



Officers 2021

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John Thompson K3MD

Vice President

Tom Abraham AD3C

Secretary

Dave Welker K3SI

Treasurer

Gretchen Persing KC3GZV

Activities Organizer

John Thompson K3MD

Trustees

Gretchen Persing KC3GZV

2021

Doug Wood WA3NLA

2022

Sue Reisinger KB3MSP

2023

Newsletter

Allan Cooke KB3AC

Next Meeting

May 4, 2021 7:00 PM See
qsl.net/w3vpj for current
 location.

SVARC Monthly meetings will resume in person at the Brookside Ministries Church, beginning May 4, 2021 7:00 PM.

It's Spring!!! Time to begin those outside projects and start mowing the lawns again.....

Club News

During the March SVARC meeting we voted to return to in person meetings again. Most or all of us have been vaccinated and unanimously agreed it was time to start getting back to normal.

Our President, John K3MD, has been patiently keeping track of all the names and door prizes that were virtually "handed out" and now he will be able to hand some of those out in person!

It has been suggested that we don't stop using Zoom just yet. Maybe we can include a Zoom session at the meetings for those who can't be there in person. We will have to discuss this and the logistics involved.

Field Day will be here before you know it, June 26 - 27th. We have been given the green light to hold Field Day again in the fields behind the Monroe Township Municipal Building. John K3MD has been very busy getting everything ready. There are still tasks that need volunteers to be assigned. Please contact John to find out what you can do to help - k3md009@gmail.com

Links

[SVARC Website](#)

[Groups.io for SVARC](#)

[Snyder/Norry ARES Facebook](#)

SVARC Net

147.180 PL Tone 100.0
Wednesdays 7:00PM

Emergencies

Snyder-Northumberland ARES
147.180 PL Tone 100
Currently suspended

SkyWarn
147.180 PL Tone 100
Anytime NWS issues Watches
or Warnings for our area

EPA Emergency Phone & Traffic
3918 kHz LSB Daily 5:00 PM
Or during Any Emergencies

Other Area Nets

Milton Amateur Radio Club
146.985 PL Tone 110.9
(Currently suspended)

Columbia-Montour ARC
147.225 PL Tone 85.4
Tuesdays 7:00 PM

Bald Eagle Repeater Assoc.
SkyWarn Test Net
147.090 PL Tone 167.9
Thursdays 7:30 PM

Nittany Amateur Radio Club
146.850 PL Tone 146.2
Sundays 9:00 PM

John has purchased a new book about how to manually program just about any radio. He is making this available to any member who would like to borrow it.

We now have 32 members! That is the most we have had since 2016.

In other news.....

Tom AD3C has been setting new personal records for DX and contest contacts. He enlisted the help of John K3MD with putting up a new antenna for 160 meters. Things didn't quite go as planned but they finally ended up installing an inverted L antenna and now Tom has a new band to explore!

Speaking of 160 meters, there is a nice article in the April QST magazine about Solar Cycle 25, which has officially begun! It's a great explanation about the correlation of the number of sun spots and solar flux measurements.

It mentioned solar minimum is the best time for good propagation on 160 meters and solar maximum is best for 15, 12 and 10 meters. So 160, 80, and 40 meters is going to be at its best for the next couple of years.

Tim K3TEG has organized a Fox Hunt for the Boy Scouts during the Spring Camporee at Camp Karoondinha. The hunt will take place May 8th from 10AM to 4PM.

The scouts will be using a pre-built 3 element Yagi antenna connected to a handheld radio and tuned to a predetermined frequency listening for a beacon. Scouts will be in teams competing with other teams searching for the fox (beacon).

Sounds like great fun! If you can offer any help for this event please contact Tim K3TEG - tim.k3teg@gmail.com

VE Testing

Several people have asked when the CSTG VE testing will resume. As of today, the VE test sessions will resume July 17th at the Montour Preserve Visitors Center. Earlier this month the VE team held a special session for an 8 year old Bear Scout arranged by Dave KC3NJW. I am pretty sure he is the youngest candidate the team has ever tested. We agreed to hold this special session because we didn't want the boy to loose interest waiting until July.

W1AW Schedule

CW Practice Slow

5, 7.5, 10, 13, 15 WPM

1.8025 - 3.5815 - 7.0475

14.0475 - 18.0975 - 21.0675

28.0675 MHz

Monday 7:00PM

Tuesday 4:00PM and 10:00PM

Wednesday 9:00AM and 7:00PM

Thursday 4:00PM and 10:00PM

Friday 9:00AM and 7:00PM

CW Practice Fast

35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, 10 WPM

1.8025 - 3.5815 - 7.0475

14.0475 - 18.0975 - 21.0675

28.0675 MHz

Monday 4:00PM and 10:00PM

Tuesday 9:00AM and 7:00PM

Wednesday 4:00PM and

10:00PM

Thursday 9:00AM and 7:00PM

Friday 4:00PM and 10:00PM

CW Bulletins

18 WPM

1.8025 - 3.5815 - 7.0475

14.0475 - 18.0975 - 21.0675

28.0675 MHz

M-F 5:00PM, 8:00PM and

11:00PM

Digital Bulletins

RTTY, PSK31 or MFSK16

Rotating Schedule

3.5975 - 7.095 - 14.095

18.1025 - 21.095 - 28.095

M-F 6:00PM and 9:00PM

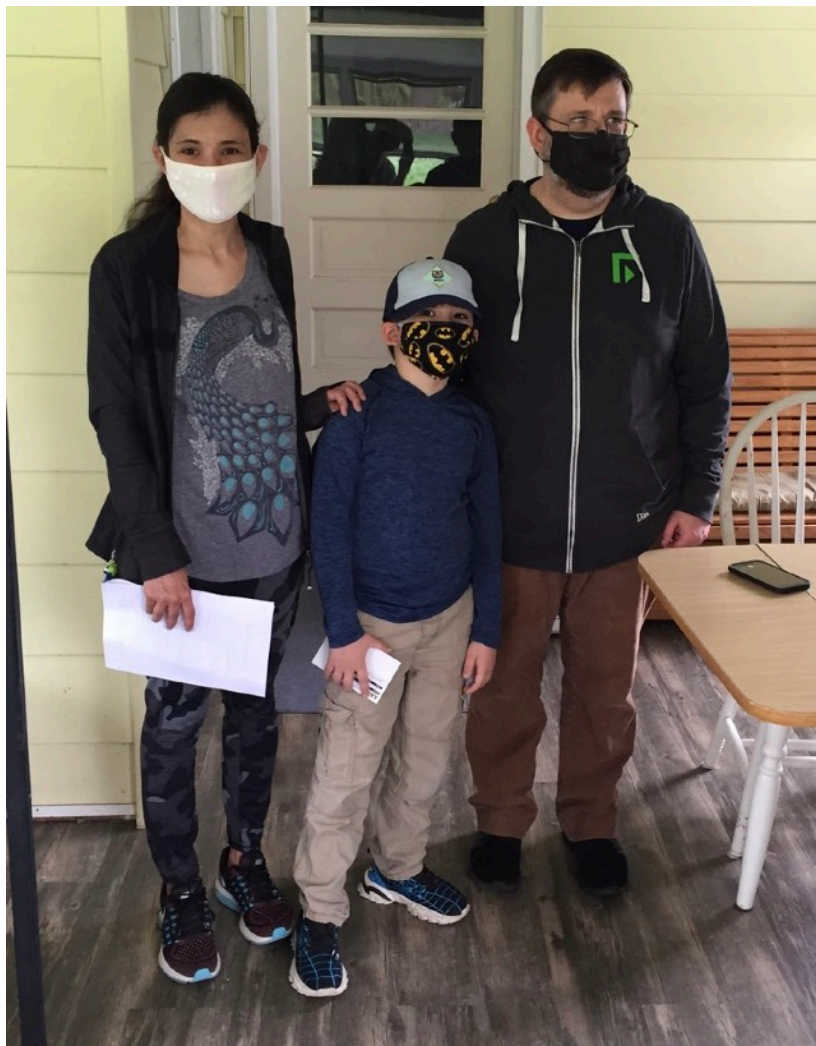
Voice Bulletins

1.855 - 3.990 - 7.290

14.290 - 21.390 - 28.590

M-F 9:45PM

I am happy to report he and both his parents all passed their tests with flying colors only missing two questions!



Tid Bits....

And speaking of licenses, do you know when your license expires? What about your TQSL Certificate for LOTW. They do expire and I'm not sure if anyone will notify you. And don't forget, if you change your address, you also need to notify the FCC I think within 30 days.

Along those same lines, have you updated your ham radio programs lately. I recently added a new computer to the shack and realized I have a lot of digital and logging programs that were out of date.

Did you know there is a new version MMSSTV? - <http://www.arll.org/news/new-sstv-software-now-available>

Where is Ham Nation? One of my favorite podcasts has moved. At the end of 2020 Ham Nation host Bob Heil announced they were changing the podcast. They are no longer sponsored by TWIT.TV, instead they are now on YouTube and hosted by Josh Nass KI6NAZ. New episodes are once every two weeks instead weekly. Josh has some very good ham radio videos on a variety of subjects and presents them well. His YouTube channel is called Ham Radio Crash Course - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChAu6Cof9KlffXsSbL9ytosQ>

In case you didn't know, Yaesu's FT-857D has been discontinued. What a great radio! All bands, all modes, 100 watts! I believe this radio first went into production in 2004. Looks like they discontinued it in 2020. Yaesu has replaced it with an FT-891 which has HF + 50MHz but it does not have VHF/UHF. That's ashamed.

Speaking of discontinued, for those of us involved with ARES, the ARRL will end the use of ARES Connect in June. ARES Connect which was started only a couple years ago was an updated method of reporting hours to the ARRL that members spent in connection with emergency communications activities. Which ultimately got reported to the FCC. The ARRL and the software company who developed the program disagreed about future changes. I am certain the ARRL will eventually find an alternative. But for now reporting hours will be done the old method of manual reporting through messaging and emails.

Work has started again on the DMR repeater project just north of Lewisburg. The repeater is powered up and connected to a temporary antenna about 20 feet above ground. Later this Spring we hope to have the antenna moved up on the tower where coverage should greatly increase. For now the repeater is regular FM analog but will eventually change to DMR. The frequency is 445.16875. minus 5 MHz, with a PL tone of 151.4 If you can hit the repeater send me an email - kb3ac@aol.com We are looking for signal reports.

Dave N3KCR is continuing a friendly DMR net for the CSDMR group, on Mondays 8:00 PM on Talk Group 314230. Or directly into the 443.050 Williamsport repeater. If you connect directly be sure to "kerchunk" the repeater every 10 minutes or the TG will time out and you won't hear anything. All DMR operators are encouraged to check-in.

Don't forget to check-in to our own SVARC net Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on the 147.180 repeater, PL 100. Everyone is welcome! And as Ken WB3BNY pointed out recently on our Groups reflector, be sure to monitor the local repeaters as often as you can. Especially 147.18 and 146.655. New hams would like to try out their new licenses and talk with someone.

If you want to check out your HF rig and antenna, the CMARC holds a very friendly and casual net Wednesdays at 7:30 PM on 14.308 MHz right after our own net. Sometimes people from as far away as Florida and Colorado have also checked in. The net only last until 8:00 PM but there is always good conversations and camaraderie!

Packet radio is still growing steadily in the valley. In this immediate area most of the packet activity is on 145.030. As you get closer to Harrisburg most of those stations use 145.010. Harry KC3QH added a new node recently that transmits on 145.010 as there is becoming a need to be able to access either frequency. For more information about packet radio contact Denny KA3BVJ - ka3bvj@gmail.com or me - kb3ac@aol.com

Projects

If you have an article about an amateur radio project or any information about amateur radio you would like to share with the group, please let me know so I can include it in this newsletter. Photos are appreciated but not necessary.

Throughout our time in amateur radio our stations will undergo rearrangements and additions as our interests change. For a while I have not been happy with how my station was arranged and the fact that I really needed a "workbench" so I didn't accidentally damage one of my radios while trying to solder a project or a repair.



So I recently made some changes. After trying in vain to stick with Apple computers to interact with my ham radios, I finally conceded that most of the software for ham radio was written for Windows OS. So a couple years ago I bought a laptop with Windows 10 but the screen has become too small for my old eyes. To make use of the laptop, I had to locate it in a place that forced me to make compromises about how the rest of my stations was arranged.

I recently bought a new Apple computer because the old one was outdated and not handling new programs very well. But the old one was still working well enough that I didn't want to just take it to the basement to collect dust.

It has an Intel processor so it will run either an Apple OS or a Windows based OS without any modifications. I bought a new copy of Windows 10 and loaded it into my old Apple computer. Ta-dah! Now I have a 27 inch screen, easy to see, and a Windows 10 operating system.



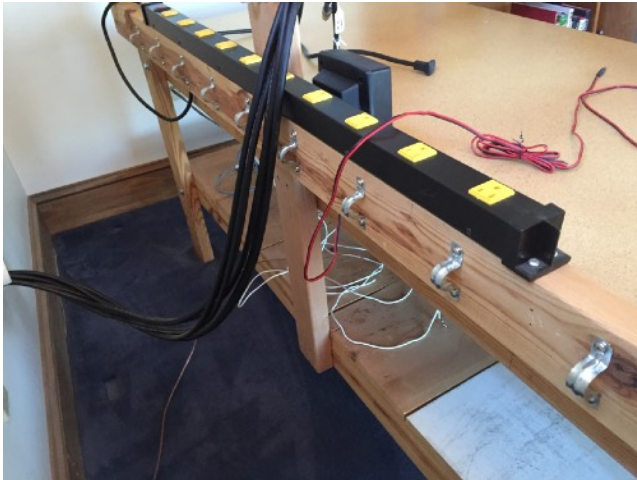
Moving all the ham radio programs from my laptop to my desktop should have only take about a day, right? Wrong! It was more like 10 days. I'll spare you some of the details but most of the programs were outdated so I had to download them all again before I could install them. It did not always go smoothly. Then I had to go through all those programs and change the settings to match my laptop. I thought I could remember them but instead had to methodically go through each one.....ARGH!

Several of those programs had some changes so it was like starting from scratch. Many of the programs we use as ham radio operators are offered for free. I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone the people who write those programs put a LOT of work into them and although they don't charge for them, it is in all our best interests to support them. So I also made several donations.

As I am updating the programs I also moved a few radios and accessories to locations that work much better than before. It was easiest to remove all the cables and just start over. It is still a work in progress but I am much happier with the new arrangements.

I moved my station and some other furniture in the room so now I have space for my next project, a new workbench! And because my wife has made it very clear to me several times, NO MORE PROJECTS, we will just call this a REPAIR! Yeah...that's what we'll do!





It's Spring which means thunderstorms. Keep an eye on the weather! Remove the coax from your rig if you see a storm...if that is your method. Personally, I ground mine using an Alpha Delta antenna switch.

SkyWarn net frequencies:

147.180 PL 100

147.225 PL 85.4

147.090 PL 167.9

Okay, that's all she wrote...

73,

Allan KB3AC kb3ac@aol.com



