



UP-LiNK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
**THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER
ASSOCIATION II, INC.**



Board Meeting March 10, 2004

Hamfest Membership Meeting March 12, 2004

Elections are coming

It's time to elect officers of the Cherryville Repeater Association... Can Spring be far behind?

It's that time of year again. At the April meeting the votes will be counted and the new or continuing officers will begin a new term. The nominating committee has been busy putting together a slate of candidates, and the list has been read at various meetings and will be read a final time at the hamfest. Ballots will be mailed to each member right after that, and members can submit their ballot by mail back to the club post office box, or bring it to the April meeting. No ballots will be accepted after 7:35 pm that night, and no one whose dues are not paid will be eligible to vote. It's that simple. The remaining members at large on the board will count the ballots after any non-dues paying ballots are discarded.

The slate of candidates look like this:

For President - Elaine Kita, N3ODB

For Vice Pres. - Walter O'Brien, W2WJO

For Secretary - Pete Sneed, K2YSY
Bob Smolarek, N2MIF

For Treasurer - Bill Greenhalge W2NCN
Barry Campbell K2BC

For Member at Large - Two to be elected
Denis Albisser AB2PD
John Mc Auley, N2HUZ
Cheryl McLaughlin KB2RWY
Bruce Campbell N2SVK

Remember your dues must be paid to be eligible to vote. You can put your check in the envelope with your ballot, but remember to keep the check OUTSIDE the ballot envelope or it won't be seen until too late. You can also come to the meeting in April and pay before the meeting starts, or mail your dues to the P.O. Box. Dues are \$30 for single members, and \$45 for families. What's that old saying? "Vote early and Vote Often!"

It's Hamfest Time Again

March is coming! March is coming! Yep, it's time again for our annual Cherryville Hamfest. Now it's less than a month away, and things are beginning to come together.

The date is Saturday, March 13, and every member and friend available is asked to participate. Table sales are already getting brisk so it appears we are in for another good year. We have some new members of the club since the last hamfest, so maybe a little explanation of what to expect is in order.

The first thing that happens is Friday afternoon and evening. We get started setting up about 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon, but if you can't be there by four, come when you can. The more we have helping the faster it goes. We're even going to have a very quick club meeting--it is club meeting night, after all, just to announce the candidates for elections in April. Our by-laws require the slate be read the meeting before the election.

But most of the afternoon and evening will be setting up tables, PA system, kitchen, etc. so we're ready to go early Saturday morning. We use tables from the high school, but have to bring 20 or so of them up from the school's pole barn. That means we'll need a couple pickup trucks, and lots of bodies to help load and unload them. We will also be making two trips to the club's trailer to get signs, condiments, speakers and the grill. Thursday evening will be the first, and Friday afternoon the second.

And just as important, those same tables need to go back to the pole barn Saturday afternoon as the event is winding down. Last year we had a problem of not enough hands to help and the few who did were worn to a frazzle. Being able to use the school's tables saves the

club a ton of money over renting them all as we did in the distant past. But it's important that enough help is available both during setup and cleanup!

Once everything is ready on Friday night, we go home, get a good night's sleep, and show up as early as you can--we will have crews there beginning at 5:00 a.m.! Vendors start setting up at 6:00, and we need bodies to help with getting vendor materials to the table areas. If you have a hand truck at home, or a loading dock cart, please bring it to help with the process. The unloading area is not large, and we need to get vendors unloaded as quickly as possible.



New loading doors complete with built-in ramp, and it's close to the vendor area!

On Saturday morning, first crews arrive at 5:00, and get the kitchen up and running, and get security in place to make a smooth entry of vendors without buyers getting in early. They come at 8:00, and not before. Speaking of food, keep in mind that all club members working the event can have coffee and soda, but are asked to pay for food. Lots of great food will be available all morning, including enough chili that should hopefully last longer than 10:30 a.m.

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(Hamfest—Continued from page 1)

There are lots and lots of places where you can help. If you have a favorite spot you want to work, let me know immediately at bcampbell@scctc.org. If you're not sure, ask me and I'll let you know the areas that need people or even suggest you be a floater. I can tell you that we still need help in early security and parking. Many of the club members plan to take the VE test for upgrading, or will be acting as a VE, so we'll definitely need people at various areas starting at 9:00.

Things start winding down just before noon, and that's when we start doing the cleanup. Again, WE NEED BODIES. The more people we have helping with both clean up and setup, the faster it goes, and the less exhausting it is for all. We will, as part of the cleanup activity take the tables to the pole barn and put the trailer items back in the trailer until Field Day.

After that, we can all go home and relax and enjoy the rest of the weekend! Rest assured, before things are completely over, we'll have an idea of how well we did.

The important thing is to have fun doing the event, but we need everyone possible to participate.



There is a new section of cafeteria that was added since last year. More vendor room and a place to sit and eat.

The Furry Critters and the Weather

by K2BC

Many of those on the repeater in the morning or evening often ask about the weather, but ask "What are the Campbell Cats doing? We have known for a few years that our cats can pretty accurately predict the severity of an impending storm. We call them our weather furcasters.

How do they do it? We can usually tell the severity of a coming storm by the hyper activity exhibited a few days before the storm. In some cases we've noted their rowdy behavior before we had even seen any reports that a storm was coming. Sandra and I just look at each other and ex-

doomed!" This year even more observant reporting our find-Miketeta at the Mt. soon as we observe ious to talk with him up for the hamfest in

It's been known that animals are able phenomina before Horses and other jittery before an probably sensing

ing of the ground before the big tremor occurs. Our cats went absolutely nuts when the 9-11 disaster occurred. We called an animal communicator friend of ours in South Carolina, and she said she had received many calls that day from all over the country. People were reporting their pets went nuts when the disaster occurred.

How have they done this year with the weather? They have indicated each and every one of the storms we've had, even to the point of the severe and the not-so-severe. We can tell the severity by the amount of hyper activity is exhibited and how many of the nine are active. It has really been interesting for us, and hopefully Joe will think so too.



Norton, the chief Fur-caster at the Campbell house.

claim, "We're we decided to be and have been ings to Joe Holly NWS as them. We're anx- when he comes March.

for a long time to sense different they happen. farm animals get earthquake, minute shudder-

The Repeater is Much Improved; Still a Way to Go

The clean audio is back, and the messages are again under control...

Have you noticed how good the main repeater sounds lately? With thanks in very large measure to Ed Kita, N3MSK, the hum is gone, and the audio is it's clean, crisp self again.

The problems all started, of course, when lightning struck near enough to the repeater site to damage the voter and the controller. Ed has spent hours at the site locating and repairing the damage. It was back on the air with low audio and hum shortly after the strike, but this past week Ed was finally able to spot the defective op amp and wire out an empty voter slot that was hanging up the transmitter, and the result has been a welcome relief.

There is still a ways to go. The autopatch is still not functioning, and there are still problems with the voter. For those reasons, the board elected to purchase a new controller and a new voter to replace the aging and damaged units at the site. Both

the new units are in, but there is still work to do. The controller needs to be programmed, and they both have to be installed into the site. When the weather gets better we should be about ready to put them in. There are lots of new features on the new controller, and it should be a lot of fun getting some new things going on the repeater.

We finally were able to get into the current controller to reset that now all too familiar "September 12" meeting date. It has been reset, and the Hamfest message added.

Ed also indicated we will need a work party in the near future to take care of some problems at the Bloomsbury receive site, but that will happen when the weather is a little more favorable.

It's great to have a guy like Ed heading up the tech committee and doing the bulk of the maintenance on the repeater. Thanks, Ed, from ALL of us!

We Thought They Had Us...

by K2BC

A wave of panic set in on the ham community last week when we heard what we thought was the final bill regulating cell phone usage by auto drivers.

The 375 machine was abuzz with discussion, mostly because we had all thought that the new bill, expected to become law on July 20, would regulate cell phone usage only. When George, N2VWL read the major portions of the bill over the air, we were all stunned to learn it not only covered cell phone usage by drivers, but covered ham radio, CB, or any other distraction-including changing the station on your AM/FM radio!

While we were all trying to figure out how we were going to get a "hands free" setup for our mobile radios, Jim, KB3CPN went to work seeking out a copy of the final bill that was signed by the Governor. He found it, and much to our relief, it indeed does deal only with cell phone usage while driving. The law signed by the governor is actually a "Senate Committee Substi-

ture" for two original bills. The very first sentence in the act reads, "The use of a wireless telephone by an operator of a moving motor vehicle on a public road or highway shall be unlawful except when the telephone is a hands-free wireless telephone,..." It seems to be very specific.

The only time a cell phone can be used without the hands-free equipment is "...reason to fear for his life or safety, or believes that a criminal act may be perpetrated against himself or another person..." It goes on to say also that reporting a fire, traffic accident serious road hazard or other emergency would be permitted without the hands-free device, however telephone bills will be checked to verify an emergency did in fact exist at the time you said you were reporting it.

But the most complete explanation of what is covered in the bill is the sentence that reads, "'Use' of a wireless telephone shall include, but not be limited to, talking or listening to another person on the telephone." Additionally, the application of this statute is secondary to another offense for which the driver is stopped by a police officer. There is a \$100 to \$250 fine involved, but no points or insurance eligibility points. By the

way, police, fire and ambulance personnel are specifically exempted from the bill "in the actual performance of their official duties.

Early on I contacted Frank Fallon, N2FF the Hudson Division Director and then when I found out the actual content of the law I "called off the dogs," and he responded that it still leaves the door open to an over-zealous officer who can't see the difference between a cell phone and ham radio. Good point, but it's still nice to know we were not dragged into the final bill after all.

This and That from Here and There...

March first saw Don, KB2EBL back to work at his Storr Tractor job after taking the tumble out of the club's generator trailer last fall. He's been on the mend ever since, doing his physical therapy, and is about ready to go back to work. It's going to crimp his HF operating during the day, though, right, Don? Of course the very first day back at work and he came down with a beaut of a cold, and was out of work the next two days! Duncan wasn't too happy, however.

Last year Roberto, K2PA celebrated his 50th anniversary of being a licensed ham, and this month of March, 2004 Barry, K2BC will celebrate his 50th year as a ham.

More and more of our members are moving or living in Pennsylvania these days. Charlie, NJ3A is into the house he had built, and Paul, N2CEK is building in PA. Is there something out there the rest of us don't know about?

THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II CLUB INFO:

Club Info Line (908) 788-4080	Website www.qsl.net/w2cra	Packet W2CRA 145.51
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EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Pres	NJ3A	Charlie Seymour	(610) 838-0841	NJ3A@arrl.net
VP	N3ODB	Elaine Kita	(610) 252-6193	n3odb@amsat.org
Sec	K2YSY	Pete Sneed	(908) 369-5095	k2ysy@arrl.net
Treas	W2NCN	Bill Greenhalgh	(908) 369-3191	greenhalgh@rcn.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

KA2TOV	Mike Grohol	()	mgrohol@blast.net
N2RDL	Brian Campbell	(610) 559-1509	lupinus@ptd.net
KC2CMC	Mike Varas	(908) 806-3998	kc2cmc@arrl.net
AB2LW	Tim McLaughlin	(908) 253-8783	tmclaughl@att.com
N3MSK	Ed Kita	(908) 252-6193	n3msk@amsat.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Public service	WB2NQV		wb2nqv@aol.com
Technical	N3MSK	(610) 252-6193	n3msk@amsat.org
EmergencyMgmt/	KC2CMC	(908) 806-3998	kc2cmc@arrl.net
RACES	K2PA	(908) 788-8253	k2pa@arrl.net
Education	KB2VCI		ramgl@netcarrier.com
VE Testing	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Field Day	N3OW & N2NV		
Holiday Party	K2PA		k2pa@arrl.net
Merchandise	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@epix.net
Traffic net	N2MIF	(908) 638-6172	
Programs	AB2PD	(908) 537-2501	albissed@ptd.net
Refreshment	KB2YJX	(908) 788-9153	
Roster	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Scholarship	N2VF	(908) 479-6346	n2vf@att.net
SkyWarn	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@epix.net

NET SCHEDULE:

Hunterdon County Traffic and Emergency Net	Thursday, 8:00 PM	147.375
Races Net	1st Thursday, 8:30 PM	147.375
SkyWarn Net	Thursday 9:00 PM	147.015
HF Net	Tuesday 8:15 Meet first on:	147.375 Then to HF

MAJOR EVENTS:

W2CRA Hamfest	March 13, 2004	Talk-in 147.375 PL 151.4
W2CRA Field Day	June 25/27, 2004	147.375

Community Service Through Communication

An Opportunity for DXers

. Are you a DX'er? Then this might be of interest to you.

Jack Trampler, N2JT is looking for a person interested in joining the Prolog QSL Route Management Contributing Staff. Specifically, he is looking for one or two active DXer's who have access to reliable DX QSL route info, to enter throughout each month into the Prolog2k QSL Route database and then once a month create an update file that gets sent to him for distribution. In return, the contributor is supplied with the distributed file (a file compiled by him from the enter staff) free each month to keep their database up-to-date. The contributor is supplied with the Prolog2k QSL Route database software for free, which includes the Prolog2k logging program, as they are integrated together. He emphasizes that the person must get RELIABLE info (quality v. quantity) from whatever sources he/she may have. A file must be sent every month except if there is some sort of emergent crisis or an occasional miss due

to a vacation. The person should be familiar with attaching files to email and how to save attachments to a folder and opening a self-extracting ZIP file. Jack says he will provide the person with specific instructions and support.

The person should be an active DXer, be able to enter new records or modify existing records in the database (nothing special here, no programming necessary), have access to QSL route info, be available to send him a file once a month. If the person uses the program while they operate, no extra time is required. Making the monthly file to send to him takes about 2 minutes. Adding the info he send back can take a minute or two if done in automatic mode, or several hours if they do it in manual mode (their choice).

If you're interested or want more information, contact Jack at n2jt@fast.net or n2jt@prolog2k.com.

Cherryville Hamfest

Saturday, March 13

At

North Hunterdon Regional High School, Route 31 just south of
Interstate 78. Talk-in 147.375, PL 151.4

See you there!

Cherryville Repeater Association II
P.O. Box 308
Quakertown NJ 08868
Public Service Through Communications