

PARA Prez Says

Greetings fellow amateur radio enthusiasts, Summer is almost gone, and I am sure that we all have many things to accomplish before cool weather sets in. It is time to get those last minute antenna projects done, and look to the weekend bar-b-que with family and friends. So far, it has been a very busy year, and the club has many accomplishments under the belt. Public service, D-STAR repeaters (completed and in the planning stages), and a new home for echo-link are a few of the items that have been put in place. I still would like to see back-up power for the BIG 43, hopefully before winter, while we can still get through the gate. Speaking of the BIG 43, the new repeater as well as the new antenna has worked exceptionally well. Every Saturday evening at nine o'clock, there is always a few of us who check into our weekly net. I invite all of you to stop by and say hello. It is free, it doesn't hurt, and it is fun. 73 everybody,
Filip
AB3HK

PARA Members Help with Black Moshannon YMCA Mountain Bike Race

For the fourth consecutive year PARA members, in cooperation with the amateur radio operators from the Nittanty Amateur Radio Club, Blair County ARES / RACES and Centre County ARES / RACES provided communications for the Black Moshannon Mountain Bike Race. The race is a fund raising event for the Moshannon Valley YMCA and is held on some of the most rugged trails in Black Moshannon State Park, north of Philipsburg. The communications effort was coordinated by Carmine Prestia K3CWP, the Centre County ARES Emergency Coordinator.

The entire communications effort was conducted on the Centre County RACES sponsored repeater 146.760- which is on Rattlesnake Mountain a short distance from the park. Net control operations were set up at a picnic pavilion which race officials were also using as race headquarters. Net control station operators were Rod WA3ENK and Joyce AA3SQ.



Pictured is the 2013 Black Moshannon YMCA Mountain Bike Race communications crew. Carmine K3CWP, Centre County ARES Emergency Coordinator, organized the communications effort.

This year we were quite busy. There were multiple calls for transportation due either to bicycle mechanical issues and medical issues. Cell telephone service is simply not available in the area due to the mountainous terrain. Without the communications services our crew provided, these riders would have been left miles from their car with no way back except to depend on the other bicycle racers.

Race organizers were apparently very pleased with the communications efforts. Carmine K3CWP, in an email to all volunteers following the race, said "I was very happy with our work" and "it was worth the effort."

Events

PARA Net - Every Saturday rain or shine on the 146.430 repeater.

PARA Business

Meeting -- 2nd Saturday of Each Month (excluding July, August and December) at 3 PM. Holt Memorial Library, 17 N Front St., lower level Community Room - Use the rear entrance.

PARA Christmas

Banquet -- Sat December 14, 2013 - at the Philipsburg Elks Lodge and Country Club. 5 PM Cocktails, 6 PM Dinner. Reservations are due by November 30th. RSVP to John N3SPW at 814-553-5649 or jsszwarc@yahoo.com

PARA Sponsored Repeaters

146.430 +1 MHz, PL 173.8 Hz. W3PHB "The Big .43 Repeater", Rockton Mountain, Rush Township.

164.640 -, PL 173.8 Hz. W3PHB Chester Hill Boro.

444.750+, PL 173.8 Hz. W3PHB Decatur Township.

147.255-, D-STAR. W3PHB C Kylertown.

144.390 APRS Digi-repeater. W3PHB-1 Decatur Township.

2014 Ham of the Year Award Nominations Open

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?



Dave AA3EJ, PARA's 2013 Ham of the Year

You can give that special ham some much deserved recognition by nominating them for the prestigious PARA Ham of the Year Award. The award is presented at the annual PARA Christmas Banquet and is

commemorated with an engraved wall plaque.

Last year Dave Runk AA3EJ was awarded the Ham of the Year Award. Dave is one of the founding members of PARA and has been consistently involved in the club over the years. Over the years he has served as club President, Vice President, Secretary and even edited the PARA News newsletter. Always willing to pitch in, Dave has helped PARA become what it is today.

To nominate the ham of your choice for 2014 visit the PARA web site at www.philipsburg-ara.org and complete the on-line form.

Correspondence: K3MGC/SK Remembered

I never had a QSO with K3MGC but he sent me the last QSL card that I received.....

Back in the middle 1960's, I was KN3FWT from Aliquippa, PA. Dave lived a few blocks away from me.

I don't remember how I met Dave. He was probably a Junior or Senior in High School and I was a lowly

sophomore. I had just passed my Novice test. I was green behind the gills and Dave was a real Ham. His house on Burton Street

was capped by the largest 6 meter beam in the world (or so it seemed). His station was 6 meters only - a Clegg Zeus - how he ever swung the purchase of that rig, I'll never know.

Dave could work more DX during 6 meter band openings than I could dream of doing on 40 meter CW with my crystal controlled 75

watts.... and he could operate voice.

Me and a couple of other newbies followed Dave around and were sometimes given the opportunity to sit next to him at the transmitter during one of these band openings.

Dave, though, did have a bit of the devil in him. Nearby in Pittsburgh was KDKA-TV channel 2 - yep, right next to the 6 meter band. When Dave

keyed that Zeus, half of Aliquippa had to switch to channel 4. One night Dave got on the air and asked anyone who heard him on their TV to call. Then he gave out my phone

number!

I eventually got my General but I never had a 6 meter rig. So I never had a QSO with Dave. In 1998, he sent me a QSL card - vintage 1965. Its on my wall.

73's Dave, thanks for the QSL, Mark K3FWT@arrl.net

