



W3UU -- ARRL AFFILIATED
**HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S
 CLUB NEWSLETTER**



HRAC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross Building 1804 North 6th Street Harrisburg, PA

HRAC ANSWER LINE

717-232-6087

Repeater 146.76

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Monthly Meeting September 10, 2008—7:30 pm

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well, it's 9:00 pm on a Friday... and the regular crowd is shuffling in... As you may guess, I am writing this while getting ready to play LOUD MUSIC FOR DRUNKS at a local watering hole. One lady is dancing alone and thinks she is the next big dancing star and the rest are "Not drunk enough to dance yet".

Enough of that, now to the subjects of this month's letter: As I write this, we have two hurricanes approaching our area. As is always the case, when we call out for help operating the emergency communications shack at PEMA, or any of the other places that we place operators, we have trouble finding anyone who is either qualified, or available.

How many times do I have to bring up the qualifications before it finally sinks in? You must have 100 and 700 certification. It is FREE and is found on the FEMA web site. Why do we need that anyway?? The reason is simple. You will know the procedures and chain of command. You will also need to know real life message traffic procedures, not the ARRL format, but the format used by PEMA and other emergency communications groups. You must also know how to conduct a net, and keep order, because chances are that some day, you could be the control operator.

I am also getting a list together for call-outs for emergency communications. If you would like to be on that list, let me know. Here is how it works: Now that almost everyone has a cell phone with the ability to receive a text message, we will be using that technology. I will need both your email address and your cell phone number, including area code. When I put you into the system, you will receive an email that will require you to answer and verify your information. I promise to not use the text message unless needed. I personally do not have a text message package on my phone but can send and receive them on a pay-as-you-go basis. Frankly, I never understood the appeal of texting, but in this situation, it works. Send your info to WB3BKN@DJTerry.com .

Onto other things: We are working on the possibility of bringing back the winter hamfest. Glenn K3SWZ is heading up that project. We are also working on the phone patch line to the repeater now that everything is relocated to the mountain.

Ok, gotta run. Mo, the bartender, just handed me an announcement. Some guy named Al Coholic is needed on the phone, and that lady on the dance floor has to put her shirt back on.

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

HRAC Club Meeting Minutes—August 13, 2008

The August meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was opened at 7:30 P. M. by President Terry (WB3BKN). All in attendance introduced themselves by name and call sign.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as printed in the August newsletter and corrected by Nick (AA3T). Motion to accept was made by (Glenn K3SWZ) and seconded Chuck (N3WL). Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurers report was read by Joe (KQ3F). Motion to accept was made by Tim (KB3OZA) and seconded by Leroy (W3BBT). Motion passed unanimously.

VE Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) said There would be testing on Saturday, August 16. Testing will start at 9:00 A.M. Glenn (K3SWZ) said he had read that the national meeting of the VEC's for 2009 will be held in Gettysburg.

Repeater Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) reported we still need a phone line to the repeater. After a discussion, Terry (WB3BKN) agreed to make contact to find out how we can get a phone line installed. There was also some discussion about the electric bill we had received.

Newsletter Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) had some comments about the content of the newsletter. He requested members to send articles and photo to Matt for inclusion in the newsletter. Terry passed around copies of other newsletters. Terry also mentioned how color seemed to set off the newsletters he was passing around.

DXCC Committee

Glen (K3SWZ) said he had mailed all the DXCC cards he had received. He also stated he had field checked cards during the Hamfest.

Entertainment Committee

Glenn (K3SWZ) brought in a tape of a Dxpedition for tonight's meeting. Nick asked for ideas for presentations. A general discussion was held about several different subjects.

Hamfest Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) talked about visiting with vendors trying to find out why they don't attend our hamfest. Most said "they would prefer to come to our hamfest in conjunction with a different hamfest, so as to fill the weekend". There was considerable interest in changing the hamfest from the 4th of July to a Saturday or Sunday only. Glenn made a motion that Terry make contact with Murgas as to the day of their hamfest, and Joe (KQ3F) contact the fire company as to the availability of the park on Saturday or Sunday. Tim (KB3OZA) seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Terry also brought up the amount of labor needed to run the food operation. Chuck offered that we were very tight as far as man power went to staff the kitchen, and that we could use more people to help with different other jobs during the hamfest. Joe will also check with the fire company to see if they are interested in running the food operation.

Field Day

Glen (K3SWZ) presented the club with an A. C. line volt meter for use at Field Day.

For the good of the Club

Nick (AA3T) gave some of his thoughts about buying a new radio to replace the old Kenwood. There was some discussion about getting two used radios so both radios at the Field Day site would be the same. Glenn (K3SWZ) suggested that the Elecraft K-2 would be a reasonable radio for the club, if we wanted to buy new ones.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P. M.

Chuck Greiner, N3WL
Secretary

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Editor's Note

We've been asked to pass along a public service opportunity by the Keystone VHF Club (W3HZU). The "Hike for Habitat Perry County" is a one-day hike in the Tuscarora State Forest in western Perry County. Hams have been requested to man six checkpoints along with the start point as well as provide a roving 'Sweep Hiker'. Please see the full details beginning on Page 4.

Glenn K3SWZ has passed along a web site where you can tell your Novice story. Its at www.novice.bappy.com. Glenn's Novice story appears on Page 7.

As always, be sure to check the club Yahoo group and post your ideas and feedback:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hrac/>

73,

Matt Kiner, N3SOZ
n3soz@arrl.net

Don't Forget....

The weekly club net is held on the W3UU 146.760– repeater every Wednesday at 8:00 PM local time, except for club meeting night.

No tone is required for the net, although the repeater normally requires a 100 Hz tone for access.

Steve Gobat, KA3PDQ serves as Net Control.

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

Tuscarora Hike Details

Hikers

You are invited to join us in a first of its kind event in Perry County, Pennsylvania. The "Hike for Habitat Perry County" is a one-day hike in the Tuscarora State Forest in western Perry County. The distance is approximately 26 miles over rocky and rough terrain on various multi-use state forest trails with several significant climbs. This hike is intended for the serious hiker who has done several training hikes of 15 miles or more. At a bare minimum, hikers should be able to hike at a rate of 2.5 to 3 miles an hour for 10 to 13 hours.

There is a limit of 100 hikers.

Registration will close once this limit is reached or on September 5, 2008, whichever occurs first. Registration acceptance depends on the hiking experience of the hiker as described on the registration form. The registration fee of \$30 per person includes a light cold breakfast, snacks and drinks at each checkpoint, a light lunch at the midpoint, transportation to the pre-hike breakfast and to the starting point. Transportation to the ending point will only be provided to those hikers who drop out at a checkpoint.

*** Check-in Friday, September 19, 2008 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. (place to be determined)*

*** Beginning point: top of Conococheague Mountain on PA Rte 274 near boundary of Perry and Franklin Counties. This is close to being the highest point in Perry County.*

*** Mid-point: Fowlers Hollow picnic pavilion*

*** End-point: Showaker Parking Area*

More details will be provided after your registration is received.

The hike will start at 6:30 AM. The first check point should be manned by 6 AM. Tuscarora State Forest is over an hour drive for most of you. All the check points are accessible on state forestry roads ... most not paved. We need communicators at the six (6) check points, the start point, and a Sweep Hiker communicator (which I am intending to be). Operation will take place on simplex as there are no repeaters which will cover the entire area of the course. We need to log in and log out each hiker as they arrive at the check points using their hiker number.

On Labor Day, my XYL Sandy (N3ECF) and I drove to the Tuscarora area to check out the communication paths between all the Check Points (CP) and the location where net control will be set up. The location of Net Control will be at Showaker Trailhead (CP6). Steve Gobat, KA3PDQ will be bringing the REACT Van to this location. Sandy & I drove out to verify that we could communicate regardless of all the obstructions and the

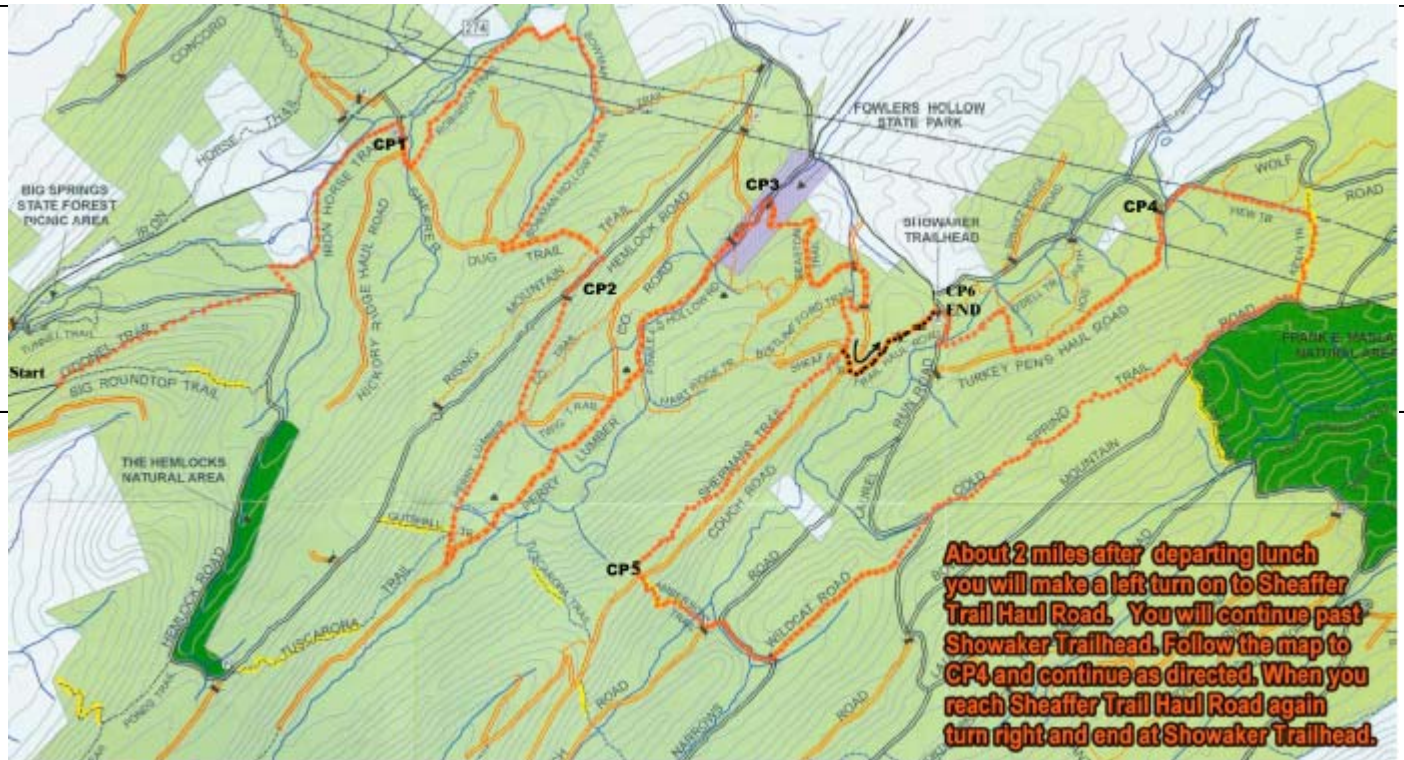
apparent poor communication paths between the various Check Points. I set Sandy up at CP6 (where net control will be) with a J-Pole raised to a height of about 25 feet on a portable mast. She had a Kenwood model TM-271A 2 meter rig running about 30 watts. We wanted to ensure that all of the Check Points could communicate with net Control. I drove to each check point and attempted to communicate with Sandy first with my Icom 2 meter mobile rig running 50 watts using a 3 foot mobile whip, and then at the same location using a Handi Talkie running about 4 watts with a Rubber Ducky. The results are summarized below:

Start Point to CP6:

Antenna placement was very critical. By moving my car to maximize the signal, I was able to get about a Q3 signal to CP6. The H.T. didn't work at all. Since this location will be closed down as soon as all the hikers leave, it's not that critical that it be manned. I will man that site myself and will have a better antenna so that I get an adequate signal to net control. After it closes down, I'll start following the last hikers so I can report their positions. *(continued next page)*

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

Tuscarora Hike Details



Check Point 1 to Check Point 6 (Net Control):

Antenna placement was somewhat important but not as critical as from the Starting location. I was able to get a Q5 signal to CP6. The H.T. was able to communicate but you really had to find the "Sweet Spot" in order to be copied. **A Mobile rig running about 30 watts with a good external antenna will be required here.**

Check Point 2 to Check Point 6 (Net Control):

Good signals to CP6 from both the mobile rig and the H.T. Sometimes the H.T. would get a little noisy but if that was all you had, it would be very doable from here. **A mobile rig running about 30 watts would be preferred, but an H.T. would also work.**

Check Point 3 to Check Point 6 (Net Control):

Good signals to CP6 with a mobile rig. Not quite as good as from Check Point 2. Antenna placement was not important. The H.T. worked from this location but was marginal. **Recommend that a mobile rig running at least 30 watts or an H.T. with a good external antenna (like a J-pole) be used here.**

Check Point 4 to Check Point 6 (Net Control):

Good signals to CP6 from both the mobile rig and the H.T. **Either would work from this location.**

Check Point 5 to Check Point 6 (Net Control):

Good signals to CP6 with a mobile rig. The H.T. worked but was

marginal. **Recommend a mobile rig running at least 30 watts or an H.T. with a good external antenna (like a J-Pole).**

We did some additional checking on communications paths between other Check points. The Start location and CP1, CP2, and CP3 should all be able to communicate with each other. Since CP3 is the Lunch Stop, it might be good if they could be in direct contact with previous stops so they know when hikers will be arriving.

In some cases we will need mobile radios running 30 watts and external antennas to provide communications at this event. This mountainous area will be a challenge to communicate from. Some of the check points will be down in hollows & valleys. I suspect that some will need a relay from the NCS to be reached at all. We will not be the only ones at the check points, the SATC will be setting them up and manning them. I recommend bringing a comfortable chair, a small table to set your station up on, and possibly some kind of covering in case of inclement weather. You will need to be near the SATC personnel so you can report hikers in and out of your check point as they register. This promises to be an exciting event. We need the following sites manned, some by 6 AM. The location of the check points can be seen on the map above. *(continued next page)*

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

Tuscarora Hike Details

For the last several weeks, I have been helping the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) get this 26 mile trail ready and suitable for this event. Of the collection of smaller trails that this main trail will be made up from, less than 10 miles were suitable for hiking. The majority of the trails had to be cleared and then blazed with the red markings that the hikers will follow. This has been a lot of long hot work and several hundred man hours have gone into it. It's been taking about a day to clear & blaze less than 2 miles of trail ... there have been some cases where it's taken a full day to clear 100 yards!

We are not attempting to create a manicured hiking path. We are attempting to clear just enough to make it safe to hike. After we clear and blaze a section, we ask folks to hike it and give us feedback. Unfortunately, while the trail seems safe, folks are wandering off of it and getting lost. The Park Rangers will only allow us to refresh the existing blazes that mark the original trails. In some cases it's several hundred yards between blazes. These are primitive hiking trails! ***We will probably have people getting lost at this event! Hopefully, we will keep them from getting too lost.***

The hikers will all be reporting into the Blain Elementary School on Friday evening. This is located about 10 minutes from the starting point. They will spend the night there on the floor of the Gymnasium. Saturday morning at 5:30 AM, after a simple breakfast, they will be picked up by busses and transported to the start point indicated on the map. All of the hikers will be dropped off at the same time. At this time, there are about 45 folks registered. The maximum allowed will be 100. I estimate that we will probably get a total of 60 to 70 people actually participating. The hikers should all be departing the start point at the same time. During our bike tours, we had folks starting over an hour behind the main party ... this should not happen here. The SATC is requiring everyone to start out together at 6:30 AM sharp. Additionally, all of the hikers have to clear the check-points by a specific time. Anyone not meeting this time requirement will have to drop out of the hike at that check point. The check points will be closed after the next check point ahead of them clears.

In all likelihood, the check points will all clear & close down considerably before the times identified above. The SATC is screening all the candidates and the participants should be advanced hikers capable of averaging 3 mph. In this case allowing for a stop at lunch, the hike could be completed as early as 3 PM. Due to the difficulties of the trails however, we can't count on this. Since the hike starts so early, and most folks have a long drive, facilities have been offered to us that would

allow us to stay overnight within approx 15 minutes of the hikes start point. Karan Balaban, the President of the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) has offered us the use of "The Bunkhouse" located on the property her cabin in the Tuscarora State Forest. The Bunkhouse sleeps nine (9) folks in bunk beds. There is also room for 4 or 5 people on the floor. The building has a fireplace, running water, and toilet facilities. There is also a gas range for cooking. This should be quite an adventure!

If you can help at this event, please call Dick Goodman, WA3USG at (717) 697-2353 or E-mail me at wa3usg@verizon.net.

We sure could use your assistance!

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

My Novice Adventures Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

At the beginning of 10th grade at Cumberland Valley H.S. (1961) I met Ed Cox who had moved to the area from Pittsburgh, PA over the summer. We found that we both wanted to be hams, but couldn't sit still long enough to learn the code! We were both too busy playing with old radios and taking TV sets apart. There was a Physics and Chemistry teacher at our school, Dave Anwyll, W3HCC (SK) who had a sort of club for electronic enthusiasts and misfits. Ed and I leaned on each other to get with the code practice and after some months we both thought we had it down well enough to take the Novice exam in early 1962. W3HCC was a Technician, so he could not give us the exam. He got Carl Fredericks, K3RMD, who was in the Navy and stationed at the Mechanicsburg Naval Supply Depot to give us the exam. I can remember that day like it was yesterday! I was scared to death. Carl gave us the code test and we both passed. Then came the written and the long wait to find out how we did. He would not tell us how we did! I guess we did OK, as Ed became KN3SWJ (now KE3D in Austin, TX) and I became KN3SWZ in April 1962.

I had a Hallicrafters S-38E, which was nearly worthless on the ham bands, however W3HTO (SK) was selling some gear he no longer used and sold me a boat anchor WW II Navy RBO-1 receiver (18 tubes!) for \$25. It was a much better receiver, but only covered the 40 Meter band, plus a bunch of Short Wave bands. My dad and I took the Heath QF-1 Q-Multiplier that was attached to the S-38E and dumb lucked into the right place in the IF section to make it work. That made it pretty hot or at least I thought so. While I was waiting for my license, my parents bought me a Knight T-60 Transmitter kit to build which was a big mistake. I think the soldering iron we had was for sheet metal and I wasn't any good at soldering. I made a mess of it so we sent it back for repairs and someone at Knight got it going. My parents picked up the tab for the repair and I have no idea how much it was. I had two xtals in the 40 Meter band. Two was better than one! I had done a little reading about antennas, but didn't understand a whole lot about what I was reading. I built a 40 Meter Dipole and fed it with 300 ohm TV twin lead. One side connected to ground and the other connected to the center connector of the coax connector on the T-60. (What did I know?) Pages and pages of CQ's and no responses in my logbook followed. By chance, I ran into another young, local ham at an Armed Forces Day, Ham Radio display at the Naval Supply Depot. He was John, KN3SFW (now K4NP in Mobile, AL). He had been licensed a few weeks before me and he was making contacts!! He rode his bike to my QTH to look things over and saw that I was not using coax feedline. He said he wasn't sure, but he thought that was the problem. I talked my mother into buying 75 ft. of RG-59 for me at Radio Distributing Company in Harrisburg. We installed it (I shudder at the thought of how I may have fastened the PL-259 connector to the coax – I bet that was a gem!) and we actually made a QSO with a guy in Maryland! It worked... Later I upgraded to an old Heath DX-20 that seemed to work better than the T-60?? I guess I worked about 20 states as a Novice and a VE3 for my DX contact.

Along the way my dad got interested and became KN3UKO (then K3UKO-SK). I upgraded my license and equipment as the years went on. I have met many wonderful people through ham radio. I am very active to this day and I don't think I will ever forget my experiences as a Novice! I have often wondered where my life would have lead were it not for ham radio and the influence it had on me.

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER



Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club Radio Autobiography Template

Many people are interested in how you came to be a radio amateur. You can use this template to get started writing your own radio autobiography. Complete this form, then add more details on other pages as needed. Please feel free to include pictures as well, of you, your rig, your shack, and the like. Send your completed radio autobiography to Bill Moser (KB3IZA) at WMoser183@aol.com, or take it to our next club meeting.

Name _____

Call sign _____

E-mail _____

License class _____

Date first licensed _____

Rig _____

What first interested you in radio _____

Interesting QSOs _____

First QSO _____

Influential person _____

Name one way or an instance in which a ham radio is better than a cell phone

Hobbies _____



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Matt Kiner (N3SOZ)
305 Lewisberry Ct.
Lewisberry, PA 17339
717-932-5241

Make checks payable to HRAC—Membership is \$15.00 per year

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____

I agree to abide by the guidelines of the membership and
The Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.
Dues end December 31st.