



The Reading Radio Club Bulletin



W3BN W3CCH Volume 61

Issue Number 05

May 2023

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A Monthly Publication of the Reading Radio Club, Scott & Lori Scheirer, Editors

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

Manage your club profile & email address at <http://www.hamclubonline.com>



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

2023 Board Of Directors & Officers

PRES	Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	JFP0250@comcast.net	(24)
VP	Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	PolishPICL@aol.com	(23)
SEC.	Harry Hoffman, W3VBY	HarryHoffmanJr@juno.com	(25)
TREAS.	Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	Nate01PA@comcast.net	(23)
	Chris Schlegel, K3ADA	Sutehk.CS@gmail.com	(23)
	Janine Galiyano, K4AJZ	LuvMJnbella4ever@gmail.com	(24)
	Jason Potter, K3WDF	Radio.K3WDF@gmail.com	(24)
	Craig Wanner, K3CRG	K3CRG@k3crg.com	(25)
	Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Editor	scott@viewneye.com (NO Bulletin Email)	(25)

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 Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI (JFP0250@comcast.net) if you wish to participate in or have something brought up at the board meeting.

There are currently 93 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 :

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

W
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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.

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, May 2nd, 2023 at 7:30 PM via Zoom (1st Week)**

Next General Meeting: **Fri, May 5th, 2023 at 7:30 PM (NOTE—1st FRIDAY)**

Topic: Come on out and find out!!! Please keep an eye on email in case of any changes.

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.

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 email Jessica@viewneye.com or scott@viewneye.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 Nate at N2ADD@ARRL.Net and I 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.)

Thank you.



TOO MUCH STUFF

Do you suffer the dreaded “where did I put it” syndrome?

Have items that you never use?

Are you a compulsive buyer because the item looks neat?

Now is the time when Ham Clubs in the area are looking for you to populate their Ham Fests. These events are open to all, both as a seller and as buyer. If you have not tried them, now is the time to get involved and clean out the stuff you never use and make room for more stuff that you might use sometime.

**Our Clubs Ham fest will be held on Saturday August 5th
at Heritage Park, Sinking Spring. Please save the date!
We need each member to help make it a success.**

You know you can never have too much stuff especially at
bargain rates.

Now where did I put that terminal crimper??

Joe AC3DI

FIELD DAY 2023

It's nearly time to put W3BN into Field Day mode

By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V and Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS

If you don't have the weekend of June 24-25 marked on your calendar, you still have time to reserve it.

The Reading Radio Club is looking for your help, your muscle, and your operating skills for the biggest club event of the year – ARRL Field Day!

Think about it: You could join more than 35,000 amateur radio operators in the United States and Canada who annually get on the air to make contacts in field or emergency conditions – showcasing the best of our hobby.

It's your time to get "radio active" and volunteer to staff one of the RRC's operating positions at any time during a 24-hour period – 2 p.m. Saturday to 2 p.m. Sunday.

Can we work all 50 states? It's very doable if we have enough committed operators!

Once again, the RRC Field Day will be held at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring.

A gas-powered generator will be the primary power source for our radios. We will be logging by computer. **BUT**, it will be the radio operators and loggers who will be the "power" behind the W3BN operation!

Set-up of towers, antennas, coax and radios will begin on Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m.

The plan is to operate 2 stations on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters as well as a 6 meter station. We will also have a digital station.

This year, we're looking for sign-ups for station operators and for those who plan on joining us for Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and Sunday lunch.

One special activity will take place shortly before the start of Field Day at the RRC site, the club VE team will be holding an exam session at 1:00 p.m. Anyone seeking a test must sign up in advance with Harry Hoffman W3VBY. HarryHoffmanJr@juno.com or call 610-678-8976. You must have a FRN number to take the test (we can help you get this on site). Please bring your existing license if your testing for an upgrade).

Field Day signups are open now and you can commit to joining the set-up or tear-down crew (or both) or secure a slot or two as an operator/logger and make your reservation for a meal by sending an email to Scott at Scott@viewneye.com. We need both operators / Loggers at all HF/6 Meter Stations.

Put “Field Day” in the message line of your email.

Sign-up sheets also will be available at the May 5th/June 9th RRC monthly meetings at the Berks County Agricultural Center at 7:30 p.m.

Many volunteers are needed to make the Reading Radio Club Field Day a big success this year!

Be part of the team and the fun!

We can't wait to see you all there.

Scott, KC3PCS, Mark, NT3V, Tyler, KC3LVS, Chris, K3ADA

Field Day Committee.



VE Exam Results

by Harry Hoffman. W3VBY

RRC VE TEST SESSION April 14, 2023

On Friday evening, April 14, 2023, the Reading Radio Club sponsored its 109th Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio Test Session. The Test Session was held prior to the RRC General Meeting in the Main Auditorium of the Berks County Agricultural Center, Leesport, PA. There were eleven candidates in attendance. We started about 5:50 p.m., as the candidates began to arrive.

The Test results were as follows:

7 – Technician Class

1 – General Class

1 – Extra

The candidates came from Birdsboro, Ephrata, Fleetwood, Port Clinton, Reading, Shillington, Temple, West Reading, and Womelsdorf. The candidates were invited to stay for the RRC General Meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m.

All the candidates had their FRN numbers and e-mail addresses as required.

The Examiners for this test session were: Stuart Higgins, W2SLH; Harry Hoffman, W3VBY; Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI; Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD; and Ron Waszk, K3RJW..

Thanks to our VE Team for a job well done. The test session was completed by about 7:20 p.m. The test materials were later packaged and delivered to the Sinking Spring Post Office on Monday morning April 17th for shipment by Priority Mail to the ARRL/VEC.

The next VE Test Session will be held at Field Day, Saturday June 24, 2023 starting at 2:30 p.m. We will meet in the Freight Station in Heritage Park in Sinking Spring, PA.

If you need more information on Amateur Radio testing or wish to register for an exam, call the VE Team Liaison, Harry Hoffman, W3VBY at 610-678-8976 or send an E-mail to harryhoffmanjr@juno.com. The cost for participating in a test session this year is \$15 payable to the ARRL/VEC.

73, Harry Hoffman, W3VBY

GMRS News

Dave Fix held a simplex test on GMRS on Friday evening at 1830 hours. There were 6 local with Dave as Net Control, and one from Leesport. After the net, one called in from Blue Mountain to state that he could not hear us.

This was the largest return yet on the GMRS radios. Dave held the test from his QTH and I was at my QTH. My elevation is a little higher than his, so I was able to copy a few better than him.

These are good tests for our radios. As with 2 meter/440, there are different types of radios out there. This helps to test a lot of them just like our MOTA on Friday evenings.

I also stand corrected, I stated that the GMRS license is \$30.00. I was wrong and I apologize for the misunderstanding. The GMRS license is \$35 and is good for 10 years just like an Amateur License. An added benefit is that the whole family is covered by the GMRS license not just one person.

Thats it for now. I talked to Dave and he will have his own write up on Fox hunts. He has a few REAL great ideas on how we are going to start doing that part of the hobby. Stand by for Dave's explanation.

Thats all for this month. It's getting warm out so get out there and get your mosquito bites..

Ron 73

Warminster ARC Hamfest

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

05/07/2023

Start Date: 05/07/2023

End Date: 05/07/2023

Location: Bucks County Community College – Lower Bucks Campus

1304 Veterans Hwy (Rte. 413)
Bristol, PA 19007

Website: <http://www.k3dn.org/hamfest>

Sponsor: Warminster ARC

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 147.090 131.8

Public Contact: George Brechmann , N3HBT

PO Box 113 Warminster, PA 18974

Phone: 215-443-5656

Email: WARMrcinfo@gmail.com

FOR SALE

1..Yaesu FTM400XD Radio c4fm 2m and 70cm. 50 watts. With mike extension and desk stand for control head unit.

2...Diamond X-50A Antenna (assembled)

3...Alinco DM-330 MV Power Supply

4...Zumspot Elite 3.5 Radio

5...100+ feet low loss coax

6...Diamond SX40c swr/pwr meter

7...RT systems prog. software for FTM400XD. Makes programming repeaters easy.

All documentation and cables.

8...Delta 2 Coax switch

9...Hy Power Ant. Co. 6-160 meter 66 foot 5kw antenna.

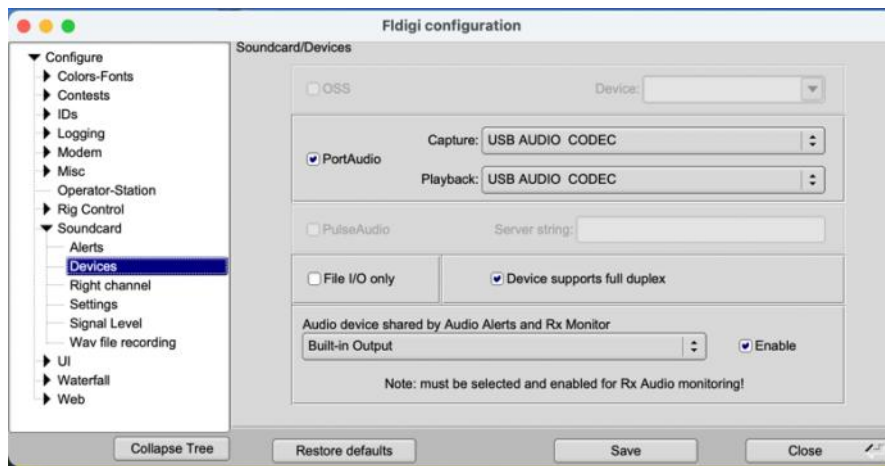
\$850.00 cash takes all.

Ready to go on the air.

Reply to email if interested: kc3kkg@gmail.com

FLDIGI NOTES

by Paul Berthinet, AE3U



Interested in trying some of the digital modes and you have questions about Fldigi? Check into the Fldigi Net.

This net is conducted with the permission of the Reading Radio Club using the 146.910 repeater. The net is held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM local time.

The purpose of the net is to provide information and assistance to individuals interested in communications via the Fldigi digital program. It provides the opportunity to test your Fldigi configuration in both send and receive modes. The net will be conducted using both digital and voice.

So, if have questions on the Fldigi software, set-up , equipment requirements/options or operating issues, this is a good place to start.

Typically, each evening's participants have a range of skills from beginner to experienced digital operators. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and get set up on Fldigi.

Paul B. (AE3U)

The Fox Hole

by Dave Fix, N3AMY

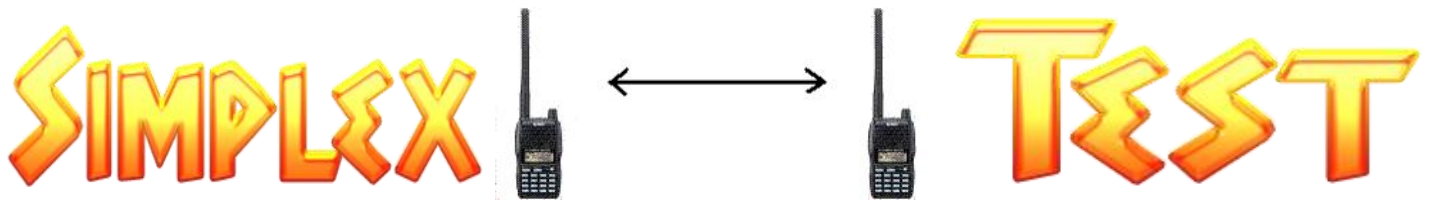
Triangulate and Search Transmitter Hunt

May 20, 2023 at 1:00 PM

I am refining this hunt yet once again. After some thought it came to me that everyone who can receive 146.550 MHZ and access the RRC repeater, can participate without beams, direction finding antennas, etc. I am asking all who can, to check if they can receive the signal, to then report that information to the hunt administrator on the RRC repeater. The hunt administrator will then pass that information on to anyone asking. An example would be that reporting stations say they hear the signal and most of that information is from stations located Birdsboro/ Exeter area. We would then have a great starting point for those who want to and have equipment to zero in on it. I think this would be a great exercise in case we had to track down a locked on transmitter or if someone is interfering on purpose. Please let Dave Fix know if you plan to participate. I would like to know who will try to report hearing it and who wants to run out and track it down after it has been reported where it might be.

Dave Fix, N3AMY
484-529-1746





By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V

CQ, CQ, CQ!!!

This message is directed to ALL amateur radio operators in Berks, Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery and Schuylkill counties.

If you've got 2-meter VHF equipment, we're looking for you to get on the air on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 1 p.m. EDT on 146.550 MHz for our monthly Simplex Radio Test.

Net control (NT3V) will be setting up on the top floor of the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower atop Mount Penn overlooking Reading for this special test.

We'll be operating a high-power, 2-meter station on simplex (146.550 MHz) with a good antenna hoping you'll be able to hear us and WE will be able to hear you!

Last October, during the Section Emergency Test for Berks and surrounding counties in eastern Pennsylvania, we had a simplex, 2-meter station and good antenna set up at the base of fire tower as part of the drill.

We were able to make contact with stations in Schuylkill County, as well as the emergency station inside the Allentown City Hall in Lehigh County.

I'm sure we'll be able to reach out to stations throughout Berks County as well as those bordering Berks in Lancaster, Lebanon and Lehigh counties, as well as Chester, Montgomery and Schuylkill counties for this exercise.

This will be a test of our capabilities as hams to contact a net control station using a simplex frequency – 146.550 MHz. There will be no repeater used for this test!

Tell your ham friends!

Pass along copies of the RRC Bulletin and this article to them via email.

Circle the date on your calendar or mark it in your Iphone or Android calendar.

This is going to be a big event – rain or shine! Be a part of it!

Meanwhile, my thanks to Ron K3RJW, for running the Simplex Radio Test on April 15, 2023 at 1 p.m. from the pavilion at the day-use area at Blue Marsh. Ron reports there were 16 check-ins on 146.550 MHz.

Jason K3WDF activated on 446 MHz but reported only 3 check-ins.

Ron and Jason are planning another “remote” excursion for the Simplex Radio Test in the near future. More about that next month.

Meeting Highlights

RRC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 14, 2023

By: RRC Secretary Harry Hoffman W3VBY.

The Friday evening April 14, 2023 RRC General Meeting was held in the Main Auditorium of the Ag Center in Leesport, Pa.

1. Prior to 7:30 p.m. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, was taking attendance and selling 50-50 tickets.
2. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were 37 RRC members and 7 guests for a total of 44.
3. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, led the group in the pledge to the American Flag.
4. The microphone was passed around and RRC Members and guests introduced themselves. The guests were: Victoria Austin, Arnold Goldberg, Robert Homan, Emily Hutcheson; Leonard Kopetsky, Angel Lahoz, and Lori Scheirer.
5. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, presented an RRC Associate Member Letter to Richard Bossler, KC3VTK. Welcome to the Club!
6. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, has RRC T-Shirts for sale.
7. Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD, has sign-up sheets for RRC Hats and Jackets.
8. Saturday April 15th and May 6th Simplex Radio Test on 146.55 MHz starting at 1 p.m.
9. Thursday May 4th is FLDIGI on the 146.91 repeater starting at 7:30 p.m..
10. Field Day- June 24th -25th 2023 at Heritage park, Sinking Spring, Pa.
11. Picnic – Saturday July 22, 2023 at Heritage Park - arrive at 11 a.m.
12. Hamfest – Saturday August 5, 2023 at Heritage Park.
13. Saturday September 23, 2023 we will have a special event station at the QTH of Steve Dobbs, NE3F, celebrating the 275th anniversary of the founding of the city of Reading.

14. Tuesday September 26, 2023 is the Limerick Drill practice. More information to follow

15. No Pagoda Awards tonight.

16. We had a successful VE Test Session tonight prior to the meeting tonight. The results were: 7 new Technicians, 1 upgrade to General, and 1 upgrade to Extra. Congratulations!

17. Our next VE Test Session is scheduled for June 24, 2023 at 1 p.m. in the afternoon. The location is the Freight Station at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring (our Field Day Site) To pre-register, contact Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, at 610-678-8976 or e-mail harryhoffmanjr@juno.com.

Note – The NCVEC Question Pool Committee has released the 2023 General Class question pool updates. It will take effect at midnight GMT on July 1st 2023.

18. Alan Melnyk, K3AJM, spoke about ARES RACES and emergency communications.

19. Repeater Site Maintenance (cleanup) Meet at Berks Career parking lot on April 22nd at 10:30 a.m.

20. The 50-50 Drawing was won by Dennis Goodling, N3JRW.

21. Our next RRC BOD Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, May 2, 2023 by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.

22. Our Next RRC General Meeting will be held on Friday May 5, 2023 at the Ag Center Main Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m. NOTE - first Friday of the month

23. Dave Fix, N3AMY, has scheduled a transmitter hunt for Saturday May 20th starting at 1 p.m. You will work from home and triangulate to find the location of the transmitter on 146.55 MHz. A sign-up sheet is on the table.

24. Our entertainment for tonight is a presentation by Dave Fix, N3AMY, and RRC Vice President Ron Waszk, K3RJW about Fox Hunting. They have a hidden transmitter in the room. They demonstrated several directional antennas and attached receivers. They showed several low power transmitters - 15 mw, 1 watt and a 5 watt unit. Thanks for a very informative demonstration.

25. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. for a time of fellowship.



RRC Operators Brave Stormy Weather at Kutztown Fool's Run

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

A group of more than half a dozen Reading Radio Club members endured soggy, rainy conditions on Saturday, April 1 to set up and operate a 2-meter simplex communications network to keep an eye on the more than 450 people who took part in the 32nd annual Kutztown Fool's Run.

The primary mission of the radio operators, positioned at key spots along the 10-mile course, was to report to net control the progress of the leading runners which was then passed to race organizers – the Optimist Club of Kutztown.

The operators also were prepared to render aid to any runners in need of assistance in the event of falls or other injuries. Operators could summon to their locations an ambulance on stand-by at the start-finish line located at College Boulevard by the entrance of the Kutztown Fairgrounds and across from the Kutztown University campus.

The main event kicked off at 9 a.m., followed by a 5-K run and a two-mile walking event. The final runners in the big race crossed the finish line after 11 a.m.

The Crew 59 Association coordinated the amateur radio participation in the Kutztown Fool's Run.

RRC operators who responded to the call were Ron K3RJW, Stan K3STP, Craig K3CRG, Jason K3WDF, Chris K3ADA, Paul AE3U and net control Mark NT3V

Also, assisting were Jon KC3KUZ (NT3V's son), and Nick KC3SGN from the Education Alliance for Amateur Radio, and Crew 59 members Tom Wolfinger, and Scott and Wendy Beck.

All operators and their spotters received a 2023 commemorative green T-shirt in appreciation for their help.

Proceeds from the Kutztown Fool's Run fund scholarships to Kutztown University for high school seniors from Kutztown, Fleetwood, Brandywine Heights, and Hamburg.

W3BN TO MARK READING'S HISTORICAL MILESTONE

By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V

You may know that Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn.

That event occurred in 1681 when England's King Charles II gave Penn a charter for a large area of land west and south of New Jersey that Penn called Sylvania.

But, did you know Penn's sons – Thomas and Richard – were the ones who actually laid out the downtown portion of the City of Reading in 1748.

This year, the city is marking its 275th anniversary and the Reading Radio Club board voted to take part in the year-long celebration.

Special Event Station W3BN will be activated on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. to mark Reading's anniversary.

Like the Reading Radio Club 100th anniversary celebration in September 2022, we'll be operating three HF stations from the QTH of Steve Dobbs NE3F on Mohn's Hill.

The stations will be active on 10,15, 20, 40 and 80 meters SSB.

And, for those who don't have access to HF radios, the club will also activate a VHF simplex operation on 146.550 MHz atop Mt. Penn that Saturday afternoon to give stations in the area an opportunity to work the W3BN Special Event Station.

A special W3BN certificate is being designed to mark the occasion. The certificate will be made available to those who send contact confirmation with the station to:

W3BN275@gmail.com.

As we get closer to the date, sign-up sheets will be available at RRC meetings for members who want to operate or log or both at the W3BN Special Event Station.

W3BN's QRZ page and the club website will have more information in the coming weeks.

And, you'll be hearing updates on the Reading Radio Club Meeting on the Air on the 146.910 MHz repeater on Fridays at 8 p.m., except on the RRC's monthly meeting night.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	2 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM—Zoom	3 QCWA Breakfast	4 FLDIGI 7:30 PM	5 General Meeting 7:30 PM Ag Center	6
7	8 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	9	10	11	12 MOTA (8 pm)	13 RRC Simplex Test 146.55 @ 1 P.M
14	15 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	16	17	18	19 MOTA (8 pm)	20 RRC Fox Hunt 1 PM (See Page 10)
21	22 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	23	24	25	26 MOTA (8 pm)	27
28	29  ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18	30	31			

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 MHz repeater starting at 8:00 p.m. The CTCSS is 131.8 Hz. The RRCMOTA includes Amateur Radio Newslines, 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.

May Birthdays: Tyler Scheirer, KC3LVS; John Freeman, K3CBE; Ronald Adams, KC3FJY; Harry Hoffman Jr., W3VBY; Robert Warner, KC3OWK; Mark Abramowicz; NT3V; Jeffrey Orner, WN3DX; Susan Zuber, KB3JQE; John Engle, AB3SR; John Augustine Jr., N3AOF; Frank Lyter, KC3JQT; Eric Wegman, K3OGL

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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 © 2022 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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May 2023 - EMAIL VERSION STARTED ON FEBRUARY 10, 1998.
CIRCULATION: Most RRC & Select Non RRC Members, 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@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 now using Ham Club Online to help manage the club. The bulletin and other email messages may come from a new address.

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 Scott (kc3pcs@arrl.net) or Joe P. (Club President) at JFP0250@comcast.net.