



Newsletter - Quarter 1
January – March 2025



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Facebook Group page



2025 Officers

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James Heath
(WE3D)

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Jim Collier
(KC3GBS)

Secretary

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(KB3MSP)

Treasurer

Fred Doten
(N1OEP)

Activities

Organizer

Darren Rhoads
(KC0NAH)

Trustees

Allan Cooke
(KB3AC)
thru 2025

Ed Beaudoin
(KK4FYV)
thru 2026

John Lamb
(W3JL)
Thru 2027

Highlights

The new year started with a new club president - James Heath (WE3D) and he is bringing some new vision to the club, especially how meetings are conducted, how functional aspects are performed, and how our club can grow into a more relevant entity across generations for the near and long term.

One of the first changes was that now we will open the monthly meetings with a presentation or lab work prior to getting into the 'business' aspects.

Secondly, there were some changes proposed and implemented related to the constitution, and further defining honorary and associate memberships.

Thirdly, in an effort to better delegate work across the membership, James plans to leverage committees to assist with the various areas to streamline operations. To dovetail into this mindset, and to help get the word out about the club and its activities, a Public Outreach Relation Communication (PORC) committee was the first formed with the intent to create some social media presence, and to reach out to media outlets along with the community.

A survey was created and answered by 19 participants about the current 'health' and future growth for the club.

Some really exciting stuff happening during Q1, to be sure!

Meeting Data

January 7

22 members

+ 1 guest

Balances:

Start: \$4564.71

End: \$5085.21

February 4

17 members

+ 7 guests

Balances:

Start: \$5085.21

End: \$5340.21

March 4

16 members

+3 guests

Balances:

Start: \$5340.21

End: \$5252.47

New Members

Yakley Ulrich
KD3AGE

Lucy Corbin
AB3MY

Tim Marchant
(no call)

Jean Plymette
(no call)

Presentations

January – Since discussed and decided that future presentations would happen prior to the meeting, this month was the last time we had a presentation following the business aspects. Jeff Martin (AA3JM) gave a presentation of the TinySA hardware, using a signal generator and a few HTs to demonstrate how to use this hardware to look for spurious emissions, along with a review of how signal strength is measured and shown in decibels (dB).

February – In 2024, Lucy (AB3MY) visited both the Philippines and Brazil and did some work to activate some POTA Parks and SOTA Summits. She gave a slide show of the places she visited and help she received to get on the air. Darren (KC0NAH) had visited Israel in April/May 2023 and operated 4 of the tallest Summits in Northern Israel which also coincided with a few Parks on the Air entries. He presented some “how-to” of getting set up to go, the gear used, and some pictures of friends made along with places visited. Following these two presentations, Allan gave a quick review of a bear breaking down his fence, but most importantly, the work done to help get a better VHF/UHF antenna in the air for Fred (N1OEP).

March – James (WE3D), Jim (KC3GBS) and Darren (KC0NAH) shared visual examples of digital interface devices to go between computers and various transceivers. Some of these were homebrewed, and some off-the-shelf, like digirig or Signalink. Others shared anecdotes of some problems but also the many ways that these interfaces have opened up computer use in the hobby. Also noted several of the newer rigs (notably Icom) that have built-in sound card and rig-control hardware making it super easy to use. There were also some demonstrations of portable antennas that James (WE3D) has built and uses with his portable, go-bag kit for things like POTA.

Net Check-ins

(averages)

January

VHF – 10
NVIS – 7
Winlink – 12

February

VHF – 12
NVIS – 6
Winlink – 13

March

VHF – 11
NVIS – 7
Winlink – 12

W3VPJ on the Air



The Winter Parks on the Air Support Your Parks Weekend was held over January 18 – 19, 2025. A few members decided to make the trip to Ricketts Glen State Park and activate from Cabin “J” there. Jim Collier pulled in 104 contacts on 20m/40m SSB. Bob Kerstetter snagged ten SSB QSOs on 10m/20m. Darren contributed 56 SSB/CW/FT8 QSOs on 17m/30m/40m/ 80m/160m for the club and also made 30 FT8 contacts on 2m/6m for the January ARRL VHF contest. Derek (W3KR) lives nearby and stopped in to chat and hang out for a bit.

Weekly Net Details

(join in the fun)

VHF

8:00pm – Wed
147.180, +0.6 MHz,
100 Hz tone

NVIS

8:30pm – Wed
3.970 LSB

Winlink

Anytime, Wed-Fri
Winlink email:
HF, VHF, Telnet



The club operated during Winter Field Day (Jan 25 - 26) as W3VPJ from Ridge Runners Rod and Gun Club, near Wellsboro, PA. Our club climbed to the top of our class/category world-wide (2-transceiver-indoor) with 1467 SSB/CW/ JS8Call / Winlink QSOs, and a final score of 49,878! James (WE3D), Jim (KC3GBS), Pat (W3RGA), John (K3MD), Darren (KC0NAH), and Gene (KC3SHC) contributed to the high score for the club! We operated with a 160m full wave “sky loop” for SSB, and a 10m, 20m, 40m, 80m inverted-V fan dipole for Data/CW.

Committee Updates

Public Outreach Relation Communication (PORC) Committee formed with Darren R (KC0NAH), Greg F (N3GAF), Lucy C (AB3MY), Jim C (KC3GBS), and James (WE3D) as members

The first big highlight for the committee was that a Facebook page and a group was set up. If you're on Facebook, check us out -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3960190634193402>

Lots of photos and updates on club activities and schedules are happening there!

Secondly, Lucy (AB3MY) had planned to speak with a local Rotary Club regarding her travels and doing ham radio internationally. That talk should be a fun and interesting way to spark interest with others in the community about ham radio, travel, and goodwill world-wide; and ultimately pointing anyone interested back to our club.

Thirdly, our club was invited to meet with Snyder County Search & Rescue group in Shamokin Dam on March 16th to discuss if there is a way our club could potentially assist them during their missions, or more importantly, how we can help their members acquire licenses.

This wasn't initiated by our committee, but there was a write-up in the January edition of "Inside PA" which highlighted the maker space, and the electronics lab and our club involvement. That's the kind of publicity we want to begin initiating across other publications in the region! Would you help us find other opportunities like this?

EMCOMM: Allan (KB3AC) has been recording and reporting weekly numbers participating in the weekly VHF net on the K3SNY repeater, the NVIS 75m net, and the Winlink Wednesday net. There were some updates from Red Cross and an invite for a SET scheduled in April.

Still looking for members who would be willing to form a committee to research, publish, and promote group activities to bring club members together to participate in contesting, POTA/SOTA/WWFF Activations, Field Day, special event stations, etc. One idea floated around was to set up a special event station to commemorate and raise awareness of the Centralia Mine Fires!

Contesting Scores

ARRL January VHF contest

John – K3MD – scored 6,480 points – Nice work, John!

Derek – W3KR – scored 2,992 points – all on 2m!

Darren – KC0NAH – scored 234 points (better luck next time!)

CQ Worldwide 160m SSB

Jim – KC3GBS Scored 11,250 – 2nd in class in PA - Nice work, Jim!

John – K3MD – Scored 5,486 points

CQ Worldwide 160m CW

John – K3MD – Scored 26,600 points

Pat – W3RGA ran for W3VPJ – Scored 4,268 points

Did you operate in a contest that wasn't listed here during Q1 - 2025, and wish to receive recognition via a correction in a future club newsletter? We are especially interested if multiple club member participate in a particular contest, so please notify Darren (darrenrhoads@yahoo.com) on these and other contests. We want to celebrate everyone taking the effort to contest and especially having fun!

Congratulations!

Let's celebrate the following members who have been in the club for one year or more this quarter!

Lenny – W3LCB – Joined Mar 2020 – 5 years!

Bob – KC3VFM – Joined Jan 2023 – 2 years

Jeff – AA3JM – Joined Jan 2024 – 1 year

Mark – KE3NJ – Joined Feb 2024 – 1 year