



# MEGAHERTZ TIMES



February 2022

W3AI

PO Box 336, Perkasio, PA 18944

## RF Hill Amateur Radio Club 2022

President: John Morell KB3EWW

Vice Pres.: Cary Binder NI2Q

Secretary: John Stewart WA3JRS

Treasurer: Charles Schmell KS3Z

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 February Club meeting will be held Thursday the 24th at 7:30 PM via Zoom.**

**2022 Officer Election!  
Invitations will be sent out via the IO reflector. See you on Zoom!**

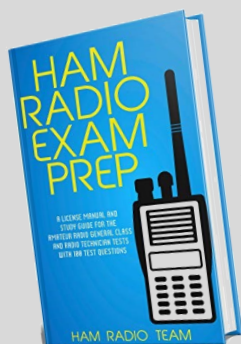
**Mystery program: No details received at the time this issue was being put together. So there's some extra motivation to show up on Zoom and see what's cooking!**

**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

- *March 28, 2022*
- *May 16*
- *July 18*
- *September 19*
- *November 21*

*Direct questions to Kevin KW3P at [kw3p@arrl.net](mailto:kw3p@arrl.net) or by cell phone at 215-378-6978.*



## 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

02/20 KS3Z	04/27 W3WTT
02/23 W3WTT	05/01, 05/04 KB3DEN
02/27 KS3Z	05/08, 05/11 WA3YLQ
03/02 W3WTT	05/15 KS3Z
03/06, 03/09 KB3DEN	05/18 W3WTT
03/13, 03/16 WA3YLQ	05/22 KS3Z
03/20 KS3Z	05/25 W3WTT
03/23 W3WTT	05/29, 06/01 KB3DEN
03/27 KS3Z	06/05, 06/08 WA3YLQ
03/30 W3WTT	06/12 KS3Z
04/03, 04/06 KB3DEN	06/15 W3WTT
04/10, 04/13 WA3YLQ	06/19 KS3Z
04/17 KS3Z	06/22 W3WTT
04/20 W3WTT	06/26, 06/29 KB3DEN
04/24 KS3Z	07/03, 07/06 WA3YLQ

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	5 PM	3.918 +/-
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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# 10 Meter AM Net February 13th 2022

Last night's 10m AM net was pretty fun. There weren't a lot of check-ins so we had a little more time for running on-air tests and download of recent events. Some highlights:

We heard a new, home brewed antenna build from John N3HGX - an 8' 3" ground mounted, galvanized steel pipe with a clean method of isolating the radiator from the ground. SWR was 1.5 right out of the gate. The signal was down about 2 S units at my QTH from his usual rebar chair antenna in the tree, and worked very well without a tuner. Dan pointed out that it may be a great DX antenna, depending on conditions. John plans to build out the radial field to improve it further. Side benefit of this antenna is that he will have his Festivus pole all set for next season. His XYL is thrilled.

Many beacons have been spotted with the recent 10m band openings, and Dan heard one from the west coast at 100 mW. His own beacon has been reported all over Europe, S. America, the west coast and Hawaii.

The 10m Sunday at the Park gang has been very active with their QRP setups. I think 3 converted RCA Copilots (Lloyd, Len and Dan) and a mobile Midland rig (Paul W3RKL) made numerous contacts while dodging DX activity on nearby frequencies. I believe Griff NE3I was also in there working CW contacts.

During the net, Len N3EOE brought his Copilot online and ran some comparisons between antennas. I was surprised how little difference in received signal there was between his ~30 watts from the IC-745 (that whole series of Icom radios is notable for having big audio) and the <3 watts from the converted CB. I run my 22 watts on a 10m vertical dipole in a tree, and it was interesting that Len and I had better contact when he was on his inverted-V OCFD than on his ground mounted vertical (the venerable "stick in the mud").

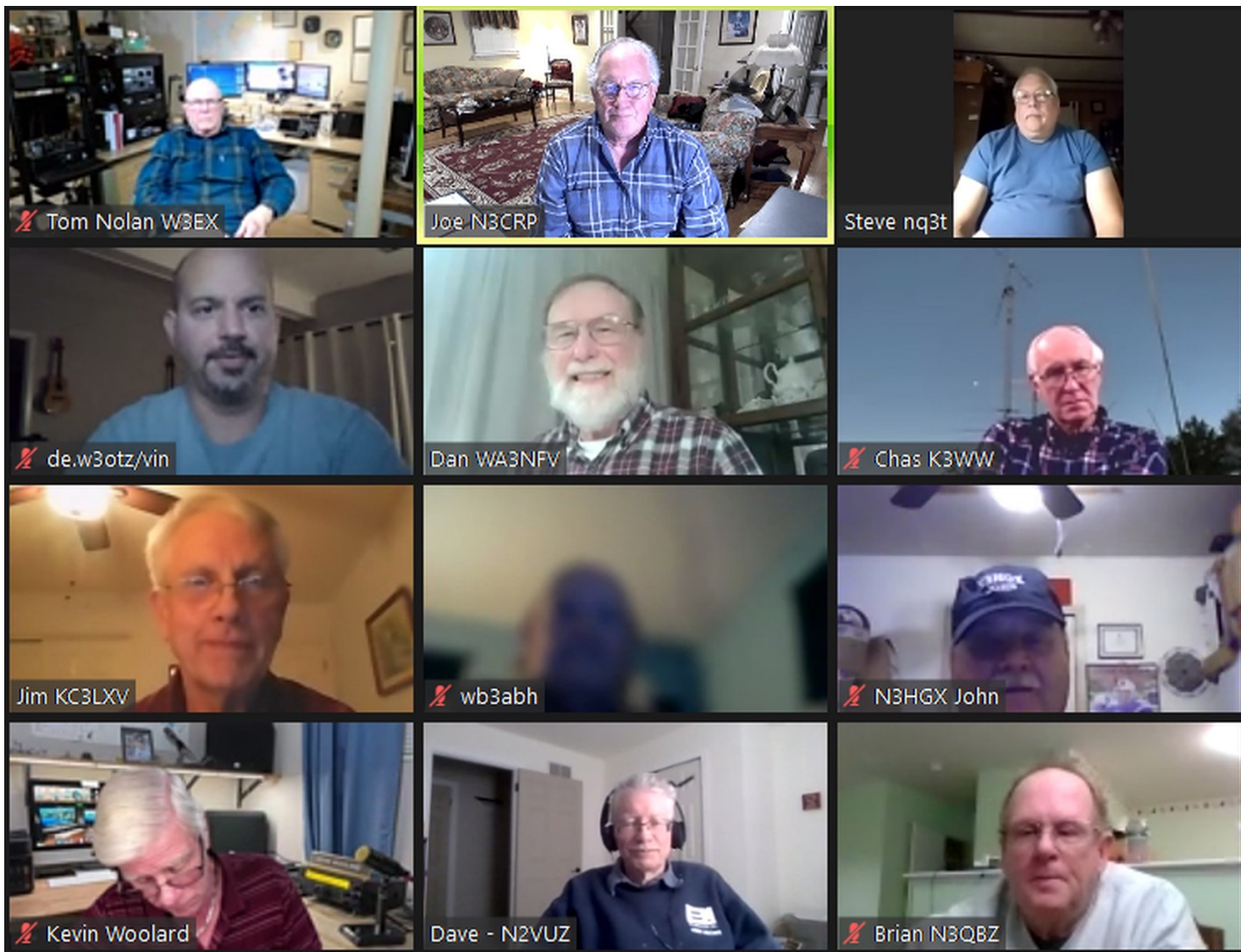
Steve NQ3T had his Heathkit SB-220 running for the net (Steve is another rebar chair antenna guy). His usual 5 over 9 went to +20 with the amp. It sounded great to my ears (no noticeable difference in audio quality between barefoot and amp, just louder). I think he drove it with about 10 watts.

73

John, WA3JRS

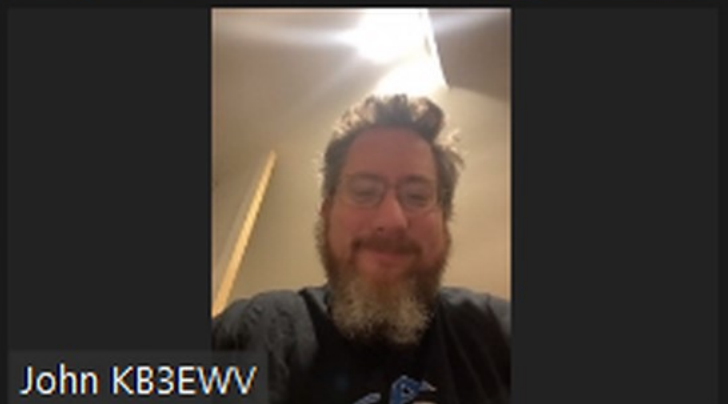
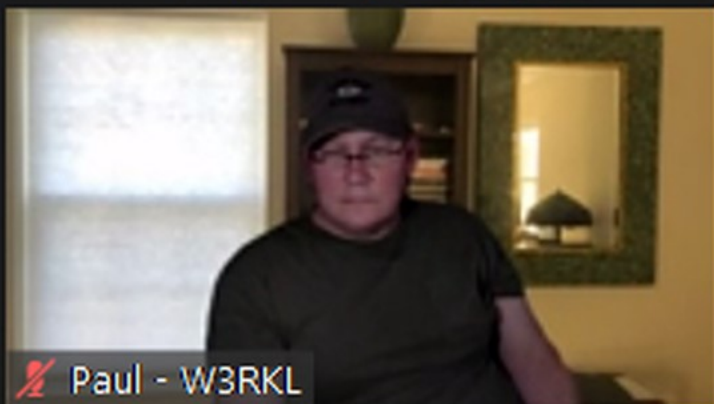
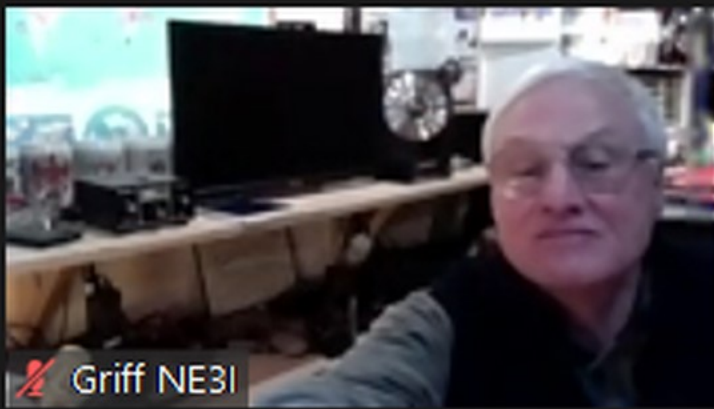


# January Meeting Zooming 1/2



Original Zoom screen shot on this and the next page courtesy Joe N3CRP

# Meeting Screen Shots 2/2



# RF Hill ARC Jan. 27 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was initiated by Tom Nolan W3EX at 7:00 PM and called to order by President, Dan Mitten, WA3NFV at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

John Stewart WA3JRS took the minutes for outgoing Secretary, Geoff Nye KC3HEQ, who was unable to be present.

## **Minutes from previous meeting**

Discussion about correcting minutes from previous meeting, as published in MHz Times was initiated. These were minor oversights or typos (spelling, obvious call sign errors, etc.) Bill Tribley W3WTT said he would continue to make edits, as necessary, to provide good copy to the Times, but that more substantive changes or objections to the published content would need to go to the Secretary and be brought up at next meetings and voted on, by established Club procedure. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected in this case was made by Charles Schmell KS3Z and 2nd by Kevin Woolard KW3P. Majority approved the motion by membership vote.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Jim Reed KC3LXV gave the treasurer's report.

Motion to approve by Jack Sullivan W2INF, 2nd by Steve Lunny NQ3T. Majority approved the motion by membership vote.

## **2022 Budget**

Dan WA3NFV did a screen share of the line item-level budget for members in attendance to review. Motion to approve the Budget made by Kevin KW3P, 2nd by John Houk WB3ABH. Majority approved the motion by membership vote.

## **Programs**

John Morrell KB3EWW said there was no plan for a program for tonight's meeting due to the expected time needed to address the election of new Club officers.

## **Audit Committee**

Jim KC3LXV sent the audit paperwork to Len Schiavino N3EOE. Len should be able to proceed with the audit. Jim expects audit findings ready to be presented at the next Board meeting and at the next General meeting in February, 2022.

## **Special Item of Discussion**

Jim Soete WA3YLQ proposed a separate budget line item dedicated to maintenance and operation of the W3AI repeaters, given the recent events with the repeaters and antenna location. (Text of the motion after the minutes—ed) Discussion of the proposal by the membership resulted in a few changes, which Dan WA3NFV made as the discussion continued. Points of interest: This fund would be maintained as a separate line item in the budget, to be funded by contributions from members and other sources – this was originally suggested to be held in a separate bank account but it was decided to keep in the same account for ease of administration; Griff NE3I cautioned that the By-Laws may need to be revised at some point in the future to separate this general repeater fund from the existing line item for normal repeater costs; Jim WA3YLQ expanded that he envisioned this as being a sort of development fund, rather than general maintenance.

## **New Membership Applications**

Gary Fox W2GLF of Hatfield, PA. First reading. Gary is Amateur Extra, recently moved to the area and introduced himself with a short bio and some background.

Brian Dietrick N3QBZ of Perkasio, PA. Second reading. Brian is currently a Technician, studying for his General. Brian was approved for RF Hill Club membership by majority vote. Jim KC3LXV will add Brian to the membership list. Welcome Brian!

— Continued on the next page ->



# Jan. 27 Meeting Minutes Continued

## Club Elections

Jim KC3LXV presented the candidates and open positions on behalf of Nominating Committee Chair, Len N3EOE, who could not be present:

President: John Morrell KB3EWV nominated himself prior to the elections

Vice President (position open at the beginning of the meeting): Cary Binder NI2Q nominated himself

Treasurer (position open at the beginning of the meeting): Charles Schmell KS3Z nominated himself

Secretary: John Stewart WA3JRS offered to be a nominee prior to the elections

Because no other nominees were fielded, and there were no objections to the above slate, those people were declared as the new Board members.

## Committee Reports

**Net Reports** - There were no net reports for December.

**VE committee** – Kevin Woolard KW3P reported that at the last VE session, 3 people passed the Technician exam and 1 person passed the General exam. Kevin expects their licenses to be issued soon, although Bill W3WTT said the results may not be available in time for publishing in the next issue of MHz Times.

**MHz Times** – Bill W3WTT reiterated that he would continue to correct obvious typos but that it is not the Editor's job to correct substantive errors or omissions. Bill requested that the Secretary get meeting minutes to the editor in a timely fashion and called for more members to contribute relevant content for the Times.

**RF Hill Web site** – David Carroll N2VUZ reported no issues with the site. He also reported there were 2 contacts through the site about how to convert a CB radio for amateur use and a question about hamfest.

**Reflector** – Charles KS3Z reported there was nothing new to report regarding the reflector.

**Hamfest** – John KB3EWV said there is nothing new to report about hamfest at this time but he would be reaching out to people in the next couple weeks.

## New Business

No new business was brought to the meeting.

## Meeting Adjournment

Dan WA3NFV asked for motion to close the business portion of the meeting. Kevin KW3P motioned, 2nd by Bill W3WTT. There were no further questions, objections or discussion so the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by John Stewart, WA3JRS

## Special Motion

I (WA3YLQ) move that the RF Hill ARC establish a "Repeater Capital Fund", to be funded by contributions from members and other sources, managed by the Club Treasurer, to be used at the discretion of the Board for, but not limited to maintenance, replacement, and operation of W3AI Repeater(s) in service to the amateur community, and subject to annual audit by the Club Audit Committee.

# January SEPPATN Report

111 checkins with 8 Messages passed in 9 Sessions. That's a little over 12 check-in's per session!

73,

Jim – KB3DEN