



SHORTS

The Bulletin of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society

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Robert P. Young – KC3CMI, Vice-President
Steven G. Stiffler – KC3DNB, Treasurer
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FINALLY! The BCARS Radio Van is Official.

Last year, BCARS acquired a converted ambulance once used by RACES in Snyder County and Huntingdon County. Thanks to the offices of Bedford County EMA, Dave Cubbison, BCARS was able to acquire the 1993 Ford van/ambulance at no cost to the club. The title transfer resulted in being more of a challenge than originally anticipated. After months of multiple trips to Huntingdon County, Bedford County Courthouse and the AAA office on Mile Level, the van is now operated, insured and owned

by the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society. Our title/ownership/insurance consultant, Mark -KC3CMF was instrumental in getting all this done. Thank you Mark! As I write this, our crack team of auto/truck mechanics KC3CMF & WB3JEK, are now rehabilitating our van both mechanically and electronically. Our van will be deployed during all of the upcoming public service events.

A Word About Six Meters

For all you guys and gals who have your shiny new Tech License, you are already

authorized to operate in a band that is exciting and unpredictable! When the Technician License was first introduced in the 1950's it was designed for so-called "Technical" hams who didn't want or care to learn higher speed CW. Our own K3SCM was a TECH and a big 6-meter operator during that time. He was even mobile on 6 meters with a Halo Antenna! The original license privileges are the same with added bands. The terrific thing about 6 meters is that the antennas are small and you can do quite well working stations all over the USA and even Europe when the band is open. Six is also good for local contacts within 50 miles. Remember, this band is 99% Simplex, and operates much like HF. There are repeaters on 6 meters but activity is low. Six meter contacts will greatly relieve the boredom of repeaters. Almost every time you work someone, it will be a new contact. Six meter gear is not expensive and if you explore any hamfest, you should find a perfectly good rig that will operate on 6 for under \$200.00. You may already have an HF rig that has 6 meters included. A beam (Yagi) antenna is also inexpensive and can often be home-brew for very little money.

Here at K3QNT, I have an older Cushcraft Three-Element (Yagi) beam that works very well. (Under \$30- used) The beam can be turned easily by a discarded TV rotor. You can also use a vertical or dipole but a small beam is vastly superior! During the 1960s and 1970s, 6 meters was very active. Many Technician License holders do some pretty amazing stuff. One of my friends, K3JPB, specializes in working all over the Caribbean on 6 meters. Cubans in particular like this band. Here is the ARRL Band Plan for 6.

6 Meters (50-54 MHz) Bandplan

50.0-50.1	CW, beacons
50.060-50.080	beacon sub band
50.1-50.3	SSB, CW
50.10-50.125	DX window
50.125	SSB calling
50.3-50.6	All modes
50.6-50.8	Non voice communications
50.62	Digital (packet) calling
50.8-51.0	Radio remote control (20-kHz channels)
51.0-51.1	Pacific DX window

51.12-51.48	Repeater inputs (19 channels)	53.98	(except as noted; 19 channels)
51.12-51.18	Digital repeater inputs	53.5, 53.6,	Radio remote control
51.5-51.6	Simplex (six channels)	53.7, 53.8	
51.62-51.98	Repeater outputs (19 channels)	53.52, 53.9	Simplex
51.62-51.68	Digital repeater outputs		
52.0-52.48	Repeater inputs (except as noted; 23 channels)		
52.02, 52.04	FM simplex		
52.2	TEST PAIR (input)		
52.5-52.98	Repeater output (except as noted; 23 channels)		
52.525	Primary FM simplex		
52.54	Secondary FM simplex		
52.7	TEST PAIR (output)		
53.0-53.48	Repeater inputs (except as noted; 19 channels)		
53.0	Remote base FM simplex		
53.02	Simplex		
53.1, 53.2, 53.3, 53.4	Radio remote control		
53.5-	Repeater outputs		

If you're a Tech, give it a try, you'll have a blast! Visit www.smirk.org for more information about Six Meters.



Ranger RCI-5054 6 Meter Transceiver -SSB-AM-FM-CW

Field Day Made Easy!

The Leibfreid family has graciously offered the use of their wooded estate on Backsprings Road as our 2016 Field Day location. I am not certain, as of this writing if

KC3DNA (***Do Not Ask***) has been informed of these plans. However Mark- KC3CMF assures me that all is well. Needless to say, among the obvious advantages of this location is: The close proximity of 807 refrigeration facilities, convenient parking, excellent antenna structures (sometimes known as trees) and functional water closets. The 2016 Field Day will feature several SSB stations on all bands, a digital station and two CW stations. There will be a 6-meter SSB position, which will double as our GOTA station.

BCARS gets extra points for publicity, visits by public officials, CW ops, copying and recording of the ARRL Bulletin on Digital and/or CW, solar or “natural”, man-powered power and youth participation. There is no extra credit for beer consumption. As per our usual protocol, bringing some food and drink with you certainly helps the cause. We will have the customary banner for BCARS and ARRL up in plain view. All of the local and national media will be notified of this historic event. Field Day this year is 25 & 26 June 2016. Event begins at 2:00 PM

Bedford County time and runs for a continuous 24-hour period.



K3NQT Tower Trailer at Field Day

KB3VZC Rolls Out New Mobile Installation!

In response to comments “that no one can ever hear him,” Glen selected one of the several pieces of rolling stock at KB3VZC and installed the region's first **15 KW** mobile rig. The station, which takes up most of the room in the rear of his standard issue NATO UNIMOG Monster Truck. The system includes a Bluetooth-controlled Kenwood TS-25000-B exciter/transceiver driving a Navy surplus Five Kilowatt

shipboard amplifier into his mobile tower array that is welded to the truck bed of his truck.

Both the exciter and 15 KW Amplifier are powered by a 35,000 Volt flux capacitor mobile power supply of Frysian design. Glen reports that while underway, signals from Bongo-Bongo in the Aegean Sea have been very satisfactory.

To learn more about Glen's innovative and audacious effort, visit www.reallyreallybigmobile_rig.bongo

Glen will be giving tours of his mobile station on February 29th next year.



**KB3VZC Truck Bed
Mounted 15 KW xmtr**

Amplifier



**KB3VZC TRUCK BED
HF INVERTED PHASE
DIPOLE ANTENNAS**

KB3DFZ Nuz!

During the winter months of 2016, BCARS' very own KB3DFZ has been building a multi-mode digital go kit covering HF, 50Mhz, as well as VHF/UHF. This kit has an IC-706 MkIIg radio coupled via SignalLink sound card adapter to his laptop running fldigi and other ham radio software. An automatic antenna tuner. The entire kit can be carried using its shoulder strap and powered from either an external battery, solar, or alternating current. During a break in the weather in February, DFZ field tested this unit at

his remote front yard picnic table location.

Running entirely off of battery power and connected to a rapidly deployable Alpha Ez-Military vertical, DFZ was able to pick up stations from across the US, and made contacts through the North Carolina QSO party. KC3EXR, personally verified that the entire system's weight was within acceptable parameters. Junior future operator "Lance" enthusiastically checked all of the cables and antenna mounting integrity. When not deployed in the field, the kit is functional from DFZ's desk, monitoring worldwide PSK and APRS activity.

DE KB3DFZ



KB3DFZ Outdoor Version



**K3NQT- VAN-MOBILE
BCARS Comm Van
awaiting modernization**



KB3DFZ Go-Kit

**A Word from our
ARES-RACES-
AUXCOMM
Emergency
Coordinator**

**EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS**

Public service operators, including ARES/RACES, providers of Emergency Disaster communications services and club members, support parades, marathon races and a variety of other public service events. While at it, each operator hones his/her skills. Every licensed amateur radio operator can find themselves involved in a community emergency, whether your day-to-day interest is DXing, Contesting, rag chewing, VHF/UHF operation, or other aspects of amateur radio. With very little warning, you may find yourself playing a part. Every amateur is called to be an asset when help is needed. Several months back, Mark-KC3CMF mentioned that we may want to host a special event for an event station commemorating the first transatlantic telegraph

communications between two heads of state. The event took place on 16 August 1856 at the Bedford Springs Resort/Hotel. The Atlantic Telegraph Company ran a cable from the USA to Great Britain. The first message sent over the new circuit was from Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle to President James Buchanan, who was staying at the Bedford Springs Resort. Bedford Springs was often used as a summer "White House" by several presidents, including Buchanan. President Buchanan then sent a message back to Queen Victoria and the event made world history. The actual message is in a framed case on the wall of Bedford Springs to this day. Not only is working a BCARS special event station an enjoyable way to commemorate history, but a great way to improve our communication skills for emergency communications purposes. Contact has been made with the Bedford Springs and they are excited about participating in this event. There is a BCARS meeting Thursday, April 7th.

I am asking the club members to get behind this special event and make this a world-wide ham radio milestone.

STEVEN G ELLIOTT/KA3UDR
Emergency Coordinator Bedford
County ARES-RACES



Message to Queen

**If you have any
contributions to the
monthly
S*H*O*R*T*S, send
your information to:**

Lloyd -K3QNT
k3qnt@aol.com