

Spring 2009

S.A.R.A. SEZ

Issue 1 Vol. 2009

*Editor Lori Deem
Co-Editor -Amy McClintock
Photographer- Rhanay Konas*

Meeting Location

We are in need of a new meeting location. If anyone knows of a place we can hold our meetings please contact Gary ka3ful@verizon.net or Todd kb3ikx@ptd.net

Board Members 2009

President - Todd Deem kb3ikx
Vice-President - Joe Konas kb3nxt
Secretary - Jim Munley kb3fet
Treasurer - Gary Fleischut ka3ful
Public Information Officer
Jason Milyo kb3icc
Trustee - Carl Zimmerman w3eek

Newsletter

We hope that everyone is surviving the winter. Just remember that spring is just around the corner and the enduro and field day are coming up with the warmer weather.

We have a new website up and running it is www.w3sc.org. Gary "ka3ful" is the webmaster for the site. He is doing a great job editing it. He has been making a lot of changes and adding a lot of updates to the website. If you would like to see something added please contact Gary at ka3ful@verizon.net. Check it often; we will be posting events there. Keep up the good work Gary!!!!

In the newsletters you will see a new section. We will be posting biographies of SARA members on how they came into this hobby and a little bit about themselves. We will be picking 2 members per newsletter. I hope everyone will write a bio so we learn a little about each other.

2009 Membership Dues

2009 annual membership dues are now due. For and single member it is still \$15.00 and for a family membership it is \$25.00. All dues must be paid by April 15th 2009. If you know anyone wanting to join S.A.R.A. please download a membership application at our website www.w3sc.org. You may pay your dues at the monthly meeting or via the mail.

Make checks payable to S.A.R.A.

S.A.R.A
P.O. Box 901
Pottsville PA 17901

BIOGRAPHIES OF SOME OF OUR MEMBERS

My name is Gary Fleischut, KA3FUL, of Pottsville. I have resided in Pottsville about 90% of my life. I was first introduced to amateur radio by my father, Harold, W3PYS at the age of 10. I can remember going down in our basement, or as my father called it - his Ham Shack, when K3BWC, Dick Kerlavage, would come over on a nightly basis and they would work the bands. They did a lot of home brewing of 6- and 2- meter equipment. Then around 1968/69 I decided to get my Ham license. At that time, licenses were given on a one-to-one basis. I received the amateur call WN3NLS. As a typical teenager I had multiple interests and left my licenses expire.

Shortly before becoming a father, in 1979, I learned that SARA "yes, our SARA" was giving amateur classes at the Blue Mountain High School. I secretly began taking the classes which further developed my interests in Ham radio. Then through channels I took my exam license before the class ended and received KA3FUL, which is my current call. My license arrived by mail exactly on my dad's birthday, June 16, 1979. Also at that time Andy Hitzel, N3HHH, started to take the same class, but dropped out - it is strange how we did not know each other back then, only to find him to be one of my best friends now.

I have been affiliated with SARA since the late 70's. While being an active member not only did I become a husband and father, I have also held every office possible, including president and vice president.

Currently I hold the office of Treasurer for the 2009 calendar year. I enjoy all aspects of amateur radio but I do 95% of my work on the .37 repeater, due to the fact that my job with Moyer Electronics requires me to be on the road the majority of the time. Throughout the year I can be seen at practically every SARA function you can think of, including enduros, picnics, cleanup sessions, and events held at our repeater site located in Delano. For the past few years I have been working with Dottie Demmer, the founder of The Grave Dig, in routing and mapping the course so my fellow hams can successfully provide emergency communications along the way. My latest venture has brought me to the SARA website. Recently I have assumed the position of Webmaster of W3SC.org. I believe that it is still a work in progress but it definitely keeps me busy with the information ever changing.

My involvement in amateur radio goes beyond that of regular SARA events. Not only am I an officer of SARA, I am also proud to call myself Vice-President of the Tamaqua Wireless Association. I look forward to the spring and the summer each year, better known as the Hamfest season. I can regularly be seen tailgating at just about any hamfest within 100 miles of Pottsville. I also enjoy attending Dayton Hamvention with my friends, in the past 6 years I only missed 2 trips out to Ohio. I plan on attending this year's Hamvention with my good buddy, Steve Mahala, KB3FJJ.

Hi All,

My name is Joe Konas, better known as **KB3NXT**. I live in Lavelle, 45 miles north of Harrisburg, Pa., it's on a small plateau 970' above sea level. We would like to tell you a bit about myself and my wife "Rhanay". About 20 years ago we started this journey of being avid off road trail riders. We enjoyed the mountains so much we wanted to share our adventures with others. We got involved with being trail guides for BMJA off road club, JJUSA, Paragon Advent. Off road park. So far to our knowledge we did between 70-80 jamborees all over the states and here's a few of them. We traveled to Maine, N.H., N.Y., Vermont, N.J., Pa., Mass., S.C., Tenn., Georgia, Utah, WY., S.D., and Colorado meeting new friends all the way.

We own a 2004 jeep, Rubicon with a 8274 winch and it was lifted until, our age caught up to us. As a trail guide we had to lead groups of mostly jeeps through our beautiful mountains. To a nice ride in the woods to the Challenges of rocks and mud. Helping other through the rough terrain to see what these jeeps our made of and testing your driving & spotting skills, which my wife conquered all. She was use to getting the tow strap out and hooking up the winch cable for many behind her. She is a pretty good off road driver and spotter.

Then came the great day 4 years ago we got to retire from PPL power & light co. My wife said, you better get a hobby since I don't like the cold weather any more (I guess it's and age thing) so I was meeting every evening on the CB radio with a few friends. Well, we all just got tired of listening to the nuisance that's on the CB channels. So we all decided to go for our ham license. Studying is not one of my things but passed on the first try. My wife had No idea what she got herself into on my (new hobby) but she turned our one room over to what is now the HAMSHACK. Lucky she likes to shop and has friends to visit. Because as you all know I spend a lot of time in the ham shack.

I got my tech on 8-18-06 and my general 3-2-07. I did quite a few 10-10 contest and came in first place in a few. Can't convince my wife to get her license, she said, one ham in the house is enough!

As a radio I run a Kenwood TS 940S as a base, A I COM 706 MK 2G, also a Kenwood TS480. My antenna base system consists of 2 towers, 2 wired die poles. Tower #1. is a 60' tower with a 20' mask. On top of the 20' mask is a Comet GP15 which does 6 meters, 2 meters & 440 and underneath that Appox. 72 feet is a Cush craft 13B2 element beam for 2 meters. Under that is a 505 S, five element beam for 6 meters. Tower#2. It's a 40' tower, 15' mask. Top of the 15' mask is an Interceptor 10 K. Which is a 5/8 wave vertical for 10 meters. Under that is a home brew 5 element beam for 10 meters. The ground mount vertical which I can work 10, 12, 15, 17, 20 meters with 36 ground radicals. Dipole #1 is a G5RV, 102' long 48' high and Diepole#2 is a 204' long at 65' high. All bands are worked barefoot except for 10 meters.

I had the privilege to talk all over the world, and proud to say I've worked 120 countries. My wife calls me jabber-jaws and I often get too loud and she shuts the ham shack door.

This is one hobby I really enjoy. I never thought of myself as an old buzzard but I'm privileged to be a part of the OLD BUZZARDS NET. Also to be part of the SARA 440 net, which I'm net controller. I'm also VP of the SARA club. Over a short period of time we got to meet and be close with friends of the Sara club. My wife says, that's the best part (friends). We are also very involved in other S.A.R.A. activities such as field day weekend, RORR Enduro. VFTR Enduro, PA QSO party, Halloween Grave Dig, Christmas party. My wife is also on the activity news letter committee.

WELL THAT'S ALL FOLKS!
KB3NXT

SARA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual SARA Christmas Party was held on December 6th, 2008, at the Phase II Restaurant in Downtown Pottsville. The club was treated to our own private room, which was separated from the regular patrons of their lovely dining room. We were fortunate enough to order from their menu of many delicious dishes.

At the party, we welcomed a new member, Joe, KB3SCI, who just received his ticket that day.

After we ate, and it was time to hand out the prizes which were randomly drawn.

The prizes and winners were as follows:

Yaesu HT-Rhanay Konas (KB3NXT's Xyl)

Membership for 2009-George Long (Gary's (KA3FUL) future son-in-law, given to Gary)

QST Subscription-Amy McClintock (KB3PHI)

\$50 Gift Certificate-Alex Arnold (guest of Pete, VE3HOH)

The members and friends of the Schuylkill Amateur Radio Club would like to wish you a happy and safe 2009!!! We can't wait for the next Christmas Party!!!!

Be Safe...
Amy (KB3PHI)

2009 UPCOMING EVENTS

June 7th

Reading Off Road Riders Enduro

June 27th and 28th

Field Day

July

S.A.R.A. Summer Picnic

September 20th

Valley Forge Moonshine Enduro

October 10th and 11th

PA QSO Party

October 24th

32nd Annual Grave Dig

As these events come closer we will be posting the date and times. We are always looking for operators for these events.

Deepest Sympathy

Sara would like to express our deepest sympathy to the families of Allen Breiner Sr. W3TI and George "Don" Kellner KB3CH

XYL/Ladies Net

SARA sponsors a XYL Net weekly on Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on 145.370. The purpose of the net is for the ladies of the area to check in and share in the fellowship of being an operator. You do not need to be a member of SARA to check into this net. At the conclusion of the net, we do take a general call-up for anyone to check in so you do not have to be a lady to check in. We are also looking for some of you ladies to serve as net control operators. If interested, please contact Amy kb3phi@yahoo.com

UHF 440 Net

SARA sponsors a 440 net held weekly on Monday at 7:30 P.M. on 444.950 (PL 131.8hz).

The purpose of this net is to become better acquainted with our system. All amateurs are welcome - you don't have to be a member to check into the net.

We would like to thank everyone who checked into the net this week (3/02/09).

We had a total of 9 amateurs who participated



SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ARES / RACES **Schuylkill County ARES member(s),**

A web site was created to allow our emergency communicators an easy online source of reference materials. This site was created under yahoo groups, a free web host. Due to the nature of some of the reference materials, it was felt better that the access be limited to just those who need it. The web address for the site is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/schuylkillcountyares>

In order to begin accessing the site, the user must register. After access is granted, access is as simple as entering a user name and password (similar to checking your e-mail)

Steps:

1. Visit the group site (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/schuylkillcountyares>)
2. On the upper right- hand side of the page is a button labled "join this group"...click on this.
3. You will be directed to sign in. If you do not have a yahoo account, on the bottom of the column is a link called "Sign UP"
4. You will come to a registration screen. You will be asked basic questions (Name, birth date,

and zip code) At this time, you can choose your user name. Most amateurs use their call sign. Afterwards you pick a password and confirm it...you're done! (you will receive a yahoo e-mail account with this registration. You do not have to use it if you do not wish to. You do not have to give up your current e-mail to use yahoo mail and yahoo can be accessed by any computer connected to the internet worldwide.)

5. You will get a confirmation screen with a link on the right hand side " Go to Groups" Click on it.
6. You will enter the Schuylkill County ARES screening page. At this time you will go through the steps of gaining access to the site. At this time, you may want to add that page to your favorites, so you can quickly access the page in the future.
7. Under your e-mail address, you can change to settings to have any ARES bulletins sent to the e-mail account of your choice. We will not flood our members with e-mails unless it is deemed important, so be sure you list an e-mail account you check.
8. The next box is labeled "comment to owner", you can simply add you call sign.
9. Under **STEP 2: Message delivery** you choose how often you will get e-mails about the site. Select "Special Notices" All other choices will flood you with unnecessary e-mails or you will get none at all. Under **STEP 3: Message Preference** you can select "Traditional"
10. After you decode the scrambled letters and enter them into the box, (This is required by yahoo to prevent spammers from using software to generate automatic requests) Click on the **JOIN** button on the bottom of the screen.
11. You are finished registering! Within a day, one of the page moderators will see your registration and immediately approve it. You can begin taking advantage of the pages features now. To visit the page in the future, you just simply enter your yahoo user name and password.

Contents of the page:

- County, District and Section ARES plans.
- State RACES guide
- Maps (with more to be added in the future)
- Photos of local ARES activities
- More to follow... We hope you take advantage of the page, you can add as much or little as you wish!

73, Bob N3RZI

HB 538 "Prohibiting interactive wireless communication device."

Here is another piece of legislation of special interest to Amateur Radio. Well, its time to contact your state representatives again. This time its HB538. The Use of Wireless Devices while Driving. PLEASE NOTE that presently there is an exclusion for "a two-way radio communication device" and Citizens Band Radio **BUT** Amateur Radio is **NOT** specifically mentioned and perhaps it would be best to seek our legislators support for this bill with an Amendment which specifically exempts Amateur Radio.

The Web Site for the Pennsylvania Legislature is:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>

Once you are at that site go to the top right hand corner and in the small box labeled "Find Legislation By" Check "Bill #" and below that put HB538 in the box then click "Go".

Here is a "Cut and Paste" copy of the proposed legislation but it may be easier to read on the official web site.

PRINTER'S NO. 587
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSE BILL
No. 538

Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY SHAPIRO, BOBACK, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, CRUZ, DALLY, DeLUCA, DePASQUALE, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DRUCKER, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GERGELY, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, HORNAMAN, KESSLER, KILLION, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY, MANN, McILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MENSCH, MICCARELLI, MILLARD, MILNE, MUNDY, MURPHY, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PETRARCA, PETRI, PRESTON, QUINN, READSHAW, REED, REICHLEY, SABATINA, SAMUELSON, SANTARSIERO, SCHRODER, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, M. SMITH, STABACK, SWANGER, THOMAS, VEREB, WAGNER, WATSON AND YUDICHAK,

FEBRUARY 19, 2009
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, FEBRUARY 19, 2009
AN ACT

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in rules of the road in general, prohibiting interactive wireless communications devices.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:

§ 102. Definitions.

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to specific provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

* * *

"Interactive wireless communications device." Any wireless electronic communications device that provides for voice or data communication between two or more parties, including, but not limited to, a mobile or cellular telephone, a text messaging device, a personal digital assistant that sends or receives messages or a laptop computer. The term does not include a citizens band radio, a two-way radio communication device or a device that is permanently affixed during operation to a bus or school bus.

* * *

Section 2. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to read:
§ 3316. Prohibiting interactive wireless communications devices.

(a) Driver restrictions.--

(1) No driver shall operate a motor vehicle on a highway or traffic way in this Commonwealth while using an interactive wireless communications device unless the interactive wireless communications device is a hands-free interactive wireless communications device.

(2) No driver with a learner's permit or junior driver's license shall operate a motor vehicle on a highway or traffic way in this Commonwealth while using an interactive wireless communications device.

- (b) Exceptions.--This section shall not apply to:
- (1) persons who use an interactive wireless Communications device to contact a 511 service or 911 system for the purpose of reporting an accident, an emergency or obtaining directions;
 - (2) operators of emergency vehicles while engaged in the performance of official duties; or
 - (3) operators of public passenger transportation, as defined in 74 Pa.C.S. § 1503 (relating to definitions).

(c) Construction.--The provisions of this section shall not be construed as authorizing the seizure or forfeiture of an interactive wireless communications device, unless otherwise provided by law.

(d) Penalty.--A person who violates subsection (a) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50.

(e) Preemption of local ordinances.--This section supersedes and preempts all ordinances of any municipality with regard to the use of an interactive wireless communication device by an operator of a motor vehicle.

(f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"511 service." Three-digit telecommunications dialing to access an intelligent transportation system traveler information service provided in this Commonwealth in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission and the United States Department of Transportation.

"911." The number used by a public agency located in whole or in part within this Commonwealth authorized by law to provide emergency telephone service to access firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, emergency medical or other emergency services.

"Hands free interactive wireless communications device." An interactive wireless communications device that has an internal feature or that is equipped with an attachment or addition, whether permanently part of the interactive wireless communications device, by which a user engages in a voice or data communication without the use of either hand and regardless of whether either hand is used to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of the interactive wireless communications device.

Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

Every one needs to make sure we get a specific exemption in the legislation. I'm not sure who actually wrote this to include citizens band radio

CB and not Amateur radio. We need to educate our Legislators again of the important roll amateur radio is to public service, I guess all the hard work to inform them of the roll the amateur community has been forgotten, we just went through this with the tower legislation. The ARRL has put together a very informative statement that can be found at

<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>

This is a great piece to include with your letters to your legislators. Don't just sit back and think every one else is taking care of contacting their legislators I don't need too. Get your letters out as soon as possible. If you go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> on the upper right you can search for your legislator and find their email addresses, send them an email it won't even cost you a stamp, just a few minutes of your time.

Todd A. Deem - KB3IKX
President

