



SHORTS

The Bulletin of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society
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Kenneth L. Burtnett - WB3JEK, President
Robert P. Young KC3CMI, Vice-President
Steven G. Stiffler – KC3DNB, Treasurer
Lloyd Bankson Roach - K3QNT, Secretary

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“My Shack”

This month we feature our newly licensed **KC3HKZ**. **S*H*O*R*T*S** paid a visit to Gary's country estate on Mill Road in Schellsburg. Overlooking some pretty meadows, Gary and his XYL, Terry have a terrific view of the mountainside from his 180 degree windowed sun porch. Gary is a New Hampshire native who wed a local Bedford County girl. Gary retired from AT&T as a Senior Technical Manager. He has worked on many long lines AT&T projects all over the east coast. Gary is no slouch. He took off on his ham radio interest with

a vengeance with a first class VHF and HF station.. Within his spectacular room is the shack of **KC3HKZ**. Gary charged into the hobby by earning his Technician license and then swiftly upgraded to General. He has assembled a state-of-the-art station, which includes a brand new 2 meter/440 base station, with a Comet GP-1 dual band antenna at the peak of his roof. On the HF side, Gary has procured a new Kenwood TS-590S, which operates on all modes 160 meters through 6 meters.



KC3HKZ & XYL, Terry

For HF, Gary erected an OCF Dipole that tunes on 80, 40, 20 and 10 meters. He reports to S*H*O*R*T*S that he is really enjoying working DX, mostly in Europe and South America. Gary told us that he is working hard to upgrade to Amateur Extra. **KC3HKZ** has become an active and enthusiastic member of BCARS.



OCF Antenna at KC3HKZ

FALL FOLIAGE Uses BCARS volunteers successfullyagain!

The first two weekends of October saw nearly 70,000 people visit Bedford from all over the East. Once again BCARS provided first class tactical communications for Bedford County's largest annual event. In addition to assisting in traffic control, several members provided the eyes and ears for the leadership of the annual fair. Fall Foliage is the largest event of any kind in South Central Pennsylvania. BCARS proudly displayed our newly renovated communications van with high visibility on Penn Street in Bedford during the fair.

Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council Denies BCARS Repeater Request.

In a letter received recently at BCARS, the WPRC has denied the request to use 147.900 MHz frequency for our Martin's Hill Repeater. At a recent meeting, President, Kenny -WB3JEK reported that plans are underway to find a 440 UHF frequency that will satisfy the spacing requirements for regional repeaters. 146.7900 was unsuccessful because of close-spacing issues with repeaters in Suburban Harrisburg and Washington County, PA. The repeater will be off the air until a new channel can be coordinated. Kenny has assured us that a new frequency will be found and plans for the repeater upgrade will follow. The long-term plan for the system is to tie our repeaters together to create a seamless system. BCARS presently operates three repeaters: 145.4900, 224.4800 & 444.2000 MHz.

Major Antenna Improvement on Pitt Street!

Assisted by a small army of BCARS Volunteers, Keith Bagley, KC3AFO successfully erected a new end-fed HF antenna at his mid-town residence on Pitt Street. Among the crack antenna specialists were, KB3DFZ, KE3ZT, W3DRW, KC3CMF, WB3JEK, K3QNT, KA3UDR and KC3HKZ. Kenny, Mark and Steve (UDR) worked the aerial portion of the job with the assistance of a purloined bucket-truck. KC3HKZ, K3QNT, KE3ZT, KB3DFZ and W3DRW installed the ground, counterpoise and radial system. John – KB3DFZ trenched a nearly invisible path for the NE radial beneath the lawn and gravel. While his QTH is under renovation the West radial was placed beneath some scaffolding. This may need to be adjusted at a later date. The high voltage end of the high wire, with an insulator was expertly bolted to a neighbors house by WB3JEK.



The BCARS “Village People”

There was a detailed technical discussion about a possible RF compromise of the main radiator but the issue was resolved with the use of some tie-wraps. Preliminary testing revealed that Keith's automatic antenna tuner successfully made the radio happy on 75, 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters. You may expect big signals to be emanating from KC3AFO on West Pitt Street in the future. Keith Bagley is the News Director of B-ROCK-107.5, STAR 100.9, 1600-WAYC and News/Talk 1310-WBFD-AM. In addition to the Ham Bands, you can listen for Keith



reporting news and weather on the hour, daily on VHF-FM and Medium Wave AM.

KC3AFO chasing DX

FALL FOLIAGE 2016

Once again, the mobile, portable and radio-ready public service team from BCARS sprung into action for Fall Foliage this year. Lead by KA3UDR, our team included: KB3DFZ, WB3JEK, KC3HKZ, KC3CMF, K3QNT, KC3CMI, KC3EXR, KC3AFO, (NCS) K3SCM, KC3DNB, KC3DNA, KC3FPA, KE3ZT and W3DRW. Kevin Hampson-KC3BTC, Fall Foliage Chairman, expressed his appreciation for our contribution. Our duties included operating from our new and nifty BCARS Communications Van. Several of our volunteers were deployed to various locations like Bus Stops in downtown Bedford, Old Bedford Village and Bedford Fair Grounds.

The team used our 145.4900 repeater and monitored our 146.5800 Simplex frequency for back up or tactical communications.



Net Control on Duty -KC3AFO

“No unusual events were reported to our comm van. The fair went smoothly despite unpredictable weather. Events such as this add to our disaster communications capability and training.”, said Emergency Coordinator, KA3UDR.



KA3UDR RIGGED FOR ACTION



BCARS VAN ON DISPLAY

ARES?.....RACES?

Say What?

In response to a request by President Kenny, here is a little history and tutorial on both of these organizations. **ARES** is, and has always has been part of the ARRL Field Organization.

Back when it was called, ***The American Radio Relay League***, it became apparent that following the disastrous flood of 1936, ham operators armed with their practical knowledge of radio theory and traffic handling, could be useful in providing communications when telegraph and telephone circuits failed. The ARRL organized the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (**AREC**) along the lines of military protocol. Using message formats similar to what the Army and Navy used, the league set up a field organization, which would identify and train ham operators for this purpose. Later the group became known as **ARES** or Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

The **ARRL** then supported the effort by appointing Section and regional Emergency Coordinators to assist each other. This system remains intact to this day. *Bedford County's ARES Emergency Coordinator "EC" is Steve Elliott -KA3UDR.* Steve was appointed by the ARRL WPA Section Manager. Each EC is responsible for identifying and training operators who can be deployed when our local officials request assistance. Steve is also

responsible for making sure we have reliable equipment and antennas that can be set up swiftly. Our weekly BCARS ARES Net is an excellent training platform, which not only drills the operators on proper net procedures but tests their equipment well. The Old Navy Communications admonition is true: *"Equipment not tested, doesn't work."* If you would like to learn more about what ARES does and how you can participate, contact, Steve, KA3UDR.



ARRL ARES LOGO

RACES

RACES had its beginnings during World War II. After hostilities began on December 7, 1941, the FCC immediately ceased all amateur radio transmissions for the duration of the war. Hams being hams really missed being on the air. A vast majority of the ham radio population went to war serving in the Army, Army Air Corps, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Merchant Marine and Navy. The ones left behind could only listen and not transmit. The War Department soon realized that this valuable resource could be of major use to the war effort. *The War Department created the War Emergency Radio Service or "WERS."* Relegated primarily to VHF on the then, 3 meter band, hams, who registered with the government could operate on 112 mcs to provide tactical communications for the **Civil Defense**. These nets were set up to organize Air Raid Wardens, shelter managers and the like. The transmitters were limited to 10 watts on AM. It wasn't much but it worked. This group was under the total control of the

Department of Civil Defense. Only authorized operators could transmit over WERS. After the war, Civil Defense took on a new mission of providing preparedness from a nuclear attack by the USSR or China. The preparations were massive. By the time President Eisenhower took office, every major city was ringed with NIKE Missile sites that were designed to shoot down Russian Bombers. It was during this time of the "*Cold War*," that the Civil Defense decided to re-purpose WERS and call it **RACES**. (*The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service*) Still under complete government control, RACES was written into Part 97 of the FCC regulations. Originally RACES had its own frequencies just outside of the amateur bands. Today, Civil Defense has been replaced by **FEMA and The Department of Homeland Security**.

RACES remains a federal mandate in almost every Emergency Operations Center in the nation. Under the Stafford Act, each Pennsylvania County is required to accommodate a "RACES Room."

In Bedford County the RACES facility is next door to the 9-1-1 Center. **RACES** role has changed little over the years. However, many Auxcomm groups now welcome other services such as FRS, GMRS and CB. RACES, however still requires a valid FCC issued license. This is why for practical purposes, most clubs combine the ARES & RACES organizations. If there is a declared emergency or national call up, RACES will most likely prevail because of the immediate cessation of amateur radio transmissions by the FCC. The RACES Officer for Bedford County is Lloyd Roach – K3QNT. In the event of activation, the RACES Officer may elect to choose operators from the ARES ranks. If you would like to learn more about the mission of RACES, contact, Lloyd - K3QNT.



RACES Deployed Station includes VHF, HF, TNC and Utility Scanner

RACES LOGO



SKILLS NIGHT SOON!

Once again, BCARS technical supervisor, KB3DFZ presents, **“SKILLS NIGHT.”** If you have some new (or old) ideas, technology, cool inventions, hot antenna, software, or an extraordinary technical story contact John – KB3DFZ to make a place for you! Be there on Thursday, 27 October 2016 beginning at 6:30 pm at the Bedford County Christian Church on Route 30 across from the Walmart and next door to where the car dealership used to be.

If you have any items you would
like to see in a future issue of
S*H*O*R*TS,

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