

SPARC NEWSLETTER April 2025

A publication of the Southern PA Amateur Radio Club

Harry Bauder, N3FMO President
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Dave Payne, N3LOM, Repeater Trustee
Larry Laughman, K3LWL – Member at Large
Jason Bachman N8WXZ – Member at Large
Jim Dunbar, W3JGD – Membership Chairman

My last newsletter

Beginning with the next edition Sam W3IHM will be taking over as editor. It has been fun but I have too many additional chores to take care of. I know Sam will do a great job.

Meeting Night

The SPARC monthly membership meeting is Tuesday, the 22nd at 7:00 PM. Meeting is being held at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center located at 101 Champ Road, Manheim. (Near the Nook) Program will be on the Linux operating system. Dan Sribick will give a brief history of Linux followed by instructions on loading it into your computer.

900 MHz Coming

Sam's presentation at the February meeting sparked a lot of interest. Ryan, K3RDE is working on installing a 900 MHz repeater at SPARC. Stay tuned!

Emergency Communication (EMCOMM)

EMCOMM is an integral part of amateur radio and part of our mission as a club. This can be a vital service during emergencies. When all else fails, there is ham radio. Several avenues are available for participation including Lancaster County Emergency Management and Lancaster Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). These two agencies provide training, meetings and exercises. Participants are a link between them and our club and can provide reports at our meetings. ARES holds nets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month on the N3FYI repeater, 145.310, PL 118.8 at 2030. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at Lancaster Public Safety Training Center and by ZOOM at 1900. Anyone interested in joining either group can contact Peg Hamm, KB3SCA at peghamm@gmail.com or Doug Rice W3COB drice1972@gmail.com. **Doug will be presenting a program on ARES at the July meeting.**

License Test Sessions

Testing is conducted at the SPARC site on the first Tuesday of every month. Fee to take the exam is \$14.00 payable on the K3IR website or in person, cash or check only.

You can pre-register to take the technician test, or upgrade, at Hamstudy.org. There is also a link on the K3IR web site. If you do not already have one, go to fcc.gov and register for a FRN (Federal Registration Number).

Upcoming Hamfests

Saturday April 26

York Hamfest

New Location!

Glenville Alliance Church

10037 Susquehanna Trail

Glen Rock, PA

Sunday May 4

Warminster Hamfest

Bucks County Community College

1304 Veterans Highway

Bristol, PA

<https://wp.k3dn.org/hamfest/>

Sunday June 8

Breeze Shooters Hamfest

Butler Farm Show Grounds

Butler PA

<https://breezeshooters.org/ns/hamfest/>

Saturday July 6

Harrisburg Firecracker Hamfest

Harrisburg Postal Workers Picnic Grounds

1500 Roberts Valley Road

Harrisburg, PA

Saturday October 1

Red Rose Hamfest

339 East Main Street

New Holland, PA

Looking For Volunteers

SPARC currently has 131 “active” members on the roster. We have a lot to offer to our members. At this time we have a dedicated group of hardworking volunteers who keep the site running. Some say this is typical with most organizations. I don't think SPARC should be “typical” We need more real active members. Jobs range from the highly technical to the mundane but ALL are important. Please look at the list below and see if there is a place for you.

IT Team

Tower climbers and ground help

Operating building maintenance and cleaning

Operating building equipment maintenance and improvement

Porta Potty cleaning (not Pumping!)

Adopt a Highway crew

Elmers

Hamfest help

Meeting programs

Vic Jenks, W3VIC has offered to take on the Adopt a Highway program but I would like to see at least 2 helpers to step up.