



# MEGAHERTZ TIMES



May 2020

W3AI

PO Box 336, Perkasio, PA 18944

## RF Hill Amateur Radio Club 2020

**President:** KC3HHK,  
Jeff Lapin

**Vice Pres.:** KB3EWV,  
John Morell

**Secretary:** WA3YLQ,  
Jim Soete

**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

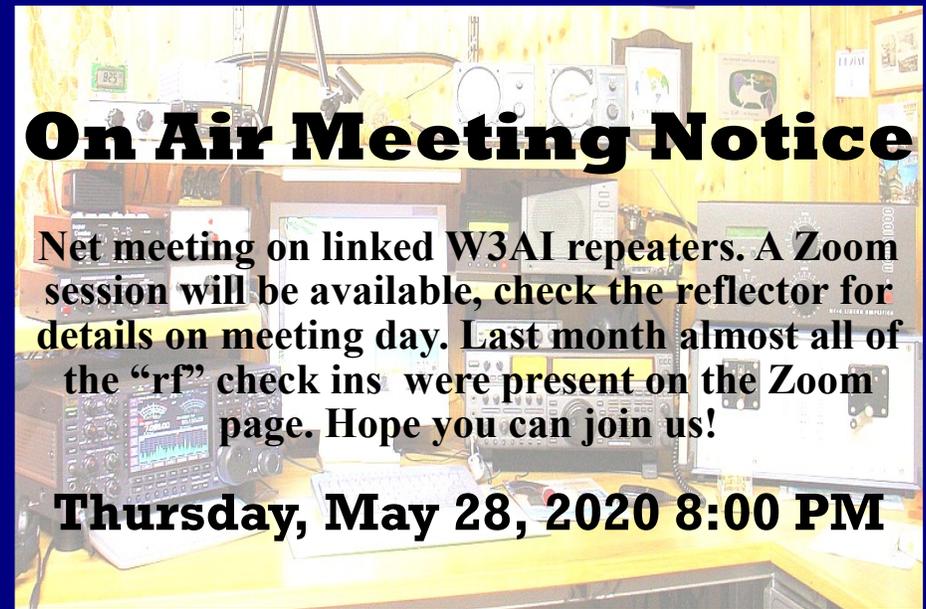
**Web page:** <http://www.rfhillarc.club>

**Email:** rfhillarc@yahoo.com

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**DEADLINE** for article submission is 10 days before the meeting!  
Send to rfhillarc@yahoo.com



## On Air Meeting Notice

**Net meeting on linked W3AI repeaters. A Zoom session will be available, check the reflector for details on meeting day. Last month almost all of the "rf" check ins were present on the Zoom page. Hope you can join us!**

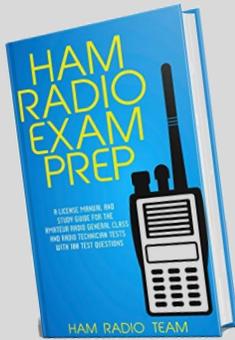
### Thursday, May 28, 2020 8:00 PM

**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, Secretary  
RF Hill ARC, VE Team Liaison**



# VE TESTING



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

100 E Church Ave.  
Telford, PA 18969



*The next exam will be*

**July 20, 2020**

**Subject to cancellation—Preregister!**

**Session starts at 6:30 pm sharp**

Bring license or CSCE originals and copies if upgrading,  
2 forms of ID (one photo) for new licenses.

To pre-register or for more information

Contact Jim Soete, WA3YLQ  
215-723-7294 eves./weekends.  
wa3ylq@arrl.net

**The fee is \$15.00**

**Pre-registration is appreciated.**



## Traffic 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

## Net Control Stations

5/24, 5/27 WA3YLQ  
5/31, 6/3 W3WTT  
6/7, 6/10 KS3Z  
6/14, 6/17 KB3DEN  
6/21, 6/24 WA3YLQ  
6/28, 7/1 W3WTT  
7/5, 7/8 KS3Z

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](mailto: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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Follow us today!

<http://facebook.com/rfhillarc>

<http://twitter.com/W3AI>



# April Club Meeting Report

The April On Air Club meeting was held Thursday, April 30, via the Rf Hill repeaters, W3AI. Twenty One members and friends checked in, and eighteen members checked into the Zoom meeting.

Thanks to Tom, W3EX for moderating the Zoom session. I was checked into both, and, also served as NCS. The Zoom group was very well behaved until the end, at which time I experienced "Zoom-RM". Will Have to work on that in my shack. Maybe two channel headphones with an off switch on one side. A lot of fun! Try Zoom!

Jim Soete, WA3YLQ, Secretary, RF Hill ARC

## Content Solicitation and Contesting

Dan, WA3NFV has suggested that MHz Times publish an enhanced listing of local nets. If you know of or participate in local nets that may be of general interest please send the information and web links to the editor, [bill@tribley.org](mailto:bill@tribley.org). Thanks in advance!

The reprinted listing of national and international contests has been discontinued. The information is available at [www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html)

# ARRL Field Day 2020

As KB3EWV previously announced, Field Day, as we know it, will not happen this year. The ARRL is suggesting that all operators should participate as single transmitter, single op stations, from their home QTH. There are a couple of ways to do this, and I thought I would explain.

A Class E station (you would be 1E) is a home station operating off of an emergency power source such as batteries or a gas generator. A very realistic situation. Ask KS3Z about his field day generator checks that have occurred several times over the last few years, before F/D. 1E stations can work any other F/D station for QSO credit.

A Class 1D station is a home station operating off of AC mains. I guess this simulates a base station working portables for the purpose of relaying traffic (?). 1D stations can not work other 1D stations for QSO credit.

The last possibility is operation as a Class 1B station. This is a portable station with antenna erected specifically for F/D, running on emergency power. This is a non-club station with one or two operators (one this year). This could be set up in your back yard, or any place that you could be socially distant and not violating state guidelines.

Me? I'm going 1B, setting up on my patio, with batteries, and running a 67 foot e/f wire straight back in to the woods. Fortunately, I live on the border of my deed restricted community. It's only for 24 hours. I'll argue with the HOA on Monday!. I'll also have plenty of Geoff's favorite beverage on hand!

This only a quick look at Field Day possibilities for this year. Be sure to check F/D operating rules at the link below if you have questions. Good luck with your Field Day Planning!

73,

Jim, WA3YLQ

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1\\_61-2020%20Rules.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1_61-2020%20Rules.pdf)

# Seven Tips for Better Repeater Operating

Repeaters do one thing: repeat signals. Thanks to repeaters, VHF and UHF signals that might only travel a few miles on their own can span tens and even hundreds of miles. These seven tips will give you insight into how and why repeaters work the way they do, and how you can be a courteous repeater user.



## 1. Recognize the Squelch Tail

When a repeater relays a signal, the repeater continues to transmit for a couple of seconds after the signal disappears. This provides a moment of silence so that another station can break into the conversation before someone else begins talking.

If you're using your transceiver's squelch to block noise when you aren't receiving signals, the repeater's transmission will keep your squelch open so you can hear other signals that might appear. This is known as a *squelch tail*. When the repeater finally stops transmitting, your radio's squelch will close with a soft "pop" or "pffft" sound.



## 2. Obey the Courtesy Beep

Many repeaters send a chirp or beep as part of their squelch tails. This is a part of a system to enforce courtesy, which is why it is called a *courtesy beep*.

Some inconsiderate repeater operators will immediately begin talking at the moment the other station stops transmitting. This doesn't leave enough time for anyone else to be heard, which can be a serious issue if a station needs to interrupt with an emergency.

Waiting to transmit until the courtesy beep sounds allows time for another station to be heard. Hams who don't wait for the courtesy beep before they begin talking are being rude, and repeaters have some built-in discipline for them — the *time-out timer*.



## 3. Beware the Time-Out Timer

Most repeaters impose a limit on how long they will relay a given signal. A 3-minute limit is common.

When you begin transmitting through a repeater, a timer starts running. When you stop transmitting, the timer resets to zero. However, if you keep talking beyond the limit, the repeater shuts down—you've "timed out" the repeater. When you finally stop talking, the repeater will resume operation.

Timing out a repeater can be embarrassing. When the repeater resumes operation, you'll often hear that talkative ham sheepishly say, "Oops! I must have timed out the machine."

The courtesy beep also plays a role. If you start transmitting before hearing the courtesy beep, the time-out timer won't reset to zero. Instead, it keeps running, counting down to the inevitable 3-minute shutdown.

# 10 Meter Beacon Report

This is a semi-regular feature on the reflector courtesy of our tireless 10M enthusiast/ambassador Dan Mitten WA3NFV. This year has seen a few more rebar chair homebrew 10M antennas erected and a lot of activity on 10M SSB, AM and even FM. For those who aren't on the reflector who may have missed it I have reprinted here. Beacons are a great way to gauge noise and propagation as well as testing your receiver setup.

## WA3NFV - Beacon Report for 5/20

DX:

YV5B

WJ5O

K5TLL

W0WF

N2UHC

KA9SZX

N3ERB (First day on!!!)

N9LXP

WB9YBT

KD5CKP

## The Locals

W1AW 164.8 Miles

K3CX 26.0 Miles

AK2F 49.7 Miles

KA3JOE 23.8 Miles

KJ3P 9.6 Miles

K3XR 41.0 Miles

N3TVV 45.0 Miles

K3FX 67.8 Miles

TS-2000, Homebrew vertical and Homebrew 3 element horizontal, EPA,  
FN20ih

73 es GE,

Dan WA3NFV