July 2022

Blair ARES *Alert!*

The Newsletter of the Blair County, Pennsylvania, Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Emergency Coordinator: Kevin Lear W3XOX <w3xox@hotmail.com>
Editor: Drew McGhee KA3EJV <ka3ejv@arrl.net>

RaDAR Challenge July 16

RaDAR, **Ra**pid **D**eployment **A**mateur **R**adio, is a concept for operating an Amateur Radio station anywhere, anytime, even in adverse environmental conditions. This concept supports the Amateur Radio Service's emergency communications mandate (47 CFR 97.1(a)).

Radio amateurs from South Africa came up with a concept to build a comfortable portable radio station capable of operating for extended periods while walking or stationary after walking to a specified site. The idea was discussed in an open forum and ideas gleaned from many of the local hams. Some prototyping was done, and the "Shack in a Sack" (SiaS) concept was born. In August 2009 RaDAR was launched as a more professional version of the SiaS concept.

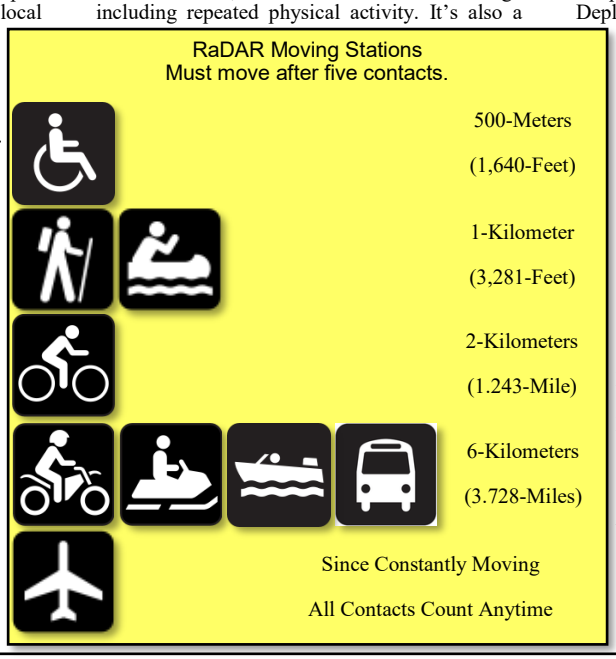
Rapid deployment of Amateur Radio stations was the original goal of RaDAR. Initially the requirement was to walk at least one-kilometer (.62-mile) carrying all station equipment, antennas, and logistics to the operating position. This was no different to any other outdoor Amateur Radio activity.

There was no time limit set for the initial deployment. So, the essence of deploying quickly was not quite there yet. It was simply too easy. More experimentation was done, and RaDAR once again evolved into a more refined idea by having to move station for a required distance depending, on the mode of transport, after every five contacts. No other Amateur Radio activity in the world works this way, having to move after five contacts. This makes RaDAR different.

Rapid deployment, and indeed rapid re-deployment, is what makes RaDAR different. Otherwise, it would be just the same as any other Amateur Radio activity. Nothing different than what's been done for 100 years.

RaDAR has evolved into something where movement between operating locations is the highlight. It is therefore more than just making QSO's. It's a challenge to decide quickly where and how to set up an effective station, proving it works by making five contacts, packing up making sure nothing is left behind, moving, and doing it all over again.

Sure, it's a different challenge including repeated physical activity. It's also a method of learning, practicing, and finding what works and what doesn't for a portable station.



Many looking to practice Amateur Radio in different ways will see the value of the RaDAR Challenge. It's also a lot of fun, extreme fun. The highlight is the "moving" aspect of RaDAR which is what makes RaDAR different to all other Amateur Radio contests and activities.

The RaDAR "Challenge" is not a contest, except, maybe, against oneself. It is a unique event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations. Options include being a Fixed, Field, or Moving station which may be changed at any time during the Challenge. The points system is so structured as to encourage portable RaDAR operations especially moveable RaDAR stations. RaDAR operators are encouraged to be self-sufficient during each challenge, with not only power supply and communications equipment, but food, water, protective clothing, and shelter.

The next RaDAR Challenge is 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC, Saturday, July 16, 2022. Go to <http://radarops.co.za/index.php/radar-rules/> for more details, especially about logging. Should you participate in the July Challenge, way not write about your preparations and experience for the newsletter. The RaDAR Challenge would lend itself to a personal communications exercise (COMMEX).

There will be one more RaDAR Challenge this calendar year. It will occur 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC on Saturday, November 5, 2022.

[Information courtesy of the RaDAR official web site at <http://radarops.co.za/>.]

New NWS CTP WFO Hurricane Season Products Available

The Atlantic Hurricane Season has started. Each year, Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts an above-normal Atlantic Hurricane Season.

For the first time, NWS State College Weather Forecast Office (NWS CTP WFO) will be producing several new products when tropical systems affect the region. These include:

- Hurricane Threats & Impacts (HTI) graphics for Flooding Rain, Wind, and Tornadoes.
- Tropical Storm Watches and Tropical Storm Warnings via the Tropical Cyclone VTEC (TCV) text product
- Hurricane Local Statement (HLS) text product

These new products will be in addition to the briefings the NWS CTP WFO have sent in the past anytime a tropical system is expected to come close to the region.

Fundamentally, the biggest changes will be:

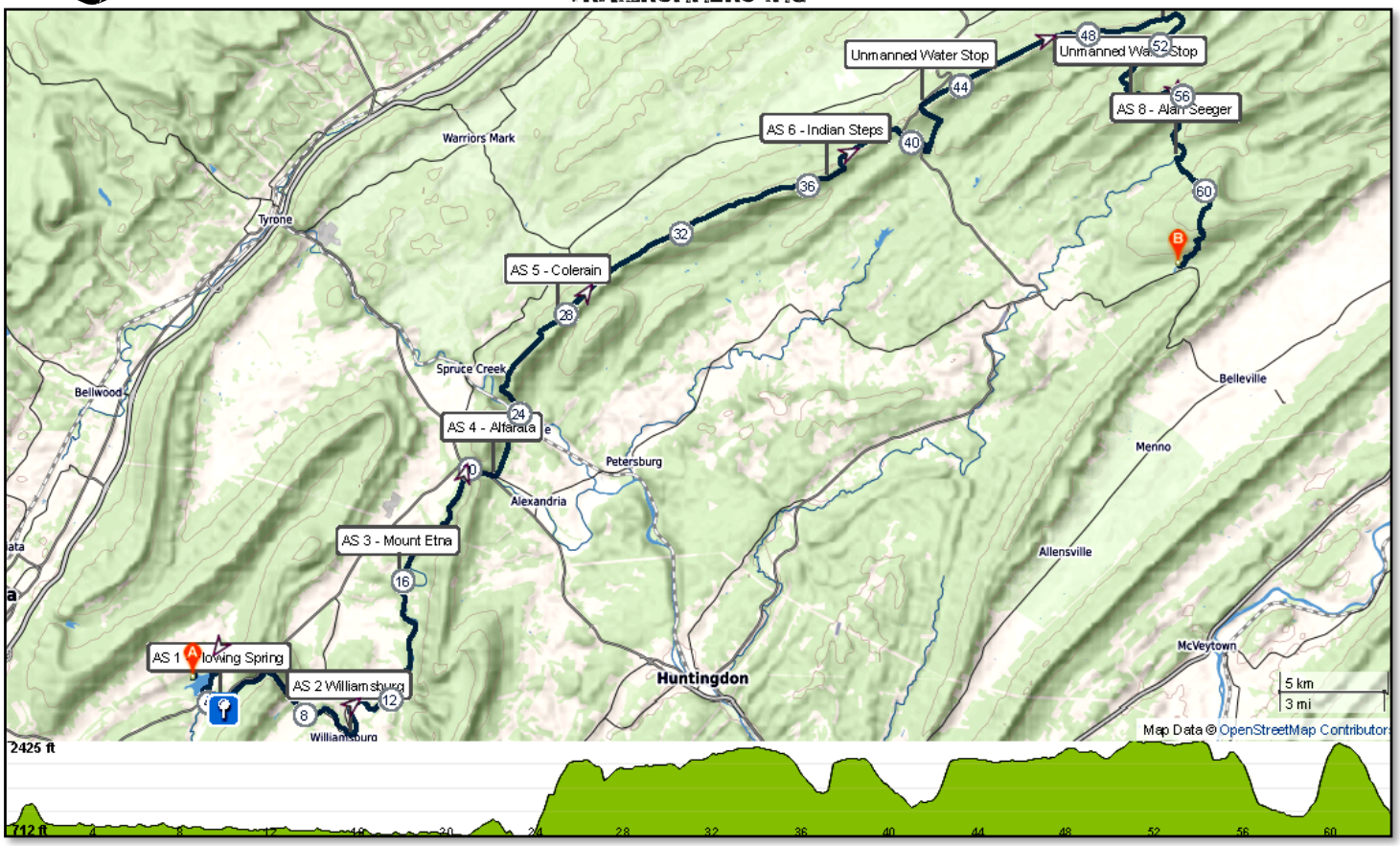
- The new HTI graphics, which are available on www.weather.gov/ctp/tropical when there is an active storm, and
- The issuance of Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings on the rare occasion when the potential exists for tropical-storm-force winds (39+ mph) in some portion of our area in the next 36 to 48 hours.

KML files of the latest HTI graphics may be downloaded from: <https://www.weather.gov/hti/>.

[Information courtesy of the NWS CTP WFO.]

The Ironstone Ultra 100K
July 9-10, 2022

For more information about the event, go to <https://www.ironstone100k.com/>. To volunteer to provide safety, health, and welefare communications support via Amateur Radio resources, click on the "Volunteer" tab and scroll down almost to the bottom of the page. There you will find the "Communication" volunteer sign-up area.



▲Map of Ironstone Ultra 100K course showing the Start and Finish locations, and the Aid Stations. [Map courtesy of the Ironstone Ultra 100K and available at <https://www.ironstone100k.com/the-course>.

▼The Ironstone Ultra 100K Aid Station chart. [Graphic courtesy of Ironstone Ultra 100K and is available at <https://www.ironstone100k.com/the-course>.]

Ironstone 100K AS Plan

Edition: Feb 2, 2022

Aid Station	Seg Dist	Crew/ DB Dist	Total Dist	Support						Cutoffs					#	Open	Close
				Radio	H2O	Food	Med	Drop Bag	Crew	Time of Day	Total Elapsed Time [H:mm]	Time from last Cutoff [H:mm]	Max Pace from last AS [mm:ss]	Max Overall Pace [mm:ss]			
Start		9.75	0.0							2:00 PM							
AS1 Flowing Spring	4.7		4.7	x		x	x			3:30 PM	1:30	1:30	19:08	19:08	1	2:30 PM	3:30 PM
AS2 Williamsburg	5.1		9.75	x	x	x	x		x	5:00 PM	3:00	1:30	17:38	18.27	2	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AS3 Mt. Etna	5.9	11.1	15.6	x	x	x	x	x		6:45 PM	4:45	1:45	17:47	18:16	3	3:45 PM	6:45 PM
AS4 Alfarata	5.2		20.8	x	x	x	x		x	8:15 PM	6:15	1:30	17:18	18:01	4	4:30 PM	8:15 PM
AS5 Colerain	6.9	15.8	27.7	x	x	x	x	x		10:45 PM	8:30	2:30	21:44	18:24	5	5:00 PM	10:45 PM
AS6 Indian Steps	8.9		36.6	x	x	x	x		x	2:15 AM	12:15	3:30	23:35	20:04	6	6:00 PM	2:15 AM
ASX Jo Hayes **Water**	6.2	13.6	42.8	x	x					---	---	--	--	--	-	--	---
AS7 Little Flat	7.4		50.2	x	x	x	x	x	x	8:00 AM	17:00	5:45	25:22	20:19	7	9:30 PM	8:00 AM
ASX Big Flat **Water***	4.1	8.4	54.3		x					---	---	--	--	--	-	--	---
AS8 Alan Seeger	4.3		58.6	x	x	x	x		x	11:00 AM	21:00	3:00	21:25	21:30	8	11:00 PM	11:00 AM
Finish	4.9	4.9	63.5							*1:00 PM*	23:00	2:00	24:29	21:43	F	2:00 AM	*1:00 PM*

Contact Kevin Lear W3XOX <w3xox@hotmail.com>, Blair County, PA, ARES EC, for additional Amateur Radio related event information, or to volunteer. Amateur Radio related information for the Ironstone 100K is available at <http://personal.psu.edu/drm6/ironstoneham/>.

2022 Glimcher Keystone Country Ride

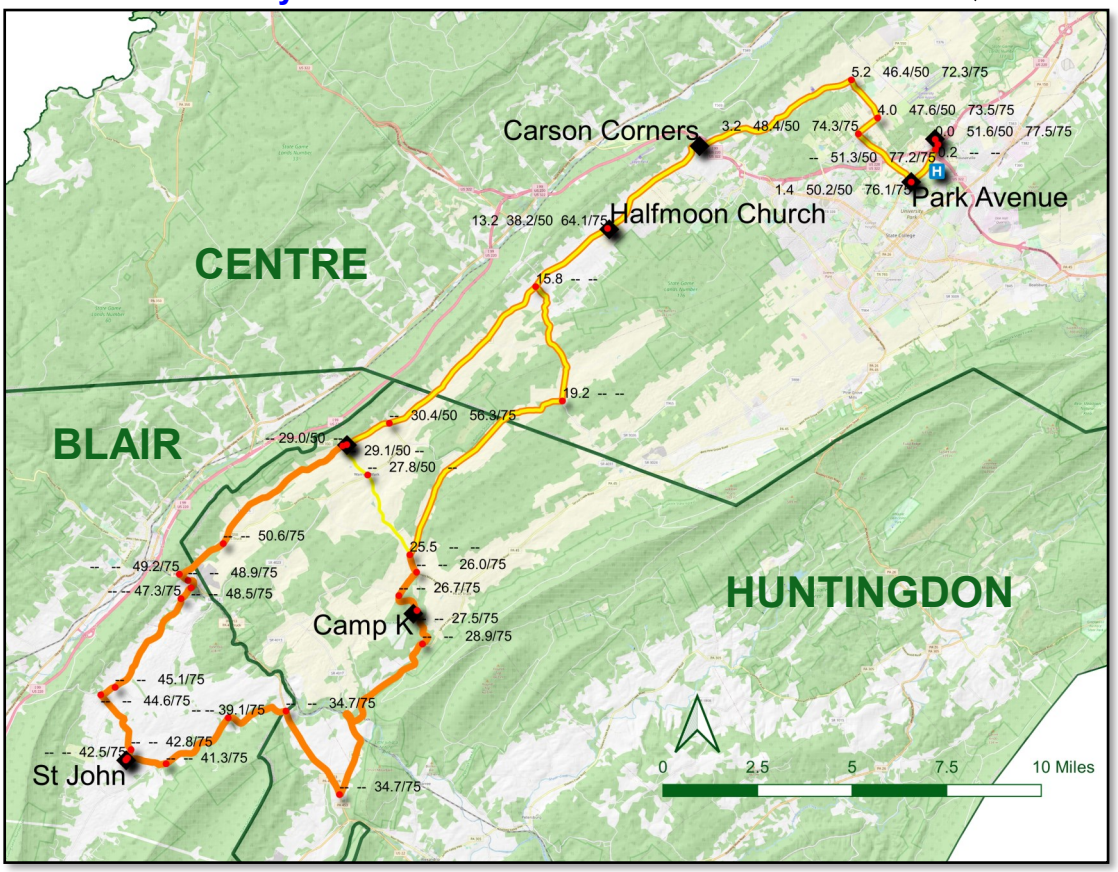
Common to Both the 50 and 75-mile Routes

75-mile Route Only

50-mile Route Only

Mile Markers

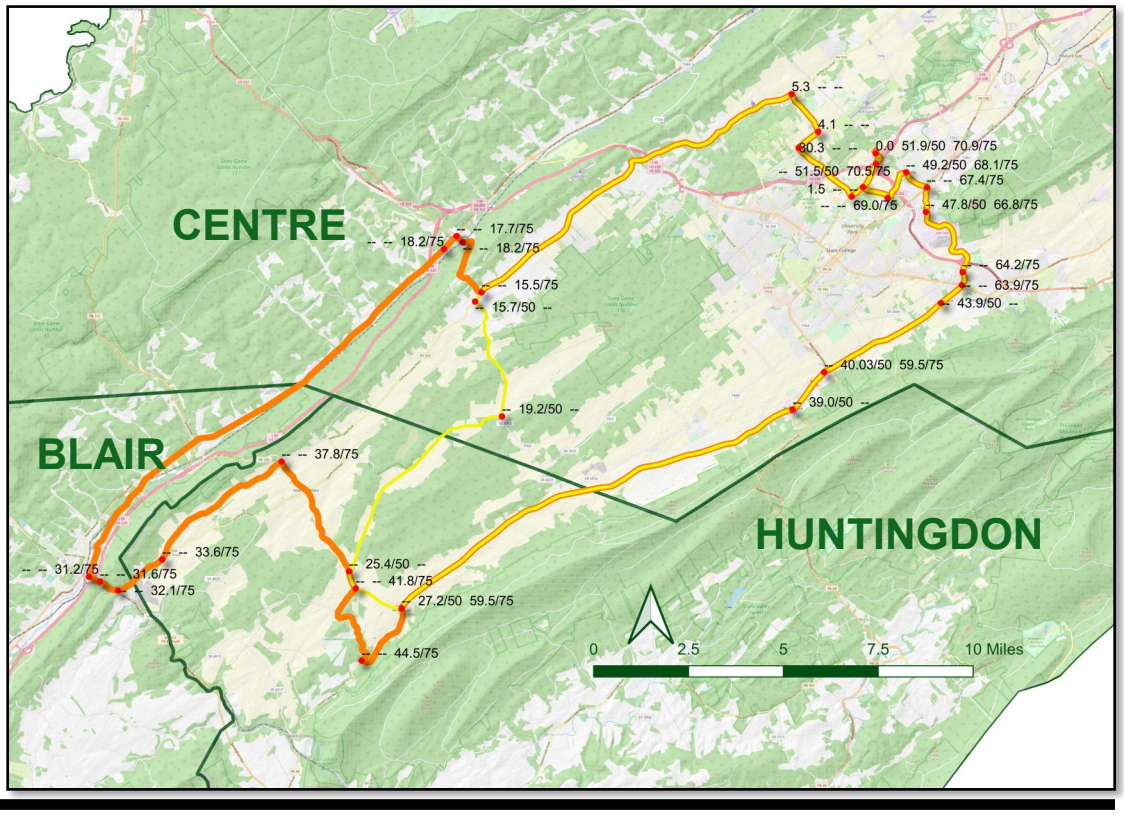
Fixed Locations



Day 1 July 16

There is a 75-mile Route and 50-mile Route each day. Both routes open at 7:00 AM each day. Riders must be on the course by 8:00 AM. Both routes close at 4:00 PM each day.

Both composite maps were created with QGIS by KA3EJV (CC BY-SA 2.0). Base map ©OpenStreetMap contributors. Route data courtesy of the MS Society. DEM hill shading data courtesy PASDA.



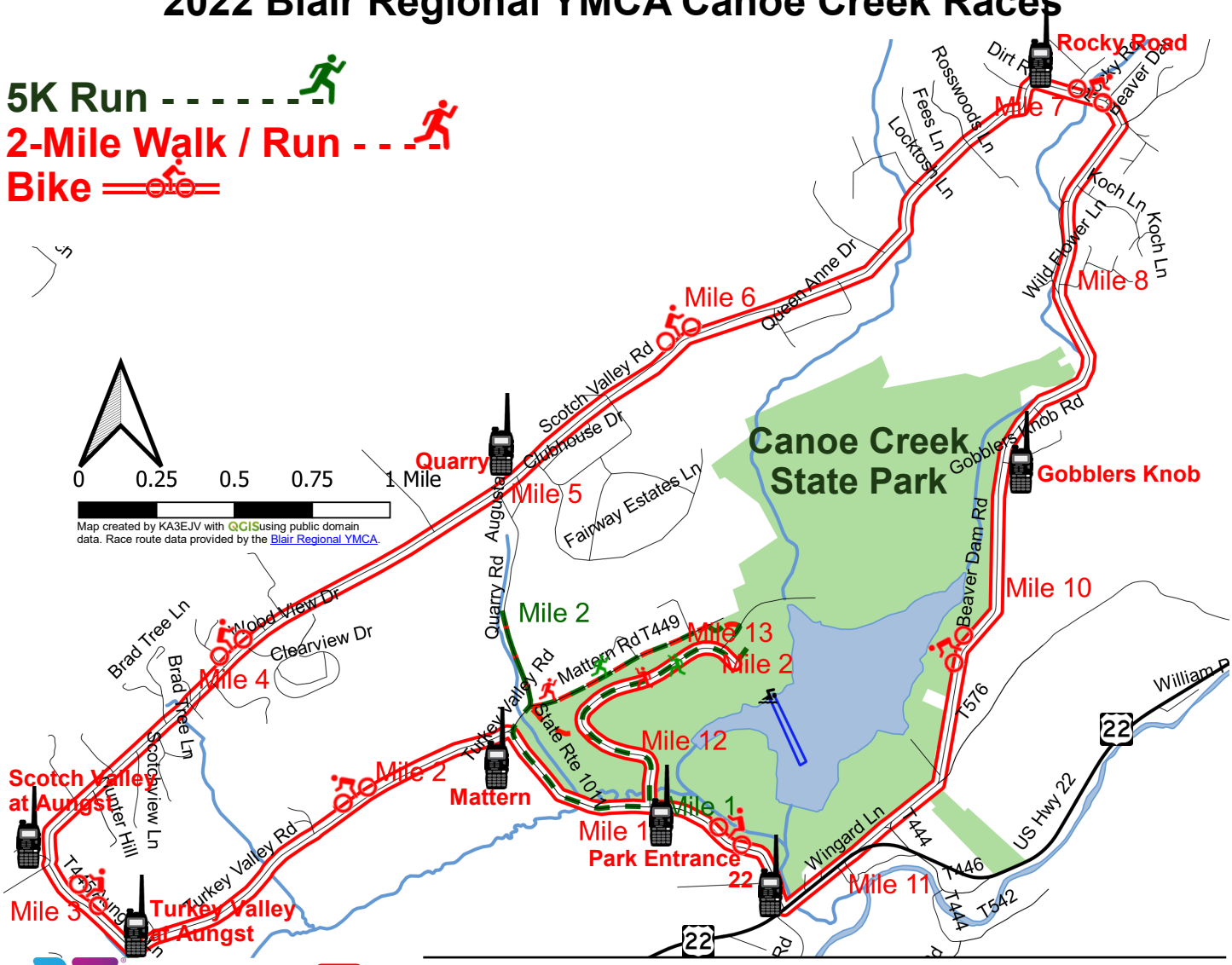
Day 2 July 17

Fixed locations not yet finalized for Day 2.

Contact Carmine Prestia K3CWP <k3cwp@arrl.net> Centre County, PA, ARES EC, for additional Amateur Radio related event information, or to volunteer.

Amateur Radio related information for the 2022 Bike MS Glimcher Keystone Country Ride is available at <http://personal.psu.edu/drm6/bikemskcrham/>.

2022 Blair Regional YMCA Canoe Creek Races



The annual Blair Regional YMCA Canoe Creek Races will be Saturday, August 6, 2022. The event is held in and around Canoe Creek State Park. The races begin at 8:00 AM. The races consist of multiple team and individual events. The triathlon includes a 1-mile swim, followed by a 13-mile bicycle route, and finishes up with a 3-mile run. The duathlon event includes the same 13-mile bicycle route as the triathlon followed by a 2-mile run. Additional events include a 5K run and a 2-mile walk.

In the past, around 11 radio amateurs have been needed to provide safety, health, welfare communications support for the event. The map above shows the tentative swimming, bicycling, and running routes. The map also indicates the tentative fixed locations where radio amateurs are usually located along the various routes. In addition to the fixed locations shown on the above map, additional radio amateurs are needed for Net Control Station (NCS), SAG, and SWEEP duties. To volunteer, contact Kevin Lear W3XOX, Blair County, PA, ARES EC at <w3xox@hotmail.com>.

Hurricane Season

June 1 marks the beginning of Atlantic Hurricane Season. Each year, Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through to November 30. Although Blair County and the rest of central Pennsylvania rarely get hit by a true hurricane, the area is subjected to their remnants regularly.

Per the National Weather Service (NWS), on average 12 tropical storms, six of which become hurricanes, form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season. Over a typical two-year period, the U.S. coastline is struck by an average of three hurricanes, one of which is classified as a major hurricane with winds of 111 MPH or greater.

While hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property, tropical storms and depressions also can be devastating. The primary hazards from tropical cyclones (which include tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) are storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, and high surf and rip currents. These tropical storms and depressions due effect Blair County and central Pennsylvania regularly.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) is located in Miami, FL. It's mission is to save lives, mitigate property loss, and improve economic efficiency by issuing the best watches, warnings, forecasts, and analyses of hazardous tropical weather and by increasing understanding of these hazards. One of the ways it can do that is through the volunteer operated WX4NHC Amateur Radio station. Operating now for some 40 years, WX4NHC is operated by a team of 30 or so specially trained Hams working in shifts of around four hours. WX4NHC checks-in with various nets to gather real-time, surface weather reports. These reports are then passed on to the NHC. WX4NHC also provides back-up communications support for the NHC should Miami take a direct hit from a hurricane. Below are some of the hurricane related nets that WX4NHC checks-in to.

[Information courtesy of the NWS, NHC, WX4NHC, and the ARRL.]

Hurricane Nets

Hurricane Watch Net 14.325 MHz 7.268 MHz
Activated whenever a hurricane is within 300 nautical miles of expected landfall. Disseminates storm information and relays meteorological data to National Hurricane Center via embedded NHC station WX4NHC. Also relays post-storm damage reports and other relevant information.

Caribbean Emergency Weather Net 3815 kHz
Meets daily at 1030Z and 2230Z.

Intercontinental Net operates from 7 AM to noon US Eastern Time on 14.300 MHz, providing a means of emergency communications to any location where normal communications are disrupted.

Marine Maritime Services Net 14.300 MHz
The network acts as a weather beacon for ships during periods of severe weather and regularly repeats high seas and tropical weather warnings and bulletins from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center.

[Information courtesy of the ARRL *US Virgin Islands Section Web Page*]

Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Successful

The 2022 Armed Forces Day Crossband Test, held May 14, produced impressive results. Frank Donovan W3LPL reports good band conditions and participation resulted in over 800 contacts with 330 on Single-Sideband (SSB).

"Cooperation of amateurs, as secondary users of 60-meters, was outstanding, with no interference," said Donovan. "All of the 24 stations that signed up for the exercise were active at some point."

Here is the detailed NSS band-by-band QSO breakdown:

80 meters: 20 CW, 35 SSB = 55 total
60 meters: 21 CW, 169 SSB = 190 total
40 meters: 85 CW, 87 SSB = 172 total
30 meters: 54 CW = 54 total
20 meters: 151 CW, 165 SSB = 316 total
Total contacts: 331 CW, 456 SSB = 787 grand total

Historic US Navy call sign NSS in Annapolis, Maryland, was operated by the U.S. Naval Academy Amateur Radio Club, supported by members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), and produced 331 CW and 456 SSB contacts from the location of the 1918 NSS Naval Radio Station.

NSS QSL cards are available from K3LU. A self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) will be appreciated.

[From the May 19, 2022 issue of *The ARRL Letter*, John E. Ross KD8IDJ, Editor.]

FRS and Public Service Events

Rob Freeburn K6RJF
Dave Kaltenborn N8KBC

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, the air temperature had climbed above 90-degrees. Runners were dropping out of the rugged Pacific Crest Trail 50-mile, 10-hour mountain endurance race in droves. Then reports came into a remote aid station of a runner in distress a mile up the trail. The lead Ham at the aid station, J Rollins KM6NUY, handed an FRS (Family Radio Service) radio to the non-Ham aid station captain. The aid station captain then sprinted up the trail to the distressed runner to evaluate his condition.

Attempts to cool the runner failed. So, the aid station captain used the loaned FRS radio to ask the Ham team to summon EMS (Emergency Medical Service(s)). With no cell phone service in that remote area, the EMS request was relayed from the aid station by Caleb Rollins KN6ODW, through a Mountain Empire Amateur Radio Club (MEARC) 2-meter repeater in Campo, California, to the event Net Control Station (NCS) near Buckman Springs, California, where Gary Holmes KM6LKP, and Lori Palmer KE6ZLV coordinated the emergency response.

A few minutes after placing the call for aid, the responding medics called to ask for driving directions. The medics couldn't use the GPS latitude/longitude information provided to find the location on the side of a mountain, far from marked roads. Local resident Craig Williams, W6CAW, provided driving directions for the responders.

During the emergency, back at the aid station, Mark Warrick KM6ZPO, and Julie Warrick KN6AOC, continued to track runners passing through the aid station and explained Ham radio to inquisitive onlookers while other hams dealt with the emergency. With the help of EMS, the runner made a full recovery.

Lessons learned included the value of using FRS as a communications link for non-Hams, depth on the bench, and the need to tabletop with emergency responders before an event.

[Rob Freeburn K6RJF is the ARRL San Diego Assistant Section Manager-Training. Dave Kaltenborn N8KBCis the ARRL San Diego Section Manager. From the May 18, 2022 issue of *The ARES Letter*, Rick Palm K1CE, Editor.]

It should be noted that Blair County, PA, ARES has been incorporating FRS resources into the communications plans (ICS-217A and ICS-205 forms) of local Amateur Radio supported public service events since 2017. As the radio amateurs in the above public service event discovered, FRS resources provides excellent interoperability between event Amateur Radio and the non-Ham assets. – KA3EJV

Monthly DEC/EC Report

Amateur Radio Emergency Service	
1. Jurisdiction: BLAIR	2. Date: (mm/yy) 06/22

3. Total number of ARES members	26	
4. Total number of ARES Nets	4	
5. Number of ARES nets with NTS liaison	4	

6a. Number of exercises & training sessions this month	4	6b. Person hours	44
7a. Number of community events this month	0	7b. Person hours	0
8a. Number of emergency operations this month	0	8b. Person hours	0
9a. Number of SKYWARN operations this month	0	9b. Person hours	0
10a. Total number of operations Auto sums 6a, 7a, 8a, 9a	8	10b. Total Person hours Auto sums 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b	44

11. Comments:

NET Participants: *W3MTT, KC3FSP, W3SF, *N3MWF, W3XOX, KC3GUY, K3JBC, *N3QBO, *W3RIT , AB3QW, KC3RHR
* INDICATES NET CONTROL OPS

Signature: KEVIN P. LEAR	Title: (EC or DEC) DEC	Call sign: W3XOX

Please send to your SEC or DEC as appropriate by 2nd of the month

ARES – 002 (1/17)

Clear form

2022 Public Service

The Ironstone Ultra 100K
July 9-10, 2022

Bike MS: Glimcher Keystone Country Ride
July 16-17, 2022
<http://personal.psu.edu/drm6/bikemskcrham/>

Blair Regional YMCA
Canoe Creek Races
Saturday, August 6, 2022
<http://personal.psu.edu/drm6/ccrham/>

Rock'n the Knob Trail Challenge
Saturday, September 17, 2022
<http://personal.psu.edu/drm6/rtkham/>

Blair ARES Roster

Eric Barschefski KC3GUY
Jeff Blake N8PSU
Kevin Campbell N3QBO
John Carnicella K3JBC
Joseph Carpentieri KA2BRH
Tammy Cooney N3MAZ
Tom Cooney Jr. W3SF
Charles Frischknecht KC3FSP
John Garber AB3QW
Robert "Bob" Gutshall W3BTX
Eric Hilbert KE3TJ
Ted Holland WB3AVD
Richard "Rick" Jackson KC3EBW
Lisa Keller N3WMH
Kevin Lear W3XOX
Matt Lightner N3LEI
Roger Lingenfelter N3MWF
James McFadden W3ILW
Drew McGhee KA3EJV
Joe Petrulionus KC3RHR
John Rea KC3JUN
Roger Ritchey W3RIT
Michael "Mike" R. Wall W3MRW
Dave Wertz W3RTZ
James C. "Craig" Wingate KB3PIQ

WPA ARES Directory

<https://wpa-arrl.org/ares/directory/>

KEMA BEYOND THE HORIZON SHAPING OUR FUTURE

KEYSTONE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE 2022
Blair County Convention Center
October 22nd to 25th, 2022

<http://kemaconference.com>

Ham Exams

The Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club Exam Team plans to conduct the following ARRL/VEC Amateur Radio exam sessions in 2022. Here are the dates.

- Saturday, September 10, 2022
- Saturday, December 10, 2022

Exam Fee: $15.00

Candidates must bring the following:

- Photo ID
- FCC-issued FRN number
- Copy of current license (if licensed)
- Valid e-mail address

The exam sessions will begin at 9:00 AM at the United Fire Company Building (Station 18), 611 Grandview Road, Altoona, PA, 16601.

Pre-registration is requested, but walk-ins are welcome. Applicants requiring procedural accommodations or assistance will need to contact the Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club Exam Team in advance.

To pre-register for an upcoming exam session, contact Eric KE3TJ via email at <ke3tj@arrl.net>. For additional information about the HARCE VE sessions, go to <www.altoonahamexams.org>.

HARC Laural VEC Amateur Radio exam sessions. Pre-registration is required. Exam sessions begin at 9:00 AM. United Fire Company Building (Station 18), 611 Grandview Road, Altoona, PA, 16601.

- Saturday, August 13, 2022
- Saturday, November 12, 2022

For additional information, go to the following web site.
<https://www.laurelvec.com/?team=Horseshoe>

ARES Reports

<http://www.arrl.org/ares-annual-monthly-reports>

Resources

- ARES Manual [PDF]
- ARES Field Resources Manual [PDF]
- ARES Task Book [Fillable PDF]
- ARES Task Book [Word]
- ARES Plan [PDF]
- Emergency Communications Training

[Information courtesy of the ARRL.]

Nets

Digital Training Net via Zoom and On-air
Wednesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/71313842323?pwd=NmFNdE95VDlaRGUxK0hST1F5dmFhQT09>
Meeting ID: 713 1384 2323
Passcode: 226716

WPA Health and Wellness Net
Weekdays 9:00 AM 3,983 kHz

WPA Phone Traffic Net
Evenings 5:30 PM 3,918 kHz

Pennsylvania Fone Net
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8:00 PM
3,907 kHz.

Pennsylvania Statewide DMR Net
Tuesdays 8:00 PM DMR BM Talkgroup 3142

WPA Digital Voice Net
Wednesday 7:30 PM DMR BM Talkgroup 31422

Western Pennsylvania ARES Voice Net
Saturdays 9:00 AM 3,983 kHz USB
Alternate 7,272 kHz LSB
After main net 5,403.5 kHz USB (Channel 5)
Alternate 5,371.5 kHz USB (Channel 4)

PA HF NBEMS Net
Sundays 7:30 AM 3,583.0 kHz USB
1500 Hz Waterfall THOR 22 for initial call-up
MFSK32 or THOR 50x1 for traffic.
Please wait for your Section to be called for check-ins. Out-of-state check-ins will follow PA check-ins.

PEMA ACS State-wide Net
First Sunday of Month 3.993.5 kHz

PEMA ACS Central Area Net
Sundays 8:30 AM 3,993.5 kHz
PEMA Central Area Counties, which includes Blair.

PEMA ACS Western Area Net
Sundays 9:00 AM 3,990.5 kHz
PEMA Western Area Counties.

PEMA ACS Eastern Area Net
Sundays 9:00 AM 3.987.5 kHz
PEMA Eastern Area Counties.

Pennsylvania State ARRL Convention

Harrisburg Firecracker Hamfest, Saturday, July 2, 2022

ARRL the national association for Amateur Radio®
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION
SERVICE ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ EXCELLENCE

Web Site <http://wpa-arrl.org>
WPA ARES <https://wpa-arrl.org/ares/>
Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wpaarrl/>