

March 2025
Vol 63, Issue 03



Est. 3/10/1921

W3BN

W3CCH

RRC B U L L E T I N



Affiliated 02/17/1922

Meetings & Programs

(All Are Welcome to attend public RRC Events)

Board Meeting: March 11th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)
General Meeting: March 14th, 2025 @ 7:30 (IBEW) - Acting Sheriff Q/A
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - W3BN Repeater
FLDigi Net: March 6th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)
Simplex Test: March 15th, 2025 @ 1 PM (146.55)
Fox Hunt: Early Spring
VE Exam: Contact Stuart (exam@w2slh.com) to schedule.

2025 Board Of Directors & Officers

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PRES	Joe Pietruszynski, AC3DI	(27)
VP	Ronald Waszk, K3RJW	(26)
SEC:	Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD	(26)
TREAS.	Nate Rosenthal, N2ADD	(26)

Ronald Dietrich, KC3WBA	(27)
Craig Wanner, K3CRG	(25)
Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Editor	(25)
Jason Potter, NG3F	(27)
Dave Fix, N3AMY	(25)

You can reach the Board of Directors via email at w3bn.rrc@gmail.com.

3 Year Terms runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31, Number in parenthesis is term end. Officers are chosen by the Board at the January Board Meeting each Year.

Please note: The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes that are posted online are from the prior month. 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 you're sending to)
PO BOX 6453
Wyomissing, PA 19610-6453

W
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B
N

The W3BN Repeater is owned & operated by
the Reading Radio Club and is located in
Alsace Township up on the mountain.

146.91 MHZ (Input 146.31 MHZ) with a PL
Tone of 131.8 hz.

It is available from 5:30 AM until 12:30 AM.

There are currently 88 active members of the Reading Radio Club
consisting of multiple license classes and supporting members.

Keep up to date with the RRC at <http://www.w3bn.org>
Manage your club profile & email address at <http://www.hamclubonline.com>

Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/RRCW3BN>

Club Email: w3bn.rrc@gmail.com. Bulletin Email: kc3pcs@outlook.com

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.



Spring is right around the corner.

One of our members discovered the past few months that we need to check our wires on antennas and power periodically. Whether it be from decaying / corrosion, animal damage, or just wearing out, they do need to be replaced from time to time. With nicer weather (hopefully) coming, now is the time to check those antennas, coax, radio power lines (outside especially).

The Website Committee is excited to announce that we now have a groups.io group. Right now it's just a basic email list (you can send messages as well as see what others write). It's accessible by going to <http://www.groups.io/g/W3BN> and joining. The group is free. It is our hope that we can build a community of our club members using this medium. Feel free to ask questions in the group, post your items for sale, wanted items, and more. While it is a Ham Radio Group for the club we are not limiting it to just Amateur Radio.

Field Day is also getting closer. While we've had a good run at Heritage Park in Sinking Spring, we decided to try somewhere different this year. You'll have to come to the March meeting to find out where it is at. We are very excited for this venue this year.

Our meetings are still being held at the IBEW (Thanks to Dave Fix, N3AMY).

Happy Spring and we hope to see you at our events.



Peter N, KB3FSC; George D, AA3AM; Chris S, WI3W; Harold M, K3ATO;
Richard B, KC3VTK

The Reading Radio Club will continue to have our in person General Meeting's at the IBEW743 Building.

The address is 20 Morgan Drive, Sinking Spring.

This is due to the Berks Agricultural Center Building renovation project being behind schedule.

As any information becomes available to the RRC about our return to the Agricultural Center for meetings the RRC will let you know.

RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

OK folks., Looks like winter is finally going to let up a little, but dont get complacent. Winter can still hit us bad. Don't forget March is usually the most windiest month of the year. Watch your antennas and wires.

We had to cancel two of the last SRT tests due to sickness, weather, and injuries. We hope to restart this month (March) after the general membership meeting.

Speaking of the SRT, we still need volunteers to be net controls. Its easy, fun, and we have plenty of experts to assist those in learning to be a good net control.

We also would like more interest in the FLDIGI Net that is held the FIRST Thursday of the month at 1930 hours. It is run by Paul B, AE3U, on the 146.91 repeater. There is also another FLDIGI Simplex net by Ron K3RJW on Tuesdays at 1230 hours on 146.55. Join us for fun and learning. You'll even get to read the latest Solar report which helps to learn the reasons that we CAN and CANNOT reach others on the HF side of HAM RADIO.

Don't forget that you can use the SRT to get your "Pagoda Award" that you can hang on your wall. A great way to showcase your use of the radios you own. See our website for instructions and log sheet for how to get the Pagoda Award.

Dave and I are setting up for a GREAT Fox hunt, as it should be. Pay attention to the Bulletin, MOTA, and Website for how Dave is going to run it and when. Looks to be a GREAT learning experience.

Dont have much more to say, Watch the Ham Club on Line for more information on all the above.

Please note that the clubs website is <http://www.w3bn.org> and has the links to our other resources.

RON K3RJW 73



The Reading Radio Club's Online Exam Advantage

Taking Your Ham Radio Exam from the Comfort of Home

The Reading Radio Club (RRC) has embraced technology to make obtaining or upgrading your ham radio license easier than ever! While in-person paper and electronic exams are still available, the club now offers fully remote online exams, allowing candidates to take their exams from the comfort of home. This means no need to travel, no worrying about scheduling conflicts, and a streamlined process that makes testing more accessible to everyone.

The Benefits of Online Exams

Ignoring the convenience factor for the moment, another advantage of taking your ham radio exam online is the **super-fast turnaround time**. The RRC VE team electronically files your results with the ARRL and the ARRL processes upgrades with the FCC within **one business day**. For exams taken during the morning during weekdays, the upgrade can be posted in the FCC ULS database that same afternoon. Additionally, online exams offer a stress-free environment, allowing candidates to test in a familiar setting without the added pressure of a formal exam room.

To make the process even smoother, the RRC now accepts **online credit card payments** for the ARRL exam fee—just **\$15 for adults and only \$5 for youth**. Taking your ham radio exam has never been easier!

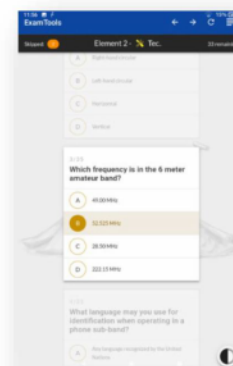


Figure 1 Online Exam on mobile phone

Get Started Today!

If you're ready to earn or upgrade your ham radio license with maximum convenience, consider taking advantage of the RRC's online exam option. You'll benefit from a seamless, efficient process that helps you achieve your license or upgrade faster than ever!

Call or email stuart@W2SLH.com to inquire about testing times for in-person or online remote exams.

Stuart / W2SLH
484-339-3456



ARES/RACES/ACS



The Berks County ARES/RACES/ACS group will have a meeting for prospective and new members on Saturday morning, April 5th at 9:00AM at the Berks County Fire Training Center.

The ARES/RACES/ACS group provides radio operators who are trained and ready to provide emergency communication capabilities to assist the county or served agencies such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army during any sort of disaster or other emergency where normal communications channels are down or overloaded.

If you are an amateur radio operator or GMRS operator, and you might be interested in joining ARES/RACES/ACS, please feel free to attend this meeting. An overview of the group's purpose will be covered, and I will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Current members are welcome to attend, but this is not required. There will be a general meeting for all members closer to the beginning of summer to cover the schedule of training sessions and meetings that will be held through the summer, leading up to the Limerick Exercise which will be held on Tuesday evening, November 18th.

The Berks Fire Training Center is located at 895 Morgantown Road (Rt. 10) in Reading.

If you have any questions or need directions to the Center, please contact me at K3AJM@PTD.NET or telephone me at 610-621-2187.

Alan Melnyk, K3AJM and WRVF671
Berks ARES/RACES/ACS Emergency Coordinator

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED....SRT TEAM EYES MARCH TEST

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

The Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test was scrubbed for a second straight month due to our winter weather.

The SRT team decided to cancel the Feb. 15 test after the snow forecast looked pretty threatening the night before. They wisely decided to call off the test. Snow flakes began falling throughout most of the area hours before the test was to begin.

The team decided it was best not to jeopardize the safety of the net controls traveling to the planned location to take part.

The team now plans to conduct the March Simplex Radio Test on Saturday, March 15 at 1 p.m. local time.

It's hoped that the weather will begin to moderate and the flu and other illnesses will have abated by mid-March.

If you missed last month's SRT bulletin announcement, the team has decided to discontinue the 70 cm side of the test so there will be no move to 446 Megahertz Simplex. The test will focus solely on 2 meters – 146.550 Megahertz Simplex.

There will be a new net control joining the team for the March test. We've been promoting it the past two months. I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear who it is.

The Simplex Radio Test is open to all licensed amateurs in Berks and surrounding counties. You don't have to be a member of the Reading Radio Club to take part.

However, you will have an opportunity to make contacts with net check-ins who are Reading Radio Club members to work toward earning the club's Pagoda Award.

It only takes 10 contacts with Reading Radio Club members to earn the award.

Talk it up at the RRC meeting on Friday, March 14 – the night before the Simplex Radio Test and encourage members to get on the air for the test AND to help you earn the award. It's a nice piece of "wallpaper" worth framing and hanging in your radio shack.

You can learn more about the Pagoda Award at the Reading Radio Club's website - <http://www.w3bn.org>. Click on the Activities tab at the top and go to Pagoda Award.

A lot of you check in weekly to the nets conducted on the two repeaters serving the Reading area. Here's an opportunity to check your 2-meter station – base, mobile or HT – on a simplex frequency, 146.550 Megahertz.

It's all part of our responsibilities as licensed amateur radio operators to be prepared to serve the community's communications needs in the event of an emergency – especially if one or both of the Reading repeaters go down.

The net control team is working to identify good locations for portable simplex radio operations. That's why the team moves to different locations each month.

It's also important to see if you can hear and work the net control station and that they can hear you. Relays from operators also helps the net controls identify weak stations.

Hope to hear you on the air for the March 15 SRT on 146.550 Megahertz Simplex!!!

MEMBER ITEMS WANTED / FOR SALE

FOR SALE

ANYTONE 778UV Dual Band VHF/UHF Transceiver with Programming Cable and Fldigi/Digirig cable.

This radio contacted the ISS for a 5 1/2 minute QSO with 2 Astronauts.

New \$143.00

Used \$95.00

Dave Fix N3AMY

electriciandhf@yahoo.com

484-529-1746

RADIO ELECTRONICS EXPO

Georgetown Hamfest

SATURDAY
April 26, 2025

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

SUSSEX



AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION, INC

Sponsored by
Sussex Amateur Radio Association

RadioElectronicsEXPO.com

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Sussex Amateur Radio Association

- APRIL 26, 2025 -



Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics EXPO

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

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

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

Bring The Family And Enjoy A Weekend At The Beach!

Past Vendors & Exhibitors

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

Events & Attractions

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

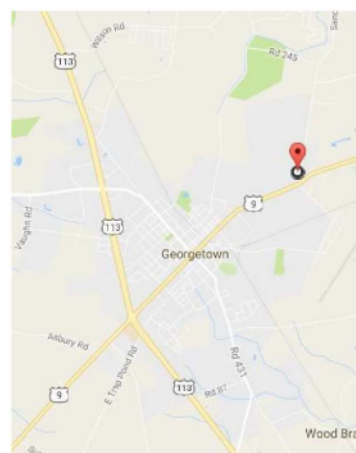
Guests Pay \$8 To Enter!
(Under 18 FREE!)

Inside spaces \$15.00 - 1st Table
Tailgaters : \$10.00 - First Space

For Information
Contact Jamie, W3UC
(410) 202-7690

hamfestdelaware@gmail.com

HAMFEST LOCATION:



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

HOST HOTEL:

Tru Hotel by Hilton
301 College Park Drive
Georgetown, DE 19947
(302) 515-2100
www.hilton.com

JOIN US IN TAX FREE DELAWARE!

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

Schedule

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

Speakers Forums

ARRL Update
Others

TALK-IN: SARA Repeater

147.090 mHz PL 156.7

Schedule subject to change

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



www.radioelectronicsexpo.com

Follow us on Facebook at Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics

Meeting Highlights

RRC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 14, 2025

By: RRC Secretary, Amy Lindenmuth, KB3FSD

The Friday, February 14, 2025, RRC General meeting was held at the IBEW Local 743 located at 20 Morgan Dr, Reading, PA 19608.

1. Prior to the meeting, Jim Nicholas (W3ITH) was taking attendance and selling 50-50 tickets.
2. RRC Vice President, Ron Waszk (K3RJW), called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Twenty-two people were in attendance.
3. Ron Waszk (K3RJW) led the group in the pledge to the American Flag.
4. RRC members and guests introduced themselves.
5. A get-well card was passed around for members to sign for Joe Pietruszynski (AC3DI).
6. Ron Waszk (K3RJW) had welcome letters for two new members, Chris Chamberlain (N3PVZ) and Eric Lessig (KC3ZXQ).
7. The RRC currently has 103 active members. There are fifteen members who have not renewed for 2025.
8. The next FLDIGI is March 6, 2025, at 7:30 pm on the 146.91 repeater.
9. The SRT for February 15, 2025, is cancelled. The next SRT is March 15, 2025, at 1:00 pm on 146.55.
10. See Amy Lindenmuth (KB3FSD) to order RRC jackets or to purchase t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats.
11. Craig Wanner (K3CRG) won the 50-50.
12. Al Melnyk (K3AJM) informed the club that ARES/RACES will hold a prospective member meeting on April 5, 2025, at 9:00 am at the Berks County Fire Training Center. ARES/RACES will be assisting with the upcoming Limerick Power Plant drill. Berks GMRS will also be assisting with the Limerick drill.

13. Ron Waszk (K3RJW) encouraged members to check out the Berks GMRS club. Berks GMRS now has a repeater in Mount Penn and holds nets.
14. The RRC created a Groups.IO account, and currently there are nineteen people who signed up. This can be used for members to communicate back and forth with other club members. q
15. Scott Scheirer (KC3PCS) and Jess Landis (KC3PIG) resigned their positions on the fundraising committee. Please reach out to Joe Pietruszynski (AC3DI) or Ron Waszk (K3RJW) if you are interested in being on the committee.
16. The general meetings will continue to be held at the IBEW due to the construction at the Berks Ag Center.
17. This year's Field Day will be at the South Mountain YMCA. For this year, the RRC will be able to use this location free of charge, since the RRC is currently assisting the YMCA setup their radio communications and required licensing. Dave Fix (N3AMY) has been working closely with the YMCA to get their communications up and running. Field Day will be June 28-29, 2025.
18. Ron Waszk (K3RJW) and Dave Fix (N3AMY) discussed fox hunting and triangulation. Two videos were shared using triangulation: Fox Hunting 101 and Fox Hunting 102 by Joe Domaleski (KI4ASK). Three types of fox hunting antennas were shown at the meeting: Yagi, 2-meter loop, and 70-centimeter loop. Sometime this spring, April or May, Ron and Dave would like to have a fox hunt using triangulation.
19. The next RRC BOD Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, by ZOOM starting at 7:30pm.
20. The next RRC General Meeting will be on Friday, March 14, 2025, at IBEW Local 743 at 7:30pm.
21. RRC Vice President, Ron Waszk (K3RJW) adjourned the meeting for a time of fellowship.

RRC HAMWARE

We have RRC merchandise for sale at each RRC general meeting. See Amy Lindenmuth for jackets, hats, and t- shirts. Amy is taking orders for RRC jackets. The next jacket order will be placed when we have 12 people signed up to purchase a jacket. See below for pricing details.

Gildan Short Sleeve T-Shirt: Small \$13, M-XL \$15, 2XL-3XL \$18

Gildan Long Sleeve T-Shirt: Small-XL \$16, 2XL/3XL \$18

Next Level Long Sleeve T-Shirt: Small–XL \$18, 2XL/3XL \$21

Hooded Sweatshirt: Small-XL \$24, 2XL/3XL \$28

Sweatshirt: Small-XL \$19, 2XL/3XL \$21

Gildan Full-Zip Hoodie

Size	Price
S-XL	\$40.00
2XL	\$46.00
3XL	\$48.00
4XL	\$50.00
5XL	\$50.00



Hats \$15

Port Authority Light Weight Jacket

Size	Price
S-XL	\$58.00
2XL	\$59.00
3XL	\$62.00
4XL	\$63.00
5XL	\$65.00
6XL	\$66.00



Dri Duck Torrent Waterproof Jacket

Size	Price
S-XL	\$87.00
2XL	\$89.00
3XL	\$92.00
4XL	\$94.00



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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 © 2025 by the Reading Radio Club, Inc.

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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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PLEASE NOTE: The Reading Radio Club is using Ham Club Online to help manage the club. The bulletin and other email messages may come from a new address. Please DO NOT respond to the email the bulletin comes from.

Please email w3bn.rrc@gmail.com about the club or kc3pcs@outlook.com about the bulletin.

We are also using the site to keep track of attendance, and events.

They use the latest encryption and are very secure. Nobody's information is public (other than what the FCC Records list).

If you have any questions, please contact us at w3bn.rrc@gmail.com