



MEGAHERTZ TIMES



October 2021

W3AI

PO Box 336, Perkasio, PA 18944

RF Hill Amateur Radio Club 2021

President: WA3NFV, Dan Mitten

Vice Pres.: KB3EWV, John Morell

Secretary: KC3HEQ, Geoff Nye

Treasurer: KC3LXV, Jim Reed

News Editor: W3WTT, Bill Tribley
bill@tribley.org

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address:

PO Box 336, Perkasio, PA 18944

Club Repeaters: 145.31 MHz; input
144.71 MHz PL 131.8 (2 meters)
444.75 MHz, input 449.75 MHz PL
103.5 (70 cm)

Meetings: The club normally meets
at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of
the Month

Web page: <http://www.rfhillarc.club>

Email: rfhillarc@yahoo.com

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DEADLINE for article submission is 10 days before the meeting! Please submit in Open Office (.odt) or MS Word (.docx) format.
Send to bill@tribley.org

The October Club meeting will be held Thursday the 28th at 7:30 PM via Zoom.
Invitations will be sent out via the IO reflector. See you on Zoom!

October Program Zoomfest!

Immediately follows the business meeting, for RF Hill ARC members only. All proceeds benefit the seller, no club take. All sales are private between buyer and seller. Any member can showcase their goods and give a price. Best of luck to everyone! Feel free to ask me questions. - John KB3EWV

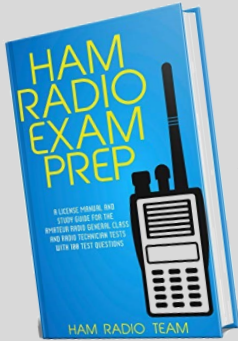
The 2M repeater is repaired! See the article in this issue for details. Thanks to Charles for his tireless work on the repeaters!

Due to the Covid-19 threat, Peter Becker, as well as most senior living facilities, have closed their campuses to visitors. The administrator at PBC will let us know when that changes. Stay safe and best 73, Jim Soete, WA3YLQ, Past Secretary



RF Hill Amateur Radio Club
W3AI

VE TESTING



VE testing for Technician, General and Extra Class licenses is held at 6:00PM at the Indian Valley Public Library in Telford:

100 E Church Ave.
Telford, PA 18969

Scheduled VE Exam Sessions

- *November 16, 2021*
- *January 24, 2022*
- *March 28, 2022*



Direct questions to me at kw3p@arrl.net or by cell phone at 215-378-6978.

Kevin KW3P



Highlighted Nets

SEPPTN traffic nets are on Sundays & Wednesdays at 8:00 PM local time at 145.310 MHz (-600). These nets are for anyone who would like to learn how to handle traffic as well as an on the air meeting place for members and future members.

RF Hill A-R-C Ten Meter AM Net: 29.005MHz on Sunday evening immediately following the SEPPTN

RF Hill CW Squad Net: Operates on 28.370.600 CW at approx. 7pm Tuesday stopping before the NPARC net at 8pm. This is a non formal CWs - slow speed - net for beginners and ranges in speed from 5-15 wpm.

Net Control Stations

10/24, 10/27 WA3YLQ
 10/31 KS3Z
 11/03 W3WTT
 11/07 KS3Z
 11/10 W3WTT
 11/14, 11/17 KB3DEN
 11/21, 11/24 WA3YLQ
 11/28 KS3Z
 12/01 W3WTT
 12/05 KS3Z
 12/08 W3WTT
 12/12, 12/15 KB3DEN
 12/19, 12/22 WA3YLQ
 12/26 KS3Z
 12/29 W3WTT

Any questions or conflicts, please let me know. If at the last minute, the assigned net control station doesn't show-up, any net control station on frequency should run the net.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.
Jim - KB3DEN KB3DEN@aol.com

AREA NET LISTINGS

| | | | |
|--|-------|---------|--------------------|
| SEPPTN Southeastern PA Practice & Traffic Net | Su/W | 8 PM | 145.31- |
| EPAEPTN - EPA Emergency Phone/Traffic Net | Daily | 6 PM | 3.917 +/- |
| Pennsylvania Traffic Net (CW) | Daily | 7,10 PM | 3.585 |
| Third Region Net | Daily | 4 PM | 7.243 (3.917 -alt) |
| Eastern Area Net (EAN) | Daily | 2:30 PM | 7.243 |
| Bucks County ARES | W | 9 PM | 147.090+ |
| Montgomery County ARES | Th | 7 PM | 146.835- (pl 88.5) |
| EPA echo link traffic net (EAETN) Echolink AA3RG-R | Th | 8 PM | 146.640- (pl 82.5) |



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<http://twitter.com/W3AI>



President's Message

"Volunteerism (vol·un·teer·ism). Yes, there really does seem to be such a word or at least there is no shortage of topics meeting the definition when searching the word on the internet. Next year volunteerism is something we're going to especially need from our members. We may have all thought that by the end of the year, this year certainly things would be back to normal, and now we realize that will not be the case. We aren't alone, as I see activities within other organizations being canceled or postponed (mostly canceled).

If we are to resume with normal activities the members of the RF Hill ARC will need to step up and volunteer for all sorts of activities. Here is a partial list starting with what maybe the most important and earliest of the committee appointments on the 2022 calendar with following items not necessarily in order:

- Hamfest Chairman
- Field Day Chairman
- Auction Chairman
- Picnic Chairman

Each of these needs an assistant and we need someone to bring the cole-slau to the picnic.

Jim, WA3YLQ who makes up some of the mortar of this organization has said the he stands ready to assist the Hamfest Chairman. What will you do?"

73,

Dan WA3NFV

2M Repeater Repair p.1 of 3



2M Repeater Antenna atop water tank.



Damaged splice from Hardline to Superflex jumper. Note the red arrow.

2M Repeater Repair p.2



Inside connector showing center conductor pulled back - should be 1/8" into socket.



Dielectric in splice - Removed!

2M Repeater Repair p.3



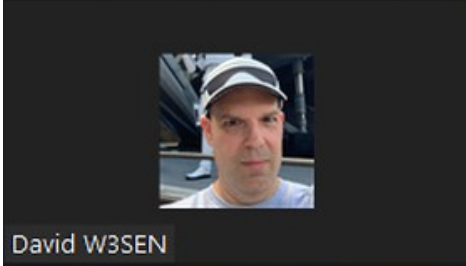
Completed repair properly wrapped in Scotch 88 tape. Blue tape at right is Cellular 1-5/8 inch hardline.

Thanks to Charles KS3Z for managing and contracting the repeater repair, devising workarounds while it was down and putting this article together!

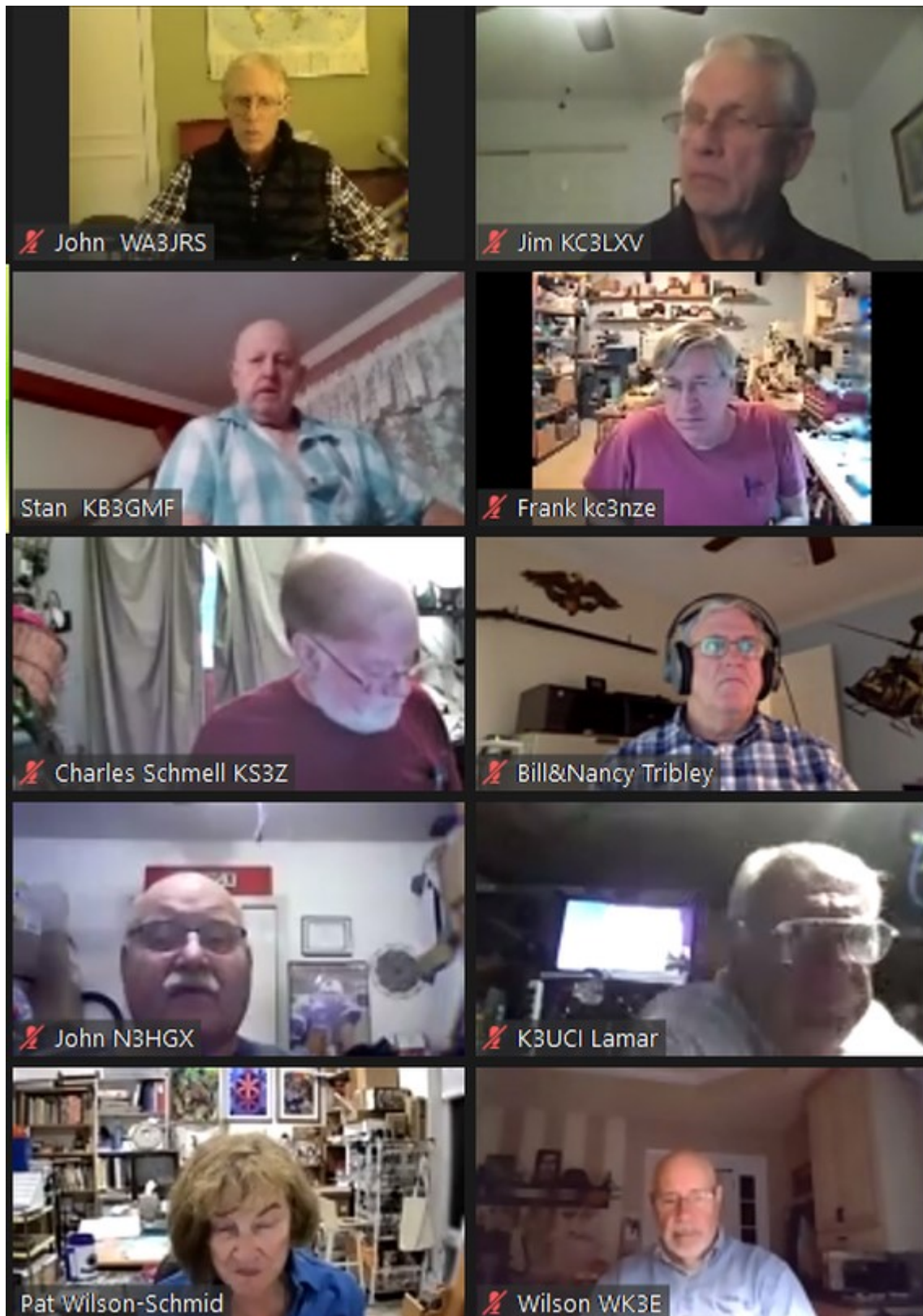
September 30 Meeting Screen Shots 1/3



September 30 Meeting Zooming 2/3

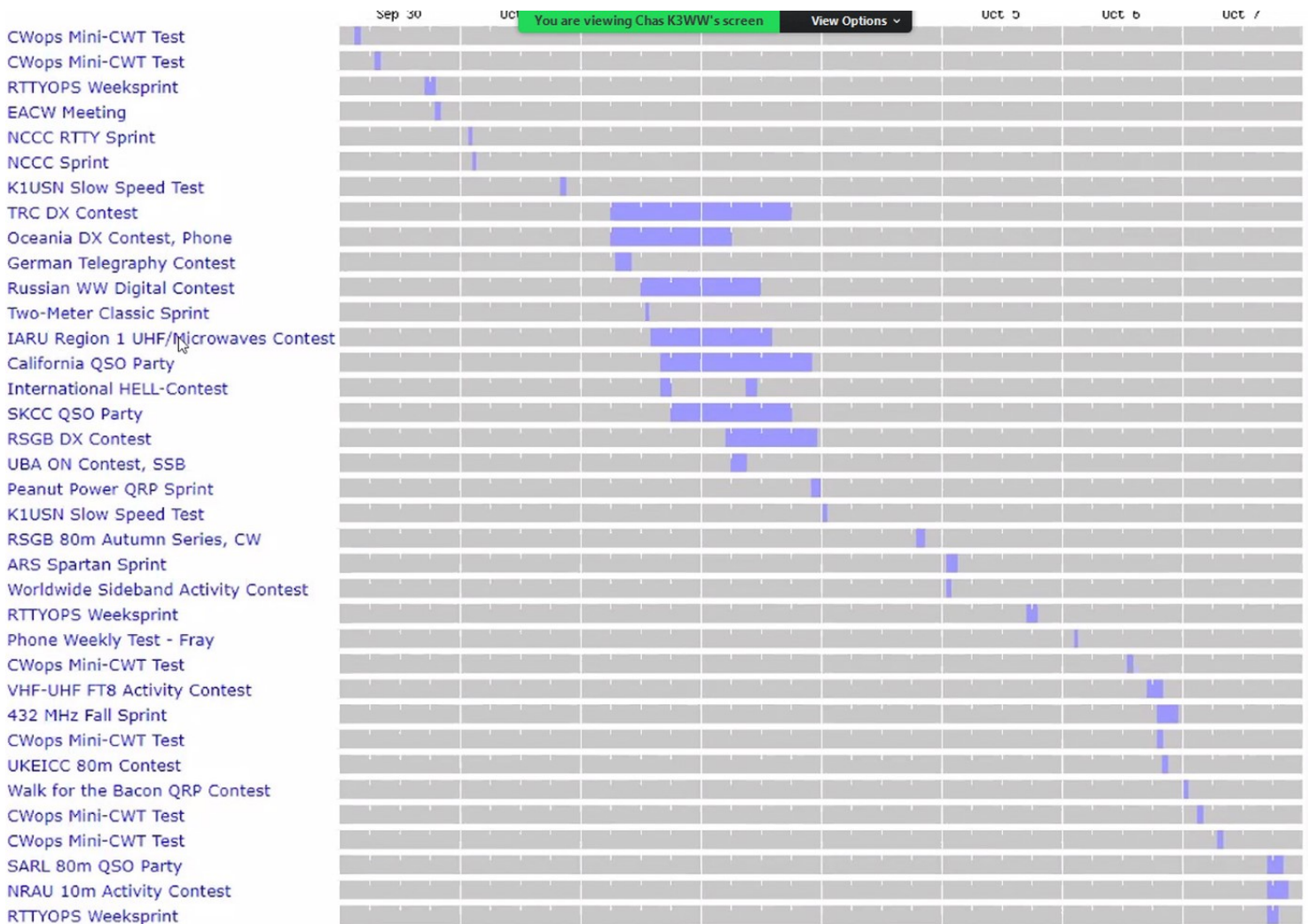


September 30 Meeting Zooming 3/3



Original Zoom screen shot courtesy Joe N3CRP
(Another argument for reinstating moment-of-snap discipline: Smile, Hold, Click... -ed.)

September Program—Contesting



Original Zoom screen shot courtesy Joe N3CRP

Backyard Field Day Success

You don't need a special place to go to fire up a Field Day Success! John Stewart and I put together a simple 3 band operation and piled up a bunch of contacts without leaving my backyard.

Knowing that you couldn't cheat (use existing antennas, or use power from the local power company) we set up a tent to keep the rain and sun off us not far from my back door (it helps to keep the refreshment runs close). It's important to pick a location under a tree that is not likely to fall on you (no ash trees – they are infected and dying) but that provides a good location for raising antennas amongst the limbs high off the ground.



We equipped the tent with two tables and some portable LED lighting for night operations, as well as a small floor fan to keep the air moving (when the sun hits the tent it can get uncomfortable hot). Now you ask, what was the power source? We did not have a solar charger for a car battery, so we made available a Honda 1000 watt portable generator to charge the battery while we drew power for tent use.

Important in this kind of operation, like the shack operation, is to bury a ground rod. I did that with the help of a sledge hammer. All necessary equipment was grounded (transmitter, generator, fan, etc). I was under the impression that the generator would cause a lot of interference but it did not. The battery must have acted like a noise filter that was in parallel with the generator.



Continued on next page——>

Backyard Field Day Success p.2

We kept an eye on battery voltage and were pleasantly surprised how slowly the battery voltage dropped while operating two HF rigs. We found that at least one of the two operators needed headphones to isolate noise from the other operator.

Our antennas were simply dipoles strung up in the tree above the tent, oriented as much as possible at right angles to one another (not always possible with three an-



tennas). We chose to operate on the 10, 20, and 40 meter bands. The real trick when cutting antennas is to have an antenna analyzer (I have a RigExpert) that makes it easy to minimize VSWR before you string the wire up in the trees. We got pretty good at getting the antennas high off the ground, by throwing a large wrench up over branches high in the surrounding trees with an attached nylon line.

Propagation was ever changing and transmitting range was always a surprise. But needless to say we were both very satisfied with the number of contacts reached in only a few hours of total operation.

It doesn't take much to have a successful HF /VHF/UHF operation right in your own back yard. So go for it next June. You will have a blast doing it!

73, Geoff KC3HEQ

PS: The photos capture Geoff and John and his daughter Robin setting up operations.

October 17 Expeditionary Force

The RF Hill Expeditionary Force at Hilltown Township Park, Blooming Glen, PA on October 17, 2021. Multiple contacts with Club Members were made on 2, 440 and 10 Meters. NE3I's Coffee Can Vertical was effective for QSOs with Lloyd, W3LMR as well as Cuban and Wyoming Stations on 15 Meter CW.

Photos courtesy Griff NE3I



RF Hill ARC Sept. 30 Meeting Minutes

Minutes provided as a pdf which is difficult to insert. So the minutes are attached to the same email as this issue. –ed.