

PARA Connections

Official Journal of the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association



Black Moshannon YMCA Mountain Bike Race

PARA's Special Event Station W3P

Ham Shack Showcase: Dave Runk AA3EJ

Audio Delay Boards for the PARA Repeaters

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ON THE COVER:

Pictured is the communications crew for the Moshannon Valley YMCA's Black Moshannon Mountain Bike Race held on August 11, 2012. Shown are N3CRM Chuck Maggi, K3CWP Carmine Prestia, W3EOD Scott Rummings, K3ERP Elaine Prestia, K3GEM, Greg Miller, W3JIM Jim Rayburn, N3LI Mike Coslo, AB3NC Tracy Kendall, K3OOL Craig Miller, KR3ORY Rory Stenerson, KB3QKR Richard Brnik, Jr., N3SPW John Szwarc (and his son John) and W3TNE Tom Eby.

PARA Leadership

President
Filip Cerny AB3HK

Vice President
Scott Rummings W3EOD

Secretary
John Szwarc N3SPW

Treasurer
Jim Warg N3ONE

Interclub Liaison
Dick Thompson K3BIE

VE Testing Coordinator
Joe Howe KB3CBN

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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.

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The Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association is an American Radio Relay League Affiliated club.



PARA's Special Event Station W3P

From July 11th through July 13th the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association operated Special Event Station W3P from a vendor style tent at the Philipsburg

Heritage Days Street Fair. PARA has operated from the Heritage Days celebration for the past four years and it has become our organization's most visible public outreach effort of the year.

The special event station was housed in a vendor-style tent at the street fair. Setting up an amateur radio station in the middle of the street does present some unusual

challenges. Electricity was provided by the boro, but we had to cross an active street with our power cords to connect to the supply outlet. The antennas were another issue. Lou WB3AAI has this pretty much down to a routine, stringing wire antennas between telephone poles. But the biggest challenge of all is that of security. Once we open the special event station and hook up the equipment, someone has to be at the booth at all times to prevent equipment from disappearing.

During the event we had two high-frequency stations, a CW station and a SSB station set up and operating. This year there was some significant solar flare activity which made band conditions more challenging. Maybe "challenging" isn't the right word. Maybe "next to impossible" would be more descriptive. As a result the large majority of the special event station's contact were made using CW.

Station contact logging was performed using a laptop

computer for each station. The antennas this year were once again home-brew creations by the PARA antenna wizard Lou WB3AAI.

During the Heritage Days Street Fair

event wasn't the W3P station contact log. Rather it was the list of people that we gathered who are interested in becoming a licensed amateur radio operator. PARA

officials will be following up with these people and mentoring them along toward the goal of achieving their FCC Technician Class license.

We also saw several local ham radio operators who have become inactive over the years.

Noteworthy of mention were Bill N3ZCN and Russ N3SFJ. Both stopped by and chatted with the special event station operators on duty.

PARA would like to thank Dave AA3EJ, Lou WB3AAI, Filip AB3HK, Leo K3UMT, John N3SPW and

Rich KB3QKR for volunteering their time to make this event the success it was. Now we're looking forward to the 2013 event and pondering how we can improve on next year's special event station.



Pictured here is the special event station W3P "booth" at Philipsburg Heritage Days. In the picture is Filip AB3HK (rear), Lou WB3AAI (middle) and Leo K3UMT (front).

the public freely wondered past the PARA booth, many asking questions and interacting with our operators. It was our opportunity to shine in front of the general public and demonstrate what amateur radio really is.

Some people who stopped had friends or relatives who were hams, while others were just curious what all the high-tech looking equipment was for. Our operators answered many questions and gave promotional materials to anyone who had an interest.

The real success of the



Pictured is Lou Trubiani WB3AAI operating the CW station at Special Event Station W3P during the 2012 Philipsburg Heritage Days.

Moshannon Valley YMCA 10k & 5k Run/Walk Communications

Once again PARA members were on hand to help out with communications at the Black Moshannon 5K & 10 K Race/Walk on Saturday May 26th, 2012. This event is held at Black Moshannon

successfully coordinate this event.

Due to the reconstruction of the bridge at the bottom



Moshannon Valley YMCA 5K runners assembled and awaiting the starter's pistol.



Pictured here are the communications volunteers Jim K3RJW, John N3SPW, Dick K3BIE, Francis, Bernie W3BAR, Chuck K3CM and Rich KB3QKR.

State Park and is a fund raising effort of the Moshannon Valley YMCA in Philipsburg.

Ham radio volunteers helping out at the race included Bernie Ropchock W3BAR, John Szwarz N3SPW, Rich Brnik KB3QKR, Jim Whited K3RJW, Chuck McMullen K3CM and Dick Thompson K3BIE. The ham radio volunteers were stationed at various locations along the routes. In addition to providing communications, they also called out runners elapsed time as they passed by. This helps the runners pace themselves as they progress through the course.

Both the 5 kilometer and the 10 kilometer races start at precisely the same time, but from different locations within the park. Radio communications was the only way to coordinate the starting time, as well as report back to the staging area with any requests for medical assistance or other issues. Cellular telephone service in the park is largely unavailable due to the rugged terrain. This makes the communications assistance provided by amateur radio essential for race organizers to

of Huckleberry Hill, the 10K race route was modified for this year. The course started on Black Moshannon Run Road at the breast of the dam, proceeding 1.4 miles down the traditional course and turned around. The route then returned on the same

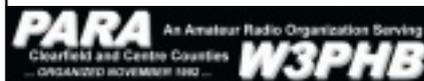
road and made a right turn onto Route 504. One-tenth of a mile ahead the route turned left at the 5-K starting line on West Side Road. At this point, the route followed the traditional 5-K course to the same designated finish areas.

Thank you to all the PARA members who helped make this public service event a success. Events like this hep PARA, and the amateur radio community, show others how amateur radio helps the public and what it means to be a ham radio operator.

*Learn CW from a Master!
Contact Dave AA3EJ for details*

PARA Weekly Net
Saturdays at 9 PM
146.430 Repeater

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



Audio Delay Boards for Repeaters

On Thursday June 7, 2012 PARA's Dynamic Duo, Dave AA3EJ and Filip AB3HK, finished up yet another repeater improvement project for the BIG 43 Repeater. They installed the same audio delay board on the BIG 43 as they had previously installed on our 146.640 repeater. This new board is an add-on accessory for the repeater's CAT-200B controller. Its function is to delay the audio, but it also has the added effect of eliminating the static crash at the end of each transmission from a user of the system. And oh boy, this little audio

delay board really did the trick! If you had paid any attention at all in the past, you know how loud that static crash has been at the end of every transmission. Now the only thing you hear is the courtesy tone.

So thanks Dave and Filip for yet another successful repeater improvement project. All of us will be enjoying the fruits of your labor for years to come.

President's Report

Ham of the Year Nominations



Hello everybody,

Here I am, at the last minute, writing to meet a deadline. Lately, days are just flying by, and half the time I am just trying to remember if I did everything that I was supposed to do.

We had a great time at W3P, the weather was good, and so was the company. I would like to thank everyone who helped out, and manned their post. Lou WB3AAI gets a special attabooy for hanging the dipole in a very difficult location. Thank you Lou, you are the best!

Our 6th annual picnic is coming up, the weather forecasts a wonderful day, so I am looking forward to a very nice afternoon.

The day is Saturday, August 25th, at 3PM. Hope to see you there.

Our repeaters are working well, every one of them. The 43, the 64, the 75, and the digi. It is nice to have everything working, and a BIG thank you to all those who have helped out with all of the clubs repeater projects. Future projects to the BIG 43 repeater include, but are not limited to: A backup 12VDC power supply, a internet link for echolink, and one or more remote receivers. It is quite the to-do list, but it gives us something to look forward to.

It won't be long now before the seasons change, so it is perfect time to finish all of those antenna projects. Thankfully, most of my antenna projects are done, so no climbing on the roof in a blizzard for me this year! Others may not be so lucky.

In closing, I would like to encourage everyone with a 2 meter rig, to stop by, and say hello on our Saturday night net. It is held every Saturday night, at 9PM local time, on the BIG 43. It's fun, it's easy, and it's free. Hope to see you there. Thanks again everybody, 73.

Filip
AB3HK

Is there a local ham radio operator that you believe deserves special recognition for their ham radio related activities? An "Elmer"? Someone who pitches in to help? Complete this form to nominate that person for "Ham of the Year". The nomination selected as Ham of the Year will be publicly recognized at the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association 2012 Christmas Banquet. All nominations must either be postmarked or hand delivered by November 5, 2012 to be considered.

For a copy of the Ham of the Year Nomination form visit the PARA web site at www.philipsburg-ara.org and look for the item titled "Now Accepting Nominations for the 2013 Ham of the Year Award."

Previous Recipients of Ham of the Year award:

2008 Dave Posmoga K3MGC
2009 John Szwarc N3SPW
2010 Lou Trubiani WB3AAI
2011 Filip Cerny AB3HK
2012 Jim Warg N3ONE

April Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Members in attendance:

Dick K3BIE, Jim N3ONE,
Dave AA3EJ, Filip AB3HK, John
N3SPW, Rich KB3QKR, Bernie
W3BAR.

Meeting was called to order by
President Filip AB3HK at 3:06 pm
local time.

Repeater Reports – Discussion
led by Filip AB3HK.

The Big 43 Repeater and the
146.640 repeater– The interference
that we had been experiencing went
away as mysteriously as it appeared.
N3SPW's theory is that it had
something to do with the natural gas
exploration going on in the area.
They use a portable repeater system
and transmit data when doing
seismic research on potential drilling
locations. A discussion was held on
the squelch burst heard at the end of
every transmission on the repeater.
To eliminate this squelch burst we
need to purchase an add-on board
called a AD-1000 audio delay. It was

decided to order two boards, one for
The Big 43 Repeater and the other for
the 146.540 repeater.

Echolink remains turned off. There
was a discussion about the placement of
the new antenna on the tower. 444.450
Repeater is working without any known
issues.

Treasury. Report given by Jim
N3ONE. Current balance stands at
\$653.84 with no outstanding bills.

VE Testing. Joe KB3CBN the
PARA VEC was not present at the
meeting.

N3SPW reports that Joe is in
Rochester NY for 6 weeks visiting
family. VE activity will resume when
he returns.

W3P Special Event Station. A
discussion was held about the operator
schedule. At this point the following are
planning to participate: Leo, Rich, John,
Lou, Dave and possibly Jerry. N3SPW
to follow up with Jerry. Filip discussed
the need for signage at the event station.
N3SPW to investigate options.

Equipment for Sale: The K3MGC

estate equipment sale continues.
Contact Cindy Posmoga for details.
Ted WB2LOU has a Heathkit SB-
200 HF amplifier for sale. \$300.

Picnic. To be held at Black
Moshannon State Park. Last weekend
in August. August 25, 2012 at 3 PM.
N3SPW to reserve the pavilion.

Public Service. Dick K3BIE had
no additional details for the Black
Moshannon Race on Memorial Day
Weekend. More details as they
become available.

NARC is doing a special event
station to commemorate the passing
of Coach Joe Paterno. C all sign will
be AJ0JPA.

Ham of the Year Plaque was
finally presented to Jim N3ONE.

Next PARA meeting will be on
Saturday May 9th at 3 PM. Meeting
adjourned by President Filip AB3HK
at 4:03 PM local time.

Following the meeting was a
presentation by Dave AA3EJ on
Linux ham radio logging software.

Centre County RACES / ARES



Carmine Prestia K3CWP

**ARES Emergency
Coordinator
RACES Radio Officer**

RACES Sponsored Repeater:
W3GA 146.760- (PL 146.2 Hz) Rattlesnake Mountain

ARES / RACES Net:
Sundays 9 PM on the 146.850 (PL 146.2 Hz) repeater

Clearfield County RACES / ARES



Mike Errigo WB3EQW

**ARES Emergency
Coordinator
RACES Radio Officer**

RACES Sponsored Repeater:
N3QC 147.315+ (PL 173.8 Hz) Rockton Mountain

ARES / RACES Net:
Sundays 7:30 PM on 147.315 (PL 173.8 Hz) repeater

Amateur Radio Operators provide communications during Bike Ride for Moshannon Valley YMCA

Reprinted from Centre County PA ARES/RACES Information blog - By Carmine Prestia K3CWP

Thirteen Amateur Radio Operators (AROs) under the ARES umbrella provided communications assistance for the YMCA's annual fundraising bike ride in the Black Moshannon State Park Northeast of Phillipsburg, PA on August 11, 2012. The participating AROs were from both the Nittany Amateur Radio Club (NARC) and Phillipsburg Amateur Radio Association (PARA), including AROs from Centre and Clearfield Counties.

AROs arrived for briefing around 10:00 and were on duty at until about 14:50. Participants were:

- N3CRM, Chuck Maggi, PARA & NARC
- K3CWP, Carmine Prestia, NARC (Centre County EC)
- W3EOD, Scott Rummings, PARA
- K3ERP, Elaine Prestia, NARC
- K3GEM, Greg Miller, NARC
- W3JIM, Jim Rayburn, NARC
- N3LI, Mike Coslo, NARC
- AB3NC, Tracy Kendall, NARC
- K3OOL, Craig Miller, NARC
- KR3ORY, Rory Stenerson, NARC
- KB3QKR, Richard Brnik, Jr., PARA
- N3SPW, John Szwarc (and his son John), PARA
- W3TNE, Tom Eby, NARC

Although most of the ride occurred on gravel or stone roads some of the legs were on pretty rugged trails. One ARO (N3LI) was at the intersection of the most unimproved road and the Allegheny Front Trail, well within the Park. Ride organizers counted seventy



Pictured is the pre-race briefing at the Black Moshannon YMCA Bike Ride on August 11th.

three (73) riders. Though not a high number, the course of the ride is arranged so that it crosses over itself several times at a number of locations with a number of places where the riders come out of a trail onto a road. These locations risk bicycle/bicycle or bicycle/vehicle crashes.

Even so, there were no significant crashes or injuries. The one crash was a single bicycle and the rider was able to get up, dust himself off, and continue on to finish the ride. Most of the radio traffic consisted of reports about the first and last riders crossing an ARO's location and the

location of the 'sweep riders' at the end of the ride.

The consensus of all the operators, and some listeners, was that the event went very well and we received very nice comments from the ride organizers, particularly Jodi Harpster and Dave Dunlap. In an e-mail to K3CWP Dave said, "... I want to thank you and all your volunteers for all the work you put into the race yesterday. You all did a fantastic job and there is no way we could pull this off without your help. Having the radio contact is indispensable! We really hope you and your crew will be available for next year." ARES, NARC, and PARA certainly appreciate those kind words and thank the YMCA for asking us to participate. We want to help next year.

From K3CWP, the amateur radio EC and coordinator for this event, "Thanks to everyone who participated. This event is an example of amateur radio at its best, providing a public service while testing our operators and equipment at providing what we do best, communicating."

May Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes Thanks to W3EOD.

PARA minutes: Meeting started at 3 PM.

1) Controller add-on cards have arrived and should be installed within the next two weeks. Filip AB3HK has them in his possession.

2) VE testing: May have special VE testing session before the current question pool expires in June.

3) Special event station W3P is secured. At this time there are enough volunteers to man the station for the three day period. Set up will be Tuesday evening at 6PM (July 10).

4) Treasurer report: Balance is \$438.84, after heritage days and controller cards.

5) Web site improvements have been made. The on line application is now working, and all members should renew their membership to ensure that all information is up to date.

6) Picnic will be held at Cold Stream dam, August 25, at 3PM. Soda burgers and Kilbasa will be provided by the club.

7) May 26, Black Moshannon bike race volunteers are needed. So far, N3SPW, K3BIE, and KB3QKR have pledged their support. Please contact K3BIE Dick, for details.

8) A short presentation on NBEMS,

FLDIGI was presented by Scott W3EOD.

9) Dick K3BIE spoke briefly about NARC field day, and special event station AJOPA.

10) Show and tell was presented by Lou WB3AAI. The item was a pneumatic gun that is used to shoot fishing line up to 100 feet. Reference on search engine K8BLO.

Meeting concluded at 4:30 PM.

History

For several years in the mid 1990's PARA members were busy helping fellow PARA member and missionary Rex Evans N3TVK keep in touch with his parents here in the local area. Using the call sign N3TVK/HH Rex had a weekly 20 meter SSB schedule from Haiti with Jim N3ONE here in the Philipsburg area. Jim would use a phone patch to connect the on-air conversation with Rex's parents. When Jim was not available to make the connection PARA member Dave K3MGC would fill in. The September 1996 PARA Newsletter carried a report on the rig issues Rex was having and mentioned that the display had quit.

When Only The Best Will Do

Baseball Caps



Coffee Mugs

Mouse Pads

T-Shirts

PARA Logo Merchandise

www.cafepress.com/philipsburgara/

HiPro Repeater Maker Discontinues Manufacturing

Maggiore Electronic Labs, manufacturer of the HiPro line of repeaters, has ceased manufacturing of all products. The company's web site was discontinued in early July although a scaled back version of the company is still operating the repair shop.

A company representative said that the family owned business is currently only servicing existing equipment and that no new repeaters will be manufactured. According to company officials these changes were entirely due to a slow and steady reduction in sales volume.

Maggiore Electronic Labs was

a manufacturer of repeaters, cross-band repeaters, link repeaters, transmitters, receivers, voting systems, small power amps, and controllers. HiPro Repeater were known for their high quality, reliability, low cost and the fact that all components were manufactured in



Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

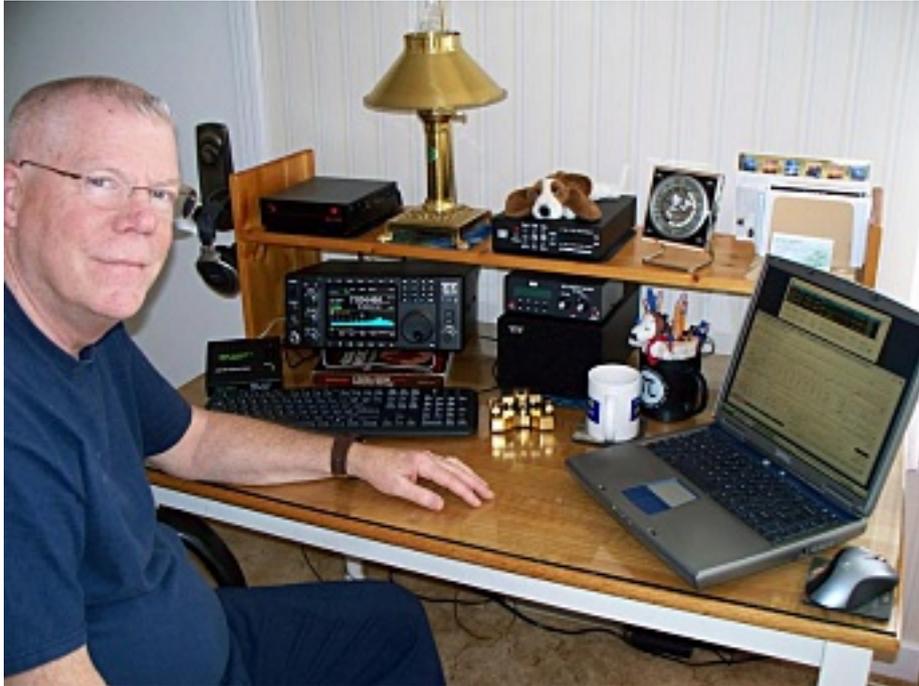
In addition to the Model E and R1 series of repeaters, Maggorie Electronic Labs also manufactured a line of UHF and VHF receiver and exciter boards. These were frequently used as remote

receivers and link transmitters in larger voting receiver repeater systems and commercial applications.

In 2011 PARA purchased a HiPro R1 repeater to replace the existing home-brew equipment in use on the club's Big .43 Repeater. Since being installed the HiPro repeater has worked flawlessly with no issues. It is a solid piece of equipment and surely will continue to serve PARA for decades to come.

The passing of yet another independent amateur radio equipment supplier is a testament to the current economic conditions and a sad day for the amateur radio community.

PARA Member Ham Shack Showcase



Dave Runk AA3EJ

I started around June or July of 1957 listening to a foreign broadcast (SWL) at W3CNI Jim Garvey's (SK) QTH in Osceola Mills, PA on Monday evening's on his Hallicrafters S20 receiver and long wire. It was through Jim that I got my interest peaked and novice license back in 1957 and in the mail came the "ticket" call sign KN3CAL from the US customs house in Philadelphia.

I upgraded to General in '58 with the call sign K3CAL and proceeded to operate a little CW with Jim, W3CNI, Dick KN3BIE, Ron KN3BIM and a bunch more of local hams all using CW around town. The local's were 599 plus on my Knight Kit "Ocean Hopper" receiver and WRL Globe Chief (pair of 807's in parallel), 75w rig. All my life I had learned to play woodwinds clarinet and alto sax and took music major up to HS graduation, and took private tutoring lessons each Saturday as well for clarinet. I played in PMEA and regional band all with my clarinet and then graduated in 1960 and enlisted in the USN Naval School of Music and served overseas in the 6th fleet in Europe for three active years.

After serving in the USN I went to Williamsport Technical Institute (then WACC and now Penn college) in the electronics tech program. Upon graduation a company paid my moving expense to the Boston area where I worked in the high-tech computer systems manufacturing and support role until moving back home to Philipsburg.

While I was living in Acton I held the call W1DHD (old general call. I used W1DHD about 23 years doing some SSB but gradually going to CW.

I started the Data General Amateur Radio Club DGARC and the 145.27 repeater with Jim-AE1C, Eric-K9ES and others which continues to operate today. After the recession came and many hams got displaced with several companies I finally moved back home and switched to retail until retirement...

After moving back home to Philipsburg, now 20 years or so ago, re-married and took retirement at age 62, now 68, I am still enjoying ham radio like never before, on CW and am currently principal clarinet in the Bellefonte community band and really enjoying the relaxing living, now the rat race is over..

I enjoy building QRP CW rigs, and found that Elecraft is the up-and-coming state of the art communication company which displaced Heathkit from Benton Harbor, MI..

I currently operated mornings around 7.028 when I'm QRO or 7.030 QRP and this morning 14.060 QRP area. with a newly built K3/100 160m-6m plus general coverage SWL transceiver and a 80m FW wire loop and a Butternut HF9V vertical with a 32 radial ground system.

I currently live at home, retired with Jeanne (XYL) and Buddy Beagle.. 73's Dave,aa3ej