

## The Corry Connection

### RAC Christmas Party 2015



INSIDE VOLUME IV, ISSUE III

[www.w3yxe.org](http://www.w3yxe.org)

2 From the  
President-Elects  
Desk

3 Calendar of  
Events

4 Santa at the  
North Dipole

5 A Short Lesson  
on Electrostatic  
Discharge



## 2016 Club Contacts

**President:** John Lis N3NKV

**Vice President:** John Gage KB3QBA

**Treasurer:** Jafa Armagost K3JAF

**Secretary:** Jim Froncek KA3RDA

**Club Callsign Trustee:** Ron Prindle N3BXL

**Webmaster:** Kyle Sipple KB3MNO

**Newsletter & Web Content Editor:**  
John Lis N3NKV

**Club Mailing Address:**  
Radio Amateurs of Corry  
PO Box 362  
Corry, PA 16407

Online at: <http://www.w3yxe.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/groups/w3yxe/>



Affiliated since 1969

# From the President -Elects Desk

Greetings Everyone, I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas party recently at The Dutch Village in Clymer. I am looking forward to an exciting 2016 with the Radio Amateur of Corry. I can't believe that this June will mark my 24th year as an amateur radio operator.

Radio wise for 2016, I plan to get my Extra class license. I have to hurry up because June 30th is going to come up here real fast. In other radio matters, I just submitted my logs for the PA QSO Party. For those that know me, I am not big a big contester.

This year was the first year myself and K3JAF put a very intense effort into the contest. While she was was logging contacts, she was crocheting christmas presents and watching the Alabama vs. Arkansas football game. Roll Tide!

We were running under the Forest Amateur Team club call of K3FRT. When K3JAF got on the air, she was able to break the pileups. It is very common to hear, "can we have the yl please". When I got on the radio, I did most of the hog calling. This year the bands were lousy. One of my regular contacts is former Erieite Matt Steger N3NTJ who lives near Lancaster.



Usually we can work each other on 80 and 40. This year 40 was the only band that was decent. Thank goodness I had a 40 meter beam or I would have not heard any of the mobile stations or those down state. Our final score was 30,620 points. We worked all but four counties. The counties were: Forest, Bedford, Cameron, and Fulton.

To everyone have a safe and happy holiday season and we will see at the first club meeting on January 5th. This meeting is going to be our reorganizational meeting. The meeting will start at 7:30. There is going to be no program. Doors will still open at 7:00 pm for the regular eyeball QSO

73  
John  
N3NKV

# Breezeshooters Hamfest Moves to New Location

After being at the Butler Farmshow grounds for over 20 years, the Breezeshooters Hamfest is moving. The new location for the hamfest will be the Big Butler Fairgrounds on Route 422. This years hamfest will be held on Sunday, June 5th.



## VE Team News

The Radio Amateurs of Corry Laurel VE team wants to let everyone know that the Extra Class question pool will be expiring on June 30th. If you plan on taking the old Extra Class exam, now is the time to start studying.

Exams are given before each Union City Wireless Association Meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month during the school year at 6 p.m. If you know of someone who wants to take any exam, please contact Joe Lis N3MLX at 825-5565 or via email at n3mlx@

roadrunner.com. 48 hour pre registration is required to ensure that enough VEs are available.

**As always, all Laurel VE exams are FREE of Charge!!!!**

The VE team plans on having an exam session towards the end of June. Look for more details at a later date



### **January 23, 2016**

Lockport ARA Hamfest  
Location: Lockport, NY  
Website: <http://www.lockportara.us/>

### **February 28, 2016**

WASHFEST  
Location: Pittsburgh, PA  
Website: <http://n3sh.org>

### **Spring 2016**

Skywarn Training  
For More Information visit  
[http://www.weather.gov/cle/SKY-WARN\\_schedule](http://www.weather.gov/cle/SKY-WARN_schedule)

### **April 3, 2016**

**VFW BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

### **April 3, 2016**

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest  
Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
Website: <http://cfarc.org>

### **April 24, 2016**

Two Rivers Hamfest  
Location: Boston, PA  
Sponsor: Two Rivers ARC of McKeesport, PA  
Website: <http://www.trarc.net>

### **May 20-22, 2016**

Dayton Hamvention  
Location: Dayton  
Website: <http://hamvention.org>

### **Sunday May 29th**

**VFW BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

### **Sunday June 5, 2015**

Breezeshooters Hamfest & Computer Show  
Location: Big Butler Fairgrounds

### **Saturday and Sunday June 25-26, 2015**

Field Day



# Santa at the North Dipole

We conclude this week's report with a Christmas story that begins, as all good Christmas stories must, with the wish of a child. What started as a staged report from Santa's Sleigh during an amateur radio Net on 80 meters nine years ago has grown. And grown. More from Amateur Radio Newsline's Kent Peterson, KC0DGY: If you take an 80 meter rag chew net, add a bit of holiday cheer and Pete Thompson, KE5GGY, explains what comes next.



It really goes back to a year where I had a young child at home I was checked into one of the 3916 nets on Christmas Eve. A number of us were looking for a way for our kids to talk to Santa. So we pieced together something for a couple of us that one night and it worked really well. I could be a Santa net relay for a station in Kansas City then he could facilitate the contact with Santa for me and my son, so we had sort of a primitive dress rehearsal and I think it occurred to a number of us that hey this really is neat and it has grown from there. I think we had five people that first year now in 2015 we are expecting 250 and 300 kids to talk to Santa.

Thompson says running the net has its rewards. Connecting kids to Santa at Christmas time just makes their Christmas. We get emails every year from parents and grandparents that say this was the highlight of our holiday season. This brought our family together. That and the fact we're using the magic radio to do it. makes it very rewarding on another level. We know a number of these kids who have been on the Santa net have gone on to get their ham radio tickets. Its a win win. Kids get the spirit of Christmas connecting with Santa through the magic of ham radio they experience this great hobby its a great way for us to end the year on the 3916 nets.

Thompson fired up his ham rig to demonstrate the quality of the Santa connection. Right now I've got a connection with Santa so we could close this interview with a couple comments from Santa. Let me see if i can get him on my phone patch in Dallas. Santa Santa, this is KE5GGY from Denton County calling, Santa can you come on and give a couple of comments to the Amateur Radio Newsline. Calling Santa. ["SANTA"]: HO HO HO Hello There Merry Christmas to everyone listening to the amateur radio newsline. And ho ho ho and I know you've all been very good boys and girls this year and I just want to invite you to join the hams on 3916 every night at 7:30 for the Santa net. And yes I could talk to you so we'll see you then. And until then 73 from Santa Ho Ho Ho!

In case you just missed that info, the 80 meter Santa Net meets every night on 3916 KHz at 7:30PM US Central time. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Kent Peterson, KC0DGY

This year Thompson will stream the audio for a live feed on the Internet and it will be archived. So anyone who is on the Santa Net, through Christmas Eve, will be able to find their contact from a YouTube page, just do a hashtag and a call sign and you'll find that particular contact.

# A Short Lesson on Electrostatic Discharge

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test & Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- ◆ Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- ◆ Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- ◆ Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- ◆ Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- ◆ Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- ◆ Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- ◆ Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench. I might

also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs ([http://www.allspec.com/products/Benches\\_and\\_Chairs%7CChairs\\_and\\_Accessories%7CCHR-00/](http://www.allspec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/)), but they are kind of expensive.



Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solidstate gear. It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productd=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

=====  
This Article was written by Dan Romanchik KB6NU.  
This article appeared in the Livonia, MI Amateur Radio Club Newsletter.

## Radio Amateurs of Corry Club Nets

Tuesday - 8 pm -- 28.330 USB

Thursday - 8 pm 147.090 + PL 186.2



# From the Treasurer's Desk

It has been a good year for the Radio Amateurs of Corry. The most noteworthy memories include:  
The VFW Breakfast: Previously the VFW in Corry would donate 50% of the income from the breakfast fundraisers. This has been changed this year. Now the VFW donates 100% of the income to the club.  
Website: Now contains a password protected member directory. Contact one of the officers for the password if you would like the password.  
Repeater committee: New Yaesu DR1-X Repeater, for which a new controller may be in the cards for 2016  
Not to forget the programs before the meetings, Jamboree on the air, picnics, Fly in Breakfast, and all the rest of the memories I am forgetting to list, like the VE team successes. :)

Please help us to continue with more success in 2016 by renewing your dues.

Thanks  
Jafa Armagost, Treasurer

Dues can be paid online via the club website or sent to:  
Radio Amateurs of Corry,  
PO Box 362,  
Corry, PA 16407.  
\* Required

Name \* \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign" \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \* Technician General Advanced Extra

Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (Home) \* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member No Yes

ARRL Certified Instructor No Yes VE Certified ARRL W5YI Laurel

Current Club Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Interests in Ham Radio \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \* \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Card Sent \_\_\_\_\_

