

# McKean County Amateur Radio Club

[www.w3vv.com](http://www.w3vv.com)



## SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWS LETTER

**This newsletter will be a little different than the previous newsletters.**



### **John King WA1ABI Silent Key**

Most of you probably never met John, but I know you have heard me speak about him many, many times. John joined the Navy in 1969. He went to Avionics Electronics School in Millington Tenn. At the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) then he attended Tradevman School also at the NATTC. I also attended the same training a few months later. We were both assigned to Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island. John was at the Auxiliary Landing Field in Charlestown RI. I was assigned to the flight simulator for the SH-3 helicopter at Quonset Point NAS. I first Met John in early 1971. He held an Advanced Class

Amateur Radio License, call sign of WA3IMI. We became good friends. He administered my Novice class exam. For the past 47 years we have been best friends. Throughout our time in the Navy and into civilian life. John stayed in Rhode Island after his Honorable Discharge and eventually worked for Raytheon. He spent a few vacations here with me and I went to RI for a few vacations also. On one of his visits here he brought along his new Heathkit HW-7. A QRP, about 2 watts, CW transceiver. We went on an overnight camping trip to the top of a hill I had camped at several times in my younger years. We put up an antenna and called CQ and answered others calling CQ and made a grand total of ZERO QSO's. I mentioned this to John when I saw him last week as he lay in the hospital. He was very weak and could hardly speak but he did laugh a little and said it was a long time after that before he tried any QRP work after that failed attempt. We stayed in touch with each other over the years. I named my son John after John King. About 26 years ago, we met and he told about the Field Day group he had in Rhode Island. Stating they were very competitive. I asked if I could come out and participate with him and the group. He said yes. This started an annual trip to his house in Portsmouth. My trips there were as much to do with Field Day as they were with meeting my old friend. I enjoyed our talks about all things radio as much as setting in a tent listening to CW. Amateur Radio, The U.S. Navy and Emergency Management were some of the things we had in common. John was the Director of the Town of Portsmouth, RI. EMA and I was Director for McKean County EMA.

John got sick about a month ago. He was in the hospital when I returned from my vacation in Belgium. I got home Wednesday August 22 at 530pm and headed to the hospital in Fall River, Ma at 8am next morning. I arrived there about 6pm Thursday the 23rd. He was diagnosed with cancer and the following Wednesday August 29 he passed. I did get to see him Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I did tell him goodbye. We talked, laughed, and cried a little.

John had 3 children and son and twin daughters. We spent a lot of time over those 4 days together reminiscing, I told them many a story about John and some of the things we did in the past.

He was my mentor, but mostly my best friend. I, and many others, will miss him. Please keep his children in your prayers.

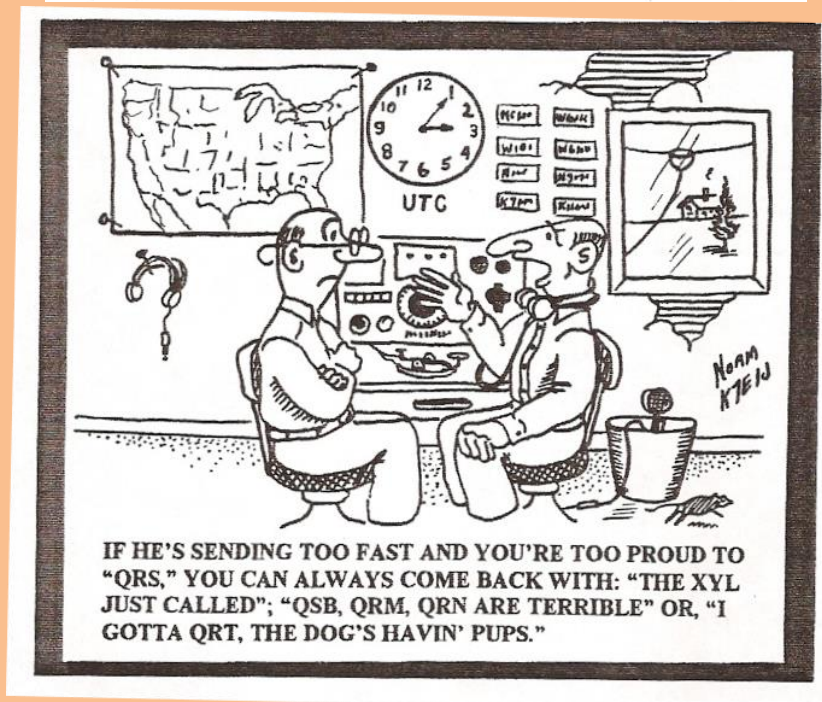


John at field day.



John and I made a trip to W1AW in Newington, CT many years ago. This is John at one of the operating positions.

On another note, I spent 6 weeks in Europe. In France, Normandy at the D-Day sites, I Germany, at Dachau and in eastern France. I did activate a few Parks from these places and more on that next month.



**Special announcement:** The McKean County Radio Club will be activating the Allegany State Park for the Parks On The Air POTA September 8<sup>th</sup> at 0900 – 1600. Set up at 0815. See the facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/W3VV.CLUB/> or [www.w3vv.com](http://www.w3vv.com) for more information. We will have at least two stations on the air so come on out and gets someon the air time on HF. Location is the Stone Tower, Please bring along something to eat, drink and be prepared for a GOOD time sharing Amateur Radio with members and the general public.

## Up Coming Events

**Hamfest:** If you attend a Hamfest, send me a report and some pictures cauliflower I am sure are readers would be interested.

### Hamfest/Convention

**09/09/2018** | [Butler County ARA Swapfest](#)

**Location:** Butler, PA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Butler County Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://w3udx.org>

### Hamfest/Convention

**09/15/2018** | [Lancaster Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Lancaster, NY

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Lancaster Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://w2so.org>

### Hamfest/Convention

**09/22/2018** | [Rome Radio Club Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Rome, NY

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Rome Radio Club

**Website:** <http://romeradioclub.com>

### Hamfest/Convention

**09/29/2018** | [43rd Annual Elmira International HamFest](#)

**Location:** Horseheads, NY

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier & Chemung County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

**Website:** <http://www.ARAST.info>

## **Contests:**

**We have some big contests coming up. Great time to work on DXCC, WAS and other awards.**

<http://www.contesting.com/>

**Another note:** If you have QSL cards to be checked for DXCC, (including 160 meters) WAS or VUCC I can do this. Contact me at [bmannings@zitomedia.net](mailto:bmannings@zitomedia.net)

**Club Meeting** September 18, 2018 at the DES building 17175 Rt., Smethport, Pa at 1900.

Don't forget to look for the secret word.

**As always if you have something you want me to include in the newsletter please let me know. Send it to [bmannings@zitomedia.net](mailto:bmannings@zitomedia.net)**

73 Bruce NJ3K