



The Reading Radio Club Bulletin



W3BN W3CCH Volume 61

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June 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)
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	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 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 :

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

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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, June 6, 2023 at 7:30 PM via Zoom (1st Week)**

Next General Meeting: **Fri, June 9th, 2023 at 7:30 PM (NOTE—1st FRIDAY)**

Topic: Field Day Prep & More 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 interference

Recently, the 80 meter Saturday (New Hampshire, New York) and Sunday (Pennsylvania, New Jersey) morning NBEMS nets have been terrible for receiving any traffic.

I usually have no problem on FLDIGI, checking into and copying the messages from my QTH. I use an end-fed antenna and yes I know it is subject to a lot of noise. My attic dipole is quieter, but is not tunable to 80 meters. I have been doing an occasional split TX and RX in some cases, but the CME's have not cooperated this past weekend.

FLDIGI normally uses some type of sound card interface. In my case, I have both a Signalink and a Digirig mobile that I use to feed into the FLDIGI program. The configuration section, in FLDIGI, allows the selection between the two. I can also select other inputs and used that method this past weekend.

What other input? I used the WEBSDR from K3FEF in NE PA as my input to FLDIGI receive as his S/N was 3 and mine was 9+. It worked for the nets and I was able to copy the traffic.

If you want to try WEBSDR you can search on "K3FEF in NE PA" or you can do a Map locate of stations at:

[Map of SDR Receivers | World of Receivers and Transmitters \(rx-tx.info\)](#)

There are some WEBSDR's that let you tune even VLF radio signals; I will let you find them for yourself! Have Fun!

Joe AC3DI

Meeting Highlights

RRC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MAY 5, 2023

By: RRC Secretary Harry Hoffman W3VBY.

The Friday evening May 5, 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 24 RRC members and no guests.
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 introduced themselves.
5. Troy Lantz, K3TKL, presented a Pagoda Award to Craig Wanner, K3CRG.
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 May 13th and June 10th Simplex Radio Test on 146.55 MHz starting at 1 p.m. Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, will be transmitting from the top of the 120 ft high Mt Penn Fire Tower. (elevation about 1240 feet above sea level)
9. Dave Fix N3AMY, announced a transmitter hunt to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 starting at 1 p.m. You will work from home and triangulate to find the location of the transmitter on 146.55 MHz.
10. Steve Dobbs, NE3F, spoke about tracking RF exposure at your station. The FCC set limits on the amount of RF energy people can be exposed to. Rules which took effect on May 3, 2021 require amateur radio operators to perform station evaluations. See May 2023 QST article by Greg Lapin, N9GL. As of May 3, 2023, all transmitters are expected to comply with the RF exposure rules.
11. The Kutztown Antique Radio Show will be held next Friday and Saturday.
12. Thursday June 1st is FLDIGI on the 146.91 repeater starting at 7:30 p.m. This event is held the first Thursday of every month.
13. Field Day- June 24th -25th 2023 at Heritage park, Sinking Spring, Pa.

14. Picnic – Saturday July 22, 2023 at Heritage Park - arrive at 11 a.m.
 15. Hamfest – Saturday August 5, 2023 at Heritage Park. There is a \$5 entrance fee and a \$7 vender fee.
 16. 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.
 17. Tuesday September 26, 2023 is the Limerick Drill practice. More information to follow
 18. Reserve Saturday December 16, 2023 for the RRC Christmas Dinner at Wegmans.
 19. 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.
20. A report was given concerning the Repeater Site Maintenance (cleanup) on April 22nd .
 21. The 50-50 Drawing was won by Amy Lindermuth, KB3FSD.
 22. Our next RRC BOD Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, June 6, 2023 by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.
 23. Our Next RRC General Meeting will be held on Friday June 9, 2023 at the Ag Center Main Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m.
 24. Our entertainment for tonight was a presentation by Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, on VE Testing and History of Amateur Radio. He displayed records from our first RRC VE Test Session held on July 27, 1985. (38 years ago). The first Amateur Radio operator licenses were issued in December, 1912 by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The RRC has conducted 109 VE Test Sessions which serviced a total of 914 candidates.
 25. RRC Vice President Ron Waszk, K3RJW, made a presentation on emergency power invertors. He showed us a unique 12 volt light bulb.
 26. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. for a time of fellowship.





OK folks, I want to make a notice to everyone that there are quite a few of us out here that TRULY appreciate what Scott and Lori do for us every month.

They not only put together the bulletin, but make corrections to the entries that we send in to them.

They spend a lot of time doing the bulletin and do not get paid for it. They do it for the good of the club.

They volunteer their time to let us be informed about current events , and also do their darndest to get others to help at Field Day and other events.

They try their darndest to keep peace between other members, and they have no idea how much they are appreciated by members that just know what they go through.

I for one, could not do a bulletin with the amount of turmoil they go through, and wish it were easier, but all in all they do an outstanding job.

KEEP ON KEEPING ON SCOTT AND LORI.

RON K3RJW

EDITORS NOTE: Thank you. It's nice to be appreciated. For those who don't know, the bulletin takes us approximately 24-36 hours a month to put together. It's very frustrating when the only messages we get about the bulletin are complaints that this is wrong or that is wrong. Sometimes, articles are submitted with incorrect information. We are only human and can't catch everyone's errors. Even we make mistakes.

W3BN SPECIAL EVENT

IT'S A 275TH BIRTHDAY PARTY YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

No, William Penn can't make it.

Neither can his sons – Thomas and Richard who laid out the downtown of the City of Reading some 275 years ago.

All three are gone. They have passed into history.

But you can certainly be part of the festivities as the Reading Radio Club plans to observe Reading's 275th anniversary with a special event station on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

It will be activated at the contest QTH of Steve Dobbs NE3F on Mohn's Hill where the club will operate three HF stations inviting the world to work W3BN! SSB activity will be on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters.

We'll be offering a special certificate to those who send their log data to W3BN275@gmail.com.

And, to ensure the local operators in the region who might not have HF capability get a chance to join the party, we'll be activating W3BN on VHF on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 1 p.m. from atop Mount Penn on 146.550 Megahertz simplex.

Ron K3RJW and Stan K3STP will be logging the contacts. Same rules apply for those seeking a certificate.

Sign-up sheets will be circulated seeking operators and loggers for the W3BN special event station as we get closer to the date for the big event. Also keep an ear on the Reading Radio Club's Meeting on the Air on 146.91 Megahertz every Friday at 8 p.m. – except the second Friday when the club holds its monthly meeting.

The certificate is approaching the end of the design phase and as soon as it is finalized, we'll publish a sample here in the RRC Bulletin and on the club's website and QRZ page.

FIELD DAY 2023

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR RRC FIELD DAY 2023

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V and Scott Scheirer KC3PCS

THERE WILL BE A PLANNING MEETING BEFORE THE GENERAL MEETING AT 7:00 PM AT THE AG CENTER. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting. We will discuss general setup, have volunteer signups and set up plans.

The sounds of "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day" will soon be heard on the HF bands as the Reading Radio Club joins hundreds of clubs across the nation getting ready for the biggest 24-hour operating event of the year on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25.

Will you be there?

It's being held at the Heritage Park in Sinking Spring home of the historic Philadelphia and Reading Railroad station. We'll be operating from inside the building.

The park entrance is just beyond the 900 block of Clematis Avenue in Sinking Spring. GPS coordinates are N 40 deg 19.320 min W 076 deg 01.950 min.

So what are we looking for?

Club members to come out at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 24 to help set up antennas, string coax and set up radios. Club members to operate and log at the HF stations from 2 p.m. Saturday, June 24 to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 25. We'll also need some help dismantling the operation on Sunday, June 25 at 2 p.m.

Planning to come – We need to hear from you NOW!

Send an email to Scott – at Scott@viewneye.com.

Also, the food plan IS DIFFERENT for this year. If you can help us set up, please bring a BAG LUNCH with you ON SATURDAY. We'll provide plenty of cold beverages and snacks. This is being done so we don't interfere with the VE tests by taking up the table space and disrupting the quiet the test takers need to complete their exams.

YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE A RESERVATION for the rest of the meals and you can do that by emailing Scott at the address above.

Saturday dinner will be pizzas from a Sinking Spring pizza shop. The pizzas will be ordered for and delivered to those who are operating the stations at the time.

There will be snacks and beverages available into the night – maybe even a pot of coffee, tea or hot chocolate into the late-night/early morning hours.

Sunday breakfast will be eggs (maybe omelettes if the cook is game), toast, coffee, tea, orange juice, AVAILABLE TO those operators who spent the night-time/early morning hours on the radios.

Sunday lunch will be served to the operators and those arriving to tear down the stations. The menu is hamburger barbecue, hot dogs, potato and macaroni salad, pickles and chips.

Again, it's VERY IMPORTANT you make your reservation via email to Scott@viewneye.com.

If you don't make that reservation, we can't properly plan our food quantities. So it's imperative you make that reservation!

We're also looking for computer loggers for all the stations and for newly licensed hams – especially Technicians who might be interested in further exploring the hobby through HF activity. We'll have a GOTA (Get on the Air) station for use with a control operator to help you!

AND, before we get the "radio activity" started on Saturday, June 24, the Reading Radio Club VE Team will be conducting a testing session inside the railroad station starting at 1 p.m.

You will have to sign up in advance with Harry Hoffman W3VBY to take part. You can reach him at HarryHoffmanJr@juno.com or by calling 610-678-8976.

You also will need to get a FRN number to take the test. Also, if you're planning to upgrade, you'll need to bring along your existing license.

Get in touch with Harry now, because there are some test fees involved and he'll explain exactly what you'll need to bring.

We're hoping for good weather and a good turnout this year. Don't be shy! Sign up and be a part of the crew hoping to put the Reading Radio Club on the PA map for amateur radio contacts this Field Day!

The Fox Hole

by Dave Fix, N3AMY

MAY 20, 2023 TRANSMITTER HUNT RESULTS

I am thrilled at the results of the transmitter hunt. The exercise worked pretty well and a pleasant surprise occurred. We had a father/son team that traveled a lot of miles to find the transmitter.

Joe, AC3DI, reported from a location close to Glenside Elementary School that the direction was towards the Reading Airport.

Rich, W3WJC, reported from a location in central Riverview Park area. He gave a heading of 215 Degrees.

Cameron, W2CMH, and Stuart, W2SLH drove from Morgantown to a high elevation near Plowville. They got a reading of 330 degrees.

Donald, KT4JF, & Jim, N3PRJ, reported that he did not hear the transmitter.

I believe that Al, K3AJM, tried to give me some information. However, I was too late getting away from the hidden transmitter. The transmitter overrode me receiving the Reading Radio Club Repeater.

The transmitter was hidden at Kelly's Lock. This is a scenic overlook along River Road which is along the Schuylkill River in Muhlenburg Township.

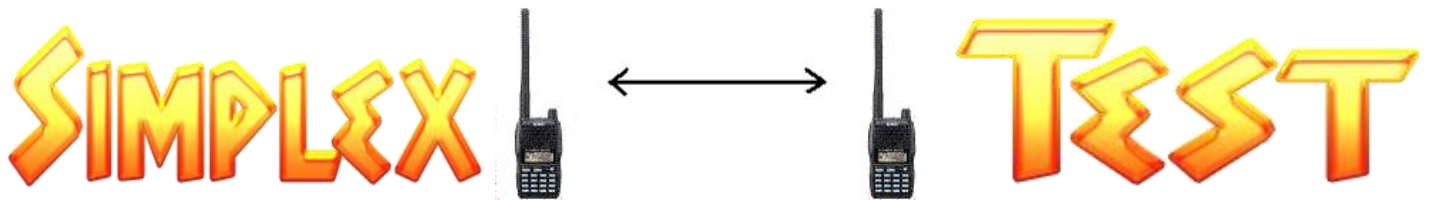
Using the different readings and information obtained, it was established that the transmitter was somewhere in the Muhlenburg Township area. Rich, W3WJC, took a guess that it might be near the Felix Dam area. He quickly got gear together and came looking. In the meantime, Cameron, W2CMH, and Stuart, W2SLH, were on their way and taking readings to get a heading. Rich, W3WJC, found it first. Then a short time later, the father/son team came in.

I found, after I came home, by using the locations from those that gave readings, and using Google Earth, that the readings were amazingly accurate. Needless to say, the further away the reading, the more accurate the information was. When Cameron/Stuart took their reading from Plowville, it was 100% accurate. Rich said 215 degrees but it was 195 degrees. Joe, AC3DI, did not give degrees but when I looked at his location to the transmitter, his statement that his heading was in the direction of the airport, he was correct because it was in line with Runway 13.

I want to thank everyone who participated and especially Cameron & Stuart for taking the time and effort to drive so far. I think this was a good hunt and test as the area was figured out quickly. The hunters then tracked it down physically. A few more participants and we could most likely track it down without physically searching. The point is to track down the offending operators who spoil it for all of us.

73'S DAVE N3AMY





By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V

MAY SIMPLEX RADIO TEST DRAWS BIG MULTI-COUNTY RESPONSE

By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V

They were calling in from multiple counties; even a few we weren't expecting to hear from – Bucks, Monroe and York counties!

The May 13 Reading Radio Club Simplex Radio Test was by far one of the most successful to date.

In all, we netted 63 stations on the 2-meter portion of the net and 41 stations on the 70 cm segment.

Your net controls – Mark NT3V and Jason K3WDF – set up at the top of the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower on Skyline Drive overlooking the City of Reading.

The goal: Ask amateurs in Berks County and the counties adjacent to Berks to join our monthly test to calculate the reach of a simplex signal from one of the highest locations in the area.

With help from Walt KB3SBC and Nick KC3SGN on the technical side – radios and 2-meter/70cm vertical antenna mounted on tripod on the tower balcony – we were able to launch the 2-meter simplex test on 146.550 Megahertz at precisely 1 p.m. using 50 watts of power.

We started with the Berks list of check-ins and then invited other Berks stations to join the test.

In monitoring chatter before the net started, we heard stations identifying themselves in Bucks County, so we included a call to Bucks after Berks. We pulled in stations in Quakertown, Hilltown Township and Lower Bucks County.

Then calls for stations in Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh and Montgomery and Schuylkill counties.

Montgomery County proved to be quite productive as we had stations call in from Abington, Harleysville, Fort Washington, Lansdale, Oreland, Schwenksville, Skippack, and Upper Merion.

Lehigh also netted a number of calls, including from stations in Macungie, Zionsville, and nearby Northampton as well as Bethlehem in Northampton County.

But the surprises came when we heard a station calling from Red Lion in York County and Kunkletown in Monroe County at the edge of the Poconos.

Unfortunately, no stations checked in from Schuylkill County.

When we switched frequencies to 70 cm – 446 Megahertz simplex - Jason called the list of those who checked in on the 2-meter side.

While there were about 20 fewer check-ins, those who did call in commented on how good the signal sounded with 50 watts of power from the fire tower.

A handful of the out-of-county operators suggested we try a multi-county test again in the future. At this point, we're looking to September to schedule another multi-county test. We also plan to sending out word a lot sooner through a variety of means.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Bob Wilson W3BIG our ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager who sent out an email advisory to Emergency Coordinators in EPA at my request just a day or two before the event.

Also, a big THANK YOU to Al K3AJM, our Berks EC, who also sent out word via email to his EC contacts in the nearby counties.

The next Simplex Radio Test is scheduled for Saturday, June 10 at 1 p.m. Local Time. Ron K3RJW will be net control for the test on 146.550 Megahertz simplex and Jason K3WDF will be net control on 446 Megahertz Simplex. The location will be announced on the day of the test.



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

June Birthdays: Nathan Rosenthal, N2ADD; James Doman, N3PRJ; Craig Wanner, K3CRG; Corrinne Ahrens (XYL Of Rich Ahrens, W3WJC)

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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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June 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.