

Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 24, 2025

The following members were in attendance:

- John N3SPW
- Lars KB3WBT
- Josiah KC3ZUF
- Ken KE3M
- Harvey N3RTK
- Tim K5TEL
- Mike WB3EQW
- Terry KC3TNV
- Allen K3HOC

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

- Tim N3PUL
- Rich N3RBJ
- John NA2BA
- Ed KC3ZAL

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

- Scott Mignot, Clearfield County Department of Emergency Services, Director
- Dave McLure
- Mike McAllister N3RZL, Elk County Emergency Services, Director
- Jason Moreland W3AGW

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President John N3SPW at 7:02 PM.

Finances:

- Treasurer Ed KC3ZAL was not present for the meeting.
- Ed reported to John N3SPW that the current account balance was \$600.

Membership

- Received membership applications from the following individuals:
 - Justin N3OG / GMRS WRUH654
 - Randy KO4WTB / GMRS WSDX953
- Both applications for membership are accepted and will become final after being voted on at the August 2025 meeting.
- The current roster is being published monthly in the CCARC newsletter.

VE Testing

- Planned 2025 testing dates here in Clearfield
 - Friday August 15 2025, 7 PM
 - Sunday September 14 2025, 11 AM at Hamfest

Repeaters

- W3CPA 147.255.
 - All working as expected with no issues.
- WRDV964 462.650+ GMRS Repeater.
 - All working as expected with no issues.
- W3CPA 444.625 DMR repeater.
 - On Sunday January 12th Allen K3HOC relocated the DMR repeater to the Rockton Mountain tower site.

Initial testing of the relocated repeater was conducted with with Tim K5TEL who was using an HT in the Bigler PA area as well as Paul W3PRL over the WPA talk group. The repeater appears to be functioning as planned.

Coverage extends East to about Brookville before becoming a hilltop repeater, South toward Punxsutawney and East to Philipsburg. Allen does not have the equipment mounted in cabinets but will take care of that task on his next trip to the tower site.

- 145.370 D-STAR repeater.

◦Working great within Ed's house.

Allen K3HOC had concerns about how the needed network port forwarding could be accomplished without compromising network security. Allen believes he has come up with a plan which will allow our repeater to have the access it needs while preserving the security measures.

Antenna placement on the county owned Boggs Tower has become an issue. Originally there was a tower light issue on the tower which was going to require a tower climb. Our plan was to have the antenna and needed materials ready for when that tower climb occurred - installing our antenna at the same time. That tower light issue seems to have cleared itself eliminating the need for a tower climb. As a work-around we are considering installing the antenna on the fence line of the tower site with a 20 foot mast. This would be temporary until such time that a tower crew does eventually climb the tower. They would install the antenna at the top of the tower at that time. The site is surrounded by trees, but at a really high location. To test if it would have any coverage from such a low vantage point at the tower site, earlier today Rich N3RBJ and myself erected the antenna temporarily at the tower site and conducted some tests. The antenna is a 2-bay Sinclair folded dipole array. The center of the array was at 20 feet above ground. We set up Rich's mobile radio with cross-band repeat and went for a ride. The results were a bit better than expected. Throughout the Philipsburg area the signal was nearly full quieting. Headed to the West, we had valleys without coverage but the higher elevations saw the signal come back to 3/4 to full scale. At the Clearfield Mall area it was full quieting. Dipping into the Clearfield valley saw the signal disappear. So it appears it would provide some coverage, but nearly as much as it will when the antenna is moved to the top of the tower.

Clearfield County Department of Emergency Services, Scott, signed off on the plan of installing a semi-permanent antenna mounted to the tower site fence. It will remain there until such time as the antenna can be relocated to the top of the tower.

WinLink Project

- W3CPA 10, Clearfield - functioning as intended.
- W3CPA 11, West Decatur - functioning as intended.
- W3CPA 12 Houtzdale - Under Construction.
- W3CPA 13 DuBois - Under Construction.

It was noted that the TYT 9000 mobile radios used on the Clearfield and West Decatur WinLink gateways have a flaw that makes them less than desirable for WinLink gateway use. These radios do not automatically power up if the power is interrupted. So with even a momentary loss of power the controlling computer comes back to life, but the radios do not. Discussion about replacing these radios at some point in the future.

Club Net

- Tim K5TEL reports that we could use additional stations willing to serve as net control stations.
- We are averaging 8 to 10 check-ins per week.
- Please plan to join us on the net, every Tuesday evening 7 PM on the 147.255 repeater.

EMA Radio Room

- Harvey N3RTK suggested we create a manual outlining how to operate the equipment at the radio room. Discussion ensued. No resolution.

Field Day

The CCARC Field Day event was held once again at Harvey N3RTK's camp near Penfield. John N3SPW and Rich N3RBJ attempted to set up a second HF station at the camp, but equipment issues prevented the second station from becoming operational. Harvey reported that most contacts made were on the 40M band using SSB. Those that attended had a good time.

Hamfest

- John N3SPW reported on the number of tables sold and the number of interested parties in additional tables.
- John N3SPW reported that we still owe the facility rental balance to the fairgrounds - \$300.

- Discussion about how to control the outside area that people will be tailgating in. It was decided to contact the fair officials and see if they have stanchions that we can use.
- Discussion on how to segregate the inside meeting area from the display area. John N3SPW reported on the cost of pipe and drape rental. Topic tabled for further investigation.

New Business

- None

Presentation - Special Guest Mike McAllister N3RZL, Elk County Emergency Services, Director.

Mike discussed how our EmComm team has become noticeably more active and is serving as an example to other areas that are not as active.

Mike proposed that a regional EmComm team be established that would allow resources to be deployed to other areas when needed and serve as a catalyst to ignite interest in inactive areas. All present agreed this was a good idea and pledged their interest in participating.

August Meeting Date

- The August meeting will be held on the 4th Thursday of the month – August 28th at 7 PM.

Meeting Closing.

- Vice President John N3SPW closed the meeting at 8:24 PM.