

Official Journal of The Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association, Philipsburg Pennsylvania
An Amateur Radio Organization Serving Clearfield and Centre Counties — Organized November 1992

Who's Who:

- President—Dave Runk AA3EJ
- Vice President—Filip Cerny AB3HK
- Secretary—John Szwarc N3SPW
- Treasurer—Jim Warg N3ONE
- Interclub Liaison — Dick Thompson K3BIE

PARA Repeaters:

- Rattlesnake Mountain — "The Big .43 Repeater™" 146.430 (+1 MHz, PL 173.8 Hz)
- Decatur Township — 444.750+ (PL 173.8 Hz)
- Chester Hill Borough — 146.64- (PL 173.8 Hz)
- Decatur Township — 144.390 APRS Digi-Peater.

2011 Philipsburg Area Amateur Radio Picnic

On Saturday, August 13th, PARA hosted a picnic for Philipsburg area Amateur Radio operators and their families. The location was once again Pavilion #7 at Black Moshannon State Park.

This year the picnic happened to be scheduled on the same day as the Moshannon Valley YMCA's Black Moshannon Mountain Bike Race for which race organizers had requested communications assistance from the amateur radio community. Many attending the picnic had just finished lending a helping hand at the race. The amateur radio communications effort was an invaluable resource to the race organizers and they were grateful for the assistance provided.

Lou Trubiani WB3AAI once again served as Master Chef for the picnic. Lou served



Shown here is Lou Trubiani WB3AAI who once again served as Master Chef for the picnic. Supervising Lou's grill-work are Jim Alles KB3TBX and Filip AB3HK.

up some really good burgers, hot dogs and kielbasa for the picnic. Nobody went away hun-

gry and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Inside this issue:

2011 PARA Picnic	1
Special Event Station W3P	1
September Meeting Minutes	2
President's Report	2
VE Test Session	3
PARA History	3
Ham Shack Showcase: AB3HK	3
Black Moshannon Bike Race	4

Special Event Station W3P Successful

For the 3rd consecutive year members of the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association (PARA) operated Special Event Station W3P on July 13 through 16, 2011. The special

event station is PARA's biggest event of the year and it puts amateur radio on display for the public to see.

The special event station was operated entirely from a street fair setting at the Philipsburg Heritage Days celebration and is housed in a vendor style tent. There were two HF stations: one dedicated CW station and the other running SSB. A third operating position was a 2-meter station. Antennas for the special event station were all home-brew creations of PARA's "Antenna Man"

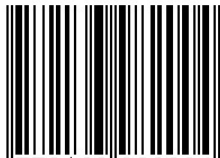
Lou WB3AAI.

It takes a large number of dedicated club members to staff and operate the special event station each year. This year's effort was spearheaded by PARA President Dave Runk AA3EJ and Lou Trubiani WB3AAI. Also assisting at the special event station was Filip AB3HK, John N3SPW, Jerry WA3GFL, Scott W3EOD, Leo K3UMT, and Jim N3ONE. Two guests from the Nittany Amateur Radio Club also spent a couple of hours in the operator's chair. They were Don N3DBN and Tom K3FTB. Thank you to everyone who lent a helping hand and made this event a success.



Pictured left to right are Dave AA3EJ, Lou WB3AAI, Jerry WA3GFL, and Filip AB3HK..

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September 2011 PARA Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Dave AA3EJ, John N3SPW, Filip AB3HK, Lou WB3AAI, Dick K3BIE, Ted WB2LOU.

Members who sent word in advance that they would not be able to attend:

Mike WB3EQW, Leo K3UMT, Jerry WA3GFL.

Meeting called to order by President Dave AA3EJ at 15:08 UTC.

VE Testing – General discussion about no scheduled VE sessions. Joe KB3CBN is the PARA Contact VE for the ARRL testing program. Joe was not in attendance nor has he attended other club functions this summer. John N3SPW volunteered to contact Joe and determine Joe's interest in the PARA VE Testing Team. Follow up report due at the October meeting.

Membership Report – Two new members since the last PARA business meeting: Ted Trostle WB2LOU of State College and Carmine Prestia K3CWP. Membership currently stands at 29 with 24 voting, 5 non-voting. 72% of PARA members are ARRL members.

Treasurer's Report – PARA Treasurer Jim N3ONE was not in attendance. No report given.

Repeater Reports – discussion lead by Filip AB3HK.

146.640-(PL173.8Hz) repeater

– A new Diamond 6 db gain antenna was installed. Reports are that coverage was significantly improved with the added gain.

144.390 PARS Digi-Peater – operating normally with no reported issues.

146.430 (+1 MHz, PL 173.8 Hz) repeater – The new repeater is not yet on-line. The manufacturer says that double shielded cables are a must for interconnection between the duplexer and repeater unit. Ted offered to donate some double shielded cable for this purpose. Filip will coordinate with Ted and Lou to get the proper connectors installed on the cable. Filip received an offer from Ephrata Area Repeater Society to purchase a used Telewave ANT150F6-2 antenna. After discussion it was decided to pass on this offer. Further discussion on antennas continued. Ted mentioned that he has in his garage a Cushcraft 4-bay dipole antenna that might be suitable for repeater use. Ted is going to look at the antenna and find the model number so we can determine its specifications. It was decided that the style of antenna we should use is a 4-bay folded dipole style antenna that will allow us to customize the directional pattern as necessary.

444.750+(PL 173.8Hz) repeater – operating normally with no reported issues. There

was a discussion about the possibility of selling the .75 repeater in an effort to raise funds for the .43 antenna project. It was decided to place the .75 repeater up for sale.

Philipsburg Heritage Days – Report given by Dave AA3EJ. Dave does not wish to coordinate this event next year. A volunteer will be necessary. Dave mentioned that the W3P call sign should be reserved for next year. John N3SPW will take care of reserving the call sign.

PARA Christmas Banquet – Report given by John N3SPW. The Christmas Banquet will be on Saturday December 10 at the Philips Hotel in Philipsburg. Reservations are appreciated so we can give the restaurant an estimate of the number expected.

Black Moshannon Park Bike Race – Report given by Dick KE. It was a very successful event. The communications activities were coordinated by Carmine K3CWP and involved PARA members as well as Nit-tany Amateur Radio Club members.

Next PARA meeting on Saturday October 8th at 3 PM.

Meeting adjourned by President Dave AA3EJ at 16:48 UTC.

PARA Weekly Net

Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association

LOOK


*Keep up on
PARA club
activities and
stay in touch
with local hams
by participating
in the PARA
Weekly Net.*

PARA An Amateur Radio Organization Serving
 Clearfield and Centre Counties
 ... ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 1992 ... **W3PHB**

PARA

**Christmas
Banquet**

At the historic



The Philips Hotel

200 East Presquesile Street
Philipsburg PA

Saturday December 10, 2011

5 PM—Social hour
6 PM — Dinner

Please RSVP to John N3SPW
814-345-6727
jsszware@yahoo.com

PARA President's Report: Dave AA3EJ

Well looks like summer is all done with fall almost here and the holiday season is approaching. Hope you all had a terrific summer and looking forward to the cooler weather and holiday activities. My stats since 2001 - QSOs:



6254: Countries: 102, Counties: 851, States: 50, QRP Qsos: 72 I have a long way to go, new years resolution might include "WAS all QRP!", now that's a challenge!. My Bio with memberships are on QRZ.com along with a current shack pic! I've been spending more time with my home contractor finishing a QTH room expansion project this year and its taken almost all of my time! Almost done at the time of this writing!. The

Upcoming year may include mods to the existing repeaters, but that will ONLY happen with all your support and contributions into the general PARA treasury, (Jim-N3ONE Treas.). The past "Heritage Days" special event was only marginally successful as not enough PARA members allocated enough time to make this a successful PR or operating event, even Jim P, from the "Heritage days" committee was grateful we

attended. Don't forget the upcoming PARA banquet in December-details are on the PARA website, and don't forget to squeeze in daily operating activity on the HF bands!.

Break out the sleds and snow shovels as winter approaches.

If I don't see you before Christmas have a nice holiday. I am always available for a QRS or QRQ CW QSO on 40m CW mornings or eves. -73's Dave,aa3ej

PARA Connections

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PARA Connections includes the PARA News (est. 1992) newsletter.

Membership in PARA includes a subscription to PARA Connections. Licensed amateur radio operators and unlicensed individuals are eligible for membership. Membership is free, but an annual donation of \$15 is suggested. Membership information is available at www.philipsburg-ara.org.

VE Test Session

On Saturday November 12th at 4:00 PM the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association will hold a VE testing session. All classes of licenses will be offered. Advance reservations are required to assure the proper printed tests are on hand. The location will be the Holt Memorial Library lower level meeting room. The street address is 17 North Front Street, Philipsburg. Anyone wishing to register for an exam is asked to contact Joe Howe KB3CBN via e-mail at kb3cbn@arrl.net or via telephone at 814-342-1513.



PARA History: 16 Years Ago...

On August 25, 1996 at 3 PM local time PARA placed into service its first amateur radio repeater. It carried the club call sign KB3CLZ (in CW of course) and operated on 146.640-. The first repeater trustee was Dave Posmoga K3MGC.

When Only the Best Will Do



Coffee mugs and other PARA logo merchandise

www.cafepress.com/philipsburgara/



This is a view of the 146.640 / KB3CLZ repeater shortly after being placed into service by PARA. Photo by Dave AA3EJ.

Ham Shack Showcase: AB3HK

How I got started in radio, by AB3HK.

It was the mid-1960's. In the heart of the former eastern bloc Europe. The sonic booms of MIG 15's were occasionally heard overhead, as they flew their daily training missions. In the countryside, far away from the din of the busy city, were two young boys, who strung a long wire over the neighbors fences. In the evenings, they would sneak on the porch of their grandparents cottage, where they would listen to VOA, and Radio Luxemburg on a old 1940's Grundig short wave receiver.

More than forty years have past since that time, and today, the late night broadcasts of DX stations still bring me the news that rarely make the headlines.

About five years ago, my eternal search for a better antenna (and the prodding of several HAM acquaintances, you know who you are), has resulted in my first amateur radio license. Today, I serve as

net control for several local VHF nets, and participate in the activities of our local radio club. Occasionally, I will fire up the old boatanchors, and try to make contact with a rare DX. There is nothing quite like the smell of heated radio tubes. Often, I will sit at my listening post, and practice copying and sending CW.

I currently reside on a quiet street near Philipsburg, with my beagle and my wife. It is, and has been a good life here, ... and I do not miss the sonic booms.

Shack:

High Power, HF
Kenwood TS-820S (100W) Set at 60 Watts drive power.

SBE Linear Amplifier - 1Kw Input. (400W).

Receivers

Radio Shack Pro-2050 scanner.

Yaesu VR-5000 - receiver.

QRP

FT-817ND (1-5W).

Nor Cal 40 - CW (4 W).

VHF / HF

Yaesu FT-2400 (1W, 8W, 20W).

Mirage B1016 amplifier (160W).

Radio Shack HTX-10 (20W).

Miscellaneous tuners and wattmeters.

The antenna farm:

All antennas are home brew, and include:

VHF - 4 element quad loop.

VHF - 2 element delta loop.

VHF - quadrafilar helicoidal, receive weather sat, aircraft, and scanner - tuned for 137 mHz.

HF - ¼ wave vertical - 20 meters.

HF - ¼ wave vertical - 40 me-



ters, (¾ wave 15 meters).

HF - ¼ wave inverted L antenna (Marconi) - 80 meters.

HF - 166 foot loop, close to earth - extremely quiet, receive all bands.

There is one commercial GP3, used for APRS.

On the drawing board - a steerable 10 meter delta loop.

On the drawing board - a horizontal 40 meter delta loop.

C/O John Szwarc N3SPW
PO Box 207
Kylertown, PA 16847

PARA Members Help with Communications at Black Moshannon Park Mountain Bike Race

On August 13th the Black Moshannon Park Mountain Bike Race was held on a rather grueling course over dirt roads and mountain trails in Black Moshannon State Park. Amateur Radio played a key role in providing race officials with the ability to communicate with checkpoints along the race route. This was the second year for the race and nearly 100 racers participated in the competition. The race is organized by the Philipsburg YMCA and is a fundraising event for the YMCA.

Amateur radio operators from the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association, as well as hams from the Nittany Amateur Radio Club and Centre County ARES/RACES pooled

resources to provide the needed communications assistance. The communications effort was coordinated by Carmine Prestia K3CWP, the Centre County ARES Emergency Coordinator. In addition to Carmine, the following hams were on hand to help out: Bernie Ropchock W3BAR, Chip Morgan N3IW, Jim Alles KB3TBX, Lou Trubiani WB3AAI, John Szwarc N3SPW, Greg Miller K3GEM, John Passaneau W3JXP, Elaine Prestia K3ERP and Mike Coslo N3LI.

The ham radio operators were positioned at strategic locations along the race route to watch for and report any difficulties with the racers. Fortunately no injuries occurred but they did report several inci-

dents of bicycle mechanical failure back to race officials at the finish line. This was especially important because cell phone coverage within the park is limited at best. Amateur radio was really the only way race officials could have any idea what was happening on the course. Race officials were immediately aware of riders who dropped out of the race due to mechanical failure or fatigue and what

their location was. The amateur radio communications effort was an invaluable resource to the race organizers and they were grateful for the assistance provided.



Pictured left to right are Jim, KB3TBX; Bernie, W3BAR; John, N3SPW; Caitlin; Greg, K3GEM; Chip, N3IW; John, W3JXP; Elaine, K3ERP; Carmine, K3CWP; and Lou, WB3AAI.