

The Paper QSO



Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2005

Meetings

Set your calendar for Thursday, January 27th at 7:00pm. Our meetings are held at the Bradford Area Public Library on West Washington Street.

Our normal meetings are held the third Thursday of the month but due to schedule conflicts we had to change the date for January's meeting. Club elections will be held during this meeting.

Hope to see you at the meetings!

A reminder that club membership dues are now due. A membership application for renewing club membership is on page three of this newsletter.

Club members are asked to complete the application and to send their annual dues in during the month of January.

Club Badges

Sharp looking club badges are available to paid-up club members. The badges are 1-3/4" x 3" with an alligator clip on the back. A copy of the club badge is shown below.

The cost for the badges are \$15.00 and if you are interested in one, please add the \$15.00 to your membership dues when you send them in. We will be ordering club badges during the first week of February 2005 and we're able to eliminate



the postage & handling fee for the badges in the group order.

Club News

Our club had made arrangements this Christmas season to conduct a Santa Net with children staying at Bradford Regional Medical Center during the week before Christmas.



Nate Graham

KD3OH was instrumental in helping our club make the necessary arrangements.

Club member, Chris Hicks KC8KVA, was our program coordinator and we found that our communications skills weren't needed due to the good news that no children were staying overnight at the hospital.

Our club recently received permission to put up an HF antenna and a VHF/UHF antenna at Elk Lick Scout Camp in Farmers Valley. Since our club partners with the Allegheny Highlands Council demonstrating amateur radio to the scouts at the Calumet Camporee, this will help us by having the antennas already in place when we set up.



Additionally, we've been talking with council leaders and we've been invited to teach amateur radio licensing courses to several of the scout leaders so that amateur radio could be used as a communications back up.

VE Testing

The next ARRL VE session will be held on Tuesday, February 1st 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 \$14.00.

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.

Licensing Classes

We have heard from some people that they wanted to take our Technician licensing course but couldn't commit to 10 weeks for the usual course. And knowing how busy people are now-a-days, we certainly understood.

When we had some talks with Steve Nelson who is the McKean County EMA Director, he mentioned that he had several people that wanted to earn the Technician license but didn't have the time to commit for the 10 weeks, I knew we had to come up with something different for courses in our area.

I had several discussions with other instructors to find out how they conducted their classes and what materials they felt were good and what wasn't so good. Additionally, the ARRL had a blurb on their website about a licensing course on the West Coast that was held in one day with a 90% pass rate!

After settling upon the training materials we wanted to use, I then contacted Steve Nelson and set up a time schedule good for all interested — November.

In November, Fred Siggins KA3UVC and I ran a 2 day Technician licensing course spread out over a 1.5 week period. We had training three evenings of training that ran from 5:30pm until 9:30pm and a fourth evening that instruction ran from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in which we used a

PowerPoint presentation and a video presentation covering the necessary areas that the students would be tested on in the Technician VE exams.

These classes were held at the McKean County Emergency Management Agency offices in Smethport and we had Steve Nelson, McKean County EMA Director, Sherie Wallace, McKean County EMA Deputy Director, Tracy Carl, and Craig Simons from the McKean County 911 Center and Steve Warren, a volunteer firefighter from Mt Jewett in the class.

We had very good participation from the students in questions and several quite lively discussions on different subjects

At 7:15pm on the last class, we had a VE session in which there were as many VEs as there were exam candidates. Participating VEs were: Lee Lewis N3NWL, Mary Lewis N3UDN, John Odonish KB3EFF, Fred Siggins KA3UVC and me.

We had a 100% pass rate. And congratulations to: Steve Nelson KB3LTN, Tracy Carl KB3LTO, Craig KB3LTP, Steve Warren KB3LTQ and Sherie KB3LTR.

We'll be running another Tech class in February and it will be announced shortly. - Bill N3LLR

MCARC Club Info

Club Address: McKean County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 107, Bradford, PA 16701
 Internet Address: w3vv @ mcarc.net
 Web site: 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 Edgar N3LLR

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 Thursday 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 -

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

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

- | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> ARRL <input type="checkbox"/> ARES <input type="checkbox"/> RACES <input type="checkbox"/> Skywarn <input type="checkbox"/> Army Mars <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Mars <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force Mars <input type="checkbox"/> VE |
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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 12th grade..... 8.00
- Associate Membership 13.00
- Retired members 10.00
- Initiation fee for new members, and reinstated members after lapsed membership..... 10.00
- Donation per household to Repeater Maintenance:..... 15.00

Total:

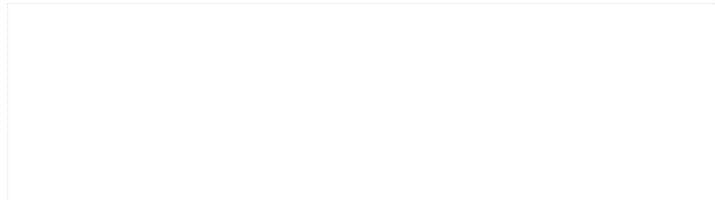
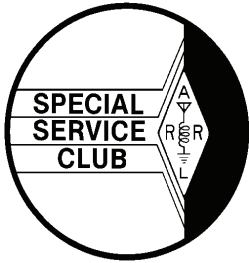
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I, hereby, make an application to join the McKean County Amateur Radio Club and agree to follow the rules & regulations of the club with respect to the club property and equipment.

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|--------|-------|
| Signed | Dated |
|--------|-------|

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

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



In This Issue...

Membership dues for 2005 are now due.

On Third-Party Disaster Communications & Part 97

Recently with the earthquake and tsunami that hit the Indian Ocean area on December 26th, there have been some questions about participating in third-party disaster communications. A question was directed to the FCC by the ARRL about third-party disaster communications and this is the answer received in reply:

“The international Radio Regulations as revised at WRC-03 provide that amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction. This could include either permitting a broader range of international third party communications, or prohibiting even emergency and disaster relief communications. However, the default condition is that international emergency and disaster relief communications are permitted unless otherwise provided.

While FCC Part 97 has not yet been updated to reflect this change, it is our understanding from FCC staff that

if the administrations responsible for the amateur service in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, and other affected countries do not object to their amateur stations receiving messages from our amateur stations on behalf of third parties, the US has no objection to its amateur stations transmitting international communications in support of the disaster.”

From the ARRL.ORG website: Charley Harpole, K4VUD, in Bangkok, Thailand said that incoming health and welfare queries to the huge affected area is presenting a huge problem. All channels, including ham radio, are or will be totally overwhelmed by potential *incoming* H&W traffic. He urges that *no* incoming H&W traffic be handled. For something this size, he says, it is best for those in the area to send messages *out* only. But even getting messages out is rather unlikely inside the areas that have been devastated, and there are many such areas. Harpole says: "This widespread disaster would require hundreds if not thousands of hams deployed over the whole Indian Ocean rim to meet the H&W need." Hams who already live in the affected areas are on the air and doing their best to help."