



SHORTS

The Bulletin of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society

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BCARS KEEPS THE POLLS OPEN!

Dave Cubbison, EMA of Bedford County, requested that our ARES-RACES organization operate on a standby basis on 3 November, Election Day. The operation was designed to deploy emergency power to any polling station that may be in need. K3QNT under the direction of KA3UDR, operated a “Guard” on our 145.4900 repeater for most of the day to enable the call up of generator equipped members. Immediately responding to the muster was: K3SCM, W3DRW, KC3CMI, KC3BTA, KA3UDR, KA3PNL, K3QNT and KB3DFZ. Communities served including polling places in Bedford &, Southampton Townships, Everett, Clearville, Harrison, Cumberland

Valley, Bedford Borough and Bedford Township. Cubbison expressed his appreciation to the club and reported our information was added to the county GIS map that day. Another example of a creative way that Bedford County ARES-RACES serves our community. Incidentally, WPA Section Emergency Coordinator, Harry Bloomberg – W3YJ commented he had never heard of such an activity.

TOWER GROWS TALLER AT WB3JEK

WB3JEK, along with XYL Sharon began construction on a new tower base for Kenny's 40+ year old Rohn 25G tower. The complex operation began with a

complete survey of the property, including a prudent call to 8-1-1 “Don't Dig Before You Call” and a careful analysis of what would fit and were. The original tower situated near Route 220 alongside JEK's house is to be re-located down the hill with another ten feet of tower affixed to make up for the height loss. In addition to Kenny & Sharon, KA3UDR and K3QNT assisted in the base operation. A short trip to YBC yielded about ten bags of Sackcrete, which appeared to be more than enough for the project. However, an a quarter of the way through the job, Kenny noted there seemed to be some sort of “China Syndrome” underway. After careful three dimensional calculations by QNT and JEK, it was estimated that that another thousand bags may just do it.

After the better part of an afternoon, the tower was set in enough concrete to withstand an attack by a low-yield nuclear device! The tower project was eventually completed with the assistance of KA3UDR, K3QNT, KC3CFH, and xxx.



**Concrete Footing with
Optional Beer Input Pipe**



Sackcrete with UDR Mixer

The tower project was concluded with a full tour of “Studio “B.” WB3JEK is now one of the big guns of Bedford County.



“Ten Degrees off isn't much, is it?”

Kenny is now fully operational with directional antennas on 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2. His legendary low dipoles on 75 and 40 continue to amaze everyone that hears a signal emitted from these wires. With his new beam on 20 meters, Kenny has reported big signal reports in Bango Bango

“My Shack”

This month we visit the operating facility of Steve Elliott, **KA3UDR** - Steve is a retired Master Sergeant, U.S. Army. He has assembled a modest but functional station, which is nestled in the bucolic countryside of Harrison Township. (Manns Choice) As you can see from the pictures, Steve created a home brew structure, complete with all the comforts of a military command center!



KA3UDR - NCS

In addition to the abundant equipment package, Steve operates throughout the LW -MF- HF- VHF - UHF and light spectrum. Steve is the Net Control for the Weekend ARES

Net, BCARS Weekly Net, Western PA Phone Traffic Net and several others. He holds a number of Pennsylvania and Federal Emergency Communications certifications. He serves as the Emergency Coordinator (EC) or Bedford County ARES. KA3UDR has been licensed since the mid 1980s and holds an Extra Class license. At last count, we believe his Chevy truck has over 70 antennas and a number of high powered amplifiers, which annoy and amaze local law enforcement.

UDR EMP-PROOF BUNKER



FEMA WALL AT KA3UDR



Sharon before Tower



EMP PROOF BUNKER AT UDR

“HAM in a Day” event

held on Halloween!

A rival club to BCARS, held their first “Ham In a Day” on 31 October of this year. New licensees were recruited by the Bedford Vampire Amateur Radio Association (BVAR) from a new undeserved population, which satisfies the affirmative action requirements of the region. BVAR plans to experiment with a new form propagation called, “Undergroundwave.”



IGOR - KC3GHOUL



Success at WB3JEK!

Before the Disaster

By: KA3UDR - EC

Long before disaster strikes, we must take some basic precautions. Being prepared for an emergency

is something that we should take seriously. For the Amateur Radio Operator, preparedness will include making sure your station is ready in case of a power outage, ensuring you are capable of operating on emergency power. We must also be ready to set up and operate portable if needed. We must know that our families are prepared . We can not go out and serve the community not knowing that our family and our home is not secure. FEMA, PEMA, the National Weather Service (NWS), Red Cross and the Salvation Army provide information about how to be ready for a disaster.

Most people are familiar with the threats that face their neighborhoods. For us here in Bedford County, we have flooding, high wind damage, power outages, and occasional tornado. We have had a tornado touch down in June of 2014 that was tracked by our BCARS members, so swiftly before a SKYWARN net could be activated. These reports were logged and the information was pass to the National Weather Service in State College. A basic knowledge of the threats to our community is important, in that it helps us to develop our own personal preparedness plans.

Another important part of serving our community is to work with other amateurs, particularly the

local ARES/ACS-RACES. (Now known as AUXCOMM) group and those that works with the Red Cross, National Weather Service, and other served agencies. These are the groups that we will likely need to send reports and traffic during a disaster. A good place to learn about traffic handling is to participate in the Western Pennsylvania Phone Traffic Net. (WPAPTN) This group meets on 3983 KHz nightly at 6:00 PM local time with a pre-net at approximately at 5:30 PM. (This net has never missed a day since its founding in 1974.)

One of the most important things we do is support community activities. This gives us the opportunity to keep track of people and create visibility for BCARS in the

community. When we do respond to an actual disaster, the local population becomes used to seeing us out and about and know why we are there to help. Attending meetings and training classes like SKYWARN does a lot to build relationships with served agencies and the community. We should also know on which HF/VHF/UHF frequencies. Emergency Nets are conducted in our county and the surrounding counties. We need to know the protocol for each net. We need to learn the net control's preferred format for information and traffic handling ahead of time. Following the correct protocol will make communications more efficient during a disaster. We need to be

prepared and we need to stay alert and stay alive.

If

If you have any contributions for publication in S*H*ORTS, contact Lloyd – K3QNT at k3qnt@aol.com