



MEGAHERTZ TIMES



June 2020

W3AI

PO Box 336, Perkasio, PA 18944

R F Hill Amateur Radio Club 2020

President: KC3HHK,
Jeff Lapin

Vice Pres.: KB3EWV,
John Morell

Secretary: WA3YLQ,
Jim Soete

Treasurer: KC3LXV,
Jim Reed

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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

The June RF Hill Club Meeting will be held on the air via the W3AI two meter repeater. WA3YLQ will be net control. Dan, WA3NFV will also simultaneously moderate a Zoom meeting. Dan will send out invitations prior to the Zoom event. I encourage members to try Zoom. You do not have to download anything. Click on the meeting link and follow the prompts. This is the mode of the future, folks!

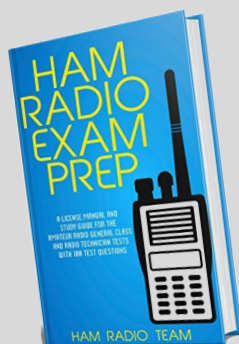
Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:00 PM

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

06/28, 7/1 W3WTT	08/23,08/26 W3WTT
07/12,07/15 KB3DEN	08/30,09/02 KS3Z
07/19,07/22 WA3YLQ	09/06,09/09 KB3DEN
07/26,07/29 W3WTT	09/13,09/16 WA3YLQ
08/02,08/05 KS3Z	09/20,09/23 W3WTT
08/09,08/12 KB3DEN	09/27,09/30 KS3Z
08/16,08/19 WA3YLQ	10/04,10/07 KB3DEN

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-
EPAETN - 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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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.



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4. Break In the Right Way

If you need to break into a conversation, take advantage of the silence in the squelch tail, but be courteous. When one station stops transmitting, and before the courtesy beep sounds, press your push-to-talk button and say your call sign. That's all you need to do.

The other operators should stop talking, acknowledge you, and allow you to continue. For example:

STATION 1: So when can you meet me at the restaurant, Charlie?

YOU: N1ND.

STATION 2: N1ND acknowledged. Go ahead.

Never use the word "break" or "breaker" unless you have an emergency.

5. Dealing with Doubling

Things sometimes go wrong, despite the best intentions. When it comes to repeaters, two stations will occasionally transmit at the same time. This is called *doubling*. A repeater responds to doubling by trying to relay both signals simultaneously!

On FM repeaters, the two signals will combine to create an incoherent screeching, growling noise that will continue until one station or the other stops talking. That's when you'll probably hear someone else say, "You guys were doubling," meaning nobody understood a word that was said!

6. Kerchunk If You Must, But...

It's understandable that you'd want to test a repeater before you attempt to make a contact, to see if the repeater is hearing you. A short transmission will cause a repeater to respond — assuming it hears you — and you'll hear its squelch tail.

Because of the sound of the squelch tail, this practice is called *kerchunking*. If you say your call sign when you conduct your test, kerchunking is legal. But if you don't identify yourself, kerchunking is illegal.

7. Stand By for the ID

Repeaters identify themselves on a regular basis, and often do so at the beginning of every hour. Many repeaters send their call signs in Morse code, while others use voice recordings.

If you're using an FM repeater that sends a Morse code or voice ID, it is courteous to stop talking until the identification is finished. Besides, it may be difficult for others to understand you if the repeater is "talking" at the same time!