

Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 27, 2025

The following members were in attendance:

- John N3SPW
- John NA2BA
- Tim N3PUL
- Tim K5TEL
- Ed KC3ZAL
- Terry KC3TNV
- Rich N3RBJ
- Josiah KC3ZUF
- Harvey N3RTK
- Lars KB3WBT
- Jack N3MUX
- Allen K3HOC

The following members had perviously informed CCARC offers they could not attend:

- Dave KC3KHV

The following guests and/or perspective members were in attendance:

- Bob KC3KVS

The meeting was called to order by President Tim N3PUL at 7:03 PM.

Finances:

- Current Balance from Treasurer Ed KC3ZAL was \$1,000
- Donations received today total \$45.
- Expected balance after today's donations are deposited will be \$1,045.
- Expenditure of \$600.00 to Repeater Builder Inc was approved.
- Final expected balance will be \$445.00

Membership

- The pending membership applications were voted on:
 - Paul W3PRL from Westmoreland County
 - Jerry GMRS Call Sign WSFU533
 - Both applications were unanimously approved and both are now Associate members.
- Received membership applications from the following individuals:
 - Jack N3MUX of Clearfield
 - David KD3AIG of Bellefonte, Centre County
 - Jerry GMRS Call Sign WSFU533.
- Both applications for membership are accepted and will become final after being voted on at the March 2025 meeting.
- The current roster is being published monthly in the CCARC newsletter.

VE Testing

- Establishment of Clearfield County VE Testing Team
 - Anyone interested in becoming certified as VE Examiners in the Laurel VEC program should plan to attend the Saturday March 29th VE Exam Session on Ridgway. The location will be Hallton Church of Christ, Evergreen Drive in Ridgway. Exam session starts at 9:30AM.
- Planned 2025 testing dates here in Clearfield:
 - Friday April 18 2025, 7 PM
 - Friday June 20 2025, 7 PM
 - Friday August 15 2025, 7 PM
 - Sunday September 14 2025, 11 AM at Hamfest

Repeaters

- W3CPA 147.255.
 - Working as expected with no known issues.
- WRDV964 462.650+ GMRS Repeater.
 - All working as expected with no issues.
- W3CPA 444.625 DMR repeater.
 - Working as expected with no known issues.
- 145.370 D-STAR repeater.

- Ed KC3ZAL had issues with the computer he planned to donate for use as a controller on the D-STAR repeater. Ed says that he has another computer and will get Cent OS loaded on that one with the Icom control software needed for the D-STAR repeater.
- D-STAR Repeater Antenna
 - John N3SPW reports that on Friday February 21st Allen K3HC, wearing his Centre Communications Inc hat, informed us that the county owned “Boggs Tower” is expected to have some maintenance work done in the near future. This is the tower we had requested permission to use for the D-STAR repeater.
 - If done at the same time, now would be our opportunity to have the new repeater antenna installed without any additional cost. So the need for an antenna becomes immediate if we're to take advantage of this.
 - John N3SPW had contacted Scott N3XCC of Repeater Builder Inc inquiring about surplus antennas. He has a new-old-stock Sinclair SD212-SF2P2SNFD00 antenna which would work for our purposes. He is willing to sell it to the club for the sum of \$600 including taxes. Current retail price on this antenna is \$1,340 plus shipping. He bought it for a project that fell through so it was never installed.
 - John N3SPW had circulated an email on Sunday February 22nd providing the above details and asking for opinions on a proposed purchase of this antenna. Everyone who responded felt we should proceed with the purchase.
 - The purchase of this antenna was formally approved and Treasurer Ed KC3ZAL requested an invoice for club records prior to cutting a check.
 - Allen believes the Boggs Tower has a run of hardline coax going to the top of the tower which we could use for our repeater antenna. There is currently no antenna installed at the end of the feedline. Our antenna would be top-mounted at 209 feet above ground level.

WinLink Project

- No report.

Club Net

- Josiah KC3ZUF has joined the rotation as Net Control Station for the weekly net.
- Rich N3RBJ reports we had 7 check-ins last week.
- Please plan to join us on the net, every Tuesday evening 7 PM on the 147.255 repeater.

Hamfest

- Tim N3PUL is panning to attend the Warren PA hamfest. Tim would like to have some fliers to take with him and distribute. John N3SPW to make a B&W version that would be cheaper to copy.
- Tim N3PUL hit a roadblock with the small games of chance licensing. He needed a mailing address and was unable to proceed until this is settled. Following a brief discussion the mailing address issue was settled.
- The Small games of chance license application also needs to be notarized. Jack N3MUX is a notary and offered to provide the needed notary service at no charge.

Radio Nights

- The first Radio Night was held on Thursday February 13th at the Clearfield EMA amateur radio facility.
- We had a total of 8 hams in attendance.
- The group fired up the Icom IC-7300 and under the guidance of Lars KB3WBT who installed some software on Ed KC3ZAL's laptop and watched the FT8 radio signals coming in.
- It was discovered the antenna seemed to have a SWR issue so we couldn't make contact. Antenna issues to be addressed with the Clearfield EMA.
- Future Radio Nights will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

Clearfield EMA Radio Room Update

- Tim N3PUL reports that the purchase of two new AnyTone AT-D578III Plus transceiver and programming software has been approved by the county. This now needs to be sent to the commissioners for final approval before a check can be cut.
- WinLink Computer. So far we have been unable to gain access to the WinLink computer. Chuck KM4NSC had donated and set up the computer. For several months John N3SPW has been trying to reach Chuck without success. Tim N3PUL offered to re-install windows which would allow us to access the computer again. Topic tabled.

- HF Antenna. Following the radio night it became obvious there is an issue with the HF antenna. Allen K3HOC reports that it will be necessary to climb the tower and trace the coax lines to make sure we have the correct line connected.
- The idea of providing a “field drop” coax antenna lead at the fence line was discussed. This would allow us to attach a temporary antenna to the coax and remove it when finished using it. Following a brief discussion it was agreed this was a good plan.

Special Service Club Application Status

- CCARC had made application to the ARRL to be designated as a Special Service Club. That application was returned to us citing deficiencies in the information provided within the application.
- CCARC re-submitted the application in early February, this time following the suggestions made by ARRL WPA Section Manager Joe W3BC.
- Cory WA3UVV, the ARRL WPA Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, had contacted John N3SPW inquiring about the club's membership roster and the percentage of voting members who are ARRL members. ARRL rules stipulate a minimum of 50% ARRL membership. Following a brief discussion about who is and is not a member of ARRL, it was determined our club roster is at exactly 50% ARRL membership among our voting members. John N3SPW is to relay this information to Cory for consideration with the Special Service Club application.

New Business

- Field Day
 - Harvey N3RTK once again offered the use of his camp near Pennfield for the entire Field Day weekend. More details to follow at a later date.
- Quad County ARC Repeater
 - John N3SPW reports that during a conversation with Joe W3BC, the topic of the Quad County ARC repeater and net had come up. The 147.315 repeater is currently experiencing receiver issues. With reduced reception, their Quad County Weekly FM Net is suffering. Only a few people with strong signals are able to access the repeater.
 - The idea of offering the W3CPA 147.255 repeater as an alternate and back-up frequency for their QCARC Weekly FM Net was discussed.
 - Tim N3PUL suggested that at the sale time we could ask for a reciprocal agreement which would make the 147.315 repeater a back up for our Clearfield County Weekly Net.
 - Following a lively discussion, the offer and request for a reciprocal agreement was unanimously approved. John N3SPW is to make the offer to the QCARC through Joe W3BC.
- Bob Snyder KC3KVS
 - Bob brought with him an Icom IC-1821-2 GMRS which he is donating for use at the Clearfield County EMA amateur radio operations center. This radio will add GMRS capabilities to the EMA and allow the GMRS service to be integrated into EmComm operations within Clearfield County.

March Meeting Date

- The March meeting will be held on the 4th Thursday of the month – March 27th at 7 PM.

Meeting Closing.

- President Tim N3PUL closed the meeting at 8:05 PM.