

McKean County Amateur Radio Club



MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

⚡NEWS FLASH⚡

**EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT
IT!!**

**BREAKING NEWS, GET IT HERE
FIRST**

BULLETIN!!!!

**CLUB MEETINGS TO START IN
MAY!**

Yes, you heard that correctly, on May 18, 2021 at 1900, (7pm) we will be allowed to use the conference room in the DES building for our meeting.

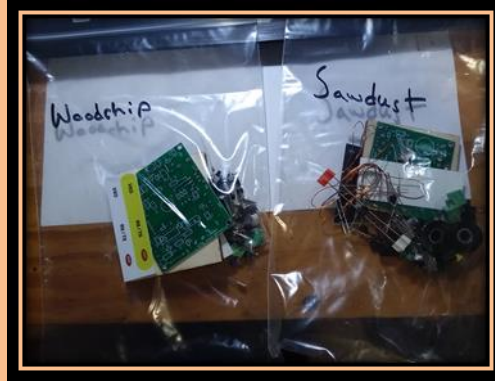
We will need to wear a mask, and try to keep some distance between us. I would hope everyone has had their vaccinations by now. I know we have over 42% of those over 18 years old are fully vaccinated that is over 14,000 people. Clinics are still going on so if you want a shot please do so.

I joined the ARRL in 1976, been paying dues for all these many years. I do not recall what the dues were back in the 70's probably something like \$25.00 per year. I had thought about life membership many times but WOW! It wasn't cheap. Recently the League changed the Life Membership rules so old folks, that don't have many years left, can join at a reduced cost. My birthday was April 21 and I turned 70, I know that it's hard to believe, I could easily pass for a 50 year old☺. My membership was expiring this year so I went ahead and sent in the application and I am now a Life Member of the ARRL. Now I just need to live about 15 years so it won't be a bad investment☺. Below is my Membership Certificate, this and \$2.00 will get you a cup of coffee in most places.



Now that spring is here and things are getting a little bit better with the pandemic, I hope that maybe this July or August we might be able to do a Parks On The Air activation at Kinzua State Park. I know the CDC is changing mask and social distance rules and with more folks getting the shots, I think it would be great to set up and operate from the park and burn a few hotdogs too. Maybe we can discuss this at our upcoming meeting in a few weeks. This has always been a fun event, getting folks on HF, maybe for their first QSO. Also a good exercise in setting up a remote station in case we ever need to for an emergency. Not to mention the food and just being together, after a long year apart we may need to do some introductions. ☺. So plan on coming along and be sure to bring your equipment if you want and see how it works in the park. We will have the County DES Emergency Communications Trailer and all the equipment it contains.

I got a couple of new kits for my birthday. These are from Bread Board Radio
<https://breadboardradio.com/>



The **Saw Dust** is the receiver and the **Wood Chip** is a CW transmitter. I know another CW transmitter, okay if you don't use CW the receiver is still pretty cool. The Saw Dust, from the web page *40 meter regen receiver. Amazing performance. Fixed regeneration, attenuator. Will work as CPO. Provision for mute, sidetone and T/R. Adjustable tuning range from 25 to 100 KHz. Cost, \$24.95.* The Wood Chip transmitter from the web page *40 meter universal transmitter. Half watt output. Has sidetone, 3 position VXO, mute and works with key or keyer. Perfect mate for Sawdust or vintage receivers. Use with our T/R switch for antenna switch.*

My plan is to build these on their supplied board and then mount them on larger piece of wood along with a power source, batteries, and a T/R switch. This way I have a complete transceiver. I hope to have this completed for the next newsletter, stay tuned.....

If anyone is interested in build a kit but a little hesitant on how to do this, please reach out to me or one of the older Amateurs that have built lots of kits over the years. I am more than willing to give you a hand. It brings a lot of joy to hear something you put together come to life.

Hamfests, most if not all are cancelled due to the virus. Please check to see if the Hamfest has been canceled before you go. I checked Ohio, Eastern and Western Pa and NY. I found nothing coming up in May. I check the ARRL web site and also google to see if there is anything happening. Nothing so far.....

Contests:

See WA7BNM for information on contests.

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 bmannig@zitomedia.net

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

73 Bruce NJ3K