taking VE exams, amateurs under 18, unlicensed spouses and children are admitted at no cost.

ARRL VE testing begins at 8:30 a.m. They will be administered inside the freight station. The cost is \$15 and a check should be made out to ARRL/VEC. Exact cash is also acceptable. One form of ID is required (or a copy of your license or CSCE certificate), and an email address and FRN number is needed. To eliminate any problems, call our RRC VE Coordinator, Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, at 610-678-8976 for information.

Hot breakfast and lunch items will be available at the RRC Café inside the freight station. Also, snack items, sodas, water and ice cream will be sold as well. At intervals, door prizes will be announced, so remember to keep your ticket stub and place the other half of the ticket in the blue coffee can in the freight station. Write your call sign legibly on the ticket in case you are not present for the drawings.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends tickets will also be available for sale at \$5 each and we have a limited number of RRC blue tote bags for sale at \$2 each. We may have a limited number of RRC baseball caps for sale as well.

At the present time, we are in need of a few RRC members to help at the front gate and direct parking. We could use one or two more helpers in the RRC Café. This may be done on an hourly basis. If you would like to help, contact Jim Nicholas, W3ITH at w3ith@arrl.net.

Who knows what new or vintage piece of ham gear you might find at the Hamfest? Or maybe that tube or part you haven't been able to find? Come to the RRC Hamfest on August 7 and you may be surprised! Remember, all sales are final with no warranty. The RRC assumes no responsibility in these transactions. See you there!

RON'S RAWINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

OK, slower month than usual due to the heat, and people still a little scared of the cov. SO, here is my input for the months bulletin.

We had a great short picanic (SIC) (ha-ha) at the train station, and suffered through the heat. I felt so bad for Jim, Maryann, and Alex doing all the cooking in the kitchen until I found out that the heat wasn't quite as bad in there than the hall itself. I guess there was sort of a little cooler air coming in the back door. Of course, the fans didn't help much, and a couple of us found it cooler out in the shade of the back porch.

Here are a few clips of my go pro to see the crowd we had.

Both the fox hunts and the smota are being held off until we get at least a LITTLE cooler weather.

RON



HELP SUPPORT

READING RADIO CLUB

(Non-Profit Organization)



Bosco's

FRIENDS
HELPING
FRIENDS
25TH ANNIVERSARY

IN-STORE
ONLY

ONE DAY ONLY - OCTOBER 20, 2021
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS
- **REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD**
At every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

RRC Fundraising Committee Chair: Scott, KC3PCS, kc3pcs@gmail.com

or at any Reading Radio Club Event or Meeting (see <http://www.readingradioclub.org>)

For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends

Reading Radio Club Summer Picnic 2021 at Heritage Park, Saturday, July 17

Art Becker, KB3LDI
Harry Hoffman, W3VBY
Jim Nicholas, W3ITH
Mary Anne Nicholas, N3TVT
Alex Nicholas
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS
Dave Wiley, K3MXS
RRC Summer Picnic 2021 Committee

The RRC 2021 Summer Picnic was held at the Heritage Park freight train station building in Sinking Spring on Saturday, July 17. This is the same location we have used for many past RRC Summer Picnics, ARRL/RRC Field Days and RRC Hamfests.

Picnic attendees arrived at about 11 a.m. and the food staff composed of Mary Anne, Jim and Alex Nicholas were already busy in the kitchen. Two large electric stoves, a microwave oven and a large stock pot were used to cook the hot dogs and hamburgers.

The club provided to RRC members and significant others the following: hamburgers, hot dogs, American cheese, rolls, mustard, ketchup, relish, sauerkraut, chips, ice cream, sodas, bottled water, ice, napkins, knives, forks, spoons, and table cloths.

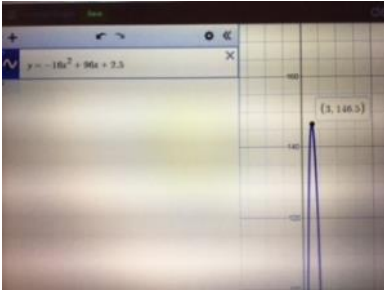
Some club members brought a dessert or side dish to share with the group. Side dishes and desserts included fruit salad, macaroni salad, potato salad, chocolate chip cookies, and pretzel candies.

Needless to say, there was quite a variety of food choices. Everyone enjoyed the picnic food and ham fellowship.

The RRC 146.91/.31 (CTCSS tone 131.8) was monitored during the event. The picnic is always held rain or shine. The temperature was in the 80s with sun and a bit of breeze. The summer bugs stayed away.

Thanks to all who attended. Let's do it again next July!

CLUB STAGS



HALS FIELD DAY REPORT BY HAL MESSER, K3ATC

Over the past 40+ years I have participated in many ARRL Field Day Events, but have never entered as a QRP station. This year I decided that I would try to take advantage of the multiplier of 5 by operating QRP and also the multiplier of 2 by operating all CW.



I used my Elecraft KX3 transceiver powered by the batteries that I normally use with my Ryobi power tools. As shown in the picture below, I cut off the handle of old drill and used it as a housing for the lithium ion drill battery. This makes for a rapid battery change and offers an easy way to connect the DC to Dc converter to the supply voltage. With the help and advice of Bob, K3DBD. I chose the adjustable QSKJ 1212CCBA-80W DC-DC Converter to drop the drill battery voltage down to about 13.8 Volts.



(Hal's Field Day Report Continued On Next Page)

Before the beginning of Field Day I charged all six of my 18-volt Ryobi batteries so that I could operate as "E" station. As a home station I was also able to use my existing antenna system which consisted of a small 2 element beam for 20-15-10 at 30' and a doublet antenna for 80 & 40 meters.

My total operating time was slightly less than 11 hours and I simply tried to work any station that I could hear. On a few occasions when the band activity slowed down I was able to call CQ and work a few new contacts.

I used the N1MN logging program; however, since my notebook computer is not yet interfaced with my KX3 I used the memory keyer from the KX3 or my external Super CMOS memory keyer to do my keying.

During the times that I operated I thought the band conditioners were good and I was pleasantly surprised to see that 10 and 15 meters were open for a short time.

I was able to work all but 4 of the ARRL sections and all but 4 of the Canadian sections.

Summary:

Band.	# Contacts
80 meters	100
40 meters	107
20 meters	194
15 meters	71
10 meters	9

TOTAL QSO's 481

Score: $481 \times 5 \times 2 = 4,810$ plus
100 points for using emergency power
50:points for submitting score via web

4,960 points for the READING RADIO CLUB

From the Fundraising Committee

Please be sure to sign up for the 100 for 100. We thank all those that have returned their forms and donations. Forms are available at any meeting or by contacting Scott at kc3pcs@gmail.com.

Amateur Radio Help Needed

We are looking for a bunch more radio operators to support the Eastern States 100 Ultra Marthon. Eastern States is a 103-mile single-loop trail race (98% single/double-track) in the Wilds region of the Allegheny Plateau in north-central Pennsylvania. The race circumnavigates a portion of the stunning Pine Creek watershed that includes some of our longest climbs and most technical and remote terrain. It visits storied trails like the Mid State Trail and the Black Forest Trail, and accumulates over 20,000 feet of climbing in the process — all in the glorious heat and humidity of August. This race is Saturday Aug 14 thru Aug 15 2021 Radio operators are need to help support Logistics and Tracking runners at the 17 check points. We need Volunteers for the following aid stations at a minimum AS1, AS3, AS5, AS11, AS16, AS17. Other Aid Stations have slots open.

Please visit

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/PA/Waterville/EasternStates100#16697>

to sign up for and position labeled as Radio Operator.

Thanks,

Travis Best

W3TMB

tbest@w3tmb.com

570-279-1746



Please note: Ads placed here will run for 2 bulletins unless you let the editor know you still want them posted, deleted, or changed.

Got something for us to put in here? Please email it to kc3pcs@gmail.com

FREE: 15 "C" rechargeable NMH batteries. High capacity, 2500mah and 3500 mah. Used very little. Contact John, N3AOF at jaugustinen3aof@gmail.com or 610 929-8850 (leave a message).

Thanks, John N3AOF

Please Note: The Editors and/or RRC are not responsible for items listed on this page.

Descriptions & Pictures are supplied by the Seller.

Membership Statistics

Send all license and mailing address changes to:
 RRC Treasurer Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD, at NateØ1PA@comcast.net or N2ADD@arrl.net
 Please let us know if you upgrade your license. Email to Scott, KC3PCS, and Lori at
 KC3PCS@gmail.com with updates.

By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC - RRC Historian

(07.19.2021)

STATS AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

Full Voting Members:	68
Associate (Non Voting) Members:	13
Supporting (Non Voting) Members:	2
Total:	83

1/4 of Full Voting Members
 required for a quorum. (17)

40 RRC voting members are members of the ARRL (59%).
 To be a "Local Amateur Radio Club" affiliate of the ARRL, 51% of the voting members must be Full or Associate members of the ARRL. Note: This is the club's voting members, not necessarily the total membership.

"Life Member"
 Harry Hoffman, W3VBY
 By RRC BOD action on November 10, 2020.

"Honorary Membership for Life"
 Jim Nicholas, W3ITH
 By RRC BOD action on December 8, 2009.

"Life Member"
 Rich Ahrens, W3WJC
 By RRC BOD action on June 6, 2006.

83 = Total RRC membership as of Aug. 1, 2021

87 = Aug. 2020	99 = Aug. 2009
89 = Aug. 2019	102 = Aug. 2008
86 = Aug. 2018	116 = Aug. 2007
83 = Aug. 2017	115 = Aug. 2006
74 = Aug. 2016	125 = Aug. 2005
81 = Aug. 2015	125 = Aug. 2004
83 = Aug. 2014	135 = Aug. 2003
85 = Aug. 2013	130 = Aug. 2002
87 = Aug. 2012	127 = Aug. 2001
89 = Aug. 2011	124 = Aug. 2000
97 = Aug. 2010	123 = Aug. 1999

There were 193 Members in 1978

Extra Class:	34	41 %
Advanced:	5	6 %
General:	21	25 %
Technician:	21	25 %
Novice:	0	0 %
No License:	2	2 %

May not total 100% due to rounding.
 Data may not be up to date.
 Checked FCC for upgrades Sep. 22, 2020,
 by Rich Ahrens, W3WJC.

RRC Calendar of Events

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	3	4 QCWA Breakfast	5 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	6 MOTA (8 pm)	7 RRC HamFest
8	9 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	10 RRC BOD Meeting ZOOM 7:30 PM	11	12 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	13 RRC Meeting AG Center 7:30 PM	14
15	16 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	17	18	19 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	20 MOTA (8 pm)	21
22	23 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	24	25	26 Digi Net 146.91 7:30 PM	27 MOTA (8 pm)	28
29	30 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	31				

PLEASE NOTE:

August 4th, 2021— QCWA Breakfast at Berkshire Family Rstrnt. (1714 State Hill Rd, Wyomissing)

August 10th, 2021—7:30 PM — Board Meeting— ZOOM

August 13th, 2021—7:30 PM — Club Meeting— AG CENTER (and streaming online)

On the Fridays, that we do not have an in-person meeting we will have a "Reading Radio Club Meeting On The Air" (RRCMOTA) on the RRC 146.910 MHz repeater starting at 8:00 p.m. The CTCSS is 131.8 Hz.

August Birthdays: Donald Vallere, KC3LNP; Alan Melnyk, K3AJM; Andrew Galligan, KA3NKN; Jessica Landis, KC3PIG; Stuart Higgins, W2SLH; Walter Grube Jr, WD8MNE

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The PRIMARY purpose of The Reading Radio Club Bulletin, is to provide, to the membership, timely information about the activities of the Reading Radio Club, Inc.

IN ADDITION, 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 © 2021 by the Reading Radio Club, Inc. Opinions expressed in the RRC BULLETIN are those of the writers and 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 be reproduced in whole or part, without Additional permission, if credit is given to the READING RADIO CLUB BULLETIN and the authors.

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August 1st, 2021 - EMAIL VERSION STARTED ON FEBRUARY 10, 1998.
CIRCULATION: 90 RRC - 106 RRC ELIGIBLE NON-MEMBERS,
FIVE CLUBS WE SWAP BULLETINS WITH, PLUS 10 OTHER CLUBS.
THE FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION IS MONTHLY.
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Deadline for all bulletins is the 25th of the prior month. However, earlier is better. Please submit to kc3pcs@gmail.com. ** Please note that the editors reserve the right to accept, change, reject anything submitted for the RRC Bulletin.