

McKean County Amateur Radio Club



JUNE 2018 NEWS LETTER

Summer is finally here. At least it was hot enough this week, I was doing a bunch of work out outside and needed to hydrate a lot. Summer also means Hamfest time. Speaking of that. The Dayton Hamvention 2018 has come and gone. My trip out and back was great, met a lot of great people on 146.52 simplex. This was the second year at the Greene County Fair Grounds. Friday morning traffic was not too bad, nothing like last year. Ask Don N3ELI how much fun that was. Again this year I took the shuttle bus and was only delayed a few minutes. The gates were set to open at 0900 and the crowd was very deep by 0800. Gates opened at 0845 and it still took me several minutes to get inside. First stop was the POTA forum. Tom, W8TAM and Julie, K8VOX did a great job of explain what Parks On the Air is about. They went on to explain the Michigan Parks On the air program and there trips around their home state activating parks. Then I was off to spend money, I bought a few items. A new Begail Key for the Mobile QRP CW (more on this latter). A 40 foot fiberglass push up mast was next, some UG-175's I needed, 500 feet of Dacron rope from the Wireman, Some LED lamps, and few other smaller things. The crowd Friday was very large, of course it had to rain and this brought a lot of the crowd indoors so it was sometimes difficult to see what you wanted to see. But the sun did come out in the afternoon and the crowd thinned out. Friday night a bunch of the NPOTA/OTA/WWFF crowd got together in one of the downtown restaurants, we had a great time, there must have been 50 of us there. Another high lite was seeing the Memphis Bell WWII B-17 flying overhead. She will be permanently on display at the Wright Patterson Museum. Also they are selling tickets to fly on board. Google if interested. One of the most inspirational forums has always been the youth forum with Carole Perry WB2MPG, Some of the things the young folks are doing is absolutely amazing. There was one young girl who wanted a new HF radio and her father said if she could get DXCC within a year with the old radio he would buy her a new one. So many nights when she should have been sleeping she would be on the air. Sure enough she got her new radio. Another interesting thing is all the goodies the kids walk away with.

Several of the dealers and commercial companies give them radios, books antennas, gift cards, almost more than they can carry. If you ever get to Dayton this is one forum you want to visit. Below are a few pictures of this year's Dayton Hamvention.

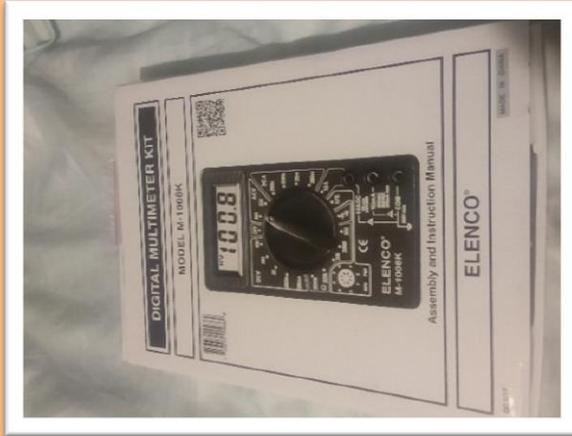


Club project. At our last meeting we decided to do a club build. We decided on a multi meter, thanks to Dave, N3BXX. Well I went ahead and ordered 2, one for me and one for Wes, KD3IJ, so we can put them together and see what we think. They arrived about a week ago and I will start building mine soon. As a reminder everyone who wants to build needs to order one and we will pick a Saturday in September to do a group build. There will be

plenty of folks on hand to assist you, this is the link to the site.

<https://www.elenco.com/product/compact-digital-multimeter-kit/> There is a shipping cost, the 2 I purchased came to \$60.15 so about \$30.00 each. Not too bad.

Here is a couple of pictures. Looks like a good kit. All the resistors are on a cardboard strip. Comes with test leads, manual and a battery! I'll let you know how the build goes.



The McKean County Department of Emergency Services Held a General class and **EVERYONE PASSED**. We ended up with 5 new generals and a new tech and a new Amateur Extra. Congratulations to all. Sorry I misplaced the list of who tested. I hope to find for the next newsletter.

UPDATE: Who says you need a kilowatt and a tower with a beam to work DX. I have a mobile QRP (5 watts) CW station in my car. So I started a quest, see if I can get DXCC, CW, QRP, mobile. I installed the radio back in June 2017. I now have **93** countries. So I still have a ways to go. This last weekend was the CQWPX CW contest. I picked up a few more but still need 7 to reach my goal. So if you setting at home saying I need a kilowatt and a 3 element beam at 50 feet to work DX, If I can work 93 with 5 watts and a mobile antenna, which is poor antenna. Then you can work DX from home and 100 watts and some sort of a wire antenna. So let me hear about your latest DX accomplishments and I post them here in the newsletter.

FIELD DAY The largest Amateur Radio operation of the year happens June 23, 1400 local time & 24, 1400 local time. I will be in Rhode Island again this year with the Newport County Radio Club. It's the fish time to start making plans for our club. Location, equipment, radios, power supplies, generator, antennas, logging software, etc. So for the June meeting we need to get plans in place, or the next thing you know Field Day will be upon us. So be ready to chip in with your ideas and thoughts at the next meeting .



Don't do something stupid like this!!

Secret word announcement. Starting in this issue of the newsletter I will be inserting a secret word. How will you know? Easy, it will be a word, noun, verb, etc. that is out of place

not your typical spelling error but really out of place. So what does this secret word mean? Everyone that can locate all the secret words will be placed into a drawing for a prize given by me. Record the words from each issue, and at the December Club meeting every ones name who found all the words will be placed in a hat and someone will draw the winner. Prize???? But you will like it. Please don't tell others what the word is as this will lower your chances of winning.

Up Coming Events

Hamfest: Summer is here, so we are starting to see some hamfests. If you attend a Hamfest, send me a report and some pictures I am sure are readers would be interested.

Hamfest/Convention

06/02 and 3 /2018 | [Western Pennsylvania Section Convention \(Breezeshooters Hamfest\)](#)

Location: Prospect, PA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Breezeshooters Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://breezeshooters.org>

Hamfest/Convention

06/02/2018 | [Rochester Hamfest](#)

Location: Hilton, NY

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Rochester Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://rochesterham.org/hamfest.htm>

Hamfest/Convention

07/01/2018 | [Somerset County PA Hamfest](#)

Location: Somerset, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Somerset County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://k3smt.org>

Hamfest/Convention

06/09/2018 | [Cortland Hamfest](#)

Location: Cortland, NY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Skyline Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.skylineradioclub.org>

Hamfest/Convention

06/09/2018 | [PROS Hamfest](#)

Location: Chaffee, NY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Pioneer Radio Operators Society
Website: <http://www.facebook.com/pioneerradiooperatorsociety.pros>

Hamfest/Convention

06/30/2018 | [Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club Firecracker Hamfest](#)

Location: Harrisburg, PA
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club
Website: <http://www.w3uu.org>

Contests:

<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 bmanning@zitomedia.net

The McKean County Radio Club Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday at 1900 at the McKean County Department of Emergency Services building. 17175 Rt. 6, Smethport, Pa 16749.

As always if you have something you want me to include in the newsletter please let me know. Send it to bmanning@zitomedia.net
73 Bruce NJ3K