



MEGAHERTZ TIMES



March 2021

W3AI

PO Box 336, Perkasi, PA 18944

R F Hill Amateur Radio Club 2021

President: WA3NFV, Dan Mitten

Vice Pres.: KB3EWV, John Morell

Secretary: NI2Q, Cary Binder

Treasurer: KC3LXV, Jim Reed

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

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address:

PO Box 336, Perkasi, 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

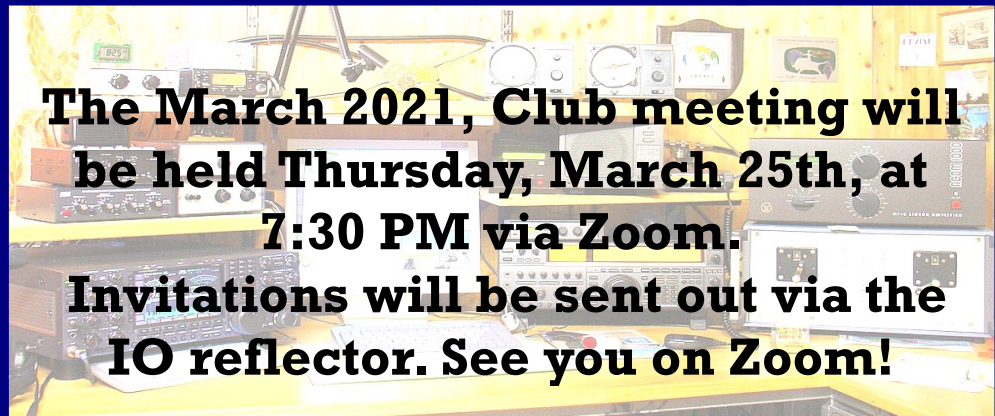
Web page: <http://www.rfhillarc.club>

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 March 2021, Club meeting will be held Thursday, March 25th, at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Invitations will be sent out via the IO reflector. See you on Zoom!

March Program

Ask the Experts

John, KB3EWV our moderator will take questions submitted on the reflector in advance and questions from the floor during the meeting. Members who want to answer will signal with raised hand and give their answer once acknowledged. This should be a fun exchange of information and discussion!

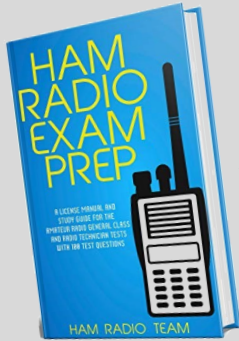
Due to the Covid-19 threat, Peter Becker, as well as most senior living facilities, have closed their campuses to visitors. The administrator at PBC will let us know when that changes.

**Stay safe and best 73,
Jim Soete, WA3YLQ, Past Secretary
RF Hill ARC, VE Team Liaison**



RF Hill Amateur Radio Club
W3AI

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



Due to various factors related to Covid-19 the board has not yet scheduled in-person VE Testing for 2021. If other options become available they will be announced at meetings or on the reflector. Online options are available: <https://blog.hamstudy.org/2020/04/fully-remote-amateur-radio-license-exam-administration/>.



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

03/21,03/24 WA3YLQ	05/30,06/02 KS3Z
03/28,03/31 W3WTT	06/06,06/09 KB3DEN
04/04,04/07 KS3Z	06/13,06/16 WA3YLQ
04/11,04/14 KB3DEN	06/20,06/23 W3WTT
04/18,04/21 WA3YLQ	06/27,06/30 KS3Z
04/25,04/28 W3WTT	07/04,07/07 WA3YLQ
05/02,05/05 KS3Z	07/11,07/14 W3WTT
05/09,05/12 KB3DEN	
05/16,05/19 WA3YLQ	
05/23,05/26 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>



From Our President, Dan WA3NFV

First, you can't make contacts without turning on your radios. Turn your radio on! Tune! (most Amateur Radio activities are not channelized) Tune some more! Call CQ. Tune! Learn or re-learn the fine art of tuning a receiver.

Second, if you don't care to tune, call one of your favorite members on the 2 Meter FM Repeater, the 440 MHz FM/Fusion Repeater or on 29.005 MHz AM.

Lastly, Consider joining us on one our socially distanced outdoor activities on Sunday afternoons. New members are welcome.

Special Membership Announcement

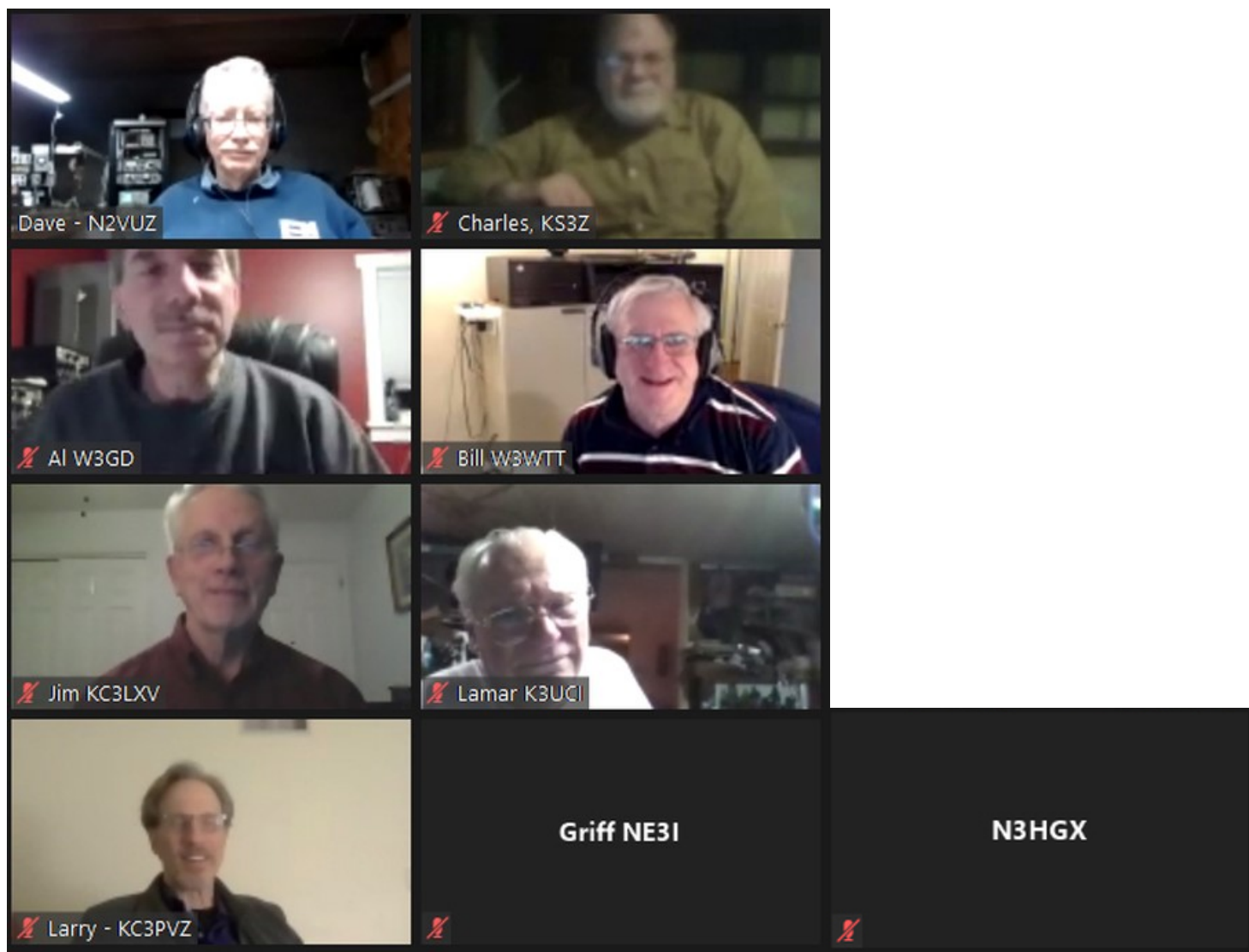
For anyone who has not paid their dues at this time they are past due. Membership cards or the email equivalent have been sent out to all members. If you have paid your dues and have not received a card, please contact Jim, KC3LXV.

Remember that membership is a requirement for inclusion to the the RF Hill ARC Reflector. Don't miss out on this fun and entertaining benefit of membership.

February Meeting Faces 1/2

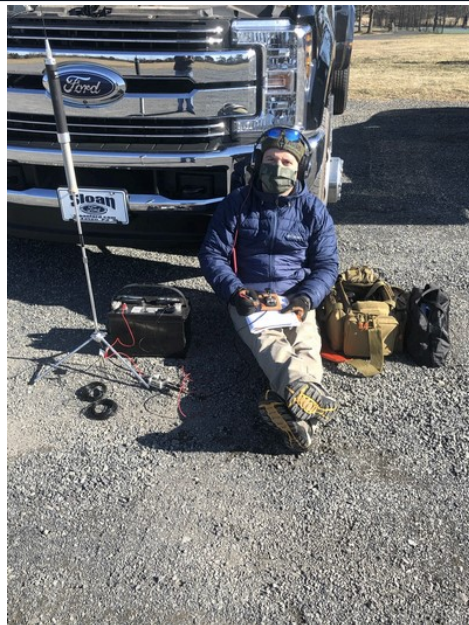


February Meeting Faces 2/2



Only two black sheep of the photo :-)) Thanks to Joe, N3CRP, our faithful Photographer Of The Zoom. We're getting too good at this, hopefully pandemic mode will cease very soon!

CW Squad at Upper Salford Park



RF Hill ARC CW and Converted 10M radios outing at Upper Salford Park, Montgomery County PA. RF Hill ARC members present were Vincent W3OTZ, Griff W3OTZ, Dan WA3NFV, and Len N3EOE. Thanks to Len for the byline and photos!

W3AI 145.31 Repeater Update

The repeater system is made up of a Motorola GR300 repeater, which is two GM300 mobiles in an enclosure.

The receiver radio is a basically unmodified radio, with some “enhancements” to boost audio quality and intelligibility. The transmit radio is modified for better transmission of audio, and runs as an exciter to the Motorola 100 watt Continuous Duty power amplifier.

Controlling the audio gating and repeater operations is a CAT-1000 repeater controller.

This handles audio, PTT of the transmitter, linking to the 440 repeater upon request or at the behest of the scheduler in the controller, for net operations.

There is also a control receiver on an unpublished frequency and tone which can “take over” the input to allow repeater shutdown in case of a stuck mike or intentional jamming.

Powering all this is a heavily modified Astron 30 amp linear power supply. This was modified 10-15 years ago by Frank, W3MEE. We now use about 26 amps on keydown, basically continuous during operation. He updated parts, heat sinking and fans to allow this.

Last year, we did experience a failure on the power supply. It was not giving much output at all. The backup battery tried valiantly to take up the slack, but could not keep up during the traffic net. When Lamar, K3UCI and I arrived, the power monitoring box was showing about 9 volts. There was also a weird smell in the shack which confirmed something was amiss.

We replaced the Astron with another we have there for Field Day, and all was well again.

Lamar took the supply back to his place for repair. He checked it out and other than the low output, nothing was found burned or overheated (no smell).

I contacted Frank for any information notes he had on the supply, which he emailed, he also gave us a supply of the regulator ICs which he upgraded. Lamar got everything going again, ended up replacing a lot, and modifying it per Frank’s notes, but had to “create” a large (25-30 amp) load to test it. After one stalled attempt at replacing it, it was successfully reinstalled earlier this year.

I noticed the backup battery had not recharged, and did recharge with a “smart” charger but the repeater didn’t pick up on battery properly. Checked the battery leads and this is what I found:



At least now I know what the smell was - although the wire and fuse were rated for 30 amp, I guess that’s not continuous. Everything has been replaced and updated and all is well again.

Thanks to Lamar, K3UCI and Frank, W3MEE for the help on this project.

Charles, KS3Z

RF Hill ARC Meeting Minutes

Date 25-Feb-2021

Welcome/Call to Order: WA3NVF @ 7:31 PM EST

Roll Call: WA3NFV, KC3QQM, NI2Q, K3WW, N2VUZ, KS3Z, WA3YLQ, WS2K, W3OTZ, W3GD, KC3PVZ, W3WTT, N3EOE, KW3P, KC3QDL, N3CRP, KC3LXV, K3UCI, WB3ABH, W3EX, NE3I, KB3EWV, N3QQT, W3RKL, N3HGX.

Officer Reports:

President, Dan-WA3NFV: Dan said a correction needs to be made Paragraph crossed out discussing Jeff and Charles for ex-officio. Charles KS3Z made a motion for minutes of the Jan. 2020 meeting to be accepted as written Motion seconded by KC3LXV. Discussion ensued and the Motion carried.

Vice President, John-KB3EWV: Bill to do a presentation on mobile power sources. Wants people to report on other hobbies and interests

Secretary, Cary-NI2Q: Two 2nd readings, David Potter KC3QQM and Larry Mogil KC3PVZ. Both were voted on and approved as members. First reading for John Slaymaker KB3ZWH who was not present.

Treasurer, Jim-KC3LXV: Financial report was presented. Motion to approve by Kevin KW3P, 2nd by Charles WS2K. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater KS3Z repeater report- Nothing new. As ex-officio he suggests Presidents message welcoming people in the MHZ time. Technical articles needed as well.

Net report: KS3Z gave it as it was sent via email from Jim KB3DEN. Jan report 112 check-ins 14 messages 9 session a little over 12 check-ins per session.

MHz Times Bill, W3WTT said the newsletter is going smooth (nominal).

SEPPATN

10 Meter AM Net Dan WA3NFV, Still happening about 12 check-ins. Multiple net controls. NE3I reports CW squad still meeting before net on 28.370.600 MHz is now up to 6 check-ins. Everyone is having a good time.

VE Testing: WA3YLQ No changes on in person VE testing. Jim will continue doing this. Hopefully in the fall. Harrisburg is doing in person sessions every month as reported by K3UCI. Jim WA3YLQ said no inquiries since last summer (2020). Some Virtual session are being done by other VEs

Webmaster's Report: N2VUZ. Added Presidents message and board members.

RF Hill ARC Meeting Minutes cont'd

Membership Status: Len, N3EOE said 55 Members in good standing. Nine members didn't renew. Includes 2 newest members in process.

Audit Committee: N3EOE reported KW3P and WS2K on committee and was thanked by Len. Audit for the year end 31-DEC-2020. Needs to be performed every year as per the bylaws. Concludes the audit showed it was accurate. President accepted the audit upon completion.
(Other)

Old Business

None

New Business

KS3Z asked if there are any plans for Zoom Hamfest or auction? Dan said we should plan an auction. Almost everyone in favor. Auction committee was the Hamfest chair previously. Put on agenda for the board meeting.

Adjournment : Len N3EOE motion to adjourn and 2nd N3CRP . So moved at 8:24pm EST

Program: Mobile power sources by Bill W3WTT. David N2VUZ did a presentation on the use of the reflector.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cary R Binder NI2Q, Secretary
RF Hill ARC