

# The Paper QSO



Volume 4, Issue 5

June 2002

## Meetings

Set your calendar for Thursday, June 20th at 7:00pm.

We will be talking about our Field Day station to be held on Saturday, June 23rd and Sunday, June 24th.

This is an event that all people at our Field Day site will be able to talk on HF radio. There will be several control operators so that people without HF privileges will be able to use it.

You never know who you'll talk to during Field Day. One year, Nate Graham KD3OH and I talked with a CNN reporter who was covering the Haitian crisis. During his time off, he threw a wire out of his hotel window in Haiti and called CQ on the air. We ended up answering his CQ and chatted for almost 20 minutes getting a first hand account of what was going on in Haiti!

Last month, club member David Higgs KB3GSX, gave a splendid talk on PSK31,

***Please complete and send the application on page 3 of this newsletter with your dues to renew your membership for 2002. Thanks!***

which is a hot, new digital mode that hams are working.

Dave brought some documentation with him that he passed out for us to check this out on our own.

###

## Club News

Congratulations to Brandon Graham and John Bryner III for passing their Technician class exams at the June 5th VE session held in Bradford!

Our condolences go to Dave Thrun N2KZB. Dave's Mother passed away recently. Congratulations and best wishes go to Dave and Kathy's daughter Sandy, who was married last week.

In the "Can't Keep a Good Man Down" category, club member Lee Lewis N3NWL is recuperating at home from 2nd and 3rd degree burns suffered in a welding accident. Our best wishes go to Lee for a speedy recovery!



Sunday, May 19th, members of our club provided

communications for the Port Allegany Lion's Club Mountain Bike Race.

Ray Casper N3ZMA, Ryan Close KB3GGQ, Kevin Wade KB3GGR and Bill Edgar N3LLR provided communications.

Of all of the years that we provided communications for this race, we had snow in several areas along with downed trees that needed to be cleared due to the severe storm we had two night previous.

A big thanks to the participants!

## VE Testing

The next ARRL VE session will be held on Wednesday, August 7th at 7pm at the American Red Cross Chapter at 302 Congress Street, Bradford, PA.

We will offer the Technician, General and Amateur Extra written exams and the 5 wpm Morse Code exam.



The exam is \$10.00.

Candidates will need to bring with them:

- Two forms of ID, one being a photo ID.
- Licensed hams will need to bring their original license with a copy of their license
- Those with Certificates of Successful Completion (CSCE) being used for credit will need to bring the original copy of each CSCE plus a copy of each CSCE being used for upgrading.
- Calculator for math problems
- Two pencils and a pen.

Although, we'd like people to let us know in advance that they plan on attending, walk-ins are certainly welcome.

## *Field Day Plans*

One of the most favorite amateur radio events is coming upon us rapidly. The dates—June 23rd & 24th.

Chris KB3GGP is Field Day chairman and is looking for people to help out with various aspects for our club's Field Day event.

The public is invited to see what we do and how we do it. Our May meeting will be devoted to Field Day planning and discussion.

No matter what license class you have (or no license at all), you will be able to get on the air and operate on the HF frequencies. We will have enough operators acting as control operators and helping others in getting on the air.

This is without a doubt the "super bowl" of the amateur radio operating events. Plan on spending your weekend with us!

## *Some Field Day Changes*

While contacts with amateurs around the world always have counted for credit, this year's event will mark the first formal participation by stations outside the US and Canada.

Another significant change this year is the new "Get on the Air" or GOTA station, which replaces the Novice station at Field Day setups. The idea is to give Novice and Technician licensees as well as generally inactive amateurs of any class and even unlicensed individuals a chance to participate--under the supervision of a licensed control operator.

One persistent question Henderson says he's been

getting concerns how the Field Day rules define a "generally inactive" licensee in terms of GOTA operation. "We do not want to get into hair-splitting or micromanaging a definition of that term," Henderson said. Instead, he points to the frequently asked questions information in the Field Day packet, which says, "Clubs should use their judgment in determining the operators of the GOTA station."

The first "International Field Day" was held June 10-11, 1933, billed as "just a test of portable equipment" for US and Canadian amateurs, according to former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM.

# MCARC Club Info

Club Address: McKean County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 107, Bradford, PA 16701  
 Internet Address: [mcarc @ bfdin.com](mailto:mcarc@bfdin.com)  
 Web site: [www.mcarc.net](http://www.mcarc.net)

Club Call: W3VV

Club Officers: President - Bill Edgar N3LLR  
 Vice President - Bob Trask KD3JD  
 Secretary/Treasurer - Chris Mincemoyer KB3GGP

Newsletter Editor: Bill McCloskey NJ2V

Club meetings are the third Thursday of each month at the Bradford Area Public Library on West Washington Street in Bradford, PA. Meetings start promptly at 7:00PM and end at 8:30PM.

VE testing held the 1st Wednesday of even months at the American Red Cross Chapterhouse at 302 Congress Street in Bradford. VE Sessions held promptly at 7:00PM.

Club repeater: 146.850 -

All interested people are cordially invited to our meetings.

**McKean County Amateur Radio Club - W3VV  
Membership/Renewal Application**

Name	Call Sign
Street	License Class
City, State, Zip	Home Phone
County	Work Phone

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARRL<br><input type="checkbox"/> ARES<br><input type="checkbox"/> RACES<br><input type="checkbox"/> Skywarn<br><input type="checkbox"/> Army Mars<br><input type="checkbox"/> Navy Mars<br><input type="checkbox"/> Air Force Mars<br><input type="checkbox"/> VE |
|--|

***Please check the appropriate memberships***

The McKean County Amateur Radio Club is an affiliated club of the ARRL. As a club member, you may join or renew your ARRL membership at a savings in price through our club.

**Full Membership** - An applicant must hold a valid FCC Amateur Radio License.

**Associate Membership** - Persons interested in amateur radio. Have all rights of club members except to vote and to hold office.

Please check where appropriate:

- Full McKean County Amateur Radio Club Membership.....\$13.00
- For additional non-student members in the same household .....10.00
- Students attending school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.....8.00
- Associate Membership .....13.00
- Retired members .....10.00
- Initiation fee for new members, and reinstated members after lapsed membership.....8.00
- Newsletter only .....8.00
- Donation per household to Repeater Maintenance:.....15.00

Total:

*Below to be completed by new or former members only:*

<i>Type</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
Applicant		
Sponsor		

Make checks payable to: **McKean County ARC** and mail it with this form to:  
 McKean County ARC  
 PO Box 107  
 Bradford, PA 16701

Rev 0012

## ARRL, PRB-1 CREDITED IN ANTENNA BATTLE

A New York amateur is crediting the limited federal preemption PRB-1 and ARRL with helping him win approval for an antenna support structure on his property. Fred Fitte, WA2MMX, spent the better part of a year trying to gain the necessary approvals from the Town of Kinderhook. He finally got a building permit earlier this month.

"It's been a really ugly battle for about eight months," Fitte said. "I can't say enough good things about the League."

The Town of Kinderhook would not allow a ham radio antenna support structure in excess of 35 feet without a variance. "PRB-1 is what saved my bacon," said Fitte, who finally won approval of his request to erect a 50-foot tower on a 3-1 vote of the town's zoning board of appeals. PRB-1, which is spelled out in the FCC Amateur Service rules under §97.15(b), requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communication. Fitte said that by the time he had presented his case, "it was real clear that the zoning board of appeals knew what they had to do."

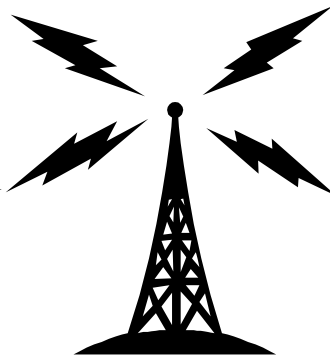
Fitte singled out ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF--who attended every hearing--and ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RF1--who attended several--for special mention. A required trip to the town's planning board for a "site review" was routine and uneventful, he said.

Fitte called Fallon "a crusader in the effort to keep ham radio active and moving forward," and said he became an ARRL Life Member because of his efforts. He also credited his legal counsel, Al Millus, WB2EQR, and Dr George Wilner, K2ONP, head of the Hematology Department at Albany Medical Center, whose expert testimony addressed concerns about possible RF

exposure.

Fitte said the zoning board "acknowledged that PRB-1 was a major factor in the decision" and that if his application had been considered based solely on a request for a variance, it would not have been granted.

Despite its earlier opposition, Fitte said, the ZBA eventually came to conclude that his application did not significantly alter the character of the neighborhood, did not affect property values and did not have a negative environmental impact. In addition, he said, the board agreed that no negative health impact based on RF exposure was proven. More pertinent, however, was a conclusion that a 35-foot structure would not be conducive to effective communications and that 50 feet--his request--was the bare minimum. Fitte said the ZBA also accepted Hare's assertions before the board that 75 feet was the accepted height for optimum communications.



The zoning board's approval did not come without some restrictions, however. Fitte's tower was approved for the left side of the house. Fitte had hoped to erect it on the right side of the structure, nearest to his ham shack. The ZBA okayed a total height of 75 feet--50 feet of tower and 25 feet of antenna, an outcome he called "a pleasant surprise." He also agreed to install an anti-climbing device and to remove the structure when he moved. He also must provide proof of license renewal every 10 years.

With a building permit now in hand, Fitte says he intends to get his town's zoning code changed to provide an exemption for Amateur Radio antenna support structures. But that will have to wait for a tower-raising party, he said.

## Ken Mostyn KB3FFB, McKean County EMA Chief Resigns

Ken Mostyn KB3FFB, the McKean County Emergency Management Agency Director has turned his resignation in and will be starting a new job in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency office in Indiana, PA.

He will be assisting the Western Area PEMA Director in working with communities in keeping their local emergency plans updated.

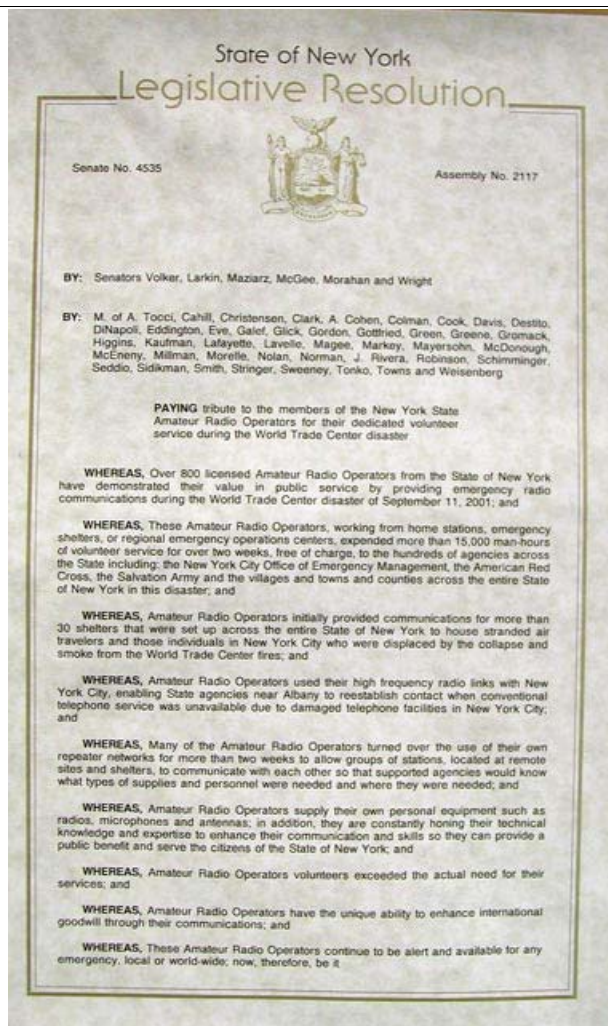
Ken has served McKean County as the EMA Director for about nine years. Over these past years, Ken has earned a well deserved reputation as a leader who fostered a spirit of working together with all of the groups providing resources

and services to the EMA.

His sense of community responsibility was felt by a number of non-profit agencies within the community as well. He served as a board member for the McKean-Potter County American Red Cross Chapter, most recently serving as a member of that agency's Executive Committee. The Fire Chiefs' Association; Power Squadron are also several other community agencies Ken has been involved with.

We wish Ken the very best in his new position.

## New York Honors Hams



## Atlantic Division Awards Announced

The Atlantic Division Awards Committee reviewed a number of excellent nominations for this year's Atlantic Division awards. The committee members made their choices based upon the ballots received.

The committee is pleased to announce that the 2002 Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year Award has been jointly awarded to the amateurs of the Maryland/District of Columbia Section, the Western Pennsylvania Section and the amateurs of the Hudson Division for their participation with disaster and emergency communications in the September 11th relief efforts.

Bob Arnold N2JEU was selected by the Awards Committee as the 2002 Atlantic Division Technical Achievement Award Winner.

Bob's work was featured in a November 2001 QST

article entitled 'Remote Controlled HF Operation over the Internet'. He has been involved in working on remote controlled receivers which was the predecessor to the transmit and receive functions used over the internet.



*Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN presents the award to Hudson Division Director Frank*

His software was the pioneering effort to develop the software interface to transceiver interfaces to enable Keith Lamonica W7DXX to setup the first remote controlled station using a Kachina 505DSP, then later a Ten Tec Pegasus, and now a Kenwood TS2000.



McKean County Amateur  
Radio Club  
PO Box 107  
Bradford, PA 16701



**In This Issue...**

**Please don't forget to send your dues and renewal application in. Thanks!**

### *Eternal Truths*

- Once over the hill, you pick up speed.
- I love cooking with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food.
- Whatever hits the fan will not be evenly distributed.
- Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.
- I know God won't give me more than I can handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much.
- Dogs have owners. Cats have staff.
- We cannot change the direction of the wind... but we can adjust our sails.
- Some days are a total waste of makeup.
- Do you believe in love at first sight ... or should I walk by you again?
- If you're too open-minded, your brains will fall out.
- Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.
- My idea of housework is to sweep the room with glance.
- Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
- It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
- For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
- If you look like your passport picture you probably need the trip.
- Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.
- Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.