

# THE CIRCULATOR

---

A Newsletter for South Central Pennsylvania's Amateur Radio Groups.

Vol.1 No. 5

DECEMBER 2023

---

2023 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day is December 2

The popular annual SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) will be held on December 2, 2023, from 0000Z to 2400Z. SRD was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and ARRL. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day, SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

## SKYWARN Recognition Day Operating Instructions

**Object:** For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during severe weather events of the past year.

**Date:** NWS stations will operate December 2, 2023, from 0000 - 2400 UTC.

**Exchange:** Call sign, name, location, signal report, a one- or two-word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc.), temperature reading if available and SRD Number if the station has one.

**Modes:** NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, Winlink, CW, FT8, FT4, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "/NWS" to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS).

**Station Control Operator:** It is suggested that during SRD operations for NWS offices a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.

**Event and QSL Information:** The National Weather Service will provide event information via the SRD website. Event certificates will once again be electronic and printable from the main website after the conclusion of SRD.

**Log Submission:** To submit your log summary for SRD, you can use the online submission form that will be made available on the NWS SRD Recognition main page when the event is completed.

Deadline for log submission is January 31, 2024.

The Harrisburg PEMA associated amateur repeater on 145. 11 is linked full-time by way of RF to 443. 425 located 12 miles west of State College on Rattlesnake Mountain. CTCSS access 107.2.

NWS CTP will check these frequencies repeatedly during our operating hours of Friday, Dec. 1, 19:00 to 21:00 and Saturday, Dec. 2, 09:00 to 12:00 Noon.

The **South Mountain Amateur Radio Club** (N3TWT) has recently appointed a **Public Information Officer (PIO)**.

Doug Motter, N3UTN is now the PIO for the South Mountain Radio Amateur Club (SMRA). He has the General License and is a Level 2 member of our Auxcomm/ARES Team. Doug is an active participant in most of the SMRA events and activities. We hold our Monthly Membership meetings at the Public Safety Training Rooms in the Cumberland County EOC in Carlisle (EPA) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

--

**Penn-Mar Club** members voted in October and re-elected all 4 officers to their positions for another year. President: Justin KB3MCQ, Vice-President: Dennis KA3IXG, Secretary: Art WA3GLL, Treasurer: Bill K3SFK.

Penn-Mar holds regular meetings on the 2nd Thursday each month at the Hanover UPMC hospital. The meeting is usually held in Conference Room A on the 3rd floor at 7:30pm. The Club also has a monthly "HamFeast" breakfast on the 4th Saturday each month at 8:00am. The location changes, so check out the Club's website for the next spot. There will be a Club Christmas dinner on December 16th. All members are encouraged to attend and enjoy a good time and good food.

The Repeater Committee worked on the Club's 2-meter repeater (147.330) on the Pigeon Hills tower and installed a new 1500va UPS at the site. They will be working on adding a 440-frequency unit at that location soon.

HEARS members deployed and tested an 80-meter antenna at the Hanover UPMC hospital. They successfully connected an antenna, but were unable to make any contacts, due to excessive noise. Members are looking at other options and will schedule another test at a later date.

The Club is working on obtaining a clubhouse site. In preparation for the new location, members are planning a clean-up at the current storage site. There are a lot of supplies to go through and inventory, so it may take more than one day.

Finally, the Club would like to welcome our 2 newest members, Dennis KC3VZV and Kennett KC3UUA.

--

The **Central Pennsylvania Repeater Association** continues to acquire equipment and materials to upgrade the CPIN network for 1 gB/s capability. Work was completed on the west side of the system during the summer. The next phase will center around the network connections at Cornwall. Sites on each end of a link must be done simultaneously, and arranging climbers at any given tower can be a challenge by itself. Dish replacements at Blue Mountain to increase gain and reduce interference are still pending, delayed by tower crews refurbishing the WITF tower (550 ft).

--

CPRA members recently finished construction on a **solar project** at the Waggoner's Gap site. It took several short work parties to construct a frame mounted between the building and the fence surrounding their tower using Unistrut. The frame is 80 inches above ground. The 4 panels were lifted into place on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and electrical work inside the building will require at least one more session. This project was largely financed by a grant from the ARRL, and basic equipment obtained through Skyline Communications.

--

## Training and Education:

Pennsylvania State Police AuxComm classes are available in Train PA, for registration. [Home - TRAIN PA - an affiliate of the TRAIN Learning Network powered by the Public Health Foundation](#) Entering ID# 1112064 in the search box is the easiest way to search for the class. There are no offerings within the eastern PA area, just the following in southwestern PA:

January 20 - 21, 2024 at PSP Southwest Training Center, Greensburg, PA (27 openings)

It is expected that this course will be offered in Dauphin county in early 2024.

The Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) course trains amateur radio operators to serve as auxiliary communicators during all-hazards emergency operations or planned events. Since 2011, the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency Emergency Communications Division (CISA ECD) has conducted AUXCOMM courses across the nation and trained more than 3,900 students in this course.

This class is designed for those auxiliary emergency communicators and groups who volunteer to provide backup emergency radio communications support to public safety agencies. Typically, this includes amateur radio and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team (REACT) communicators but may include other volunteer emergency communicators.

Copies of prerequisite documentation which verify applicants have met the prerequisites and are eligible to participate in the course must be submitted and reviewed at least ten (10) days prior to the course start date. Registration is not complete until all documentation has been received and verified by Holly Caudill. Admittance is limited to 30 qualified applicants.

--

The South Mountain Radio Amateurs offers an Amateur Radio Course based on the ARRL's "Ham Radio License Manual" for the Technician License class. An examination session at the conclusion of the course will also be offered at no additional charge. The FCC requires a \$35 license fee. The class sessions are held at the Public Safety Training Room, One Public Safety Drive, Carlisle, PA. Direct all questions or to sign-up, contact Don, K3ZR at [K3ZR@ARRL.NET](mailto:K3ZR@ARRL.NET) The current course started on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for the announcement of the next session.

More information can be found on the Club website [www.N3TWT.org](http://www.N3TWT.org).

--

## HAMFEST Calendar (within 100 miles of Camp Hill, PA)

The next scheduled event, **Winterfest**, will be sponsored by the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club at the Vietnam Veterans Association Building, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. The event is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Public Contact: Terry E Snyder , WB3BKN, via Email: [wb3bkn1@gmail.com](mailto:wb3bkn1@gmail.com)

--

## Continuing Reminders

WA2BBS, Doug Stevens, Jr., is looking for stations in South Central PA counties interested in participating in the Amateur Radio Traffic system. The EPA Emergency Phone and Traffic Net meets on 3.917 MHz Daily at 6 PM local time. Local stations are needed from all of our counties to improve both delivery and origination.

--

The MidAtlantic NBEMS net officially began on Sunday October 1st  
Time: 10:00 AM EDT Freq: 7068 kHz (vfo) +/- qrm  
MODE: THOR 22 or THOR11 if conditions are poor  
TRAFFIC mode: MFSK32 or one of the new THOR modes (32,44,56)

Net Control is Ron NY3J (Bensalem PA). Come verify that fickle forty is very functional at 10 AM for EMCOMM TRAFFIC. Please prepare some drill traffic: Severe Weather Report, AMERICAN RED CROSS message, ARRL RadioGram, spreadsheets. So far 40m propagation has been superb for regional NVIS paths.

--

The 145.21 group meets monthly at the Hibatchi Grill 5080 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg at Noon. This is the retail center with Dick's Sporting Goods and Hobby Lobby. Their next meeting is December 28<sup>th</sup>.

--

### **Statement of Purpose for THE CIRCULATOR:**

The Amateur Radio Community in our section of the state is strong and diverse with numerous clubs and loosely knit groups quietly doing their thing. When someone suggested that we put these groups in touch with each other, this newsletter was started to share or exchange information between as many of these organizations as possible. As editor, I am tasked with acquiring and disseminating content; content that comes from you. Information that you wish to share to promote your group, project, or event should be sent to your club's contact and then they should forward it to the editor [KR3EE.Rich@gmail.com](mailto:KR3EE.Rich@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next CIRCULATOR. If you know of any other groups that I may include please send me their contact information. ***For this to work properly, it is imperative that each organization receiving this distribute it to their membership.***

'73's