



W3BN W3CCH

The Reading Radio Club Bulletin

Volume 61

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



Club Email: w3bn.rrc@gmail.com

2023 Board Of Directors & Officers

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PRES	Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	(24)
VP	Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	(23)
SEC.	Harry Hoffman, W3VBY	(25)
TREAS.	Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	(23)

Chris Schlegel, K3ADA	(23)
Janine Galiano, K4AJZ	(24)
Jason Potter, K3WDF	(24)
Craig Wanner, K3CRG	(25)
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Editor	(25)

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.

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.

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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B
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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.

**There are currently 97 active members of the Reading Radio Club
consisting of multiple license classes and supporting members.**

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, August 8th, 2023 at 7:30 PM via Zoom**

Next General Meeting: **Fri, August 11th, 2023 at 7:30 PM**

Topic: Nano VNA & Smith Charts presented by Chris Schlegel, K3ADA

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 see Jessica L, KC3PIG or Scott S, KC3PCS, or email 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 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.)

Thank you.

“Know when to hold Em and Know when to fold Em”

Is an expression that refers to the skill that a successful poker player has in knowing when to stay in or drop out of a hand. The expression is used in all kinds of business and personal situations to describe the decisions to stay in the battle or drop out and fight another day.

I am reminded of an occurrence that occurred during the sixties involving the merger of two local Scout councils and had all the drama of the Civil War. There were winners and losers on both sides, a camp on the North slope of the Appalachian trail and one on the South side of the mountain. The camp on the south side was sold which angered the people involved with it and the northern people were angry because their camp was taken over by the southerners.

Each side had diehards who wanted nothing to do with the new organization and structure and they were the true losers in their refusal to bend.

Fast forward to the early seventies, I was asked to write my thoughts as a preface to the history of two council lodges and their merger. I lived through the merger and did hold sorrows with the sale of the southern camp as I had spent every other weekend plus, converting an unwanted shelter into a multilevel building. How was I to frame the words into something positive? Walking one of the camp roads, I decided to sit on a large rock and start writing down my thoughts. Across the road was a large old Oak tree that gave me inspiration for what followed.

The Oak tree starts as a small Acorn which sprouts, takes root, and starts to grow. During its life there are forces which try to destroy it. The tree that is able to bend and adapt to the changes is the one that survives to grow into that majestic Oak that everyone admires. As it grows, it is also able to push aside threats even to the point of splitting a rock in two.

The Club is similar to that Acorn growing into the majestic Oak tree. The Club and members have to bend to forces which we have no control over. Members each have to decide for themselves whether to be inflexible and break when change comes along or bend to live another day and continue to grow and be admired.

I certainly was not here when the Club was founded, and I doubt anyone living today can relate with one hundred percent accuracy what trials existed that changed the way the Club does business now. I keep hearing how the original Club was taken over by the Navy, but guess what, it evolved to what we have today.

Individuals did not like those in charge and split off to form their own club. What I can say is this Club will continue to modify what we do and how we do it. There is no guarantee that all things will go the way you want them or as fast as you want them. No one is indispensable and there is always a new individual to help or do a task.

Ask ten people what should happen and you get ten different answers, and yes there are those that will pack up their marbles and go home to sulk if things do not go their way, Just do not be that person, you might regret your decision in the future.

With that thought, I would like to congratulate all who participated in the recent “Thirteen Colonies “ event. Whether you were able to make one contact or did the complete set does not really matter. What does matter is your own personal thrill of finding where the contact was on the bands and trying your best to confirm the contact. That is what Ham Radio is all about, Proving Yourself and Your Rig!!

73 JOE AC3DI

The Reading Radio Club would appreciate your assistance in helping us determine changes to how the club disseminates information. Please click the link below the image (or click on the image) to take the survey. No personally identifiable information will be saved. There will be no names taken.

We are using this to improve how we as a club get important information out to you. If you have any questions or comments, please email w3bn.rrc@gmail.com

Thank you.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PQLTRD6>

Meeting Highlights

RRC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JULY 14, 2023

By: RRC Secretary Harry Hoffman W3VBY.

The Friday evening July 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 33 RRC members and 5 guests for a total of 38.
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: Nicholas Hofke, KC3SGN; Blair Hogg, WB3AWI; Charlie Lamonte, N3VUO, Lori Scheirer, and Walt Skavinsky, KB3SBC.
5. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, has an RRC Associate Membership Letter for Pete Beckary, KC3WIZ. Not present,
6. No Pagoda Award tonight.
7. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, has RRC T-Shirts for sale.
8. Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD, has sign-up sheets for RRC Hats and Jackets.
9. Saturday July 15th Simplex Radio Test on 146.55 MHz starting at 1 p.m.
10. Thursday August 3rd is FLDIGI on the 146.91 repeater starting at 7:30 p.m. This event is held the first Thursday of every month.
11. Picnic – Saturday July 22, 2023 at Heritage Park - arrive at 11 a.m.
12. Hamfest – Saturday August 5, 2023 at Heritage Park. There is a \$5 entrance fee and a \$7 vender fee. We will set-up on Friday August 4th at 10 a.m.

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. Reserve Saturday December 16, 2023 for the RRC Christmas Dinner at Wegmans starting at 12 noon. See Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, for details.

16. Our next VE Test Session is scheduled for Saturday morning August 5, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. The location is the Freight Station at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring (our Hamfest Site) To pre-register, contact Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, at 610-678-8976 or e-mail harryhoffmanjr@juno.com.

17. The 50-50 Drawing was won by Dave Wiley, K3MXS.

18. Our next RRC BOD Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, August 8, 2023 by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.

19. Our Next RRC General Meeting will be held on Friday August 11, 2023 at the Ag Center Main Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m.

20. Our entertainment for tonight was a presentation on Drones by Walt Stavinsky, KB3SBC, and assisted by Nick Hofke, KC3SGN. Unmanned aircraft systems with speed limited to 100 mph. Flight at night is permitted. Flight over highways is prohibited. Registration is required for commercial use on drones over 55 lbs. FAA Trust is required for all drones. Drone Applications: Real Estate. Facilities Inspection, Mapping, Search & Rescue, Public Safety, Fire Fighting, & Accident reconstruction. How are they controlled? Visual, compass, GPS, Barometric (determines altitude). Some drones have collision avoidance. Other features possible: Return to home fail safe. Low battery, and Active Track. Walt has been experimenting with an air drop device for putting up antennas. Thank you for a great and informative presentation on drones!!

21. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. for a time of fellowship.



A Message From Robert G. Wilson, W3BIG

ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager

Here we are in the middle of summer with Field Day behind us and most of the nation sweltering under oppressive heat. If you get the chance to operate outdoors as a POTA, SOTA or other portable station, please remember to pace yourself and stay cool and hydrated.

As temperatures rise, most of us are aware that the ARRL has decided to increase annual dues for full membership to \$59. This was a decision that was not easy for our Board of Directors. I have learned the Board engaged in spirited debate concerning the dues increase and there was strong dissention on the details and evolution of the process. No one enjoys paying more for anything, but it was necessary to address rising operating costs due to inflation. If publishing our venerable journal QST was the only responsibility of the ARRL, our annual dues would barely cover that cost. That is one of the reasons HQ has decided to separate QST print subscriptions from membership dues. The print subscription to QST will be an additional \$25. I realize many members enjoy collecting printed copies, but the digital editions of the ARRL magazines are more practical for most of us and will continue to be included with full membership.

The decision to increase dues was not a done deal. The ARRL conducted an extensive membership survey to garner input and evaluate member opinions. I know the dues increase will rile many, but we need to be realistic. When I was a member of an outdoor club about 15 years ago, our annual dues were over \$100 with very little tangible service. When I compare the benefits of ARRL membership, our dues are an incredible bargain. We have to understand that the greatest benefits from League membership are unseen but critically important.

These are just a few of the important services the ARRL provides not just for members, but all radio enthusiasts:

SPECTRUM DEFENSE: It's no secret our amateur radio bands are under attack, assaulted by corporations with deep pockets that want the bandwidth we enjoy. Most recently, stock traders have floated a cockamamie plan to conduct trading on the HF bands, adjacent to amateur allocations, using 20 kW transmitters. Consider the chaos this will create with rampant interference. Imagine living near one of these RF behemoths, not to mention the impact on the noise floor of many HF bands. The ARRL is constantly on guard, protecting our bands and fighting encroachment by zealous businesses who care only about profits.

The League is our sole advocate on this issue.

PROTECTION FROM RESTRICTIVE ANTENNA REGULATION AND ZONING: The ARRL devotes considerable time and effort combatting restrictive antenna regulations that hamper amateurs from not only enjoying their hobby but providing critical emergency communications services to local, state and national agencies. The proliferation of HOAs that impose heavy-handed restrictions on antennas has been a constant source of harassment. The legal work performed by the ARRL on our behalf has been instrumental in reversing these trends. The League works closely with the FCC and national legislators to address these important issues. Because of the herculean efforts of the ARRL, federal legislation is in the works to prevent HOAs and other regulatory bodies from overzealous antenna restrictions. We see freedom for our antennas on the horizon.

In addition to the above critically important services paid by our membership dues, the ARRL provides advocacy in local, national and international regulation and policy-making affecting amateur radio. The League also maintains a Volunteer Monitoring Program to help maintain the high standards of conduct and civility on the amateur bands. The Volunteer Examiner Program is another invaluable service provided by the League that benefits a multitude of radio amateurs. The ARRL also administers the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) which provides auxiliary emergency radio services to government at all levels. The ARRL promotes amateur radio to the public and undertakes a number of highly effective educational programs promoting STEM learning through amateur radio.

The bottom line is the benefits we receive through ARRL membership are extremely valuable and are a bargain at \$59 per year.

As your representative to the ARRL, I encourage all amateurs in the Eastern Pennsylvania Section to contact me if they have a question or concern on this issue or any other. I will relay all responsible suggestions and comments to the League. My email address is W3BIG@arrl.org.

Thank you and hope to hear you on the air!

Bob Wilson, W3BIG
ARRL EPA Section Manager

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section
Section Manager: Robert G Wilson, W3BIG

Field Day 2023

Wrap Up

RRC 2023 FIELD DAY OPERATION PUTS W3BN IN PLAY IN EPA
By Mark Abramowicz NT3V and Scott Scheirer KC3PCS

The weather was hot – very HOT! It was a typical June weekend for sure!

Despite the weather conditions, a hearty group of Reading Radio Club members put their minds, might, and muscle to the task of setting up, operating, and tearing down the Field Day operation at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring.

In all, W3BN made contact with 473 stations – a slight improvement over the 2022 effort.

The most popular station – HF Voice Station - which netted 316 contacts.

Right behind that, the digital station attracted 157 Qs.

We made 7 Contacts on 2 Meters (Solar Station), 2 Contacts on 15 meters, 124 Contacts on 20 Meters, 244 Contacts on 40 Meters, and 96 Contacts on 80 Meters.

31 Reading Radio Club members took part in the Field Day weekend activities.

There were also 9 guests in attendance.

This year, the food purchases were based on a reservation system. There was plenty to eat and drink throughout the weekend. The most popular meal might have been the Saturday night pizza delivery!

The Field Day committee, however, is looking at a number of options for next year's menu and a way to secure better reservation numbers.

One of the highlights of the weekend was an on-site visit by our American Radio Relay League Eastern PA Section Manager Bob Wilson W3BIG.

Bob spent more than an hour observing, asking questions and taking photos. Some of those photos from the RRC site later appeared in the Section Manager's newsletter.

While some changes were implemented to antenna configurations this year at the site, band conditions collapsed Saturday evening making it hard to hear and work stations.

Eventually, the bands reopened by Sunday morning and there were good openings into New England and the Midwest.

Thanks to Ron K3RJW, the propane-powered generator provided a steady, uninterrupted power source to the W3BN operation.

In the days following the RRC Field Day, the committee convened a Zoom meeting to evaluate the 2023 operation and proposed some ideas to make 2024 even better.

Among them, formation of a Field Day subcommittee to evaluate and test our antennas and develop a new configuration including the addition of a tri-band beam.

Other ideas that were raised – whether or not to operate a 6-meter station, adding a CW station, and working to reduce or prevent RF interference inside the rail station through use of filters. We are also looking at possibly operating 4 stations continuously. This, however, would require more members to stay throughout the day and night.

Also on the 2024 agenda, committing mentors for those RRC members who aren't very active on the HF bands to encourage and support them to come out and get on the air at the Field Day site.

Field Day 2023 may be in the books, but there were some good lessons learned from this year's operation.

Most importantly, there was a renewal of our annual commitment as amateur radio operators to demonstrate our preparedness to prove that when our community needs us in times of emergency, we have a talented group of volunteers ready to step up.

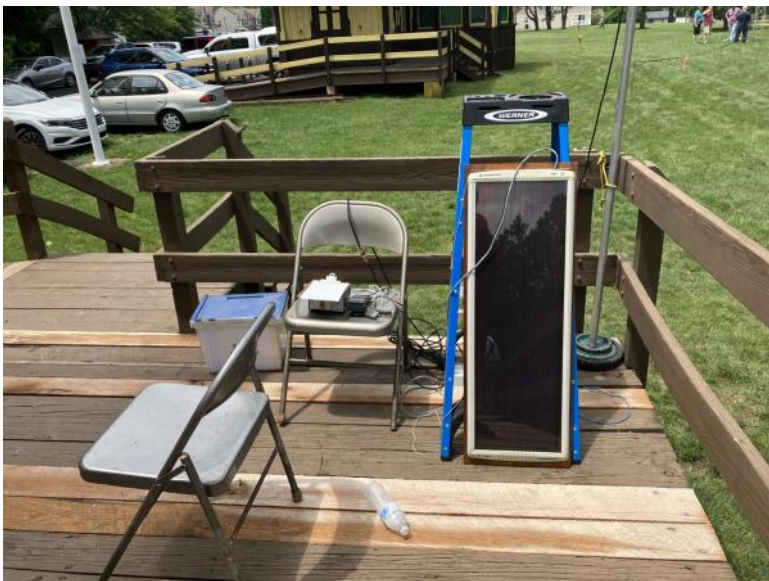
We ended up with an ARRL Score of 1,260 Points for this year.

Next up? Planning for Winter Field Day and changes for Summer Field Day. Stay Tuned.

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos. I couldn't put them all in. We got some great photos of setup. Unfortunately, we have no photos of operating this year but rest assured, we did operate.











H.A.M. HELP A MEMBER

A great example of members working together. Below is some pictures of members helping Steve Dobbs, NE3F install the concrete slab and base for a tower for a new antenna. Below is Jason, K3WDF, Ron, K3RJW, and Dave, N3AMY helping Steve.



Reading Radio Club 2023 Summer Picnic at Heritage Park, Saturday, July 22

Harry Hoffman, W3VBY
Alexandra V. Nicholas
Jim Nicholas, W3ITH
Mary Anne Nicholas, N3TVT, Chairperson
RRC Summer Picnic 2023 Committee

The RRC 2023 Summer Picnic was held at the Heritage Park freight train station building in Sinking Spring on Saturday, July 22. This is the same location we have used for many past RRC Summer Picnics, ARRL/RRC Field Days and RRC Hamfests. Like the RRC, the freight train station is over 100 years of age.

Picnic attendees arrived at about 11 a.m. and the food staff composed of Mary Anne, N3TVT, Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, and daughter Alexandra were already busy in the kitchen. Two large electric ovens, two microwave ovens and two large stock pots were used to cook the hot dogs and hamburgers. Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, was likewise busy, stocking the coolers and refrigerator with sodas and water, setting up the building and greeting people as they arrived.

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

Mark Abramowicz, NT3G, donated potato chips for the group and additionally transported leftover coolers of sodas and water. These were items not consumed during Field Day. Also, he brought leftover snack items including peanuts, cookies, chips and pretzels. Thanks, Mark!

Dave Fix, N3AMY, brought a large plate of amazingly tasty peanut butter fudge to share with the group. Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD, and Cal Wagner, KA3HYC, brought a basket full of individually wrapped, very delicious pound cake. Thanks Dave, Amy and Cal!

It was apparent that everyone enjoyed the great variety of food, drinks and ham radio fellowship.

The RRC 146.91/.31 (CTCSS tone 131.8) W3BN repeater and cell phone were monitored during the event. The picnic is always held rain or shine. The temperature was in the low 80s with sun and a welcome breeze. The bugs stayed away, as they did not appreciate our strategically placed citronella candles.

Thanks to all who attended. Below is a list of the 26 RRC members and significant others that were at the picnic. Let's do it again next July!

Mark Abramowicz	NT3V
Eileen Adams	XYL Ron
Ron Adams	KC3FJY
Richard Bossler	KC3VTK
Diane Bossler	XYL Richard
Don Boulanger	WA1ELA
Steve Dobbs	NE3F
John Engle	AB3SR
David Fix	N3AMY
Dennis Goodling	N3JRW
Walter Grube	WD8MNE
Dave Hoffman	Son of Harry
Harry Hoffman	W3VBY
Lydia Hoffman	XYL Harry
Charlie Lamonte	N3VUO
Amy Lindenmuth	KB3FSD
Don McKinney	W3FCT
Pat McKinney	XYL Don
Alex Nicholas	Dgtr. MA & Jim
Jim Nicholas	W3ITH
Mary Anne Nicholas	N3TVT
Joe Pietruszynski	AC3DI
Nate Rosenthal	N2ADD
Cal Wagner	KA3HYC
Craig Wanner	K3CRG
Ron Waszk	K3RJW

W3BN SPECIAL EVENT

W3BN SPECIAL EVENT STATION OPERATION GETTING CLOSER

By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V

The date is now fast approaching for the W3BN Special Event Station marking the 275th anniversary of the founding of the City of Reading.

At least three HF stations will be operational from the contest QTH of Steve Dobbs NE3F on Mohn's Hill on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

SSB operations will be primarily on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters.

On the day of the operation, there will be frequent callouts on the usual DX spotting nets listing the frequencies where each station can be found.

Reading Radio Club members can begin signing up to help at the operating positions and assist in logging contacts – or both – just like we did nearly a year ago when we made more than 1,000 contacts for the Special Event Station that celebrated the RRC's 100th anniversary.

You can sign up at the club's monthly meeting at the Berks County Agricultural Center on Friday, Aug. 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Or, send an email stating when you would like to work at the station to W3BN275@gmail.com.

Any club member who signs up to work at the 275th anniversary station will be asked to attend a special orientation meeting at Steve's on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. Again, that's Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. at the QTH of NE3F.

The meeting will last about an hour. Station captains will help familiarize everyone on how each station works and what we can expect the day of the operation.

Any amateur radio operators who work the W3BN Special Event Station can qualify for a colorful, commemorative certificate marking the occasion by sending log information (call sign, date, time, and band) after the event to W3BN275@gmail.com. A personalized certificate will be sent by email to the operator making the request.

The W3BN Special Event Station has been approved by the City of Reading's 275th anniversary committee and information about it will be published on the city's anniversary web site (<https://www.readingpa.gov/visitors/275>).

You will also find more information in the very near future on the RRC's website (<http://www.readingradioclub.org>) and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/RRCW3BN/>) and on our QRZ page (W3BN).

For those local and regional amateurs who do not have HF capability, a team of RRC operators will activate the W3BN Special Event Station on 146.550 Megahertz Simplex from along Skyline Drive on Mount Penn on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 starting at 1 p.m. EDT.

The team will continue the operation until at least 2 p.m. EDT. However, if more operators are calling beyond the hour, the team will stay on the air on the mountain until all stations calling have been worked.

VHF operators can also qualify for the certificate by sending their log information to W3BN275@gmail.com.

If a club member cannot make it to the W3BN Special Event Station operation at NE3F's QTH, we encourage YOU to get on the air – HF or VHF - from your QTH during the 12 hours we will be on the air, make a contact with W3BN and then apply for the certificate marking this historic anniversary.

275th RDG
1748 ♦ OUR HOME. OUR HEART. ♦ 2023

The original location of the town of Reading was tract 14 and the tract Warranted to Thomas Lawrence by Thomas, Richard and John Penn.

W3BN - Reading Radio Club
September 23, 2023 - Special Event Station
NE3V on 7.046.000 MHz at 1703 UTC

Joseph F. Pietruszynski AC3DI
President

Harry W. Hoffman Jr. W3VBY
Secretary

FLDIGI NOTES

by Paul Berthinet, AE3U

DIGITAL DOMAIN DATA

Fldigi and the ARES/RACES Connection

So just what is the connection between Fldigi and emergency communications.

In a nut shell Fldigi has become the “go to” messaging program currently used by amateur radio operators for emergency message handling. As a result, many ARES/RACES groups incorporate Fldigi practice sessions into their training sessions during both on air and in person activities. Training sessions and emergency drills provide the necessary Fldigi familiarity to ensures operator competency. Typical drills incorporate voice and digital messaging. The digital messaging component really shines where accurate detailed message content is critical to the situation. Transcribing voice communication onto message pads is fraught with the potential for errors.

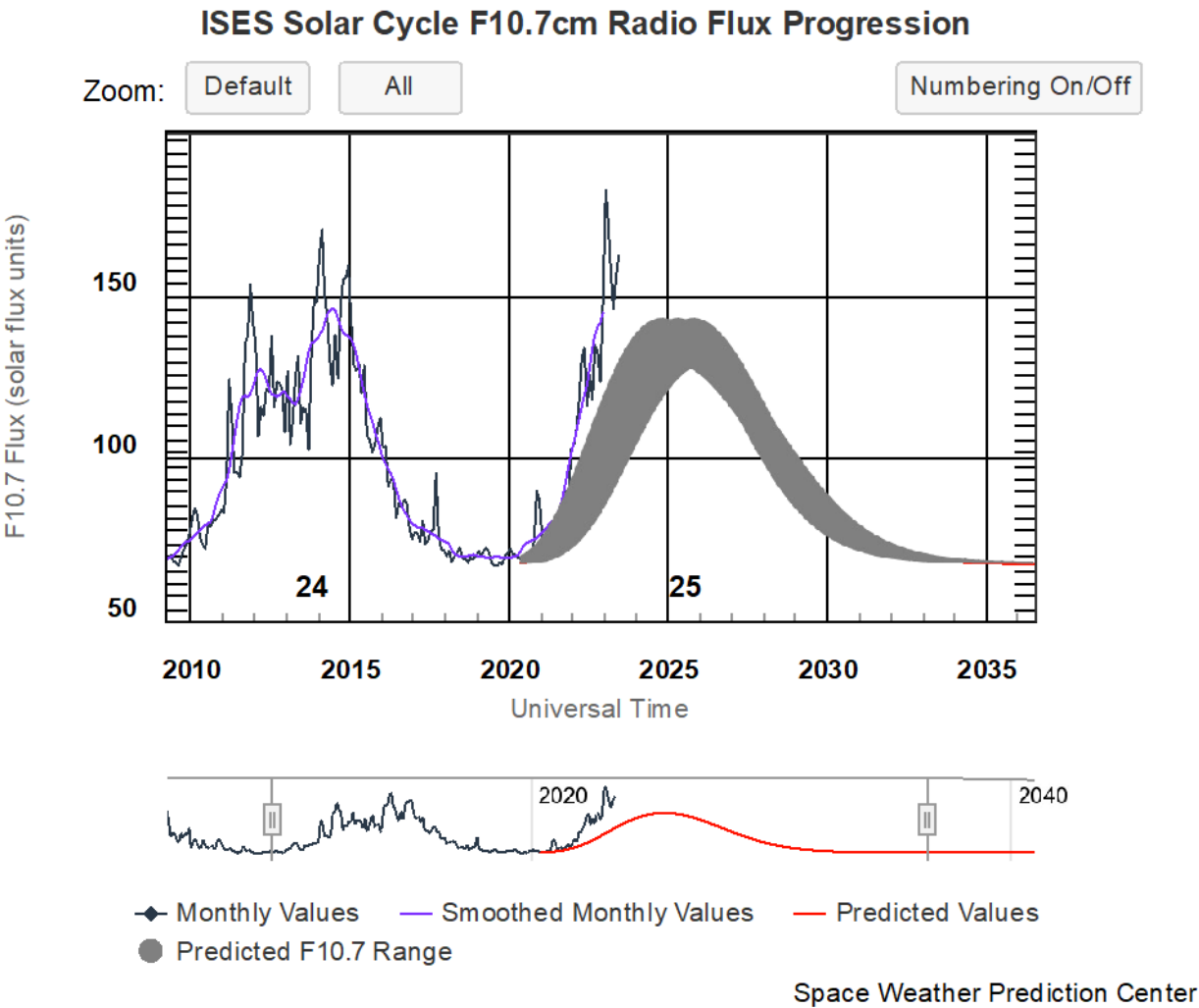
The NBEMS (narrow band emergency message system) of Fldigi has proven it self very capable of supporting the messaging requirements of emergency traffic handling.

Also, lets not forget than Fldigi is a Multi-mode digital communication program that supports PSK-31, MFSK-16, RTTY as well as Image and WEFAX transmission. You can have a lot of fun with this FREE program!

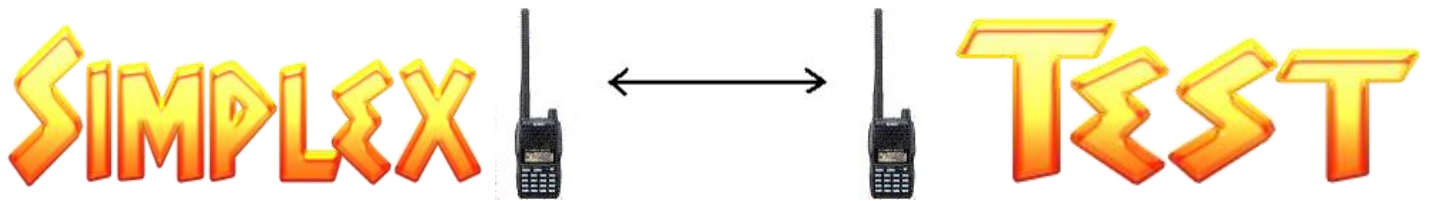
So, when you hear all those digital “tones” on local repeaters please be patient as ARES/RACES members practice for emergency situations. Amateur Radio has a long and storied history of volunteer communication service in times of crisis. If you have an interest in emergency communication check into the Monday evening ARES/RACES net at 8:00PM on the 147.180 (K3SEH) repeater.

Additionally, the RRC sponsors an Fldigi net on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30PM on the 146.910 (W3BN) repeater. Its focus is on Fldigi and is a great place to get info on set-up and use of the program.

Lastly, for all you Sun Spot enthusiasts, the latest info on the progress (actual and forecast) of Cycle 25. Looks like some great openings in our future!



Thanks for the read,
Paul (AE3U)



By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V

SIMPLEX TEST TAKES FLIGHT NEAR AIRPORT LOCATION

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

The Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test conducted on Saturday, July 15 originated from the parking lot of the Berks County Emergency Operations Center at the edge of the Reading Regional Airport property.

Net control Mark NT3V managed to stir up 17 check-ins on 146.550 Megahertz simplex. Signals received at the location were strong and represented a good cross section of Reading and western, eastern and northern sections of Berks County.

Jason K3WDF convened the second part of the Simplex Radio Test on 446 Megahertz simplex but managed only 5 check-ins.

Jason, net control for the 70 cm portion, surmised an antenna issue may have been the cause for stations being unable to hear or check in to the net.

Glitches and malfunctions are the very reason we conduct these monthly tests to work out the “bugs” and ascertain the best locations where portable operations can be set up in the event of an actual emergency in which we lose access to the area’s repeaters.

The next Simplex Radio Test will be conducted on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023 at 1 p.m. local time.

And, here’s a big head’s up about the next multi-county regional Simplex Radio Test. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023 at 1 p.m. local time.

Your net control and technical staff will be setting up in a different configuration from the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower on that Saturday and seeking a bigger response from stations in multiple counties.

In the meantime, we hope to CU on the air on Aug. 12!

The Reading Radio Club 2023 Hamfest Saturday, August 5, 2023

By Jim Nicholas, W3ITH

The RRC 2023 Hamfest will be held at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring on Saturday, August 5. 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 Rt. 422 past the MacDonald's at Rt. 724. After about 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 of 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, and \$8 for sellers. 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.

Mary Anne Nicholas, N3TVT, will be supervising food sales. As usual, 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.

RRC blue T-shirts will be for sale and 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. This may be done on an hourly basis. Set-up will happen on the day before the event, Friday, August 4. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. and arrange the parking lot, set up signs, configure tables in the building and prepare the kitchen, purchase food items, etc.

At the end of the July 14 general meeting at the Ag. Center, we will have a short hamfest committee meeting to discuss final details. If you would like to help, contact Jim Nicholas, W3ITH at w3ith@arrrl.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 5 and you may be surprised! Remember, all sales are final with no warranty. The RRC assumes no responsibility in these transactions. See you there!



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

August Birthdays: Nathan G, KC3NJG; Jessica L, KC3PIG; Alan M, K3AJM; Cameron H, W3CMH; Stuart H, W2SLH; Walter G, WD8MNE; Joseph B, WB3ADK.

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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 © 2023 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.

**** 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. Please DO NOT respond to the email the bulletin comes from. **Please email w3bn.rrc@gmail.com about the club or kc3pcs@gmail.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