

Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 27, 2025

The following members were in attendance:

- John NA2BA
- Tim N3PUL
- Tim K5TEL
- Ed KC3ZAL
- Terry KC3TNV
- Rich N3RBJ
- Josiah KC3ZUF
- Allen K3HOC
- Harvey N3RTK
- Brian KD3AYB
- John N3SPW

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

- Mike WB3EQW

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

- none
-

The meeting was called to order by President Tim N3PUL at 7:07 PM.

Finances:

- Current Balance reported by Treasurer Ed KC3ZAL to be \$445.
- Donations received today total \$120
- Expected balance after today's donations are deposited will be \$565.
- No outstanding invoices at this time.

Membership

- The pending membership applications were voted on:
 - Jack N3MUX of Clearfield
 - David KD3AIG of Bellefonte, Centre County
 - Jerry GMRS Call Sign WSFU533.
 - All three were approved: Jack N3MUX is now a Full Member and both David KD3AIG and Jerry WSFU533 are now an Associate members.
- Received membership applications from the following individuals:
 - none
- The current roster is being published monthly in the CCARC newsletter.

VE Testing

- Establishment of Clearfield County VE Testing Team
 - Mary from the Laurel VE Team in Ridgeway is sponsoring our new Laurel VE Team. As such, she and her team are responsible to train us in administering examinations. We have been requested to attend the Saturday March 29th VE Exam Session in Ridgeway to observe the process. Plans are to meet at the Clearfield Mall parking lot and carpool to Ridgeway.
- 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.
 - Controller Configuration
 - Ed KC3ZAL has made progress with configuring a computer for use with the D-STAR repeater. With the computer set up and the necessary software installed, Ed now needs the serial number

- and model number from our repeater hardware before he can proceed. John N3SPW will deliver the repeater hardware to Ed allowing to process to continue.
- D-STAR Repeater Antenna
 - John N3SPW is planning to travel to Boswell PA on April 9th and will pick up the recently purchased repeater antenna at that time.

WinLink Project

- John N3SPW reports that when he is picking up the D-STAR antenna, Scott N3XCC is going to help him finish the club's first WinLink Gateway. This will use one of the four UHF transceivers that Allen K3HOC had donated for the project. If all goes well, when John returns on April 9th we should have a working UHF gateway ready to install.

Club Net

- John N3SPW suggested that we should appoint someone to act as a Net Manager for our weekly net. This person would be responsible to manage the rotation of Net Control Station duties and any other issues that arise pertaining to the net.
 - After a brief discussion it was decided that Josiah KC3ZUF and Tim K5TEL are appointed as Co-Net Managers for the remainder of 2025.
- Tim K5TEL brought up to topic of net participation and the 7PM net time. After a brief discussion it was decided to keep the net at 7PM on Tuesdays.
- John N3SPW reports that last months discussion and offer of a reciprocal back-up frequency for club nets and activities was relayed to Quad County ARC President Joe W3BC. There has no response from Joe. John is directed to make a second inquiry.

Hamfest

- Tim NA2BA had spoken with staff at local radio station WOKW-FM. They are willing to run public service announcements to promote our hamfest.
- Harvey N3RTK suggested we also contact BigFoot Country.
- Harvey N3RTK suggested we start a concentrated effort to promote the hamfest on local radio nets. All members participating in any radio net are encouraged to promote the Central PA Hamfest which will be held on Sunday September 14th at the Clearfield County Fair Grounds in the Grange building. More information can be found on the Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club's web site at www.clearfieldcountyarc.net.
- The Small games of chance license application has not yet completed.

Radio Nights

- The second Radio Night was held on Thursday March 13th at the Clearfield EMA amateur radio facility.
- We had a total of 10 hams in attendance.
- Future Radio Nights will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

Clearfield EMA Radio Room Update

- The recently purchased AnyTone AT-D578III Plus transceivers have been programmed by Rich N3RBJ and are ready for use.
- Rich N3RBJ has donated a "new to us" computer for use as a WinLink computer at the EMA. The computer is set up and installed.
- HF Antenna.
 - Lars KB3WBT is donating a cobweb HF antenna for use at the EMA. The thinking is that this could be installed on the fence line as a secondary antenna. Allen K3HOC said that if we provide him with the details he can seek approval from the county.
 - Allen K3HOC reports that Carl and staff at Center Communications are working on obtaining a suitable antenna for use at the EMA and will install it soon.

Special Service Club Application Status

- CCARC 's application to be recognized as a Special Service Club has been approved and finalized by the American Radio Relay League.
- There was a brief discussion about what a Special Service Club is and what it means to us.

Bob Snyder KC3KVS

At our last meeting Bob had donated a mobile GMRS transceiver for use at the Clearfield County EMA in an effort to integrate GMRS operations into the EMA radio room. John N3SPW suggested that the club should provide Bob with a formal thank you for the donation. Club Secretary Rich N3RBJ agreed to send the thank you.

New Business

- SKYWARN
 - On March 18th a severe storm moved through Clearfield County and the first SKYWARN Weather Net was held in Clearfield County in more than two decades. Eight amateur radio stations participated with Tim K5TEL jumping in as Net Control. Also on frequency was WX3CTP, the National Weather Service State College station.
 - Net Script: Following our recent Skywarn activation, John N3SPW felt we needed to be a bit more organized in our response. To aid that effort John presented a formalized Clearfield County Skywarn Net Scrip for adoption. Several changes were suggested. John is to update the script and make it available for use when appropriate.

- Simulated Emergency Test – Saturday April 15th.
 - The Western PA ARES, Eastern PA ARES and the Pennsylvania Red Cross will be conducting a state-wide SET on Saturday April 15th from 10AM to Noon. Here in Clearfield County we are expecting to have three teams participating Our Clearfield area Team, the Philipsburg area team and the Treasure Lake team.
 - Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact John N3SPW.

- PEMA Regional Mobile Command Vehicle
 - Scott Mignot, the Clearfield County EMA Director, recently informed us that the local PEMA region recently took possession of a new command vehicle. It is housed at the Elk County EMA garage.
 - This vehicle is equipped a Tarheel antenna on the roof for amateur operations.
 - Allen K3HOC has suggested to the county and others the possibility of including several “go kits” of portable equipment which could quickly be deployed at remote site when needed.

- Portable EmComm Repeater
 - About 15 years ago 70 cm band portable repeater was built as a project of the Clearfield County ARES, Centre County ARES, Blair County ARES and the Philipsburg ARA. Rich N3RBJ mentioned that this repeater was last known to be in the possession fo Carmine K3CWP in State College.
 - John N3SPW was asked to inquire about the current location and status of this equipment.

- 444.900 Repeater
 - Harvey N3RTK reports that Rick N3IYZ and Ed K3EDD are in the process of reinstating the 444.900 repeater which operated from a site near the Clearfield Hospital until about 10 years ago. When complete, this will be a low profile machine covering the immediate Clearfield area.

- The April meeting will be held on the 4th Thursday of the month – March 24th at 7 PM.

Meeting Closing.

- President Tim N3PUL closed the meeting at 8:14 PM.