

April 2025
Vol 63, Issue 04



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: April 8th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)
General Meeting: April 11th, 2025 @ 7:30 (IBEW)
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - W3BN Repeater
FLDigi Net: April 3rd, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)
Simplex Test: April 12th, 2025 @ 1 PM (146.55)
Fox Hunt: After SRT on April 12th, 2025. See Page 11.
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.



I'm sure by now that everyone has heard about the Train Station Fire up at Heritage Park. It is my understanding that they will be rebuilding but at this time there is no timeline for that.

That being said, Jim, W3ITH, has sent out a request for locations for Ham Fest. If you have any ideas, please contact Jim. The picnic will be held at the Bicentennial House in West Reading.

I'm happy to see that many of you have signed up for the groups.io. It is our hope that the group becomes a central point for communication between members when they need information that isn't readily available on our website. Chris, W13W, will be posting about DXPeditions and other contests. We will be posting questions and answers. It's basically an open forum for the club.

Amy, KB3FSD is hard at work getting up to 3 years of Meeting Minutes and Board Minutes posted to Ham Club Online. Remember, the club website <http://www.w3bn.com> has the most recent meeting minutes and board minutes posted. We also have a rolling 12 months of RRC Bulletins posted.

The club is now able to do online exams as well as continuing with in person exams. You don't need to wait until a scheduled exam to take a test. Just reach out to Stuart, W2SLH to schedule an exam.

Remember, the club is always looking for volunteers. Audit, Breakfast, Estate Sales, Fundraising are currently in need of a chairperson.

That's it for this month. Have a great April.



Steve S, K3ALV; Dave W, K3MXS; Sue A, NZ3G; Tim D, W3UCA;
Harris U, KC3PBI; James M, KC3BZB; Paul B, AE3U; Peter N, Jr, WA3EJN;
Jim N, W3ITH; Matthew A, KC3DDY

Due to the Berks Agricultural Center Building renovation project being behind schedule, 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.

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

Without exception, this SRT was about the best we've had since I started it long ago.

We held it at my QTH and only had one small problem, the radio got switched to another channel by mistake. We had ONE contact from Schuylkill County.

The GOOD part about it, was the professionalism of Shawn when he recovered and restarted the roll call at his point in the calling. Great recovery Shawn.

Now, the next step is getting members involved in the upcoming FOX hunts. Dave has a minor one to make sure our equipment is working. He is going to host it in April on a Saturday. It wont be hard, but will be enough to make sure we can look professional when we do a larger FOX hunt with other counties maybe in May or June.

It's a shame the Freight station burned. We hope that they can get it back to operation for all to use, Especially the RRC during our picnics, Field Days, and Ham fests. I believe I can say that the most important one is the Ham Fest. The Ham fest pulls people from further distances, like New Jersey, New York, Delaware and more.

Storms are very prevellant in March with HIGH winds, so be careful of your equipment. Watch out for lightning, and heavy rains getting into your coax and elevating your SWR. Be mindful of the high winds associated with them.

I WANT TO Thank the SRT workers in that they did an outstanding job and its a pleasure to work with them.

We are finally getting others in involved and would like to keep up the push for more. I want to thank , AMY, CAMERON, and SHAWN for joining the group. WE will ALWAYS request more to join us and lean how.

Thats all for now, Thanks for being a member in good standing.

Ron, K3RJW

RRC LAUNCHES NEW MISSION FOR FIELD DAY COMMITTEE WITH NEW NAME, EXPANDED ROLE IN PROMOTING ON-AIR ACTIVITIES

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

In a major shift aimed at encouraging members to get more “radio active,” the Reading Radio Club’s Field Day Committee has been re-named the “Field Comms Committee.”

In its new role, the committee has been tasked by the club’s leadership with developing activities for the RRC calendar and encouraging members to take a more active part in them.

“Our goal is to get club members active and on the air,” said Scott Scheirer KC3PCS, a member of the new committee and current RRC Bulletin editor. “We will try to have as many events as possible.”

Scheirer said among the first events the new committee will be organizing is the RRC Field Day 2025 from the YMCA Bynden Wood Day Camp on South Mountain in the Wernersville/Reinholds area.

Field Day is set for Saturday, June 28 through Sunday, June 29.

For the past few years, the club has been using the former Sinking Spring Railroad Station and Freight House property in Sinking Spring Heritage Park.

On March 6, a fire erupted inside the structure the club used for its Field Day base and the annual RRC Hamfest held in August causing extensive damage to the interior of the wooden building.

The Sinking Spring Area Historical Society owns and maintains the facilities.

As a result, the Reading Radio Club – which had been considering alternative Field Day sites before the fire – was compelled to pursue a new location and quickly booked Bynden Wood on South Mountain.

“We are very excited because it’s an excellent location, air conditioned with plenty of space,” said Scheirer. “Right now, we are looking for volunteers. We need volunteers for everything from set-up and take down and operators and loggers.”

Scheirer said more details about the site and the plans for Field Day in June will be rolled out at the April 11 and May 10 in-person Reading Radio Club meetings at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 743 hall at 20 Morgan Drive in Spring Township.

Scheirer said the Field Comms Committee also is looking to organize Parks on the Air activations possibly using the club call signs – W3BN and W3CCH.

And, it's looking for ideas and a location for a Reading Radio Club- sponsored special event station for this year.

The current members of the new Field Comms Committee are Scott Scheirer, KC3PCS, Tyler Scheirer, KC3LVS, Chris Schlegel, WI3W, Jason Potter, NG3F, Nate Gravius, KC3NJG, Ron Dietrich, KC3WBA, and Mark Abramowicz NT3V.

If you have ideas and suggestions and are interested in working with the Field Comms Committee, contact Scott at scott@viewneye.com.

Field Comms Committee



ARRL FIELD DAY



www.arrl.org

Why Upgrade Your Ham Radio License?

More Privileges, More Fun!

Upgrading your amateur radio license isn't just about passing a test—it's about unlocking **new opportunities** within the hobby! Each license upgrade grants access to expanded frequencies (especially in the HF band) and exciting new modes of communication across the bands. It also enhances your ability to operate on teams such as Emergency Communication teams that support the community (and the world) during emergencies or Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams that administer amateur radio exams.



Figure 1 RACES and ARES Emergency Communications Logos

Whether you're into **emergency communications, DXing, contesting, or experimentation**, upgrading means **more privileges and more fun!**

How the RRC Can Help You Upgrade

The **Reading Radio Club (RRC)** is committed to helping amateur radio enthusiasts advance in the hobby. In the recent past, we have provided **free in-person and online Technician training classes**, with plans to expand training for General and Extra exams. Plus, our **fast, convenient online exam process** makes upgrading easier than ever.



Figure 2 RRC In Person Technical Training Class October 2024

Ready to Take the Next Step?



If you've been thinking about upgrading your license, there's no better time than now. The RRC is here to support you with study resources, training opportunities, and a smooth testing process. Whether you're aiming for Technician, General or Extra, we can help you achieve your goal!

If you're ready to take the next step in your ham radio journey, reach out to me at 484-339-3456 or email me at stuart@W2SLH.com—I'd love to help you get started!

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

RRC RADIO TEAM PLAYS KEY ROLE IN ENSURING SAFETY OF RUNNERS TAKING PART IN 2025 FOOL'S RUN IN KUTZTOWN AREA

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

Sixteen amateur radio operators – the majority of them members of the Reading Radio Club – assisted the Crew 59 Association in providing a critical communications backbone for the annual Fool's Run in Kutztown on Saturday, March 29.

The race – sponsored by the Optimist Club of Kutztown – raises funds for scholarships for area students who want to enroll at Kutztown University.

The weather was perfect for the runners on the 10k course – for which radio operators fan out to man stations to communicate progress of the runners and be available to summon emergency assistance in the event of an accident or injury.

There was also a very popular 5k race and a two-mile fun walk open to participants of all ages.

This year, the Crew 59 operating team set up simplex, cross-band repeaters at three locations along the 10k course to fill-in some coverage gaps discovered in past years.

Thanks to Ron K3RJW, Dave N3AMY and Al K3AJM for helping to set up the network. It performed flawlessly!

It was a pleasant weather day with no wind or rain to slow the runners. Radio operators commented on the clear, sunny skies and comfortable temperatures.

A big thank you to the following RRC members for their assistance:

Al K3AJM, Cameron W2CMH, Dave N3AMY, Craig K3CRG, Jason NG3F, Stan K3STP, Ron K3RJW, Larry WR1B, Chris WI3W, Paul AE3U, Shawn W3JZ and Mark NT3V.

Also, thanks to KC3BSA net control Charlie KB3JMZ and Jon KC3KUZ, son of Mark NT3V, and RRC member Nick KC3SGN, who lent radios and antennas to the operation. He was unable to take part on the communications side this year because he was assisting Kutztown Police Department in a new role for the day.

And, a special thanks to Don K3OP - a long-time participant in Crew 59-sponsored events - who lent us and helped set up and tear down his base antenna system and tripod at the Kutztown Fairgrounds at the start-finish line of the race. It was used by KC3BSA net control for communicating with eight positions manned by operators.

The Optimist Club of Kutztown expressed its deepest appreciation to the radio crew for its professionalism and support of the annual event. It has invited the group to return in 2026.

MARCH SIMPLEX RADIO TEST ADDS 2 NEW NET CONTROLS, MOVES OPERATION TO AN INDOOR-SETTING SOUTHWEST OF READING

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V

The Reading Radio Club-sponsored Simplex Radio Test returned to the VHF bands (146.550 Megahertz) on March 15 after a three-month absence.

Manning the microphones were a quintet of net control operators, including two new team members.

Craig K3CRG and Shawn W3JZ joined the team for the first time and learned some of the ins-and-outs of how the test is operated each month.

The test was conducted from the Lincoln Park QTH of Ron K3RJW, south and west of Reading.

Why an indoor location?

The SRT team had been talking about what might happen in the event of an emergency that crippled one or both of the area repeaters, pressing us into service on VHF simplex. What might that look like? Well, we determined it was likely the first calls would be made from a home to organize radio operators and dispatch them to locations for service. So, it made sense to find a QTH more or less centrally located with good reception in the area. Ron's place fit the bill and his generosity in opening his home to the SRT team was much appreciated.

There were 20 check-ins for the March test. Unfortunately, it was briefly interrupted by a technical issue about midway through the exercise that pushed us off frequency. The team quickly realized something was wrong when – while calling the list – there were no responses heard from some monthly regulars.

Upon looking at the radio frequency display, it was quickly learned that instead of pushing up the volume so everyone could hear, the frequency-setting button was used instead moving us up to 146.580 Megahertz. Whoops!

After correcting the issue, we picked up the list where we believed the error occurred and finished the exercise.

There were no takers for Pagoda Award contacts with Reading Radio Club members.

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

All licensed amateurs in Berks and surrounding counties are welcome to participate in the exercise. Please reserve the date and join us!



The Fox Hole

TRIANGULATION AND FOX HUNT

By Dave Fix, N3AMY

Welcome to Spring. For me, that means outdoor activities.

On April 12, after the Reading Radio Club's Simplex Net, which starts at 1:00 PM on frequency 146.55 MHZ, I plan to turn on the transmitter with 5 watts for 5 minutes. Then I will reduce the power to 1 watt.

So far I have 2 hunters who will look for the Fox.

The triangulation phase is during the 5 watt period.

If you can give a reading from your location go on the RRC Repeater and contact N3AMY. Give me your location and direction you think the Fox is from your location. I will pass this information to the hunters.

Please let me know if you are going to hunt for the Fox.

I look forward to play, FIND THE FOX.

Dave, N3AMY

Meeting Highlights

RRC GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 14, 2025

By: RRC Vice President, Ron Waszk, K3RJW

The Friday, March 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 President, Joe Pietruszynski (AC3DI), called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the group in the pledge to the American Flag.
3. RRC members and guests introduced themselves.
4. April 8, 2025, is the next Board of Directors meeting.
5. April 11, 2025, is the next general meeting.
6. The RRC currently has 92 active members. There were 12 members who did not renew for 2025.
7. The Cornwall Challenge K4G is happening this month.
8. 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. The Limerick drill is scheduled for November of 2025.
9. The RRC Family Picnic is on July 12, 2025. The picnic will not be at the Freight Station this year due to the fire. The picnic will be at the West Reading Playground Heritage Center. It is a nice place with lots of parking and air conditioning.
10. Jim Nicholas (W3ITH) is not sure if HamFest will be at the Heritage Center since it is not known if the repairs from the fire will be completed by then.
11. Scott Scheirer (KC3PCS) discussed Field Day. This year's Field Day will be at the South Mountain YMCA on June 28 and 29, 2025. Scott suggested renaming the Field Day committee to Field Comms Committee.

12. Dave Fix (N3AMY) discussed scheduling a fox hunt using triangulation. He will turn the fox on for five minutes at five watts and then turn it down to one watt. He asked for help with the hunt and needs to know how many people will help. The super fox hunt is at a standstill, and he still must reach out to other counties regarding the hunt.

13. Ron Waszk (K3RJW) announced Amy Lindenmuth (KB3FSD) was absent tonight due to being ill, but she has moved forward with the application process to obtain a small games of chance license for a raffle.

14. Mandy Miller, Acting Sheriff of Berks County, attended this evening's meeting. Sheriff Miller shared a little bit about herself. Sheriff Miller worked in the Berks County Sheriff's Office for 25 years under Sheriff Weaknecht. The Sheriff's Office employs over 100 employees, and they have three K-9 officers, mostly for narcotics. Some of the Sheriff's deputies collaborate with the Federal Marshals. Sheriff Miller also informed the group that at this time they have not received any requests from ICE. Sheriff Miller took time to answer questions from the members. Thank you to Tom Bausher (KC3KKI) for collaborating with Sheriff Miller to attend our meeting.

15. RRC President, Joe Pietruszynski (AC3DI) 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



RADIO ELECTRONICS EXPO

Georgetown Hamfest

SATURDAY
April 26, 2025

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

SUSSEX



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Sussex Amateur Radio Association

- APRIL 26, 2025 -



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Towaco Imaging
Verizon

Events & Attractions

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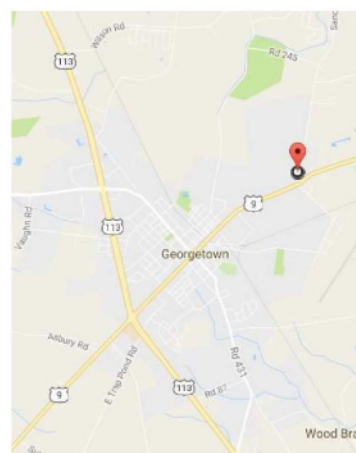
Guests Pay \$8 To Enter!
(Under 18 FREE!)

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

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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