



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: September 9th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (Zoom)
General Meeting: September 12th, 2025 @ 7:30 (IBEW) - Meshtastic
Meeting On the Air (MOTA) - All Other Fridays - 8 PM - W3BN Repeater
FLDigi Net: September 18th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM (146.91 W3BN Repeater)
Simplex Test: September 13th, 2025 @ 1 PM (146.55)
Fox Hunt: TBD. See Page 11.
VE Exam: October 3, 2025 - 6:30 PM - Berks County AG Center (See Exam Page)

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

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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 92 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 Groups.Io Page: <http://www.groups.io/g/W3BN>
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.



Not much to report this month. It's very hard to write a bulletin with no other contributors. To the VERY few that do contribute, THANK YOU.

As Joe mentioned, the board is looking at committees and restructuring them. We need VOLUNTEERS to staff the committees. Leadership and below roles are available. Most of these committees only meet a few times a year and many mostly by email or text.

Please check out the list on the club's website <http://www.w3bn.org> for more details.

In other sad news, there was an article in the Reading Eagle about the Heritage Park Train Station. Unfortunately, they were not able to save it. They will be putting up a new building where it was that is more modern. The Train Museum is still there.

There is also going to be a mini contest starting in October. You'll have to read the October bulletin to find out about it.

Have a great month.

RRC Bulletin Editors



Stan P, K3STP; Mary Anne N, N3TVT; Neil E, NE3IL; Dennis G, N3JRW;
Mike C, N3YQG; Henry Schott, Jr., KA3BMS; Scott S, KC3PCS

This is the last month we will be meeting at the IBEW (20 Morgan Drive, Sinking Spring, PA 19608).

Starting in October, we will resume meeting at the Berks County Agricultural Center. However, the meetings will be held the First Friday of each month.

RON'S RAVINGS

by Ron Waszk, K3RJW

Well, its been a hard three months but IM BACCCKKK.

Lots happened while I was OOS, but being back , the new ideas have really been floating around.

Changes to the bylaws, which are so old, that they do not meet what we do today.

Additions to the bylaws that were missing from the older write ups on the bylaws.

NEW IDEAS for the bylaws that meet our lives today, and will make us a better club. ;

Secondly, I want to thank all the HAM radio club members that assisted me in my down time. Driving me to my appts, and waiting for me. One time was when my daughter showed up to take me home and I had to leave my driver to do what he had to do. I thank him a lot, in that it does use up his time too.

SO until I get back into being involved totally, I will only have short bulletin blurps. Hope to see you at the meetings,dont forget, location changes, and day changes. Also, we have nominations coming up in November. Sept and Oct seem to be interesting with the entertainment times at the next upcoming meetings.

Late all. Have a great one.

RON W , K3RJW

VE Test Session

We have scheduled an exam for Friday, October 3rd at 6:30 PM. This is just before the RRC General Meeting held at the Berks County AG Center.

Pre-Registration is requested.

Cost is \$15.00 (checks made out to ARRL VEC). The FCC Fee gets paid directly to the fcc for new licenses. License upgrades do not have an FCC fee.

Please bring your current license for upgrades or a state ID with for new test takers.

Please use the following link to register:

<https://ham.study/sessions/6893f3dfc2fadbb4d25fd648/1>

or email exam@w2slh.com

Tell your friends as well. This is open to anyone looking to test.



A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Technician Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, Sept 4, and will run through Thursday, October 16 (7 sessions).

The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum.

Please publicize this with anyone you know that you think would be interested.

Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

/^ESH^ST/C

Mesh Heads

Exploring Meshtastic and the World of Off-Grid Mesh Networking

If you've been following new trends in radio and digital communications, you've probably heard of Meshtastic. This open-source project has been gaining traction among radio hobbyists, outdoor adventurers, and emergency preparedness groups alike. Enthusiasts who dive into the system, sometimes jokingly calling themselves "Mesh Heads", are discovering just how powerful and versatile low-power mesh networking can be.

At its core, Meshtastic is a mesh networking platform that uses LoRa (Long Range) radios to send and relay messages. Each device, known as a "node," can pass along messages to the next, creating a web of communication that doesn't rely on cell towers, Wi-Fi, or the internet. The more nodes you have, the stronger and farther the network can reach. Nodes are typically small, inexpensive devices such as the LilyGO T-Beam or Heltec LoRa boards. Most cost between thirty and sixty dollars, making it easy to experiment or set up a small network. Messages are sent from a smartphone via Bluetooth to a node, which then relays them across the mesh to other nodes in range.

The system works by combining several simple technologies. LoRa provides long-range, low-bandwidth communication in the 900 MHz ISM band, and the Meshtastic firmware allows each node to act as a relay, extending the coverage far beyond a single radio's range. The Meshtastic app makes it easy to send and receive messages, share GPS locations, and even plot positions on a map. Because the project is open source, both the firmware and the app are constantly evolving with contributions from a vibrant online community.

For radio hobbyists, Meshtastic offers a playground for experimentation. It is resilient, since it works without infrastructure, making it valuable during grid failures or disasters. It also enables discreet messaging: instead of long voice transmissions, Meshtastic uses short digital packets, somewhat like APRS but simpler to operate. Amateur radio clubs are beginning to experiment with community projects, building networks to test range, coverage, and reliability. Although Meshtastic itself operates in unlicensed spectrum and does not require a license, its principles mirror many of the values in amateur radio, self-reliance, innovation, and technical learning.

One of the more creative uses of Meshtastic is as a platform for sensors. With a few add-ons, a node can serve as a self-contained weather station, reporting temperature, humidity, and/or barometric pressure to the mesh. Nodes can also act as fixed beacons, automatically transmitting their GPS position and system status. Beyond weather, hobbyists have begun using Meshtastic as part of broader sensor networks, tying in devices such as motion detectors or environmental monitors. A motion sensor, for example, could be set up to alert the mesh when activity is detected along a trail or around a remote site. These sensor applications open the door to distributed monitoring systems that are lightweight, inexpensive, and resilient.

The practical applications are already widespread. In emergency preparedness, communities have built backup networks for communication when traditional systems fail. Hikers, campers, and hunters have used it to stay connected far from cell service. Urban and rural neighborhoods alike have deployed nodes to create local, resilient communication webs. Educators and makerspaces are also finding it useful for teaching concepts of digital radio, networking, and open-source collaboration.

Getting started with Meshtastic is surprisingly simple. A beginner can purchase a LoRa device such as the LilyGO T-Beam, flash it with the Meshtastic firmware, and pair it to the free Meshtastic app. With just a few minutes of setup, you can send your first message. Once you invite a friend or two, you've already begun building a local mesh, and with more nodes, the range and reliability only increase.

Meshtastic represents a fresh frontier in digital communications; accessible, low-cost, and adaptable. Whether you are a seasoned ham operator, a preparedness-minded individual, or simply curious about new technology, Meshtastic offers a chance to explore mesh networking in a hands-on way. The growing community of Mesh Heads is pushing the boundaries of what off-grid communication can do. Perhaps now is the time to join in, build a node, and see just how far your messages can travel.

Notes From The Field Comms Committee

Field Day 2025 Wrap-Up

The Reading Radio Club participated in the 2025 ARRL Field Day on June 28–29, operating under the callsign W3BN from our site in the Eastern Pennsylvania section. With 17 members taking part, our team entered Class 3A, running three stations on commercial power with a multiplier of 2. The weather was pleasant and made for a comfortable weekend of radio and camaraderie.

Over the 24-hour operating period, our operators logged 459 QSOs across multiple bands and modes. Phone accounted for the majority with 395 contacts, while digital modes added 61 and CW contributed 3 more. The busiest band for us was 40 meters, with 288 phone and 33 digital QSOs, followed by steady activity on 80 and 20 meters. Additional contacts were made on 15 meters, 2 meters, and 70 centimeters.

In total, our contact points came to 523, which doubled with the power multiplier to 1,046. Adding 550 bonus points earned for tasks such as sending formal messages, copying the W1AW bulletin, making natural power QSOs, appointing a safety officer, posting to social media, and submitting the entry online, our preliminary total score stands at 1,596 points.

But Field Day is about much more than scores. It's a nationwide exercise in preparedness and a chance for hams everywhere to come together as a community. For our club, it meant working side by side, sharing knowledge, testing our equipment, and enjoying each other's company. Radios and antennas are important, but the real highlight is the fellowship that makes Field Day such a special tradition year after year.

That spirit of community extends beyond our members as well. We would like to sincerely thank Camp Bynden Wood for generously donating the use of their space this year. Their support not only gave us a beautiful and practical location to operate from but also underscored how partnerships with local organizations strengthen the bonds that make events like Field Day possible.

A big thanks also goes to everyone who helped set up antennas, operate, log contacts, and support the effort throughout the weekend. We look forward to building on this momentum and gathering again for Field Day 2026. Until then, 73 from W3BN!



W3BN Members Launch Club Discord Server

The Reading Radio Club Online Presence Committee is excited to announce the launch of a new Discord server, providing members with a new space to connect, share, and learn outside of our regular meetings and on-air activities. The server currently features several channels designed to cover a wide range of interests: general-chat for casual conversation, bot-commands for interacting with our custom club bot, VE-chat for licensing and exam discussion, swap-meet for trading or selling gear, POTA (Parks on the Air) for portable activations, Meshtastic for our mesh networking enthusiasts, cricket-chat for early risers to greet the morning and chat on the air, and learning-questions for members seeking help or guidance on technical topics.

A key highlight of the server is our custom bot, created by KC3LVS and hosted on a dedicated server. The bot allows members to quickly look up callsigns, check weather, access test prep materials and upcoming VE test sessions, monitor MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency), view solar-terrestrial data, and track APRS information. This makes the server not only a social hub but also a practical tool for operators in the field or at home.

Discord provides members with real-time chat, voice channels for impromptu ragchews, and the ability to share files, images, and links. It's accessible from computers, smartphones, or tablets, making it easy to stay connected wherever you are. Beyond just supporting current members, the server is an excellent way to attract new and younger operators to amateur radio. By offering a modern, familiar platform for discussion and collaboration, it lowers barriers for those new to the hobby and extends the club's presence beyond in-person meetings and on-air activities. It's a place where curiosity, learning, and mentorship can happen naturally, helping to grow the club's membership and foster a vibrant, engaged community.

The new Discord server is designed to strengthen our club community, provide easy access to resources, and support both new and experienced hams in their radio activities. Members are encouraged to join, explore the channels, ask questions, and make the most of the tools and discussions available.

Keep an eye out for the invite link distributed to members and available on our website. Come be part of our growing online ham radio community!

73,
KC3LVS



BIKEMS CITY TO SHORE



The annual BikeMS City to Shore Ride is coming up very soon. The dates are: September 27-28, 2025. The event starting line is at PATCO Woodcrest Station in Cherry Hill, NJ. The Finish Line is at the Ocean City Civic Center, 5th & the Boardwalk Ocean City, NJ. There are shorter and longer routes.

They are looking for amateur radio operators to help man the event. Events like this are an excellent way to showcase our skills and show that amateur radio is very much alive and helpful even in today's modern communications.

To sign up to help, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/4HQFTzvVpsnk8QmC8>.

For details about the event: <https://events.nationalmssociety.org/pages/9931?eventID=2389>

Please see the letter below from the event coordinator.

Events like this are an excellent way to showcase our skills and show that amateur radio is very much alive and helpful even in today's modern communications.

Greetings and Salutations to All:

First and Foremost - I would like give a very HEART FELT THANK YOU to all of the 2024 Ride volunteers. As always, the event can not be done without you, your dedication, and professionalism. It is an honor to be one of you.

Now some bad news, it seems that unfortunately, you are stuck with me for at least another year. Not so bad, you shouldn't have to endure the begging and pleading from prior years (but we will get into that at a later date).

There will definitely be changes this year from last, but hopefully they will be good changes, and most of you should be pleased.

One of the biggest changes is that we are expanding our SAG operations by probably at least an additional 5 SAGs. But these will be single SAGs of a SUV, but again, more details in the near future.

I bring this up, because a SAG position is a very challenging position. Attached to this email is our Comms Package and Position Descriptions from last year, which explains all positions. I ask that you read over the description of the SAG position, and kindly get back to us as soon as possible so that we can discuss the position and it's responsibilities if you are interested..

Sign up forms will be available very soon, and as soon as I have them, I will send out an email with the link.

I hope to see all of you from last year, and years gone by, but also I am excited to see the new folks coming out to the event.

I Thank You All, I Appreciate You All,
and look forward to working WITH as many of you as possible this year.

With all my Respect,
Joe D (KC2SFB)

With Much Appreciation
73
EvComm
Msg. Phone: (609.795.0909)

The Fox Hole

Dave would love to have a fox hunt but he needs some interest in it first. Please reach out to him.



member items WANTED / FOR SALE

There are currently no member items listed for sale / wanted.

Please let the editors know if you want something listed.

Thank you.

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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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