



The Reading Radio Club Bulletin



Volume 61

Issue Number 09

September 2023

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 Galiyano, 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 :

READING RADIO CLUB INC
ATTN: (Person your sending to)
PO BOX 6453
Wyomissing, PA 19610-6453

W
3
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.

**There are currently 98 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, September 5th, 2023 at 7:30 PM via Zoom**

Next General Meeting: **Fri, September 8th, 2023 at 7:30 PM at the AG Center.**

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.

Please Be aware that the Reading Radio Club has new mailing addresses and a new E-Mail Address.

Please send all Written Correspondence to:

**Reading Radio Club
Attn: (Recipient)
PO Box 6453
Wyomissing, PA 19610.**

Please send all club related email (other than for the bulletin) to

w3bn.rrc@gmail.com.

The old addresses are no longer in use.

Dues / Renewal Payments are to be sent to:

**Nathan Rosenthal
148 West Street
Pottstown PA 19464**

Checks are still made out to the Reading Radio Club.

IMPORTANT ALERT

We want to remind all of our members and guests that no member of the Reading Radio Club board will ever email you asking you to buy a gift card or send money / e-currency / crypto.

Whenever you get an email that seems odd, we recommend deleting it. If it is purporting to come from someone you know, look carefully at the email address and call the person it seems to come from.

There are a lot of scams out there and they are getting trickier each time.

When it doubt, don't send money or give out personal information.

Did you know?

By Bertrand Lemoine.

In 1910, the Eiffel Tower could have been demolished! After being built and inaugurated for the 1889 Paris Exposition, the Tower had to be returned to the City of Paris, as Gustave Eiffel had only been given a 20-year permit to use the land. But its use as a giant radio antenna saved it from destruction!

Wireless telegraphy takes the stage.

From early on, Gustave Eiffel knew he needed to find a use for his Tower beyond its function as a symbol of progress and a fair-time spectacle. He immediately started looking for a scientific justification for its existence. A new technique in signal transmission called wireless telegraphy (TSF) was emerging in the 1890s thanks to the combined efforts of various thinkers (Hertz, Marconi, Tesla, Branly, Popov, Tissot, etc.). Following the first Hertzian transmissions in 1895, things accelerated quickly.

1898 sees the first radio contact.

On 5 November 1898, Eugène Ducretet established the very first radio contact in Morse code between the Eiffel Tower and the Pantheon, four kilometers away. A transmitting station was then installed permanently on the Tower. In 1899, it enabled radio transmissions with London. At this point, military authorities became interested in this nascent radio technology. They tasked Engineering Corps Captain Gustave Ferrié, a 31-year-old graduate from the Polytechnic, to conduct experiments. Since 1897, he had been in charge of the newly founded Military Telegraphy School. In 1900, he published a reference on the technology and in 1903, he perfected receiving devices.

A 6,000-kilometer range in 1908.

Gustave Eiffel then put the Tower at his disposition and offered to finance the installation of an antenna stand at the Tower's summit from which a cable could be run to the center of the Champ de Mars. Ferrié set up shop in a shack at the foot of the south pillar to pursue his experiments with a small team of specialists. The following year, he established communication with eastern forts 400 kilometers away, then with the naval base at Bizerte in Tunisia, and finally, reached out to a distance of 6,000 kilometers in 1908. In 1909, a permanent station was built underneath the Champ de Mars. The Tower's strategic interest was confirmed, and Gustave Eiffel was granted an extension to his concession for another 70 years, starting on 1st January 1910.

A decisive role in 1918

Since then, the Tower has continued to serve as a transmitter and receiver for radio broadcasts. It's from the Tower's summit that many German messages were intercepted during the First World War. In March 1918, a coded radiogram was intercepted and then deciphered over three days of hard work by Polytechnic graduate Georges Painvin. Its contents allowed the French to thwart the German attack and henceforth turn the tide of the war and push through to final victory. The Tower's strategic importance was thus amply demonstrated. Later, Radio Eiffel Tower would begin broadcasting regularly in December 1921.

Though this bit of history might interest you.
Who knows what else was saved from destruction by early radio experimenters?

73

See you at the Special event!

Joe AC3DI

**** NOTE THIS SURVEY WILL REMAIN OPEN
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30th, 2023 ****

**IF YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN THE SURVEY, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE IT
AGAIN.**

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



English: https://www.allcounted.com/s?did=qld5uf9975tjz&lang=en_US

Spanish: https://www.allcounted.com/s?did=qld5uf9975tjz&lang=es_MX

13 Colonies

An Unforgettable Experience

by Mark Abramowicz. NT3V

For Troy K3TKL and Tyler KC3LVS, it was a ham radio mountain-top moment.

Up until the annual 13 Colonies event just a few short months ago, both had limited experience on the HF bands.

But thanks to an idea proposed by their “Elmer” (Scott KC3PCS), both got a clean sweep – working stations active in all of the original 13 colonies and special stations in Britain and France and Philadelphia.

Scott contacted Steve NE3F asking if the pair could use his contest station on Mohn’s Hill with a few days left in the 13 Colonies event.

Steve provided the access to his station and the gentle guidance to operate it for Troy and Tyler to achieve their goal of a clean sweep.

“I was a little nervous when we got there because I’m not 100 percent used to this contesting thing,” Troy confessed. “But once we worked the first one or two, then I started to relax and I started getting excited.

“It was fun and I just wanted to keep on going until we got them all.”

Tyler, who had some experience operating the SSB station at the recent Reading Radio Club Field Day, said it was fun chasing the colonies.

And, for Tyler, the trip to NE3F’s station gave him the opportunity to make his first CW contact – TM13COL – the special event station from France taking part in the event.

Not long after that, Tyler said they saw GB13COL called out on the DX spotting network and they worked Great Britain on FT8.

Tyler recalled it became quite addictive chasing the colonies on both SSB and CW. He said he didn't want the evening to end.

"Nobody wanted to stop," Troy agreed. "We wanted to keep going. I thought it was going to be harder to get stations, but it really was pretty easy."

Troy and Tyler already have received QSL cards from nearly all of the 13 Colonies stations with whom they made contact, but are still waiting for the event certificate and the card from TM13COL – France.

Tyler admitted he's now hooked on contest-style operating and is looking forward to the W3BN Special Event Station observing the 275th anniversary of the City of Reading.

Both Tyler and Troy said they can't wait to get on the mic at one of the stations at Steve's QTH during the Special Event operation on Sept. 23 and contribute to the total Qs for the day-long operation.

For Troy, the mic shyness is fading fast and he said: "Good luck getting the mic out of my hand that day."

Tyler said he really hasn't been shy about getting on the air. He said the idea of working stations around the country and across the globe prompted him to study to earn his General Class license this past March.

Tyler said he expects to keep one of the operating chairs warm when he gets to the W3BN operation in a few weeks.

"It's going to be like Field Day all over again," Tyler said. "I can't wait!"

As for his future operating plans, Tyler said he wants to get out for some Parks on the Air activations – he's done a few close by. And, he said he's looking forward to chasing DX – perhaps in the upcoming fall contests.

Depending on their work schedules, both Troy and Tyler said they'll continue checking in to the local, 2-meter VHF nets in the area.

But they both agreed the excitement stirred by their recent HF activity in the 13 Colonies event has taken their interest in the hobby to a whole new level.

Meeting Highlights

RRC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST 11, 2023

By: RRC Secretary Harry Hoffman W3VBY.

The Friday evening August 11, 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 27 RRC members and 5 guests for a total of 32.
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: Charles Lamonte, N3VUO, Charlie Lazarz, NT3O; Alex Nicholas; Nathan Lis, KB3ZCC; and Lori Scheirer.
5. A special thank you to Charlie Lazarz, NT3O, for donating an HT and Mobile 2 Meter Rig to the RRC.
6. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, presented an RRC Associate Membership Letter to Todd Fox, W3TFF. Welcome to the RRC.
7. No Pagoda Award tonight.
8. Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, has RRC T-Shirts for sale.
9. Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD, has sign-up sheets for RRC Hats and Jackets.
10. Saturday September 9th Simplex Radio Test on 146.55 /440.00 MHz starting at 1 p.m.
11. Thursday September 7th is FLDIGI on the 146.91 repeater starting at 7:30 p.m. This event is held the first Thursday of every month.
12. Saturday September 9th pre-event meeting at Steve Dobbs, NE3F, QTH.
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. Doors open at 12 noon. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$19 each. See Jim Nicholas, W3ITH, with your reservation.
16. It was announced that RRC Dues may be mailed directly to the RRC Treasurer's QTH. The paper work will be changed to reflect this change.
17. The RRC BOD is working on changing the RRC Bylaws to eliminate the Associate Membership classification.
18. The 50-50 Drawing was won by Jim Doman, N3PRJ.
19. Mark Abramowicz, NT3O, warned about a gift card scam on e-mail.
20. Contact Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, if you are interested in taking a VE exam at 610-678-8976 or E-mail: harryhoffmanjr@juno.com. At present we do not have a date set up for a future exam.
21. Our next RRC BOD Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, September 5, 2023 by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.
22. Our Next RRC General Meeting will be held on Friday September 8, 2023 at the Ag Center Main Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m.
23. Our entertainment for tonight was a video about the NANO VNA H4 Antenna Analyzer. The unit sells for about \$75. Before use the unit must be calibrated with open, short, and 50-ohm load. The analyzer may be used to check coax cable loss at various frequencies and check SWR of antennas. It looks like a very useful piece of equipment.
24. RRC President Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. for a time of fellowship.



HAMFEST 2023



Sunday, September 17th, 2023 - 8am - 1pm



Moose Lodge 1336
705 Stokes Mill Rd
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Featuring:

- ✓ Hot & Cold Food
- ✓ Beverages
- ✓ Hourly Giveaways
- ✓ Free Parking

RAIN or SHINE

- ✓ Handicap Accessible
- ✓ Convenient Restrooms
- ✓ Hourly Door Prizes!
- ✓ Grand Prize Drawing!

Huge Field and Parking Lot! Large Open Side Pavillion!

Talk-in: 147.045MHz PL+131.8 • Phone 570-350-1185 • email: 3w3fnz@gmail.com

For more information please visit the EPARA website at: www.qsl.net/n3is

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/epararadio>

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

HOURLY DOOR PRIZES INCLUDE:

COAX CABLE TESTER FOR SHORTS AND OPEN

DUAL BAND UV5R 144/430 MHZ. HAND HELD HT'S

GRAND PRIZE: KENWOOD TS 430S SSB TRANSCEIVER

STATION WITH MATCHING POWER SUPPLY AND DESK MIC.

ADMISSION: Buyers: \$7 • Sellers: \$10

Vendors & Sellers: 6:00AM • Buyers: 8:00AM

Tailgate Outside or Table Space Inside our Pavilion

Club Table for Consignments

VE Session: Testing Begins at 11am

Sat/Comm Demonstration and Information

Google Maps



EPARA Website



VE Exam Results

by Harry Hoffman, W3VBY

RRC VE TEST SESSION August 5, 2023

On Saturday morning, August 5, 2023 the Reading Radio Club sponsored its 111th Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio Test Session. The Test Session was held at the RRC Hamfest site at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring, PA. starting at 8:30 a.m. There were three candidates in attendance.

The Test results were as follows:

2 - General Class

1- Technician

The candidates came from Douglassville, Quakertown and Westtown. The candidates were invited to attend future RRC meetings and events.

Our Volunteer Examiners for this test session were: Harry Hoffman, W3VBY; Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD; and Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS.

Thanks to our VE Team for a job well done. The test session started early and was completed by about 9:25 a.m. The test materials were packaged and delivered to the Sinking Spring Post Office on Monday morning August 7th for shipment by Priority Mail to the ARRL/VEC.

The next VE Test Session will be announced at a later date.

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 by check to the ARRL/VEC.

Note: All candidates must supply an FRN number and valid e-mail address. The FCC requires the e-mail address for FCC correspondence. An FCC application fee of \$35 will apply only to new license applications.

73, Harry Hoffman, W3VBY

W3BN SPECIAL EVENT

SPECIAL EVENT STATION MARKING READING'S 275th BIRTHDAY
NEARLY READY FOR SEPT. 23 LAUNCH ON HF, VHF BANDS
By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

“Q-R-Z. Here is W3BN, Whiskey Three Bravo November celebrating the 275th Birthday of Reading, Pennsylvania.”

And that will be among the many on-air calls inviting amateur radio operators from across the country and around the world to join the Reading Radio Club in marking a significant anniversary for the region – 275 years since the sons of William Penn established what became the town of Reading in the “Penn’s Woods” colony that later was named Pennsylvania.

The W3BN Special Event Station launch date is Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023. The time of operations will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT on SSB on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters.

At least three HF radios will be transmitting through an array of beams high atop towers as well as through a series of long wires (depending on the band, of course) stretched across the Mohn’s Hill Road property of Steve Dobbs, NE3F.

Steve’s world-class contest station operation will be host for the 12-hour event that will be anchored by Reading Radio Club operators giving out W3BN contacts.

W3BN will certainly be the MUST HAVE entry in logs of hundreds of radio operators hitting the bands that day in search of something unique or unusual.

We’re expecting some pretty robust activity as the Special Event call will be posted on DX spotting networks throughout the day. On the air, RRC operators will direct stations to search W3BN on the QRZ.com page to find out more about the operation.

Each station making contact with W3BN qualifies for a colorful, commemorative certificate to mark the occasion. All a licensed operator has to do to get their certificate is to send log information about the contact – call sign, date, time, and band as well as their name - to w3bn275@gmail.com to receive the certificate via email.

It’s that simple!

And, for those in the region who don't have HF capability, a team of VHF operators will set up a portable operation atop Mt. Penn along Skyline Drive overlooking Reading on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 at 1 p.m. EDT.

That part of the W3BN operation will be activated on 146.550 megahertz (simplex). RRC members will remain on the mountain until at least 2 p.m. to give as many stations across the region a chance to make a VHF contact and earn a certificate by sending their log data to confirm the contact to w3bn275@gmail.com.

W3BN Special Event Station Staff Operators are asked to attend a special orientation meeting at Steve's QTH on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023 at 5 p.m. so Station Captains can go over operating procedures and familiarize everyone with the equipment, including computer logging using N1MM.

Directions to NE3F's location will be sent to those who have signed up to work as a staff operator. We are also planning a talk-in on the W3BN Repeater to help guide anyone who might not be familiar with Steve's neighborhood.

Time is running short to apply for a Staff Operator's slot.

You can sign up in person at the Friday, Sept. 8 Reading Radio Club meeting at the Berks Agricultural Center. Or, you can send an email expressing your interest to w3bn275@gmail.com.

VERY IMPORTANT: YOU MUST BE A CLUB MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A STAFF OPERATOR POSITION.

It's countdown to the BIG day and the excitement is building. Make plans to be a part of the fun!

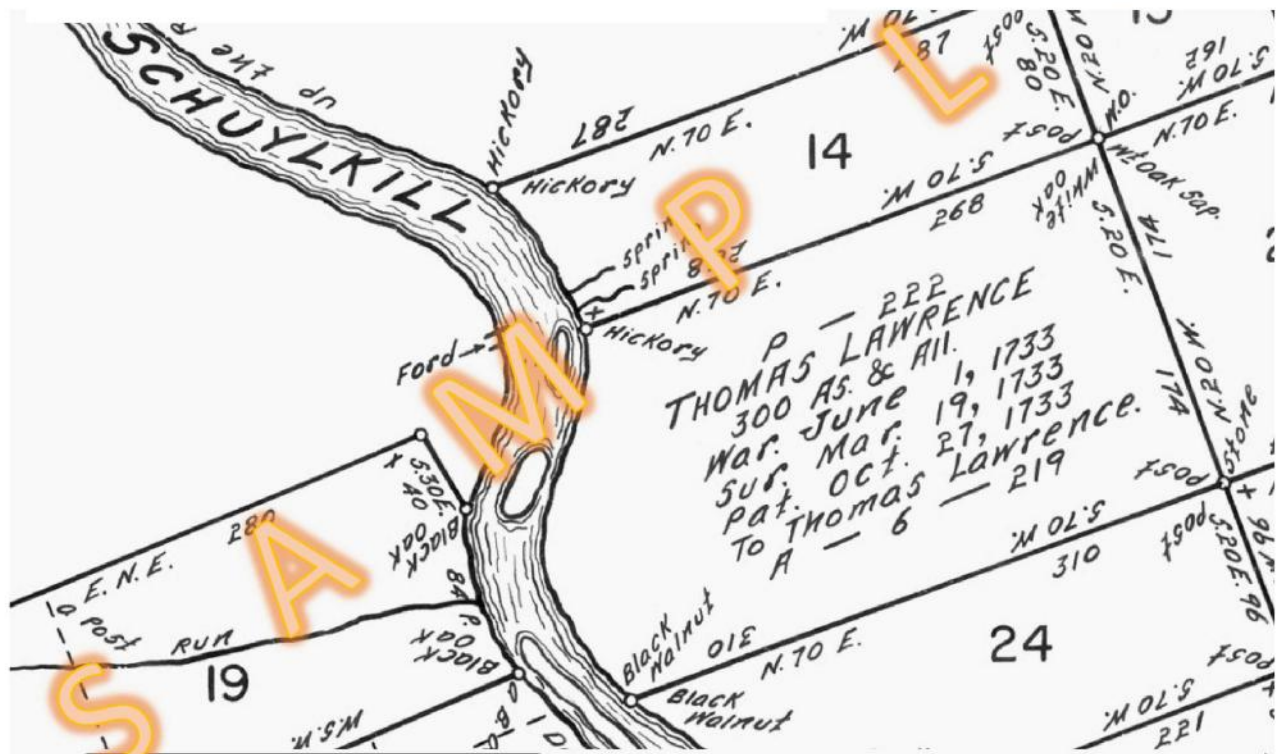
275th

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

The Fox Hole

by Dave Fix, N3AMY

**THE HUNT IS ON
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 AT 1:00 PM**

Time again to mix things up for the hunt.

This time, the hunters will gather at the north overlook of Mount Penn. It is at the intersection of Skyline Drive and List Road.

At the start, we will record the vehicle mileage (odometer not trip mileage) of each of the hunters. At 1 PM, the transmitter will be turned on.

Hunters can then take directional headings and start out in their search for the transmitter (Fox).

As the hunters find the fox, we will again record their mileage. Whomever finds the fox, by going the least mileage, will be the winner.

Please let Dave Fix, N3AMY or Ron Waszk, K3RJW know if you plan to attend this fox hunt. You can also contact them if you need more information.

Date: September 17th, 2023 from 1 pm until 3 pm

Fox Frequency: 146.550 MHZ

Coordinates of Skyline Drive & List Road are

N. 40.21.5349 W. 75.53.7838 N. 40.359071 W. 75.896204

Dave Fix, N3AMY 484-529-1746 / electriciandhf@yahoo.com

Ron Waszk, K3RJW 610-587-0354 (**MUST TEXT FIRST**) / polishpicl@aol.com

Thank you

THANK YOU

An RRC thank you goes out to Charlie Lazarz, NT3O, for donating the following to the club:

A Yaesu VX 170 2-meter HT.

A Yaesu FT 2800M 2-meter transceiver.

An Alinco DM-330MV Power Supply.

A 5/8 wave 2-meter mag mount antenna.

FOR SALE



For Sale:

Microphones that came from retired Fire Houses

Need new cords.

\$30.00 for All (Or Best Offer)

Contact Hank, dutchycam@aol.com

DIGITAL DOMAIN

by Paul Berthinet, AE3U

Getting started with Fldigi

Ok, you're interested in Fldigi communications and the many digital modes available to users of the Fldigi suite of software programs. So where do you start?

The software side of the story is pretty straight forward; the program/application is free to download and is available from several on line sources. The following two are the recommended sites for downloading Fldigi and related files. Checkout the Help Manuals and Set-up Guides to gain some familiarity with the software.

All Fldigi Downloads are available from the following sites:

 <http://www.w1hkj.com/>



<https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/>

Fldigi software is available for Microsoft and Mac operating systems.

Before you click on the download button be sure to investigate the various “version” options available for your operating system.

If you're Microsoft PC based, select the latest release (“.exe” extension files).

If you're using a Mac, verify the release version of the system you have and chose the Fldigi file (“.dmg” extension files) that is compatible. Mac OS versions can be confusing, so carefully select the Fldigi file to match your system. Once you find the right version “fit” installation is pretty straight forward.

Additionally, keep in mind that there are LOTS of configuration options within Fldigi. Some are essential to successful operation while many are cosmetic or user preferential configs (colors, fonts, sounds, displays).

By all means take advantage of the Fldigi Nets that are on the air, as they provide lots of assistance in getting set-up and will help you avoid “installation frustration syndrome”!

With the software loaded you’re ready for the next step, connecting the computer to the rig.

There are four basic “rig to computer connection” options.

Off the shelf sound card (Signalink, DigiRig, RigBlaster, etc.)

Rig built-in soundcards (available on some rig models from Icom, Yaesu, Flex, etc.)

Home brew coupler (lots of circuits available on the internet)

Acoustic Coupling (you want to try Fldigi but not ready to spend \$’s on a sound card or home brew a coupling device)

If you chose an off the shelf unit READ the set-up/operation manual.

Final software configuration depends on the connection option that you select. You need to be aware that, with the exception of Acoustic Coupling, all other sound card options require a variety of cables and connector terminations (USB “A”, USB”C”, USB “B”, Mini 8 Pin DIN, Mini 6 Pin DIN, 3.5mm TRRS, RJ-45, etc.) to mate the computer to sound card to rig. (This can easily be over looked and is a bit of a hidden cost item.) Signalink has a vast array of pre- assembled cables for easy interface between rig and PC, as does Digirig and Rigblaster. Some cables can be a “build your own” project, an option requiring a keen eye and steady hand for soldering and the proper connector type (DIN, RJ-45, etc.). It’s very important that you thoroughly investigate the cable connection options for the various external sound cards and your rigs connector options (ACC, Mic, USB, Serial). Doing so will help you decide on the best sound card option for your needs.

If you chose the “off the shelf” option or are fortunate to have a newer rig with a built-in soundcard, simply follow the manufacturers installation/set-up instructions.

Homebrew coupler designs, available on line, typically (not always) provide some basic connection/operation instructions. If you’re a homebrewer you know the drill.

Acoustic Coupling is the easy and cheapest entry level way to go, but

NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

It is not a long-term solution and low noise environments work best with this method. Local sounds/noise can result in poor received message decoding as well as effecting transmitted message quality. Remember, on Tx you have an open mic to your shack!

To Receive

Position your computer's microphone close to your rig's speaker (a laptop PC is ideal) and adjust the rig volume to a level that is sufficient to be detected by the PC, a plug in PC microphone is ideal if available.

With Fldigi running you can test this "acoustic coupling" by observing the Waterfall. While receiving any signal, voice, tone or data, you should see blue and yellow traces on the waterfall. If not try increasing your rig's audio output level.

To Transmit

Turn up your computer's speakers to a reasonable level.

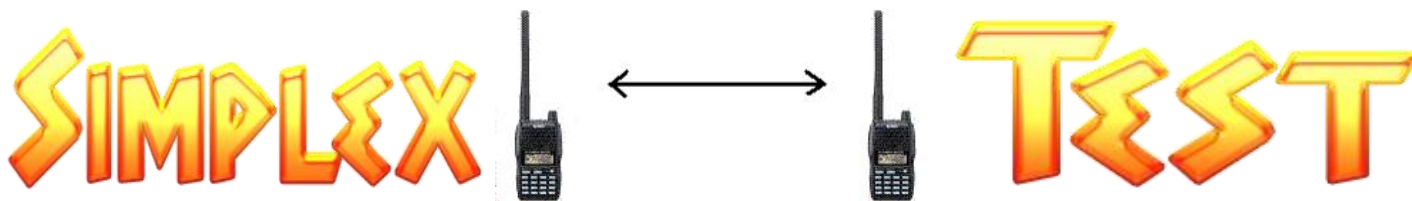
Position your rig's microphone close to the PC Speakers.

First, key the microphone and hold the mic button down, then hit the Tx button on the Fldigi Screen. Do not release the mic button until your message is complete.

You will need to "tweak" things for optimum performance. Some modes work better with acoustic coupling than others. It's not elegant (you will have to adjust volume levels and mic/speaker positions) but it works!

Have fun and thanks for the read,

Paul B, (AE3U)



By Mark Abramowicz, NT3V

RRC AUGUST SIMPLEX RADIO TEST SETS “TONE” FOR W3BN EVENT

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

The Reading Radio Club's Simplex Radio Test team set up on the parking lot next to Reading's famous landmark – The Pagoda – to get everyone primed for the Sept. 23 W3BN Special Event Station celebrating the 275th anniversary of Reading's founding.

The Aug. 12 Simplex Radio Test attracted 17 check-ins on the 2-meter side – 146.550 Megahertz – and 9 check-ins for the 446 Megahertz side.

Your net control on the 2-meter side of the mic was Mark NT3V. Jason K3WDF was the net control on the 70 cm side of the operation.

The beautiful late summer weather and vacations may have played a role in the turnout.

The check-ins continue to give us a good reading on where operators are throughout the area and how well the net controls can hear them.

It's good data for us to have in the event of an emergency and we lose access to the area's repeaters.

If you haven't checked in to either of the monthly simplex nets – don't be shy! It's your chance to test your gear and let everyone know you're out there!

The next Simplex Radio Test will be conducted on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023 at 1 p.m. EDT. Here's hoping we can count on you to check in and join the growing list of operators who want to make their monthly on-air contribution count!

The Pagoda Award:

What is the pagoda award you might be asking yourself?

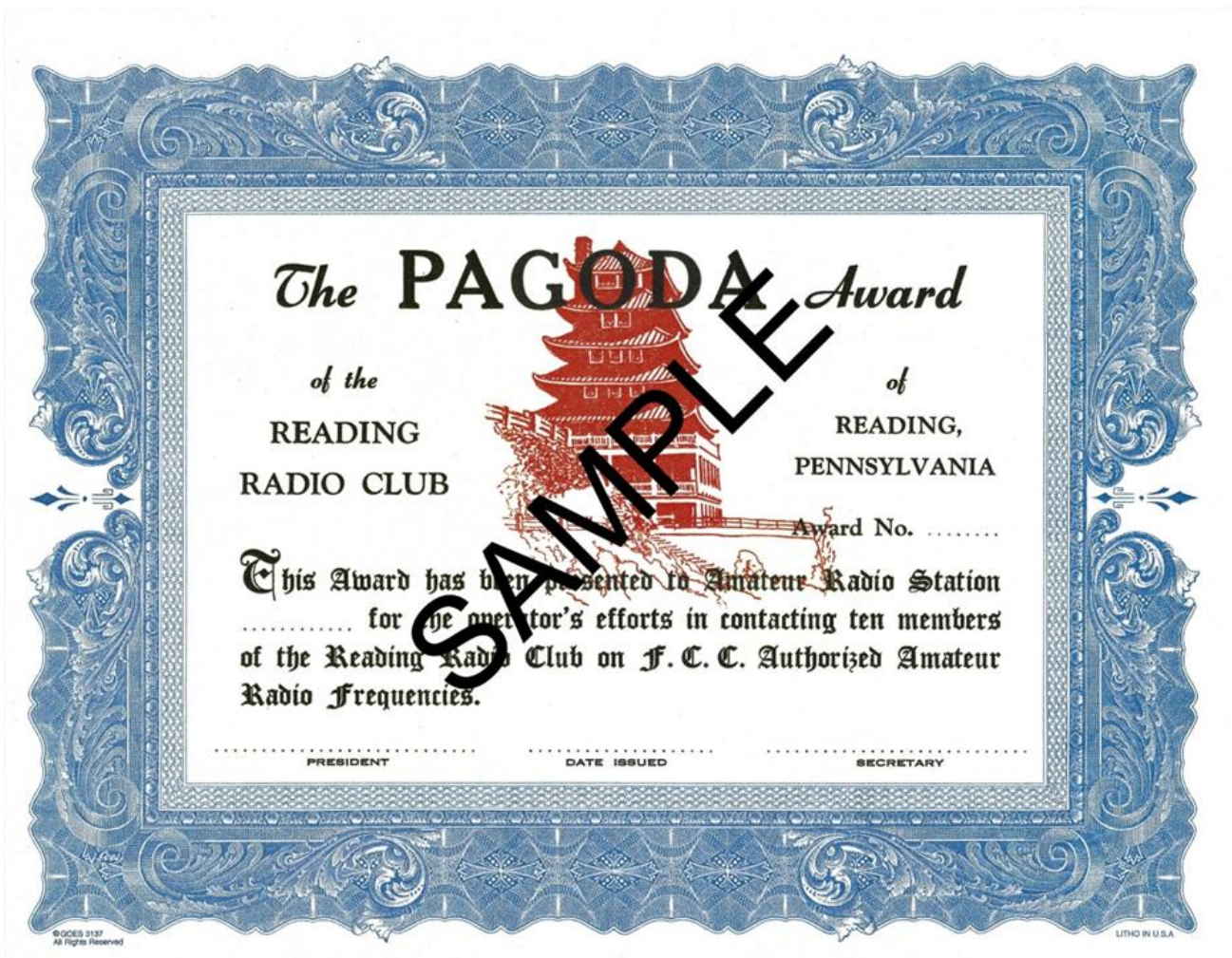
It's a contest where you start by contacting 10 club members from radio to radio. By doing this, and submitting your request form, you can get the Pagoda award.

After you have already contacted 10, why not try for just 15 more club members? You'll receive a ribbon to put on your award for a total of only 25 club members.

The best time to try and contact is on the monthly simplex radio test. You don't have to wait for that though. You can try any day of the week.

Good luck and let's earn those awards.

Last month no one received the award.





W3BN

W3CCH

PAGODA AWARD RULES:

1. Contact ten (10) members of the Reading Radio Club at their home QTH, Mobile or portable.
2. Any band, any mode of transmission may be used.
3. Contacting a Club Station, W3BN and or W3CCH is acceptable.
4. All applications for the Pagoda Award shall be in writing, addressed or send an email to the PAGODA Administrator.
5. All contacts shall be made after October 13, 1961.
6. Applications shall list the call, the band, and the date and time of contact. No QSL cards are required.
7. No Fee is collected with the Pagoda Award.
8. Phone patch, Packet, and Repeater are not acceptable.
(I.E. From your antenna to the R.R.C. member's antenna)

As of February 8, 1963, the Reading Radio Club started issuing an endorsement seal to all Reading Amateurs who already received the Pagoda Award.

The endorsement seal can be obtained by working fifteen (15) additional and member stations of the Reading Radio Club.

The Same Rules apply for the additional contacts as have applied for the ten (10) initial contacts.

All contacts will be verified to insure that they are members of the club.

Additional endorsement seals are available in increments of twenty-five (25) contacts.

No charge for the award and or Seal.

Please send electronic copies to pagodaawardk3tkl@yahoo.com or send paper copies via US Mail to

RRC / Pagoda Award
PO Box 6435
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Pagoda Award Administrators.

| | |
|---|---|
| Troy Lantz, K3TKL | Ron Waszk, K3RJW |
| Email: pagodaawardk3tkl@yahoo.com | Email: polishpicl@aol.com |

PAGODA AWARD LOG FORM:

| <u>NAME:</u> | <u>CALL SIGN:</u> | | | <u>DATE:</u> | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| # | <u>CALL SIGN:</u> | <u>NAME:</u> | <u>BAN</u> | <u>FREQUENCY:</u> | <u>DATE:</u> | <u>TIME:</u> |
| 1. | | | | | | |
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| 9. | | | | | | |
| 10. | | | | | | |

GET 15 ADDITIONAL CONTACTS FOR AN ENDORSEMENT SEAL:

| <u>GET 15 ADDITIONAL CONTACTS FOR AN ENDORSEMENT SEAL:</u> | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | | | | | | |
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| 13. | | | | | | |
| 14. | | | | | | |
| 15. | | | | | | |

The Reading Radio Club 2023 Hamfest

Saturday, August 5, 2023

By Jim Nicholas, W3ITH

The RRC 2023 Hamfest was held at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring on Saturday, August 5. The hamfest, as usual, was ARRL sanctioned, and a notice was placed in the July QST Magazine.

During the event, talk-in station, W3BN, was active on the RRC repeater (146.91/.31 - tone 131.8). Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI, and Craig Wanner, K3CRG, operated the talk-in station. We also had the telephone monitored.

The hamfest opened at 7 a.m. for vendors and 8 a.m. for buyers. The cost was \$5 for hams over 18 years of age, and \$8 for sellers. Those taking VE exams, amateurs under 18, unlicensed spouses and children were admitted at no cost. Over 200 people attended the hamfest this year! It continues to grow.

ARRL/RRC VE testing began at 8:30 a.m. Tests were administered inside the freight station by VE Coordinator, Harry Hoffman, W3VBY, Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD, and Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS.

Mary Anne Nicholas, N3TVT, supervised food sales. As usual, hot breakfast and lunch items were available at the RRC Café inside the freight station. Also, snack items, sodas, water and ice cream were sold as well. The café crew consisted of Jessica Landis, KC3PIG, Lori Scheirer, Alex Nicholas, Mary Anne, N3TVT and Jim Nicholas, W3ITH.

An ARRL table was manned by ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF and ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager, Bob Wilson, W3BIG. They chatted with many attendees and brought with them door prizes, ARRL literature and ARRL membership applications.

At intervals, door prizes were announced and distributed. We received from ARRL four ham radio textbooks, four gift certificates and a multi-tool to be used as door prizes. The RRC gave to some lucky gate ticket holders three 8-watt Beofeng 2M/70CM transceivers and two VOM meters. Thanks to Souders Electronics for giving the RRC a very nice antenna switch to be given as a door prize.

RRC blue T-shirts were for sale, as well as various amateur radio consignment items in the freight station. In the tailgating area, many sellers were busy displaying hundreds (or maybe thousands?) of ham radio-related items. The event had a steady flow of people all morning. The weather started at 68 degrees F. at 7 a.m. and by 1:30 p.m. went up to 83 degrees with a slight breeze.

Thanks very much to the RRC members and guests who helped set up on the day before the event, Friday, August 4. We met at 8:30 a.m. at Heritage Park and arranged the parking lot with yellow caution tape, set up large signs, configured tables in the building, cleaned and prepared the kitchen, sanitized the rest rooms, notified local police of the increased traffic, placed recycle and trash cans around the property and purchased food items.

Thanks also to those who helped at the event on Saturday. Your help is appreciated. The Saturday helpers arrived around 6 a.m. and worked until well after the event concluded at 12 noon. By 1:30 or so we were finished with cleanup. The Borough of Sinking Spring officials have told us that the RRC always leaves the property in great condition.

Thanks also to those who attended. Below is a list of RRC members and guests who worked at the RRC 2023 Hamfest. Without them, there would be no hamfest. If we missed anyone, let Jim know at w3ith@arrl.net.

| Name | Call | | Name | Call |
|--------------------|--------|--|--------------------|--------|
| Steve Dobbs | NE3F | | Mark Abramowicz | NT3V |
| Dave Fix | N3AMY | | Paul Berthinet | AE3U |
| Allen Hewitt | KC3EWJ | | Steve Dobbs | NE3F |
| Harry Hoffman | W3VBY | | Dave Fix | N3AMY |
| Al Melnyk | K3AJM | | Walt Grube | WD8MNE |
| Alex Nicholas | | | Nate Gravis | KC3NJG |
| Jim Nicholas | W3ITH | | Allen Hewitt | KC3EWJ |
| Mary Anne Nicholas | N3TVT | | Harry Hoffman | W3VBY |
| Joe Pietruszynski | AC3DI | | Jessica Landis | KC3PIG |
| Jason Potter | K3WDF | | Al Melnyk | K3AJM |
| Kevin Stodart | N3SYT | | Alex Nicholas | |
| Craig Wanner | K3CRG | | Jim Nicholas | W3ITH |
| Ron Waszk | K3RJW | | Mary Anne Nicholas | N3TVT |
| Dave Wiley | K3MXS | | Joe Pietruszynski | AC3DI |
| | | | Nate Rosenthal | N2ADD |
| | | | Lori Scheirer | |
| | | | Scott Scheirer | KC3PCS |
| | | | Hank Schott, Jr. | KA3BMS |
| | | | Kevin Stodart | N3SYT |
| | | | Craig Wanner | K3CRG |

HAM FEST SETUP



HAM FEST Vendors / Testing / Food



HAM FEST Vendors / Testing / Food





| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 MOTA (8 pm) | 2 |
| 3 | 4 <i>HAPPY Labor Day</i> ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18 | 5 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM—Zoom | 6 QCWA Breakfast | 7 FLDIGI 7:30 PM | 8 Gen. Meeting 7:30 PM Ag | 9 RRC Simplex Test 146.55 @ 1 PM Spec Event Mtg 5 PM— NE3F's |
| 10 | 11 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 MOTA (8 pm) | 16 |
| 17 Fox Hunt, 1 PM | 18 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 MOTA (8 pm) | 23 W3BN Special Event |
| 24 | 25 ARES/RACES (8 pm.) 147.18 | 26 Limerick Drill | 27 | 28 | 29 MOTA (8 pm) | 30 |

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 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.

September Birthdays: Stan P, K3STP; Nader R, KC3NWP; Mary Ann N, N3TVT, Neil E, NE3IL; Steve D, NE3F; Dennis G, N3JRW; Michael C, N3YQG; Hank S Jr, KA3BMS; Scott S, KC3PCS.

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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