

Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 20, 2025

The following members were in attendance:

- John N3SPW
- Harvey N3RTK
- Scott W3EOD
- Allen K3HOC
- Ed KC3ZAL
- Rich N3RBJ
- Tim N3PUL
- Mike WB3EQW

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

- None

The meeting was called to order by CCARC President Tim N3PUL at 7:04 PM

Finances

- Treasurer Ed KC3ZAL reports the current balance is \$1,188.50.
- The check to the Lawrence Township Volunteer Fire Co has not yet cleared.
- Received at today's meeting was \$54 in donations.
- The final balance after today's donations is \$1,245.50

VE Testing

- Rich N3RBJ has coordinated with the Elk County ARC VE Team the following testing dates here in Clearfield:
 - Friday March 20th
 - Friday May 15th
 - Friday July 17th
 - Friday October 16th
 - September date TBD
- All testing sessions will be conducted in the Training Room at the Clearfield County EOC building, 911 Leonard Street in Clearfield. The exception is the September test session which will be held at the Central PA Hamfest, date and time are to be determined.
- Rich N3RBJ says he is in the process of arranging a Zoom Meeting training for everyone involved in the VE Team. This training is the last step in the Clearfield VE Team being able to conduct our own exam sessions without the oversight of the Elk County VE Team.

Repeaters

- W3CPA 147.255 FM
 - All working as intended.
 - There was a discussion about remote receivers and how best to approach adding a receiver to the repeater system in the downtown Clearfield area. John N3SPW discussed using an All Star node which is capable of adding remote receivers. Allen K3HOC cautioned that with this arrangement the remote receiver is dependent on commercial internet service or a private data link to function. All present agreed that the best, most reliable, approach would be to use a traditional RF link with a signal to noise receiver voter at the main site. Allen is going to see if any surplus voter units might be available either now, or in the near future.
 - Allen mentioned that it is best practice to use identical receivers at all locations to prevent changing tonal quality as an amateur station transfers from one receiver to the next. The idea is that the receiving station should have no idea the transfer from one receiver to the next occurred. It should sound clean and natural.
 - John is going to inquire with Repeater Builder, Inc to see if they have a sufficient quantity of receivers to accommodate our project.

- John N3SPW discussed that he would still like to see an AllStar node added to the repeater. This would add the ability to link out DMR repeater to the analog repeater. As well as allowing remote stations to connect in via All Star. Ed KC3ZAL agreed to investigate what hardware is involved and what networking access is required.
- WRDV964 462.650 GMRS Repeater
 - All working as intended.
- W3CPA 444.625 DMR repeater
 - All working as intended.
- W3CPA 145.370 Multi-Mode repeater
 - John N3SPW reports that Ed K3EDD has the system built and operational however he is missing the information needed to log into the W3CPA D-STAR account as well as the W3CPA call sign account for DMR. Once he has those items he will be able to finish the programming and have all modes – P25, DMR, D-STAR and analog – functioning.
 - The antenna is currently at the tower site inside the building waiting for the tower crew to install it. Allen K3HOC will alert CCARC when this happens.

WinLink Project

- No change in status.

Radio Room

- Ed KC3ZAL reports that the WinLink transceiver at the EOC is now on a new, dedicated, power supply. This should reduce the possibility of the WinLink system accidentally being powered down when other equipment is turned off.
- Allen K3HOC discussed the RF noise present on the 40 meter band at the EOC. Allen did some preliminary investigative work and determined the source of the noise is certainly within the building. Allen suggested we use a portable receiver without an antenna to “sniff out” the source of the noise. Rich N3RBJ volunteered that he has a portable HF receiver which would be perfect for this use. He is planning to bring that HF receiver to the next radio night.
- Prior to the meeting Allen K3HOC informed us that one of the three amateur radio UHF/VHF antennas on the EOC tower has failed. It is a three section antenna that appears to have come apart resulting in the upper section being folded over. Rich N3RBJ said he tested all antenna leads with a meter and was unable to determine that any of them were not functioning. John and Allen are to address the topic with Scott Mignot at the EOC.

Club Net

- Rich N3RBJ noted that participation on the weekly net has fallen off. He suggested that moving the net time to 8PM, one hour later than the current 7 PM time, we may find people will be better able to participate. Discussion ensued and it was decided to survey net participants as they check into the net for the next two nets. Decision on time change will be made at a later date.
- Rich N3RBJ also reports that with Tim K5TEL moving out of the area, we are in need of another volunteer to take on net control duties in rotation.

Hamfest

- The date for the 2026 hamfest has not yet been finalized. At the suggestion of several of our vendors, it was decided to contact the other Eastern PA hamfest that was conducted on the same day. The suggestion was that if one of the hamfests was on Saturday and the other was on Sunday both our events might benefit. John N3SPW is to investigate further.
- Tim N3PUL inquired about what it would take to obtain our own small games of chance license rather than teaming up with another non profit and sharing the profit. John N3SPW stated the holdup is the lack of IRS nonrecognition as a 501c3 non profit organization. A discussion ensued and it was discussed that the Philipsburg ARA went through the process of becoming a 501c3 in recent years. John N3SPW is directed to contact Bob KC3KVS at the Philipsburg ARA to see if there is someone there that could help guide us through the process.

Annual Election of Officers

- Per the CCARC ByLaws, nominations for club offices are open for nomination at tonights meeting. After an extensive discussion the following slate of officers was advanced:
 - President - Tim N3PUL
 - Vice-President – Scott W3EOD
 - Secretary – John N3SPW
 - Treasurer – Ed KC3ZAL
 - Director – Mike WB3EQW (3 year term)

POTA Activation

- Harvey N3RTK reports that he stopped by the POTA activation which Steve K3SKS had mentioned during his presentation at the last meeting. Harvey arrived at about 3:15 PM as was unable to locate anyone there. Speculation was that either then HF bands were not cooperative with Steve and Judy cutting the activation short or Harvey was in a different location.

December Meeting Date

- Due to the Christmas Holiday falling on the 4th Thursday of December, it was decided to move the December meeting to the 3rd Thursday of the month – Thursday December 18th at 7 PM.

Close of meeting

- With no further business President Tim N3PUL closed the meeting 9:17 PM.