CLEARFIELD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2026

Attendance

Members present:

- Rich N3RBJ
- John N3SPW
- Scott W3EOD
- Allen K3HOK
- Ed KC3ZAL
- Doug KC3ZEI
- Brian KD3AYB
- Steve KC3ZAM
- Ken K3EM

Members who notified the secretary in advance that they would be unable to attend:

- Harvey N3RTK
- Lars KB3WBT

Call to Order

Vice President Scott W3EOD called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

Financial Report

Ed KC3ZAL reported that the club's current account balance is $1,641.50, with no known outstanding debits.

VE Testing

Rich N3RBJ reported that the October test session resulted in one person passing the Technician Class examination: Karen KD3EAK of Blair County.

The next VE exam sessions are scheduled for March 11, June 10, September 5 (at the Central PA Hamfest), and October 14, 2027.

Rich has offered the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association the opportunity to host a VE exam session in Philipsburg with the club's testing team. The group does not currently have a VE program and has not responded to the offer.

Repeater and Station Reports

147.255 MHz Rockton Repeater

No known issues were reported. Allen K3HOC would like to install a National Weather Service (NWS) weather radio receiver on this repeater. The system would relay NWS alerts as they are issued and then close the audio after each alert broadcast. Because the W3CPA 147.255 repeater and the WRDV964 GMRS repeater share a controller, the alerts could also be carried over the GMRS repeater.

Scott W3EOD offered a weather radio that he believes includes tone-detection capability to close the relay after an alert. The members discussed which radio would be best. Scott agreed to send Allen a photograph and the model number of his radio so the options could be compared.

WRDV964 462.650 MHz GMRS Repeater

No known issues were reported.

444.625 MHz DMR Repeater

No known issues were reported. It was noted that Scott K5TEL has been monitoring the repeater and frequently responds when someone calls out.

145.370 MHz Multi-Mode Repeater

The repeater is currently off the air. Its antenna has been installed on the Clearfield County Boggs tower. Ed K3EDD will perform one final test before the repeater is sent to the tower site. If the tests are successful, the repeater is expected to be on the air soon.

WinLink

No report.

Radio Room

The antenna coax entrance bridge remains a pending project. Work has been delayed while members have focused on building the multiband HF antenna.

Multiband HF Antenna Project

The multiband HF antenna is fully assembled and ready for tuning. Because daylight will be needed, the antenna will be temporarily erected behind the EMA building. The work had been planned for Saturday, November 21, but scheduling conflicts involving several key participants led the group to postpone it until Saturday, December 5, weather permitting.

Weekly Net

Rich N3RBJ reported that participation has been somewhat light. Members are encouraged to participate in the weekly net, held Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the 147.255 MHz repeater. An additional volunteer is needed to share net-control duties. Anyone interested should contact Rich N3RBJ.

Articles of Incorporation

John N3SPW reported that he plans to work on this project after the holidays.

New Business

2027 Officer Nominations

The following slate of candidates for club officer positions and one director position was presented:

- President: Tim N3PUL — nominated by John N3SPW; seconded by Scott W3EOD.
- Vice President: Scott W3EOD — nominated by John N3SPW; seconded by Rich N3RBJ.
- Secretary: John N3SPW — nominated by Rich N3RBJ; seconded by Scott W3EOD.
- Treasurer: Mike WB3EQW — volunteered; seconded by Rich N3RBJ.
- Director (two-year term): Allen K3HOC — nominated by John N3SPW; seconded by Scott W3EOD.

The slate will be presented to the membership for a vote at the December meeting. Additional candidates may also be nominated by the general membership at that meeting.

Public Information Officer

The club discussed appointing a Public Information Officer. The position has been vacant since the passing of John NA3BA. Scott W3EOD nominated John N3SPW for the position, and Rich N3RBJ seconded the nomination. The appointment carried.

Newsletter

John N3SPW reported that the November newsletter has been issued and that he is gathering information for the December issue. The goal is to resume a regular monthly publication schedule.

Central PA Hamfest

John reported that plans for the September 5, 2027, hamfest have been finalized. The ARRL website currently has the event details published.

Red Cross UHF Base Station Radio

Rich reported that the county-owned Motorola radio previously used by the Red Cross has been reprogrammed and is ready for use. The radio does not support amateur radio frequencies but is capable of operating on GMRS. Rich has programmed all area GMRS repeaters into the radio and will bring it to the next meeting.

The members discussed how the equipment might best be used. No decisions were made.

MeshCore

Allen K3HOC reported that he has installed a MeshCore node on the Boggs tower near West Decatur. Coverage is reportedly excellent, with stations heard as far away as Ohio.

John N3SPW asked about the earlier discussion with Scott at the EMA regarding the installation of additional MeshCore nodes around the county. Allen reported that the subject has not been raised since the initial discussion. The proposed locations were Market Street tower, Rockton, DuBois, Coalport, and Boggs. John will follow up with Scott to help move the effort forward.

It was also noted that Elk County has recently installed MeshCore nodes at Boone Mountain, Boot Jack Mountain, and Willcox.

Spring Banquet

John N3SPW asked about scheduling the annual CCARC Spring Banquet. Last year's event was held at Buck's Pizza in Clearfield and coincided with the local high school prom. To avoid a conflict with prom night, the members decided to hold the banquet later in May. Friday, May 21, 2027, was selected. John N3SPW will contact Buck's Pizza to make the reservation.

Google Meet Discussion

The meeting used Google Meet to allow members who could not attend in person to participate. Ed KC3ZAL established the account on behalf of the club and is personally covering the $7 monthly fee as a donation to the club.

An initial equipment setup issue prevented those in the meeting room from hearing remote participants. The issue was eventually resolved, and the remainder of the meeting proceeded without problems. The club thanked Rich N3RBJ for setting up the equipment in the meeting room and Ed KC3ZAL for arranging the service. The platform appears to provide a reliable option for online participation, and the club plans to use it regularly going forward.

Adjournment

Scott W3EOD called for a motion to adjourn. Rich N3RBJ seconded the motion. All present were in favor; the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.