

McKean County Amateur Radio Club



NOVEMBER 2017 NEWS LETTER

The McKean County Department of Emergency Services will once again hold a Technician and General Class License course. Dates are as follows: Technician, Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb 3 & 10. The 10 will be review and testing. General, Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and Apr 7. April 7 will be review and testing. Classes are in the DES, 911 center 17175 Rt. 6 in Smethport from 0900 to 1600 on those Saturdays. **Cost is FREE.** Books will be provided and the sign up deadline is December 22, 2017 so we can get the books ordered on time. We will cover not only the material in the book so you can pass the test and get a license, we will also do a lot of hands on and demonstrations. Plus homework!! Our intent is to not only get you licensed but we want you to have a better understanding of radio and electronics. This will prepare you to be a better radio operator. Contact bmanning@zitomedia.net for more information and to sign up for the classes.

This is from the ARRL Letter Oct. 26, 2017

CW Gets the Message Through in Wake of Hurricane Irma

Any CW operator worth his or her salt will tell you that CW is the mode that gets through when all others fall short of the mark. CW certainly did the job for Chet Hogue, N3BK, who handled dozens of messages for residents of Florida's Lower Keys in the days following Hurricane Irma in September. *For more information on this see;* <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2017-10-26#toc05>

Has anyone made a contact with a POTA activator? Let me know if you have.

On October 28 I attended an ARRL WPA training event in DuBois at the Penn state Campus. The following is a list of topics we covered.

1. EC/DEC Tips for success
2. ARES Reporting forms
3. WPA ARES Directory
4. Upcoming WPA events
5. VE updates

6. ARES Training

- a. We spent a lot of time on this subject, Why? Because it is important to have trained and drilled people ready why they are needed. Just in time training will not work for this.

7. IS-244.b Developing and Managing Volunteers.

8. Failure to launch

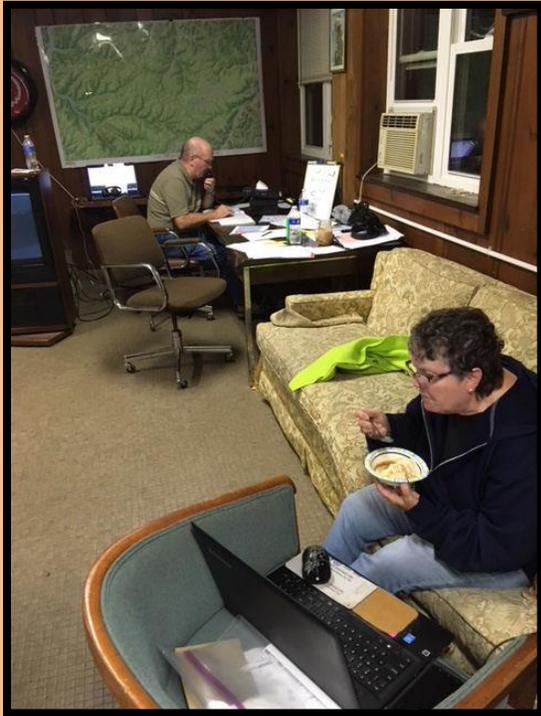
- a. We have a bunch of new licensee's but we never hear them on the air. We need to do something to correct this.

I was surprised at the attendance for this important meeting. There is probably several hundreds of Amateur's in the counties this meeting was for but only about a dozen were there.

The WPA staff, under Joe Shupienis W3BC, did a fine job, also a bunch of good feedback from those in attendance.

The McKean County Radio Club participated in the Pennsylvania QSO Party October 14th and 15th. We set up on Friday the 13th (We should have been scared), at the Boy Scout camp at Elk Lick in Farmers Valley. We had two stations on the air one phone and one CW. To say we had a good time is an understatement. We had a GREAT time. We had lots of visitors and lots of food. If we did this every weekend we would all need a diet. Here are some pictures;





Tony's Beer Keg Antenna, I think it was a little to "Tippy" to work well!



NJ3K busy trying to figure what all those darn beeps are he keeps hearing.



Sunday morning

Here is a list of those attending:

October 13, 2017 (Set Up at Elk Lick Reserve Scout Camp)

Bruce NJ3K

Don N3ELI and his POTATO SHOOTER

Sandee N3HPL

Chris KC3GJR

Tony N3KTA

Dave N3BXX

Jay KC3ISD

October 14, 2017

Bruce NJ3K

Joel KC3ISE

Sandy KB3SVH

Steve AC2RT

Carole KC2CMC

Tony N3KTA

Jay KC3ISD

Greg W3FSE

Chris KC3GJR

October 15, 2017 (Tear Down Before the Storm)

Bruce NJ3K

Sandy KB3SVH

Kelli KC3IRZ

Tony N3KTA

Chris KC3GJR

Jay KC3ISD

Greg W3FSE

Don N3ELI

Sandee N3HPL

So how did we do?

CW 293 QSO's

Phone 247 QSO's

PSK3 QSO's

Bonus 35 QSO's

Total score 115,231

Now wait for results.....

I have two articles from members to post for this newsletter. From Sandee N3HPL.

HELLO FROM N3HPL'S SHACK!!!

Been quite a busy October 2017 here.

10/13/2017: Helped get ready at Elk Lick Scout Reserve with antennas and putting groceries away.

10/14/2017 Breakfast at the Light House and Kelli KC3IRZ joined us. After breakfast Kelli came to our house as she and I agreed back in February 2017 that we'd do the PA QSO PARTY together. We got out our chairs and forms. Kelli had never done a contest before. At Noon I started the contest and Kelli was copying call signs etc. After about 1 1/2 hours she was ready to give it a try. Kelli did a really good job for her first time behind the mike. She made about 40 contacts. Se stayed until 11:15 +/- . I operated until 1 AM.

10/15/2017: Up at 8:35 AM and got ready for the R.A.C.E.S. Net. Once net was over a group gathered to help those of us who were missing some counties. At 9:45 A.M. I began operating again about 4:30P.M. The totals for Kelli and me:

136 Contacts
59 Counties
24 Bonus Stations

We used 80 watts during the contest.

Kelli visited the gang at Elk Lick Scout Reserve. Don and I left for Scout Camp to get antennas down before it stormed.

10/22/2017 JOTA was on the air. I first worked a Scout Camp in North Carolina but found the Scout Camp in Butler, PA where my nephew, Greg, is employed. I worked allot of kids there. It was so much fun. We got about 4 to 5 kids that were interested in Amateur Radio. The Scout Camp sent me a badge from KC3AFB. I also worked another Scout Camp from Illinois. In between JOTA I worked the NYS QSO PARTY and had a log sheet full.

The week ends were really fun. A SPECIAL THANKS TO KELLI FOR BEING MY PARTNER DURING THE PA QSO PARTY!!

73

Sandee N3HPL

The second article. From Carol KC2CMC

"How many people have talked on a two-way radio?"

Hands go up, maybe half the group.

"Now, how many people have talked on one of these," holding up a cell phone.

Everyone in the group.

"This is a two-way radio."

And with that, Bruce, NJ3K, tied the telegraph to radio, like the amateur radios being

used for emergency communication in Puerto Rico, to the newest form of communication and the ways the telegraph and radio are both important to journalism.

Bruce was the featured speaker at two sessions of the Communications Today class I (KC2CMC) teach at St. Bonaventure University. The class is required for journalism and strategic communication majors in the Jandoli School of Communication and open to all other students.

Bruce took my students back to the days when a reporter would have to send a story via a rider or, later, a train. Reporting was local because it had to be -- when getting a story to your editor took days (or weeks), newspapers tended to depend on stories taken from papers closer to the event.

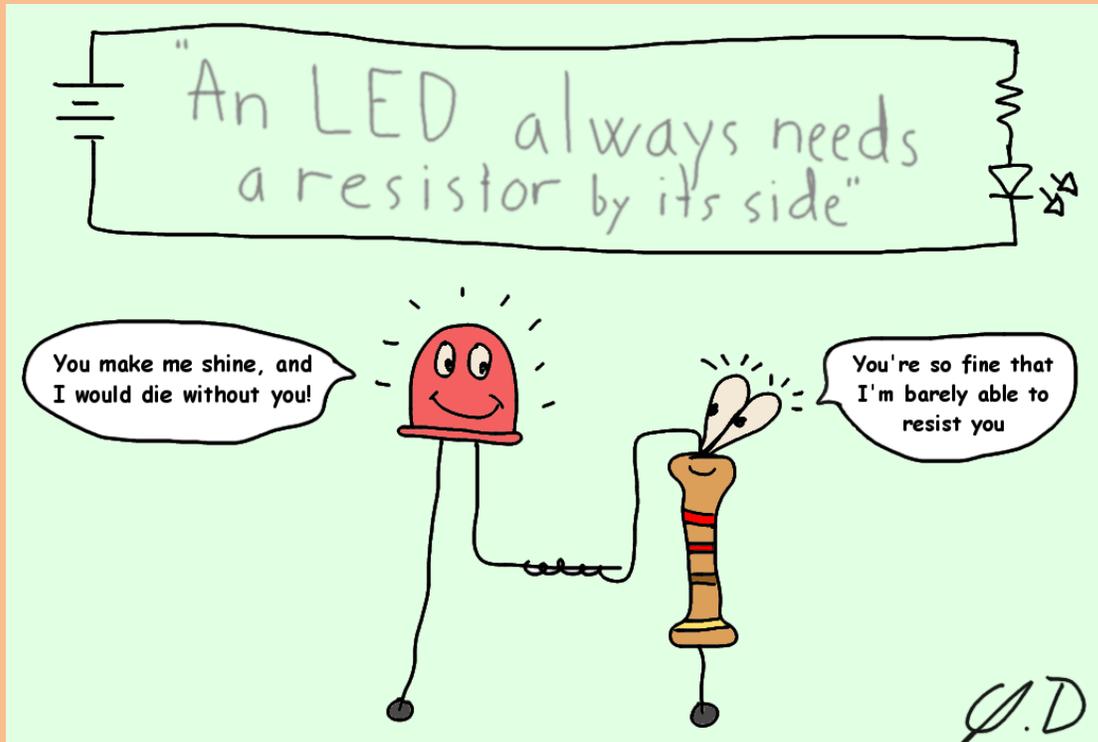
The telegraph changed that. Bruce demonstrated how a telegrapher could bring "instant" news to an editor. That tool helped lead to the creation of the Associated Press, the news gathering/reporting cooperative still existing today. The new technology also allowed a concerned President Abraham Lincoln to monitor war news during the Civil War.

Bruce brought along some equipment to allow demonstrations of what Morse code sounds like, how quickly a message could be sent with the "new" technology and how quickly a user could be alerted when wires went down. He introduced them to some of the names we hams already know -- names like Hertz and Maxwell -- and explained how their steps moved us toward radio and where amateur radio fits.

My thanks to Bruce for providing an attention-grabbing trip through that part of communication history. Now, about next semester ...

Keep those articles coming, I makes your newsletter better.

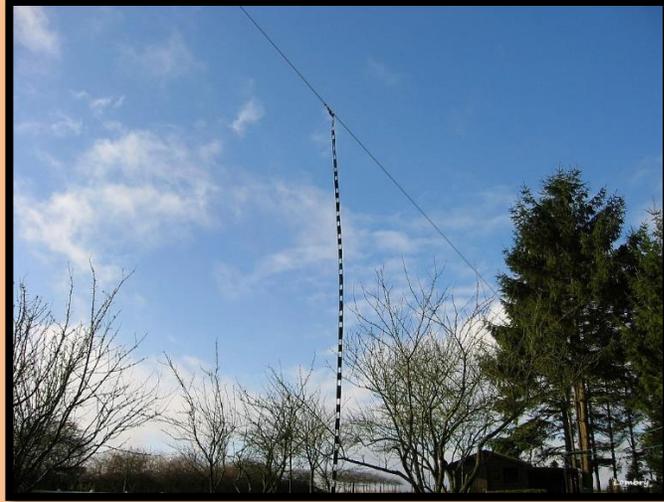
Ever wonder why the LED you hooked up went "POOF!!". Remember it is a diode and conducts in one direction almost like a piece of wire. (Read short circuit) So you need a way to limit the current. That is why you need a resistor.



Amateur Radio Antennas. My opinion.

Okay so not everyone can have this in their backyard;





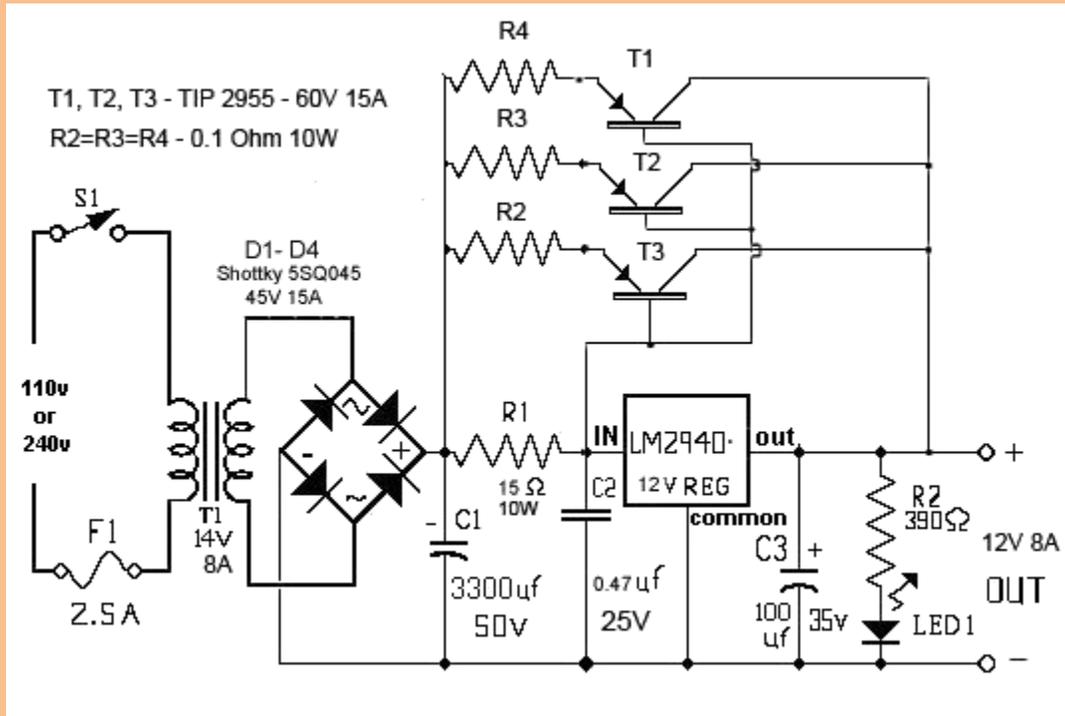
But we probably can have this;

This type of an antenna works, as good as the first picture? NO WAY!! But it will work. I have a wall full of certificates to prove it. With a dipole antenna, sometimes call a doublet, you can work around the country and around the world. How high should it? As high as you can practically make it. Which way to orient it? DX is all 360 degrees around you, so not as important as this. PUT IT UP. Perfectno..... but it will work. If I and every other Amateur waited to get up the perfect antenna we would never get on the air. Find a couple of trees and get some help if you need to and through it up. Which brings me to one of my all-time favorite lines. **"All antennas work, just some work better than others"**. If you need help or advice just contact your Elmer, any other Amateur who has been there done that. I know I am ready to help anyone.



McKean County Club meeting will be November 21, at the DES building 17175 Rt. 6 Smethport at 1900.

What function does R2, R3, and R4 perform? (HINT; Make sure you look at their values and power ratings)



Up Coming Events

Hamfest: Only one I can find in WPA, WNY, EPA, ENY and Ohio sections, Why? Winter is close at hand.

Hamfest/Convention

11/05/2017 | [WACOM 2017 HAMFEST](#)

Location: Washington, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Washington Amateur Communications

Website: <http://www.wacomarc.org>

[Learn More](#)

Contests:

ARRL Sweepstakes November 2017

4-5 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz

4-6 Nov. Sweepstakes - CW

18-20 Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone

Also Check out the below link.

<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

Meeting Reminder: McKean County Club meeting November 21, 2017 7PM at the 911 building.

ALERT ALERT!!! I will be doing a presentation on Parks on the Air (POTA) at 1800 in the 911 building just before the meeting so please mark your calendars and come early.

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