



# April 2024

# The Reading Radio Club Bulletin

# Volume 62 Issue 04



The Reading Radio Club Was Established March 10th, 1921 ,  
ARRL Affiliated February 17, 1922

Keep up to date with the RRC at <http://www.readingradioclub.org>  
Manage your club profile & email address at <http://www.hamclubonline.com>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/RRCW3BN>

Club Email: [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com). Bulletin Email: [kc3pcs@outlook.com](mailto:kc3pcs@outlook.com)

### 2024 Board Of Directors & Officers

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PRES	Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	(24)
VP	Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	(26)
SEC.	Harry Hoffman, W3VBY (SK)	(25)
TREAS.	Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	(26)
	Janine Galiyano, K4AJZ	(24)
	Jason Potter, NG3F	(24)
	Craig Wanner, K3CRG	(25)
	Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS	(25)
	Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD	(26)

A normal 3-year term runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Number in parenthesis is when their term ends.

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. You can reach the Board of Directors via email at [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com).

Please note: The Board of Director Minutes are available by written request or online at: <http://www.readingradioclub.org>. 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.

**There are currently 89 active members of the Reading Radio Club consisting of multiple license classes and supporting members.**

Send ALL USPS Mail pertaining to the Reading Radio Club to :  
  
READING RADIO CLUB INC  
ATTN: (Person your sending to)  
PO BOX 6453  
Wyomissing, PA 19610-6453

**W** The W3BN Repeater is owned & operated by the Reading Radio Club and is located in Alsace Township up on the mountain.  
**3** 146.91 MHZ (Input 146.31 MHZ) with a PL Tone of 131.8 hz.  
**B**  
**N** It is available from 5:30 AM until 12:30 AM.

*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.*

# TAKE NOTE

## meetings

Next Board Meeting: **Tues, April 9th, 2024 at 7:30 PM via Zoom**  
Next General Meeting: **Fri, April 12th, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the AG Center.**  
Topic: Come out and find out!!!  
Location: Berks County Agricultural Center—Rear Entrance (Auditorium)  
1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533  
Be sure to monitor the W3BN Repeater and your email for any changes to meetings.

*We are using a new program to design the bulletin. We apologize for any out of place things this month. Be sure to stay tuned for some improvements to the RRC Bulletin over the next few months.*

### **From The Fundraising Committee**

**Is your ARRL Membership renewal coming up? Why not help the RRC out? Renew your membership through the RRC. It doesn't cost you anything extra. PLEASE NOTE: Per the ARRL it can take up to 30 days to process the renewal)**

**Please see Jessica L, KC3PIG or Scott S, KC3PCS, or email [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com) for the form. You can pay by cash, credit card, or check. The club gets \$5.00 for each renewal and \$15.00 for each new ARRL member who signs up for membership (to the ARRL) through the club.**

**We thank you for your continued support in our fundraising efforts.**

**Please be sure to sign into Ham Club Online.** If there are any errors, please send an email to us at [w3bn.rrc@gmail.com](mailto:w3bn.rrc@gmail.com) and we will correct the relevant fields. Once you sign in, you can update your email / phone. (Please note, these are not accessible to the public or other members. **This** helps us to get information out to you quicker.) (@arrl.net emails are no longer supported on Ham Club Online). There have also been issues with @verizon.net emails.

Thank you.

# Harry Hoffman Jr, W3VBY (SK)

**It is with** great sadness that we announce the passing of Harry Hoffman, Jr, W3VBY on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Harry joined the** Reading Radio Club in 1976. He was a life member of the RRC as well. He was the oldest living member of the RRC.

**Harry's call sign,** W3VBY is one of the oldest non-vanity, FCC issued call signs.

**Harry was RRC** President in 1994, 1995, 1996, 2001 and 2002.

**Harry has been** the RRC secretary since 2003 when Al Brailer, W3UQC passed away. Harry has done a great job keeping track and writing up the board of director and general meeting notes since.

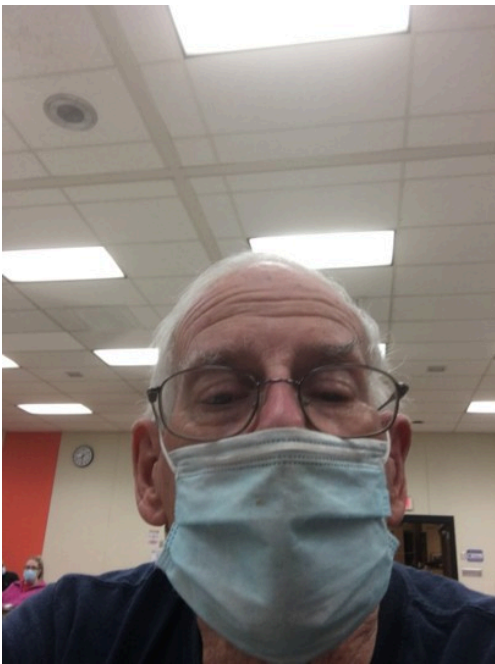
**Harry handled all** the details in reserving the Train Station and the Agricultural Center year after year.

**Harry was the 2<sup>nd</sup>** RRC member to be certified as an ARRL VEC and RRC VE in 1985. He's been part of the VE team ever since, eventually becoming the VEC Lead for the RRC.

**Please see the** obituary following the photographs.

**73 Harry.** You will be missed. You will most certainly be tough act to follow.









## Harry William Hoffman Jr. W3VBY

May 12, 1936-March 25, 2024

Harry Hoffman Jr. couldn't wait to join his beloved wife, Lydia, in heaven! Just 32 days after her passing, he made it. He born in Philadelphia the son of Harry and Alberta (née Reeves). A very precocious child, the doctor told his parents the only way to calm him down was to have another child! Enter his brother, John. Whether it ever slowed him down is debatable, but Harry did gain a lifelong friend.

Harry met the love of his life, Lydia, the summer before 4th grade in a music camp. He came home that night and told his parents there was "a cute little girl with chubby cheeks and braids playing the clarinet who couldn't play a note." Harry & Lydia were inseparable for the next 77 years. His deep love and commitment to her was evident to all.

Harry earned an Associates Degree in Electronics from Temple University. He then traveled the world with the Naval Air Reserve from 1953-1961. At one point, he filled his Douglas R5D Spymaster transport plane with Christmas trees from Berks County. They flew them halfway around the world and distributed them to all the US Naval ships in port! He retired with a rank of P.O. 2nd Class Electronics Technician.

Harry had a fulfilling career in fiber optics with Bell Labs for 30 years. He also worked at GAI-Tronics for ten years as a Communication Equipment Engineer.

Known by the HAM radio community by his call sign, W3VBY, Harry was a very active member of the Reading Radio Club. Over the years, he held the positions of President, Secretary, and Volunteer Exam Coordinator. He really enjoyed mentoring people to pass their exam. He particularly loved participating in HAM Fest and Field Day every year!

Some of his other favorite things were Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, the great outdoors, reptiles, and getting into trouble with his four grandchildren. He was the kind of guy who could never sit still and loved working with his hands. He would often enjoy helping with repairs on his sons' rental properties and stepping in for anyone who needed a handyman.

Harry was also very involved with his church, Calvary Baptist. For years, he served on the Missions Committee and ran sound during services.

Sharing his abiding faith in Jesus Christ was truly his lifelong passion though. For sixty years, he and his wife, Lydia, worked with Child Evangelism Fellowship holding Good News Clubs for local children. He was the Chairman of the Committee for CEF of Reading & Berks County, serving on the Committee since 1963. He even attended his last meeting just a few days before he passed! He was also well known in Reading for his Dial-A-Story programs and as a leader of Boys Brigade at church. In his life, he embodied their motto, "Sure & Steadfast."

Left to keep his memory alive are his sons David, Mark (Helene), Paul (Sarah), four devoted grandchildren, his brother John (Nancy), sister-in-law Margaret "Peggy" Thorndike (Richard), nieces and nephews, and hundreds of people whose lives he's spoken in to over the decades.

A memorial will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, 510 Park Ave., Reading, PA 19611 on Friday, April 5th. Visitation from 9 AM-11:00 AM. Service at 11:30 PM. The burial will be held afterwards in a private family service at Memory Gardens in Ephrata.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to CEF of Reading and Berks County, 1307 Good St., Reading, PA 19602. <https://www.cefberks.com/>

# RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Hi everyone, its me Raving again. I guess there is a lot of news out there for us, but I don't have much of it.

I do know there is a major event coming up for Kutztown on 6 April. Mark will probably write something about that in his notes to the editor. If he doesn't get to Scott in time, its a Run for anyone that wants to run, and I think Mark is OK with volunteers for radio contacts up there, but if you are interested in helping, please get a hold of Mark.

Second, According to our bylaws, that have been in use for years now, The Vice President is the main point of contact for ANY information that needs to go before the board, OR even get put out to the general membership. In our bylaws, Article X (10), section 2, means the Vice president is the single point of contact for that information. What this means is that if you are the Chair of any of our committees, the RRC Vice President needs to be kept up to date and should be first point of contact for dissemination to the club or Board of Directors.

I know that not everyone is awake at 0600 hours, but anyone that wants to join the cricket crew in the morning, you are invited. We meet on the 147.18 repeater (coverage is better for the travelers). We talk about everything under the sun, with even some political discussion. All subjects are welcome to be discussed: Health, Radio, Electric, vehicles, spouses (nicely of course), travel, weather FLDIGI, traffic, everything is open for discussion. We have the experts on all the listed subjects, (HI HI) JUST KIDDING. Join us for fun in the morning. We also help each other on a mirage of subjects. We stay on usually until 730 or a little later.

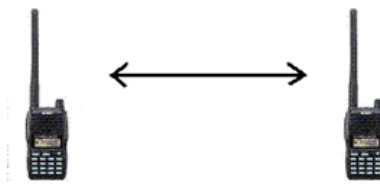
According to our Repeater committee/crew, work will be happening as soon as the weather changes a little more. Its just too cold to work on a mountain. This information is directly from the committee chief, Chris and Jason his assistant.

Thats all for now. Hope you enjoy our bulletin and our club. We can ONLY get better with your help.

RON K3RJW 73



# SIMPLEX



# TEST

By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V

## RAIN NO BOTHER FOR SIMPLEX RADIO TEAM, CHECKINS

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

A steady rain was no threat to the Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test on Saturday afternoon March 9.

We had a good group of net control operators positioned on the parking lot of the Reading-Muhlenberg Vo-Tech School adjacent to Route 12 – the Pricetown Road – and just at the bottom of the mountain from the Reading Radio Club repeater site.

We had 24 check-ins on the 146.550 Megahertz VHF side of the ledger with stations sounding strong and reporting good copy of the net control station. There were 14 stations checking in on 406 Megahertz Simplex or 70 centimeters.

Thanks to Al K3AJM and Ron K3RJW for their outstanding professional work as primary net controls. I was there simply as a back-up.

We also had Stewart W2SLH make some contacts toward his Pagoda Award. Very nice! Thanks to the RRC members who stayed on to help him! It was easy! Why not get in on the fun of chasing the Pagoda Award?

The next Simplex Radio Test for Berks County will be Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 1 p.m. local time.

We are still working to establish a location.

Finally, a big reminder about the Multi-County Simplex Radio Test for Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 1 p.m. We'll be setting up at the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower and putting out a big signal soliciting stations from Berks and surrounding counties to join in the activity.

Remember, you don't have to be a member of the Reading Radio Club to participate in the Simplex Radio Test. The purpose is to test our preparedness as licensed amateurs in the event the repeaters in our area go down and we are needed to set up emergency communications.

# RADIO ELECTRONICS EXPO

Georgetown Hamfest

**SATURDAY**  
**April 20, 2024**

Cheer Community Center  
20520 Sand Hill Rd.  
Georgetown, DE 19947

SUSSEX



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ASSOCIATION, INC

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# Sussex Amateur Radio Association

## - APRIL 20, 2024 -



# Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics EXPO

**Centrally and conveniently located...within 2 to 3 hours of major cities:**

Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Washington DC, and Virginia Beach as well as Eastern PA and Southern NJ

**NO SALES TAX - MORE VALUE FOR VENDORS AND GUESTS - FREE PARKING**

Bring The Family And Enjoy A Weekend At The Beach!

### Past Vendors & Exhibitors

ARRL  
Beebe Hospital  
Fisher Cable  
Call Stuff  
Direct Tools  
GnG Electronics  
Satellite Sam  
Hamsource.com  
HRO (Ham Radio Outlet)  
Magnum Electronics  
Quicksilver Radio  
Redicall Communication  
The RF Connection  
Towaco Imaging  
Verizon

### Events & Attractions

ARRL State Convention  
Tail Gating  
Great Food  
Blood Pressure Testing  
Chinese Auction  
Raffle...Big Prizes!  
License Testing  
Guest Speakers/Forums  
QSL Card Bureau/Card Checking  
Door Prizes!

**Guests Pay \$8 To Enter!**  
(Under 18 FREE!)

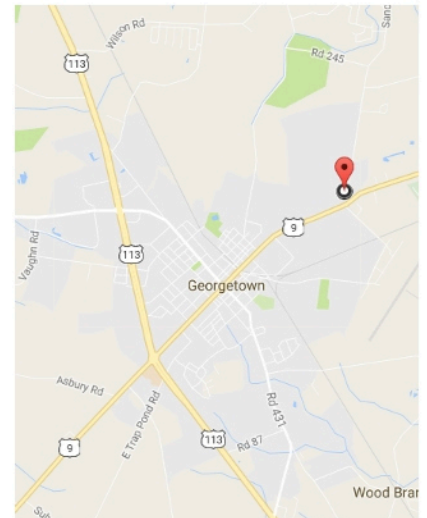
**Inside spaces \$15.00 - 1st Table**  
**Tailgaters : \$15.00 - First Space**

**For Information**  
**Contact Jamie, W3UC**

**(410) 202-7690**

hamfestdelaware@gmail.com

### HAMFEST LOCATION:



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

### Schedule

6:00 AM Gates Open  
7:30 AM Tailgating  
8:00 AM Indoor expo venue opens  
Restaurant available  
12:00 PM FCC testing -No test fee, pre-registration required  
**Last test seating at 12:30 PM**

### Speakers Forums

ARRL Update  
Others

### TALK-IN: SARA Repeater

147.090 MHz PL 156.7

Schedule subject to change

**Cheer Community Center**  
20520 Sand Hill Rd.  
Georgetown, DE 19947

### HOST HOTEL:

Tru Hotel by Hilton  
301 College Park Drive  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
**(302) 515-2100**

www.hilton.com

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The Delmarva Amateur Radio Electronics EXPO is sponsored by **Sussex Amateur Radio Association**



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# POTA EVENT SHOWCASES TOP OPERATORS IN EPA REGION

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

In what is being described as a first-of-its-kind event in the region, four top Parks on the Air Activators from eastern Pennsylvania will be setting up stations in Evansburg State Park in nearby Montgomery County between Collegeville and Norristown later this month.

Their goal: To demonstrate how to set up and operate a POTA station as an activator and draw attention to one of the fastest growing activities in amateur radio today.

They're inviting hams from across the region to come out and learn more about POTA and what they'll need to do to get on the air from a park.

The POTA Extravaganza is being put together by the Pottstown Area Amateur Repeater Club and will be held on Sunday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Evansburg Park picnic Pavilion A.

Walt Skavinsky, KB3SBC, president of PAARC and a veteran POTA activator himself with more than 3,000 QSOs made from nearly 150 activations in 91 parks, is spearheading the event.

Skavinsky says whether you're a seasoned operator or just getting started, the event will offer something for everyone.

Skavinsky has "booked" a group of top operators he calls "The League of Extraordinary POTAMEN" to activate their call signs from Evansburg State Park.

The four are Pete Kobak K0BAK, Greg Malone WA3GM, Joel Rubincam NF3R, and Bill Hewitt W3FRB.

Kobak, K0BAK lives in Oaks, Montgomery County. He was first licensed in 2013 and immediately caught the contest bug for HF and VHF events, including mobile and roving in the PA QSO Party and other state parties.

He was among the pioneer amateur radio operators who jumped into the National Parks on the Air initiative through the American Radio Relay League in 2016. He later took part in Canada's version of POTA – Canadian National Parks on the Air in 2019, activating the third most number of parks in Canada despite being six hours from the nearest border.

Kobak has activated 500 different parks in 14 U.S. states and 5 Canadian provinces. He also holds certificates for activating all POTA sites in Delaware and New Jersey and Washington D.C.

He is not only an avid activator but also a prolific hunter contacting more than 3,500 unique parks from home and making contact with parks in all U.S. states.

Kobak's current POTA stats show 980 activations in 515 parks, amassing 37,891 contacts. As a hunter, he has contacted 3,626 parks logging 7,625 QSOs.

He has had articles about his amateur radio activities published in QST, the National Contest Journal, and CQ Magazine.

Malone WA3GM, is from Horsham, Montgomery County. He has been licensed for more than 35 years and has been active on the HF and VHF bands, earning recognition for his achievements.

He did stints as president of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club and Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, both in the Philadelphia area.

Malone has more than 280 POTA activations from 36 parks logging 14,144 contacts. He is also an active POTA hunter logging more than 3,400 QSOs with operators in 1,715 parks.

His most recent activations were Sebastian Inlet State Park in Florida in March, and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore, both in Florida in February.

Rubincam NF3R, lives in Pottstown and is an active HF and DX contester and member of the Frankford Radio Club.

He also holds the call sign ZF2RJ in the Cayman Islands and last operated from the North side in January of this year.

His POTA stats show 36 activations from eight parks and 4,862 contacts. As an active POTA hunter, Rubincam amassed 3,277 QSOs with stations in 1,587 parks.

He has worked all states and all Canadian provinces.

Rubincam's most recent activation was Big Pocono State Park in mid-March.

Hewitt W3FRB is from Pottstown and he has been licensed since 2010.

He is the founder of the Education Alliance for Amateur Radio and is a member of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club, East Penn Amateur Radio Club, and Phil-Mont Radio Club.

Hewitt has 36 POTA activations at 17 parks amassing 715 contacts. As a hunter, he has made 216 QSOs with stations in 175 parks.

His most recent activation was in French Creek State Park in January.

Skavinsky, who reports he is working on one more surprise guest POTA operator, is promising an extraordinary ham radio adventure for those who come out for the one-day event at Evansburg State Park.



# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>ARES/RACES</b> 8 pm		<b>qcwa Bkfst</b>	FLDigi Net 7:30 pm	<b>MOTA 8 pm</b>	Kutztown Fools Run
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<b>ARES/RACES</b> 8 pm	<b>Board Mtg</b> 730pm			<b>Gen Mtg 730pm</b>	<b>Simplex Test -</b> 1 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<b>ARES/RACES</b> 8 pm				<b>MOTA 8 pm</b>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<b>ARES/RACES</b> 8 pm				<b>MOTA 8 pm</b>	
28	29	30				
	<b>ARES/RACES</b> 8 pm					

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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 Perepeater starting at 8:00 p.m. The CTCSS is 131.8 Hz. The RRCMOTA Net Control will play Amateur Radio Newslines, then Announcements, and roll call. After that, a call for missed and new check-ins. Please note, you must check in every so often to remain on the roll call list.

**April Birthdays:** Dave W, K3MXS; Suzanna A, NZ3G; Harris U, KC3PBI; James M, KC3BZB; Paul B, AE3U; Jim N, W3ITH, Peter N, WA3EJN; Matthew A, KC3DDY

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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 © 2024 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.

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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.

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**Deadline for all bulletins is the 25th of the prior month.  
NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT.**

**Please submit to [kc3pcs@outlook.com](mailto:kc3pcs@outlook.com).**

**\*\* Please note that the editors reserve the right to accept, change, reject anything submitted for the RRC Bulletin. \*\***

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)