



MEGAHERTZ TIMES



May 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

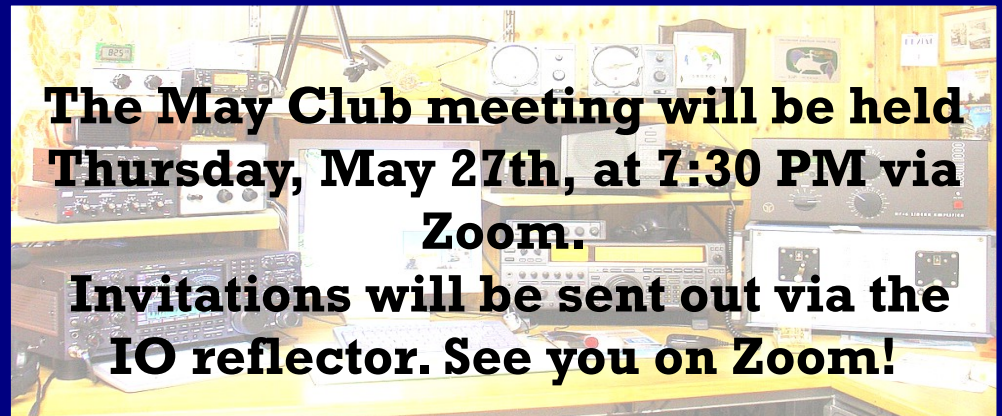
Web page: <http://www.rfhillarc.club>

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 May Club meeting will be held
Thursday, May 27th, at 7:30 PM via
Zoom.
Invitations will be sent out via the
IO reflector. See you on Zoom!**

May Program Field Day!

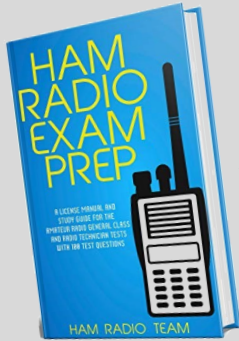
Following the business meeting there will be a discussion about Field Day rules and operation. - John KB3EWV

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

05/23,05/26 W3WTT	07/25 KS3Z
05/30 KS3Z	07/28 W3WTT
06/02 W3WTT	08/01, 08/04 KB3DEN
06/06,06/09 KB3DEN	08/08,08/11 WA3YLQ
06/13,06/16 WA3YLQ	08/15 KS3Z
06/20 KS3Z	08/18 W3WTT
06/23 W3WTT	08/22 KS3Z
06/27 KS3Z	08/25 W3WTT
06/30 W3WTT	08/29,09/01 KB3DEN
07/04,07/07 WA3YLQ	09/05,09/08 WA3YLQ
07/11, 07/14 KB3DEN	
07/18 KS3Z	
07/21 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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April Meeting Faces



Thanks to Joe/ N3CRP for the screen shots. Couldn't include them all!
These are the best of ten as far as I can see!

A Simple and Effective Ground-Mounted Trap Vertical Antenna

By Len Schiavino N3EOE



Many years ago when I was searching for an antenna to add to the antenna farm, my criteria was ease of installation and ease of maintenance with multi-band capabilities. So that left out a tower mounted yagi. A vertical antenna was my solution. I felt the need to share this again for the benefit of those that didn't see the reflector post four years ago and are looking for same. Here is a brief summary and pictures of my installation.

The Antenna: The antenna I chose was a Hustler 4BTV (4 band 40 through 10 meters). There are two additional versions covering 5 and 6 bands. It has been on the market for many years and is solidly built and a proven performer. There are other multi-band verticals for sale which I am sure are just as good. At today's price of about \$170, it is considerably cheaper than most. This, plus a pipe, a feedline, and some radials are all you need to get on the air. It can be a small footprint in your yard. I chose to spend a little more money and add a few enhancements as discussed below.

The Feedline: RG-213/U direct burial coax cable. Partially in- ground. Did not use conduit for running the underground portion.

The Radial System: Purchased a radial plate and hardware for connecting the radials. Has holes for 60 radials (more if you double up). The radial wire is 14AWG stranded with black PVC relaxed insulation. I decided on 60 radials of varying lengths mostly 20 feet (I understand that the length is not critical if ground mounted). The more radials the better to a point where the performance will not be enhanced by much (60 seems to be that point is my understanding). The antenna will work even if you do just a few. They were laid on the ground and fastened with heavy duty lawn staples (no digging). In a short time the wires will bury themselves.

Other Accessories: A tilt fixture was installed to accommodate easy lowering and raising if tuning or maintenance is needed. A feedline current choke was added to reduce unwanted feedline radiation. River stone atop landscape fabric (previously installed) and hardscape blocks was used to control the grass around the antenna.

Performance: I am neither a contester nor awards chaser. So the extra gain and directivity of a beam antenna was not necessary. Vertical antennas have a low angle of radiation which makes it a decent DX antenna. DXCC and WAS were earned in a relatively short amount of time using it as my primary antenna. As a DX antenna, it has always outperformed my off-center-fed dipole. It also works well with shorter range contacts.

Concluding Comments: This write-up was not meant to be a technical paper on this or other vertical antennas. There is plenty of information and opinions out there that address this topic. Rather it is an overview of my installation and personal experience. In my opinion, you can't beat this multi-band antenna for ease of installation, maintenance and cost. If you would like additional information on the installation, please contact me on the club's Reflector, or directly at lenschlavino@gmail.com.

Sunday May 2 at the Park



On site participants included Cary NI2Q, Lawrence, KC3RME, Griff, NE3I, Dan WA3NFV, Len N3EOE. Off site participants included Paul, W3RKL, John WA3JRS, Chas, K3WW, Vincent W3OTZ (apologies if I missed anyone when I was bipedal at the park with my GE HT). Bands operated: 40M and 10M. Modes operated: AM, CW. 73, Len N3EOE

RF Hill ARC Meeting Minutes

Date 29-Apr-2021

Welcome/Call to Order: KB3EWV @ 7:34 PM EDT

Roll Call: John-KB3EWV, Cary-NI2Q, David-N2VUZ, Steve-K3ALV, Geoff-KC3HEQ, Steve-KB9CNN, Matt (call?), Al-W3GD, Steve-NQ3T, Lemar-K3UCI, Joe-WS2K, Charles-KS3Z, Vince-W3OTZ, Joe-N3CRP, JimI-WA3YLQ, Jim-KC3LXV, Len-N3EOE, Tom-W3EX, Kevin-KW3P, Paul-W3RKL, John- WB3ABH, Griff-NE3I, John-WA3JRS, David-W3SEN

Officer Reports:

President, Dan-WA3NFV: No in attendance.

Vice President, John-KB3EWV: General information about Zoomfest

Secretary, Cary-NI2Q: Vote to accept minutes by Charles KS3Z and 2nd by Kevin KW3P. Second reading for Lawrence KC3RME who was voted in unanimously.

Treasurer, Jim-KC3LXV: Financial report was presented. Income from W3AEH SK estate sale commissions. No expenses. Motion to approve by Joe-WS2K and 2nd by WB3ABH. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Programs: John KB3EWV, Tonight is "Zoomfest" and May will cover Field Day stuff.

Repeater Report: Charles KS3Z said Dan WA3NFV reported 2-meter random repeater key-ups, but nothing we can really do about it and just ignore it.

Net report: None

VE Team: Kevin-KW3P said he contacted the ARRL and he is the VE liaison to the ARRL as per a verbal acknowledgement. Perhaps an email will follow. Jim-WA3YLQ transitioned out of the job after many years of service. Email to existing VEs to continue. Looking for other possible testing sites as the current one remains closed.

MHz Times No report but MHz Times was published and submitted to the club for the April 2021 meeting.

Webmaster's Report: Dave-N2VUZ. No report

Membership Status: Len-N3EOE - None

Health and Welfare: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment:

KS3Z moved, Jim WA3YLQ 2nd. John adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM EDT.

Program: John KB3EWV – Zoomfest

Respectfully Submitted:

Cary R Binder, NI2Q, Secretary RF Hill ARC.