CLEARFIELD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
An ARRL Affiliated Club
W3CPA

NEWSLETTER

ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

NOVEMBER 2026

Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club Continues Its Commitment to Amateur Radio Through VE Testing

The Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club is pleased to announce another successful milestone in its Volunteer Examiner (VE) testing program.

On October 16th, the club's VE team administered a Technician Class Amateur Radio examination to Karen Brown of Cassville, Huntington County, Pennsylvania. Following successful completion of the examination, Karen was issued her new amateur radio call sign, KD3EAK.

The club congratulates Karen on earning her Technician Class license and welcomes her to the exciting world of amateur radio!

The club's VE examination team is headed up by Rich, N3RBJ, and plays an important role in the organization's commitment to promoting amateur radio, encouraging new operators, and helping ensure that the hobby continues to grow. By providing opportunities for individuals to earn their licenses, the club helps introduce new voices to the amateur radio community and supports the future of the hobby.

Looking Ahead to 2027

The Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club has scheduled several VE examination sessions for 2027. The dates are:

- March 11, 2027
- June 10, 2027
- September 5, 2027 – Special VE examination session at the Central PA Hamfest. This session is already in the system.
- October 14, 2027

With the exception of the September 5th Central PA Hamfest session, all examinations will be held at:
Clearfield County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
911 Leonard Street
Clearfield, PA 16830
Regular examination sessions will begin at 7:00 PM.



Pictured is Karen KD3EAK along with her husband Michael KD3BRB moments after Karen passed her Technician Class exam at the October 16th CCARC VE examination session.

Anyone interested in obtaining an Amateur Radio license or upgrading their existing license is encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. The club welcomes prospective amateur radio operators and looks forward to helping them get started in this exciting hobby.

Congratulations again to Karen Brown, KD3EAK! We wish her many enjoyable years of operating and hope to hear her on the air soon.

CLEARFILED COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
www.clearfieldcountyarc.net

CCARC Officers

President: Tim Lumadue N3PUL
Vice President: Scott Rummings W3EOD
Secretary: John Szwarc N3SPW
Treasurer: Ed Kumm KC3ZAL

CCARC Board of Directors

Director: Harvey Haag N3RTK (Exp. 12/31/2026)
Director: Rich Brnik N3RBJ (Exp. 12/31/2027)
Director: Mike Errigo WB3EQW (Exp. 12/31/2028)

Clearfield County ARES Teams Participate in Statewide Simulated Emergency Test

On Saturday, October 3, 2026, the Clearfield County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Team participated in a statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET), conducted through the combined efforts of the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section and the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section. The exercise was coordinated under the direction of Jay King, W2AFE.

The statewide exercise provided amateur radio operators throughout Pennsylvania with an opportunity to test their emergency communications capabilities, practice operating procedures, and demonstrate the ability to provide reliable communications when traditional communication systems may be unavailable or compromised.

Clearfield County had an exceptional turnout, with a total of 17 amateur radio stations participating in the exercise. This level of participation demonstrated the interest, dedication, and commitment of local amateur radio operators to emergency preparedness and public service.

Repeater Net Operations

The Clearfield County portion of the exercise began with a voice net conducted on the club's W3CPA 147.255 MHz repeater. A total of 16 stations, including Net Control, checked into the net. Net Control was stationed inside the Clearfield County Emergency Management Agency's 911 Operations Center, providing an opportunity to operate from an actual emergency communications environment.

Following the initial repeater net, the county operation transitioned to simplex communications, with participants divided into three geographic groups to test their ability to communicate without relying on a repeater.

Three Simplex Operating Groups

The Clearfield County ARES Team divided its simplex operations into the following three areas:

- Central Clearfield County: 146.550 MHz
- Treasure Lake/DuBois: 146.475 MHz
- Philipsburg: 147.570 MHz

The Central Clearfield County group had 10 stations participating in simplex operations, including Net Control. The Treasure Lake/DuBois and Philipsburg groups operated independently and were instructed to submit separate reports documenting their activities.

This portion of the exercise was particularly valuable because simplex communications require stations to communicate directly with one another, without the assistance of a repeater. It provided an opportunity to evaluate local coverage, identify potential communications challenges, and assess the ability of operators to establish communications across different areas of the county.

Winlink Participation

The exercise also included a Winlink digital communications component. Winlink provides amateur radio operators with the ability to exchange email-style messages and other information

CALENDAR ITEMS

•CCARC Weekly Net.
Tuesdays at 8 PM on the 147.255+ repeater. PL Tone 173.8 Hz. All licensed amateur radio operators are welcome to check-in.

•CCARC Radio Nights.
2nd Thursday of each month, 7 PM at Clearfield County EMA Building, 911 Leonard St., Clearfield.

•CCARC Business Meeting.
NOVEMBER - moved to 3rd Thursday of month, 7 PM at Clearfield County EMA Building, 911 Leonard St., Clearfield.

CCARC Repeaters

W3CPA 147.255+, PL 173.8 Hz
Rockton Mountain
This is CCARC's primary repeater and is sponsored by the Clearfield County Emergency Management Agency.

W3CPA 444.625+ DMR
Rockton Mountain
Repeater DMR ID: 314287. This repeater provide wide-area DMR coverage for Clearfield County and the surrounding regions.

WRDV964 462.650+, PL 141.3 Hz
Rockton Mountain
GMRS service repeater is co-located at the top of Rockton Mountain with the W3CPA 147.255 repeater.

W3CPA 145.370+ D-STAR, P25, DMR, FM
Wallaceton
Off-air/Under Construction.
Announcements will be made when it becomes active.

Continued from Page 2: SET

using radio communications, making it a valuable tool when conventional internet and telephone services are disrupted.

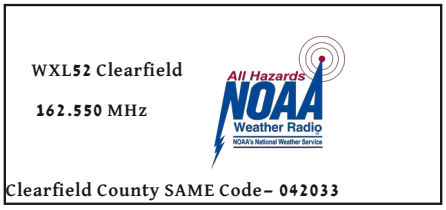
Four Clearfield County stations reported checking into one of the two Winlink stations designated for the exercise. Although we were unable to capture which of the two stations each operator contacted, their participation demonstrated additional interest in digital emergency communications capabilities.

A Successful Exercise and a Commitment to Preparedness

The October 3 exercise was an excellent opportunity for the Clearfield County ARES Team to put its emergency communications skills into practice. The combination of repeater operations, simplex communications, and Winlink provided a good test of several different methods available to amateur radio operators during an emergency.

A special thank-you goes to Jay King, W2AFE, and the leadership and volunteers of both ARRL Pennsylvania sections for coordinating this statewide exercise. We also extend our appreciation to the Clearfield County ARES Team members and all participating amateur radio operators who helped make this year's exercise a success.

Our thanks to everyone who participated. Your involvement helps ensure that Clearfield County's amateur radio emergency communications capabilities remain ready when our community needs them most!





ARES® Resources

- **ARES® Manual [PDF]**
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARESmanual2015.pdf
- **ARES® Field Resources Manual [PDF]**
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ARES_FR_Manual.pdf
- **ARES® Task Book [Fillable PDF]**
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARRL-ARES-FILLABLE-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-V2_1_1.pdf
- **ARES® Plan [PDF]**
http://www.arrl.org/ares-plan
- **Emergency Communications Training**
https://www.arrl.org/emergency-communications-training

Clearfield County WinLink Nodes

WinLink Gateway W3CPA-10
Clearfield
Grid Square: FN01SB
Frequency: 440.950 MHz. Modes supported: Packet, Packet 1200, VARAFM and VARAFM WIDE

WinLink Gateway W3CPA-11
West Decatur
Grid Square: FN00UW
Frequency: 440.975 Mhz. Modes supported: Packet, Packet 1200, VARAFM and VARAFM WIDE

WinLink Gateway W3CPA-12
Houtzdale
Grid Square: FN00TT
Off air/Under Construction.
Frequency: 441.000 Mhz. Modes supported: Packet, Packet 1200, VARAFM and VARAFM WIDE

WinLink Gateway W3CPA-13
DuBois
Grid Square: FN01PD
Off air/Under Construction Grid Square: FN00UW
Frequency: 441.025 Mhz. Modes supported: Packet, Packet 1200, VARAFM and VARAFM WIDE

Central PA Hamfest: Looking Back at 2026 and Ahead to 2027

The Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club's 2026 Central PA Hamfest was held on Sunday, September 13, at the Clearfield County Fairgrounds. First and foremost, a huge thank-you goes out to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to make this year's event possible. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated, and we couldn't put on this event without you.

While the weather presented some challenges early in the morning, particularly with rain that likely affected attendance, the day eventually cleared and turned into a relatively nice one.

The outdoor vendor area was noticeably sparse this year, which we believe was largely a result of the early morning weather. Inside, however, there were sufficient vendor tables to keep things interesting, and visitors had an opportunity to browse, visit with fellow operators, and enjoy the hamfest atmosphere.

A special thank-you goes to Tia Landsberry of Landsberry Farms, who operated the kitchen for us this year. Unfortunately, the attendance levels meant lower-than-expected kitchen sales. If you know Tia, please take a moment to let her know how much we appreciate her time and efforts in supporting our hamfest.

Financially, the event finished in the black, thanks in part to a few last-minute donations that helped support the cause. After all expenses and income were accounted for, the club realized a profit of $85. While



that certainly won't make the club wealthy, it means the event covered its costs and contributed a little something to the club treasury.

Looking Ahead to 2027 – A Change in Date

There will be an important change to the Central PA Hamfest schedule in 2027. For the past two years, our hamfest has been held on the second Sunday of September. Beginning in 2027, we will move the event to the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend.

This change became necessary because of a scheduling conflict with the Butler County Amateur Radio Club's hamfest, which traditionally takes place on the Sunday before Labor Day. In 2026, the two events fell on the same Sunday. Looking ahead, the same scheduling conflict would have continued for the next five years before the dates eventually separated again.



ARRL rules do not permit two sanctioned hamfests to be held on the same date within the same ARRL Section. Although our Central PA Hamfest had received approval months before the scheduling issue arose, the Butler County event ultimately received approval for the conflicting date as well. Rather than continuing to deal with an ongoing scheduling dispute, our club decided that moving our event was the most practical solution.

Our 2027 Central PA Hamfest will therefore take place on Sunday, September 5, 2027, the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend.

We look forward to another successful hamfest in 2027 and appreciate the continued support of our vendors, visitors, volunteers, and fellow amateur radio operators. We are always open to suggestions and ideas that will help make the event better in the years ahead.



Nets of Interest

Western PA Phone Traffic Net
Daily at 5PM on 3.983 MHz

Treasure Lake Sportmans
Mondays 8PM on 442.525+ PL 173.8 Hz
Mondays 8:05PM on 445.525 Mhz Simplex
Mondays 8:10PM on 146.457 MHz Simplex
Mondays 8:15PM on 147.225+ PL 173.8 Hz

WPA D-STAR Net
Mondays at 9PM on D-STAR reflector REF 63C.

Clearfield County ARC Net
Tuesdays 8 PM on 147.255+ PL 173.8 Hz

WPA Section DMR Net
Wednesdays 7:30PM on DMR talk group 31422 WPA

WPA ARES Voice Net
Saturdays 9AM on 3.983 MHz LSB.

PARA Weekly Net
Saturdays 9PM on 146.430+1 MHz, PL 173.8 Hz

PA NBEMS Net
Sundays at 7:30AM on 3583MHz USB / 1500 Hz Waterfall, using THOR 22.

PEMA ACS Statewide Net
Sundays at 8AM on 3.9935 MHz

PEMA ACS Western PA Area Net
Sundays at 9AM on 39905 MHz.

Quad County FM Net
Sundays 7PM on 147.315+ PL 173.8Hz

Radio Night Project: Building a Multi-Band HF Wire Antenna

One of the projects taking shape during our monthly Radio Night gatherings is the construction of a multi-band HF wire antenna. The project was the brainchild of Allen K3HOC, who suggested the idea and helped get things rolling. Allen also generously provided much of the material needed for the project, with Ed and Lars stepping up to supply the remaining materials. It's a great example of club members working together and sharing their resources and knowledge.

The inspiration for the project came from a successful antenna experiment published online at https://palomar-engineers.com/wp-content/uploads/My-ZS6BKW-Antenna.pdf. With a span of only 92 feet, this antenna claims to deliver plenty of DX contacts, operates without an antenna tuner, and makes switching between bands easy. Using the ladder-line lengths suggested by W5DXP (w5dxp.com), the antenna is said to perform exceptionally well, particularly for FT8 contacts.

Our club project antenna is being designed specifically for the lower CW and FT8 portions of the 40-, 20-, 17-, 12-, 10-, and 6-meter bands. With a switchable feed-line length, it will also accommodate the SSB and FM portions of the bands, making it a versatile addition to any HF station.

So far, we've cut all the antenna materials to length and identified a few additional parts needed to complete the assembly. At our next Radio Night, Thursday, November 12, we expect to finish the construction and get ready for the tuning phase of the project.

Whether you're interested in antenna construction, learning more about HF operation, or simply enjoying an evening of amateur radio fellowship, we invite you to join us. Radio Night begins at 7:00 PM. Come out, lend a hand, and see how this multi-band antenna comes together!

On-Line Licensing Class

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club (www.cfarc.org) and Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association (www.mvara.org) will be conducting live online classes to help you get your Technician and/or General Class Licenses. Free classes will be held via Zoom and run for eight weeks starting Sunday Jaunaury 10th 2027. Sessions are from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. All ages are welcome. For more information and/or to register, visit tiny.cc/beaham.

Local EmComm Groups and Where to Find Them

Clearfield County EmComm Simplex Frequency: 146.55 MHz

Clearfield County ACS/RACES
W3CPA - Clearfield
147.255+, PL 173.8 Hz

PARA EmComm Team
W3PHB - Philipsburg
146.430+1MHz, PL 173.8Hz

Treasure Lake EmComm Team
K3JRW - Treasure Lake
442.525+, PL 173.8 Hz

Jefferson Co ARES/ACS/RACES
KB3FPN - Reynoldsville
146.865-, PL 173.8 Hz

Centre Co ARES/ACS/RACES
W3GA - Rattlesnake Mtn
146.760-, PL 146.2 Hz

Blair Co ARES/ACS/RACES
W3QW - Altoona
146.820-, PL 123.0 Hz