

The Parasitic Emission

Volume 39 • Number 2
June 2013

June 22-23 – Time for Field Day!
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Supporting Amateur Radio Club Activities

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**WELCOME BACK
FIELD DAY!**

This could be the last Field Day ever! Don't miss it!

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, June 22 and 23, 2013 could be the last Field Day ever—at least for some of us. In the past year, we have had the sad occasion to say that final "73" to far too many of our ham radio friends and Elmers on those mournful days when their microphones and keys fell silent forever. We will miss them always; their passing is a loss to Amateur Radio, and to us all.

Try as we might, none of us can turn back the hands of time to the golden days of yesteryear to visit with our friends of long ago. Nor can we halt the steady, relentless countdown to our own last Field Day. But enough of these grim thoughts...

WHY THE emphasis on Field Day? Because Field Day is the most popular activity in all of Amateur Radio. It's bigger than Dayton. It's bigger than any contest. It's bigger than anything else in the whole field of Amateur Radio. It used to be said, "If you have to miss something, miss Dayton, but be sure to make it to Field Day."

So what will you find at Field Day? A

picnic? Yes. Radios? Yes. Tens of thousands of other stations on the air, all wanting to talk to YOU? YES!

But as enjoyable as all these things are, they can't begin to compare to the most important part of Field Day, and that is spending time with your ham radio friends. Field Day is the one weekend every year we set aside to visit with all of our ham radio buddies. It's a time to build good memories of good times with good friends, and that is priceless!

FIELD DAY only happens one time every year. There will always be another soccer game. There will always be another perfect day to go boating. There will always be another weekend to spend with your family. *But there might not be another Field Day to spend with all your ham radio friends.* Especially those of us who are getting on in years. And that group may well include you and me! That is why I urge you to put everything else aside for this one weekend, and put your ham radio friends first, just this once.

If you're still not convinced, take out a sheet of paper and make a list of all the "reasons" you don't want to go to Field Day. Maybe you're afraid you'll run into somebody who annoys you. Maybe you have forgotten how to use a radio. Maybe you've "outgrown" the whole ham radio thing and it seems silly to you now.

Whatever your reasons, write 'em down.

Make sure you are thorough and list every one! No "reason" is too trivial. Put it on paper, no matter how insignificant it may be. (You can use as many sheets as you need...)

Next, crumple that list into a ball and deposit it—with vigor—into the nearest trashcan.

Now it's time to get serious. Take out another sheet of paper and list all the silent keys who have touched your life. Then list all the living ham radio friends you haven't seen in years. Then list all the things you miss about ham radio that used to bring you joy. This list is why you need to make every effort to get to Field Day this year!

If transportation is a problem, call another ham for a ride. If you have empty seats, call another ham and offer them a ride. **BRING THE FAMILY!** If you know somebody who doesn't get this newsletter, call them and read this to them. Offer to take them to Field Day and bring them home when they are ready to leave.

THIS MAY BE somebody's last Field Day ever, and we can't change that, but if we all make an extra effort to be there it will be everybody's BEST Field Day ever!

I'll see you... at Field Day, and *On The Air!*



You need to make every effort to get to Field Day this year!

Submission Guidelines

by Joe Shupienis W3BC, Editor

EVERY MONTH, the *Club Connections* section highlights the activities and provides (hopefully) up to date contact information for each participating club.

The most time-consuming part of assembling each issue has been obtaining and formatting each club's information each month. While most clubs have done a great job of keeping their information current, a few have sent no updates in over a year. This newsletter is read by prospective hams and others interested in Amateur Radio in your community. It's very important for them to be able to contact your club officers, find your current website, and find out when and where your next club meeting will take place.

Only having out of date information forces a decision between two bad choices: **Is it better to omit wrong information or to publish it anyway and hope for the best?** After much thought, and recognizing the responsibility to provide accurate information to every reader of this publication, the following policy is in effect immediately:

To be fair to all readers, the club pages will be omitted for those clubs that have not submitted current club information by the deadline each month.

All current subscribers will continue to receive *The Parasitic Emission* until they request to be removed from the distribution list, regardless of any club affiliation. This will help ensure that *submitted* material will be published on schedule.

Publication Deadline

Please submit all information for publication in the next month's edition no later than the 4th Monday of each month. Please note: The 4th Monday is NOT always the "last" Monday.

Publication Date	Deadline
July 2013	Monday, June 24
August 2013	Monday, July 22
September 2013	Monday, August 26
October 2013	Monday, September 23

Please submit large articles, items containing multiple submissions from the same group, multiple photos, or material (text and photos) that will require significant editing earlier than the deadline.

Text Specifications

Plain text that is ready to cut and paste into the publication is preferred if it is possible for you to do so. You may use a word processor or Notepad. You can even type the article into an email.

It might not be possible to process or even decipher Microsoft® Publisher™ or Works™ documents, due to the ever-changing file formats those programs use. Please use anything else—even Notepad!

Photo Specifications

In this age of digital cameras and email, it's pretty easy to submit photos. Professionals attach **one** photo to an individual email, the subject is the name of the article the photo goes with, and the text of the message is the caption of the photo, followed by the names of recognizable people in the photo. Please keep captions short and on topic.

How to Submit

Please send all material by email to:
submit@parasiticemission.com

Legal Notices

The Parasitic Emission (ISSN: 2156-0080) is published monthly by **Joe Shupienis, 96 Third Street, Falls Creek, PA 15840**

All original content is the property of its authors. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged. **All opinions expressed are those of their authors only.**

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Joe Shupienis, W3BC

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The Parasitic Emission is published monthly for all Radio Amateurs residing in central Pennsylvania. This electronic edition is provided free of charge by email, and may also be downloaded from:
www.parasiticemission.com
which also makes available selected back issues, current issues and more.

— . . . —

The current, online, interactive version of the calendar, which contains regional club activities and events in upcoming months may be accessed at
calendar.parasiticemission.com.

You may use that calendar to enter amateur radio events of interest to local amateurs which are intended for publication, subject to review and approval.

Publication Notices

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June 2013

HOW DOES A RADIO SURVIVE A 460 FOOT DIVE?

Falling 460 feet is deadly for most radios but not Peter Carr's IC-2AT. His ICOM met the ultimate test of durability like a true champion.

Carr, WB3BQO, radio officer for Elk County Pennsylvania's Emergency Management Agency, scaled a 500 foot antenna tower for routine repairs. At about the 460 foot level, his trusty ICOM IC-2AT slipped off his belt plunging towards the ground far below. Reluctantly, Carr descended the tower expecting to find his IC-2AT in several thousand pieces. "I was stunned to find that the only apparent damage was a cracked case and a broken

battery," said Carr.

With little confidence, Carr took the radio to the agency director who stared at the damaged rig in disbelief. Placing a spare battery on the radio, they were absolutely astonished! The rig came to life! How could any radio survive such a fall?

The IC-2AT brought up the local repeater instantly. A quick bench check showed the transceiver was up to specs. "Aside from a new battery, my IC-2AT has never been serviced. It works great, just like it did out of the box," Carr stated.

"It's nice to know that when lives and property are at stake, ICOM radios will be up and running. My IC-2AT is one tough radio!"

DO YOU HAVE A TOUGH RADIO STORY? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Send your best ICOM "Tough Radio" story to:

ICOM America, Inc.
2380 - 116th Avenue N.E.
Bellevue, WA 98004


ICOM
One Tough Radio

The Radio That Refused To Quit

by Pete Carr WW30

THIS PAST CHRISTMAS, Lolly and I went to Fort Mill, SC for my granddaughter's wedding and the holidays. Jeff, AE1O, my oldest son, dragged out the old IC2AT. I'd given it to him many years ago and he gave it to Brenda, his wife, who also has a ticket.

They used the rig when Jeff was inbound to the Portland, ME airport to let her know when he would be home for dinner. This was when he was flying the old Gulfstream.

He said that it had lost range a couple years ago so it wound up in a drawer. I brought the HT home and popped off the case. The antenna wire on the bottom of the BNC connector for the antenna was broken off and the thumb wheels for the frequency-select needed sprayed with tuner cleaner. I popped in some dry batteries in the battery holder and it's working great!

The goal is to use it as part of a portable packet station since the earphone and mic jacks are easy to wire. I'm still looking for a suitable lap top and have a spare PK232MBX and the software.

Ed Zettle W3LQA had the idea to submit the story to Icom. Seeing this again after thirty years made for a really nice trip down memory lane! It is amazing how a cheap HT has been tied to so many hams through their lives.

Thirty years later and still going strong!

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Special Event Stations

by Jeff Rowles KA3FHV

ONE OF MY favorite activities in amateur radio is contacting special event stations. These operations are set up across the country by amateur radio clubs and a few enterprising individual operators to commemorate happenings such as The Indianapolis 500, the anniversary of the Titanic disaster, Groundhog Day, or maybe a local event or celebration like "Grandma's 10,000th apple pie!"



The Groundhog Day special event takes place right here in our own backyard. The Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club operates it from their club shack at the Punxsutawney airport.

It was featured in an article in *CQ Magazine* a few years ago. I plan to do some operating there this year myself.

Most stations reward successful contacts with a special QSL card or a specially designed signed and numbered certificate.

There is a listing of special event stations in *QST* each month. Check out that page, find an interesting subject and give it a try. Perhaps you will get hooked as I did.

Message from The Editor

by Joe Shupienis W3BC

BY WAY OF explanation, *The Parasitic Emission* has been conspicuously absent for the past several months. No, I didn't die—I just checked and I still have a pulse so no celebrations yet.

Important personal matters have been demanding much of my time of late, and I have had to take a (hopefully) brief hiatus from publishing this newsletter.

There is light at the end of the tunnel, and I hope it's not a speeding train (feel free to hope otherwise if that's what makes you happy.)

I apologize to our faithful readers and the participating clubs for my failure to publish the *Club Connections* information in a timely manner. I am ashamed of myself for letting you down, and for the negative impact it may have had on your club members' participation and activities. *Club Connections* will resume in the next issue!

I thank each and every one of our contributors, and will publish all submissions in future issues. My priority in this month's issue is publication of Field Day information, to help our readers make their way to their local site. I plan on resuming regular publication of future issues, so keep those cards and letters coming!

Give it a try, and perhaps you will get hooked as I did.



WW30's "famous" IC-2AT today, some 30 years after surviving its 460 foot plunge. Like its owner, it still works like a champ, even after all these years!

[Editor's Note: The following article contains the views and opinions of its author, and does not necessarily represent the views and opinions of The Parasitic Emission or of any Amateur Radio organization or other person. The Author is solely responsible for its content.]

Making New Hams Welcome

by Jerry Bosak WD3D

I **NOTICED** / looking at my license, that as of May 18th of this year, it has been two years since I first earned my Amateur Extra License and former call signs KB3VQZ / AB3NK.

Many things have changed since then, and we are now up to KC3 in our Technician Class license pool and almost to AC3 in our Amateur Extra call signs.

It got me to thinking, just how far we have come in the last two years.

I still notice a disproportional number of people dropping out of the hobby as those now entering it. I wondered where as a ham radio community did we go wrong?

What didn't we offer those people, that they were looking for when they first got their license? Much like Schindlers List - I wondered what went wrong, or what more could we have done as hams to retain these people. The logical answer is - nothing.

There are those who will apply themselves and will make something out of themselves.

There are those who will not apply themselves or will stay in one place too long and will become stagnant. And there are those who will not be willing to spend the money or learn the necessary skills and will not get much if anything out of it beyond checking into a net a couple of times and giving their "No Traffic" and leaving, never

to be heard from again.

So I had to think back to the old CB radio days and the clubs that were active 50 years ago. What did they do that was so right that they were able to retain the members they had and even recruit new members. The answer was plain and simple. They did things together as a group and they had a common interest, and they were willing to share their interests with others - which nurtured the hobby and allowed it to grow.

If the only way to communicate between two points is by way of smoke signals, someone will figure out a way of sending smoke signals. If it is by the use of Semaphores - they will learn to use semaphores. When we went wireless, technology grew exponentially.

Unfortunately decay also occurs the same way..

Unless we nurture our young hams, we will not have old hams. We tend to forget that we too were once new hams ourselves.

When we conduct our club meetings, although we do a round of introductions - do we truly try to introduce ourselves to the new club member and make them feel welcome, or do we just go through the motions. The two easiest ways to learn someones name is to become friends or enemies with them. Our mind tends to learn faster when we have a reason to learn.

Some club members has gotten lazy over the years and we have forgotten all that we had learned previously.

Name Badges were once a staple stock item of any club member. We wore our badges to show who we were and as a way

of introducing ourselves to others.

It is hard enough to learn someones name, let alone having to learn their call signs.

Just owning a hat with your call sign is not enough.

So now that we got that out of the way, we have to ask ourselves what can we do as a club to attract new members and to keep the members we already have?

I believe that the answer is that a club has to be dynamic in their programs and demonstrations. Always changing to meet the needs of the current technology and the new club members as well as the older members.

And, there needs to be some type of refreshments at the end of the club meeting.

After all it was Napoleon or was it Fredrick the Great that said - an Army marches on its stomach. A group needs to eat well to perform well.

If we meet the basic needs of the club members, they will be more inclined to stay longer and to participate more with the demonstrations and activities that are vital to a clubs existence.

This is something that impressed me the most at the Steel City Amateur Radio Club meetings.

They had food and lots of it!

They were hospitable - they not only worried that you had enough to eat, they even offered for you to take home the left



The answer is that a club has to be dynamic...

overs.

The basic needs of logistics were there. A radio room with plenty of radio's to operate, a place to operate them from with heat and light and facilities and even a place to relax when you were not operating. A library that you could use for reference if you had a question or a problem. A panel of experts that you could go to if you had a question that needed answered.

Out going club members are usually the best club members to have and the easiest to loose.

I can remember back to my own humble beginnings, I did not own much and I tried to make due with what I had. I had a piece of old coax, a old antenna, some pipe, a welder and a set of mechanics tools and machinist tools.

What ever I couldn't afford to buy, I could always try to make.

Friends such as Parker – KB3NMK and Don KB3LES loaned me radios and gave me equipment to get me on the air. They didn't know me and they had no reason to trust me, other then the fact that they probably realized that I was sincere in wanting to participate.

I didn't have the resources to go out and buy everything brand new right off the bat.

Without their help, it would have been much more difficult to get on the air and stay on the air as long as I have. Thanks!

Another person / probably the first person to visit my shack was W3BC.

Joe took the time to drive to my house and offer to loan me the use of one of his radios and a dipole antenna so as to get me on the air on HF.

At that time, I was not equipped to hang a antenna out in the middle of the yard with no support.

But I overcame that obstacle because of my machine shop training and a little ingenuity - by building a jib boom, attaching it to a already established mast pipe on the rear of my house and extending the boom far enough away from the house to get the antenna high enough in the air to at least listen and operate locally. Yes it could be higher, but that will have to come at a later time when I can erect some serious towers on my postage size lot.

When you own no land, everything you have has to go straight up - else it is trespassing on someone else's land. And verbal agreements goes out the window when someone decides that they don't want your antenna on their land anymore.

Fortunately others came along that also helped me such as Marty Palmer - who is not a ham, but has been in the radio business for many years. Marty sold me tower and gave me advice that came from years of experience of dealing with the public. You could never put a price tag on information like that.

So I see people now wanting to get into amateur radio for what ever reason and more people have attended the license classes and the VE test sessions and have passed the exams and has gotten a license. So now the question is - what do you do once you get your license?

The answer should be to find a good dynamic club where you can participate in activities with others with a similar interest. Learn as much as possible and never stop learning.

I guess the thing that has been missing for

so many years is the older hams going to visit the newer hams, offering to take them along to ham-fests and inviting them over to their houses.

We live in a world where there never seems to be enough hours in the day.

Where everyone just seems to be self centered and there are time conflicts, where there isn't any free time anymore to just sit down and operate - other then contests or Field Days

Buddy groups forms and in time the older members dies and unless new members are incorporated the group as a whole dies. The newer members sometimes feels as if they are not a part of the group and are alienated due to economic circumstances or geography. They will come to the meetings for a while, or will tune into the nets a couple of times, but when they are not treated like they wish to be treated - they will go elsewhere.

As I said before, the programs needs to be Dynamic - marked by a usually continous and productive activity and change.. We are a technology driven society. Why would somebody want to spend thousands of dollars on amateur radio equipment when they can do the same basic thing with the internet and their cell phones? There has to be an darw, a attraction, a way of getting them interested in what we do and a way to keep them interested and to want to participate.

As I have explained to other clubs, if a new ham has to wait until the end of the net - after all the previously established hams call signs has been called to check into a net, and that persons call sign is always at the end of the net, even though the new ham belongs to the club and others don't.

Find a good dynamic club where you can participate...

He / she will somehow feel alienated and they won't want to sit there and listen to a bunch of old guys talk while they wait until the end for their turn to come. Even more insulting is to have someone that is friends with the group come back after a long hiatus and have their call sign put ahead of the person who has been sitting there patiently waiting for their call sign to advance up the list. There has to be a consistency to what a club or group does to justify their actions.

We need to do things more like some clubs such as FT Venango Mike and Key club, where they introduce their club officers and their club members at the beginning of their net and then their general check in's afterwards.

When we establish some type of order / some type of rhyme or reason - a method to the madness like my siblings would say Then we have some way of justifying what we do to others in a sane and rational manner.

EComm is but one reason why we become hams. Personal communications sometimes comes in second.

Digital modes attracts about as many new hams as does anything else. Many people are intrigued by CW - what was once old technology has suddenly become new again!

My point has always been that there is something that amateur radio and clubs can offer everyone if the resources are made available to them. And a viable club can be kept vibrant by doing the things that attracts new members and not just appeases the older members.

Sometimes we have to fish / cut bait / or go ashore.

If we don't want to participate we don't have to, but we need to not stand in the way of those that does.

Just because we know how to do all of these things or these things or that these things do not appeal to us does not mean that we shouldn't try to do them for the benefit of those that wants to learn.!

That is what will attract new members and will keep old members active.

A social club will not be of any use to anyone if there is a emergency and no one knows how to operate these modes or their equipment does not work or work properly or they do not know how to take and pass traffic.

Being able to operate while mobile and having a GOD -(Get out of Dodge) ready kit is one way to ensure that if there is an emergency that we can all do our part.

Another is to participate in emergency exercises - this means joining a local ARES / RACES group and having the county welcome us with open arms.

If we have a group - but are not wanted or needed by the county, then why bother to train or to take the FEMA tests if we are never going to use it!

Until we build a viable population of amateur radio operators, there will never be anyone politically that will accept us as a group, as long as they feel that the police and firemen and their own government agencies are going to be able to handle the responsibility and the work load associated with a real disaster.

We have never had a real emergency in Western Pennsylvania.

The last real emergency / disaster that we had was May 31, 1889 - also known as the

Johnstown Flood. The one thing that we do not realize is that a byproduct of the Johnstown Flood was the formation of the American Red Cross as we know it today.

Are we prepared for a emergency - as a amateur radio community?

The answer has to be NO!

With the average age of a amateur radio operator being 69 years old, how much work can we expect to get out of this person before they say enough?

What do we have to do as a Amateur Radio Community to change this?

Recruit and retain younger people.

How do we attract those people?

Education and programs designed to promote amateur radio in a positive light.

These simple precepts is what it takes to build a viable amateur radio community and to keep it viable. If we keep going in the direction that it has been going in, we will soon not have anyone to pick up the ball and run with it. If the bands sits empty, no one using the frequencies that were given to us, it stands to reason that the Federal Government will take those frequencies away from us and give them to others - the fact that there are groups that are willing to pay for the bandwidth and wants it for their own personal / private needs. Public service, / GMRS / FRS / Cell Phone companies, even the CB radio would all love to have our spectrum in the 70 CM range.

The key is to encourage more people to become amateurs for the right reasons and to retain those people once they have been properly trained and to make them a viable member of the amateur radio community.

Encourage more people to become amateurs for the right reasons

Where's Field Day?

by Joe Shupienis W3BC

GETTING TO A Field Day site is easy, if you know where it is! Here are the locations of all the ones we know about, so now you can't say you didn't know where it was being held!

Cambria Radio Club Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club

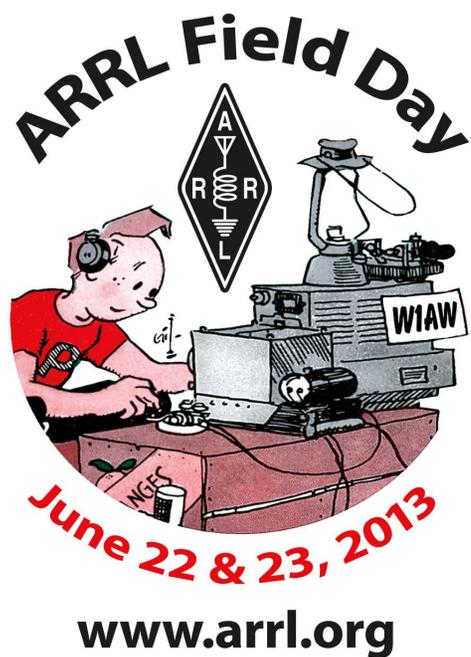
Cambria Radio Club and the **Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club** are once again planning to meet together for Field Day.

Free VE Test Session at 4pm on Saturday the 22nd.

Swap & Shop Mini Ham Fest All Weekend – bring your ham gear to sell or trade!

Contact:
fieldday@CambriaRadio.com

Location: New Germany Grove Hall
1635 New Germany Road
Summerhill, PA 15958
40.412246,-78.756995



And in case you forgot when, it's **this coming weekend – Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23.**

I invite you to attend this year, no matter what. Yes, it's that important. These groups have rolled out the welcome mat, and they are all looking forward to seeing you there! Please don't let them down!



*Now you
can't say you
didn't know
where it was
being held!*

**The Parasitic
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Elk County ARA

As always, the **Elk County Amateur Radio Association** will set up at the Lewis Camp.

Contact: Lee N3NWL

Location: Lewis Camp
41.448448,-78.777306

Directions: From Ridgway go **WEST** on **MAIN STREET**.

Turn **RIGHT** onto **GRANT ROAD**. Drive **2.2 MILES**.

Turn **LEFT** onto **BINGHAM ROAD**. Drive $\frac{1}{4}$ **MILE** and turn **LEFT** onto **LEE CAMP ROAD**.

GOTA

GET ON THE AIR
FIELD DAY



Field Day site is on the **LEFT** at the Lewis Camp.

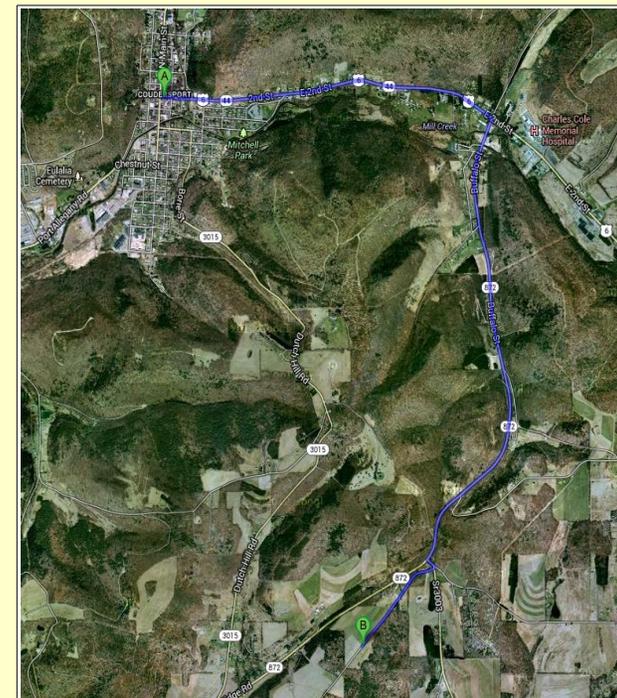
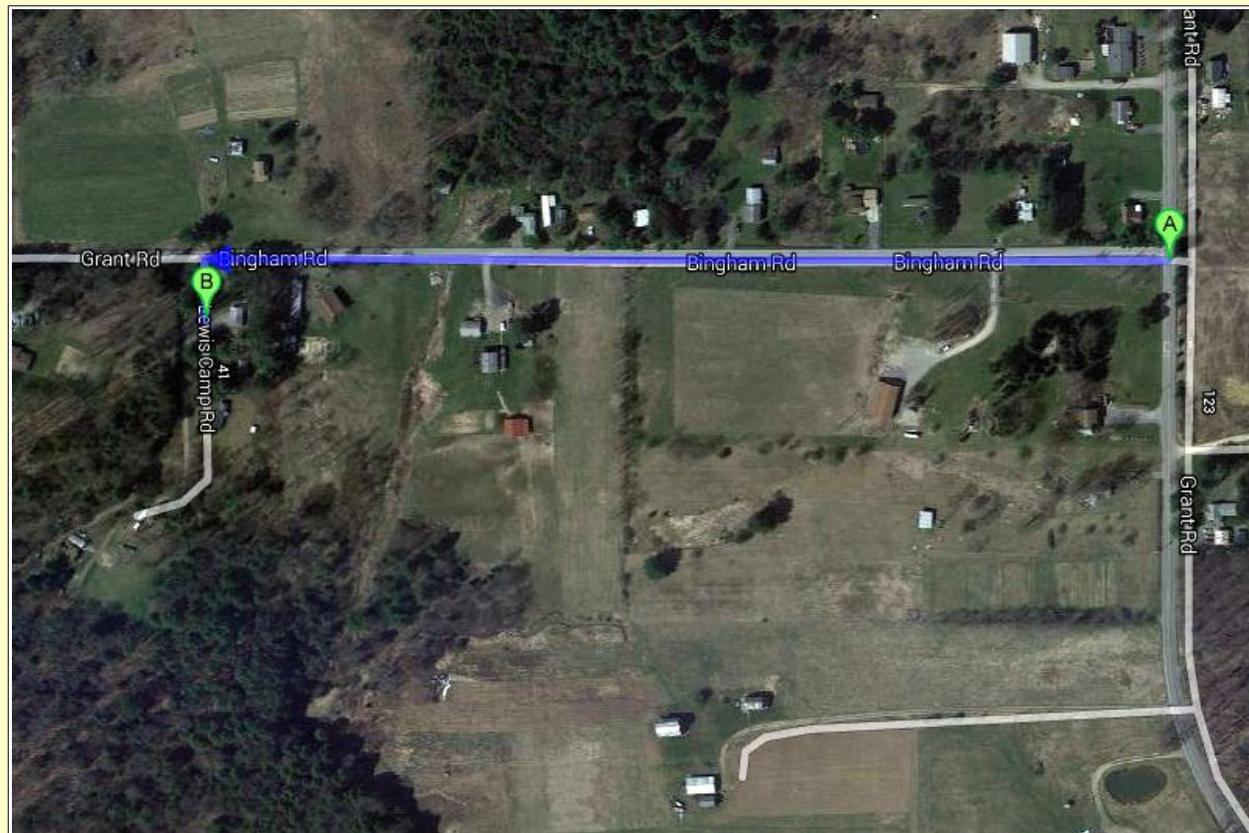
Headwaters ARC

The Headwaters **Amateur Radio Club** will set up at their Field Day Site.

Contact: Don N3DLS

Location: Black Forest
Conservation Club
41.73467,-77.998552

Directions: From Coudersport, take route 6 East towards Denton Hill/Galeton, turn right on Rt. 872. Approx. $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles up 872, turn left at very top of hill on Town Line Rd. Immediately turn right onto Back Rd. Club House is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down Back Rd on the left.



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*It's this weekend -
Saturday,
June 22 and
Sunday, June
23.*

**The Parasitic
Emission**

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Indiana County ARC

The **Indiana County Amateur Radio Club** will set up at the W3BMD Repeater Site.

Thursday nite -- setup and hot dog nite

Friday nite -- setup

Saturday -- operate, pot luck picnic?

Sunday -- tear down

Contact: Fred KM3M

Location: W3BMD Repeater Site
Parking across road!

40.833333,-79.133333

Quad-County ARC

Punxsutawney Area ARC

The Quad-County Amateur Radio Club and the **Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club** will again join forces and set up at the Clearfield County Fairgrounds in the Community House.

Contact: Joe W3BC, 814-371-3235

Location: 701 Weaver Street
Clearfield, PA 16830
41.030598,-78.44242

Directions: From US 322/ PA 153 (Rockton Road);

Take the **MILL STREET** exit,

Continue on **WEAVER STREET** through Fairgrounds gate,

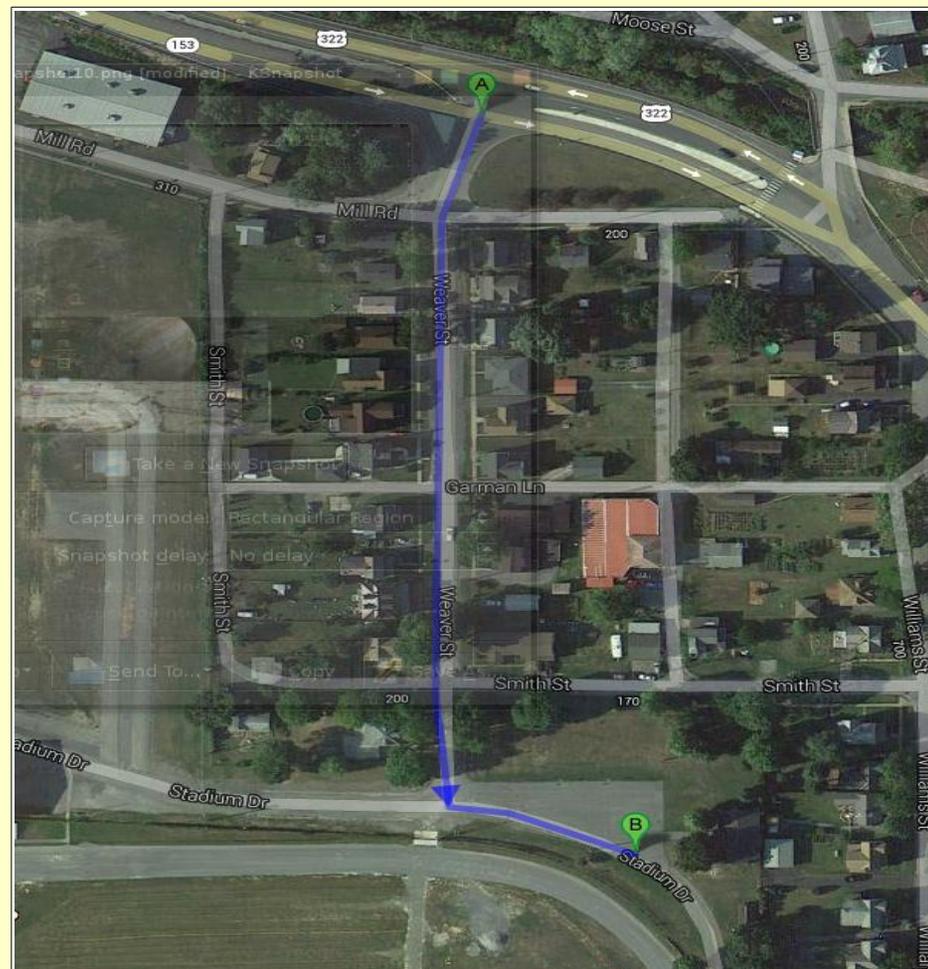
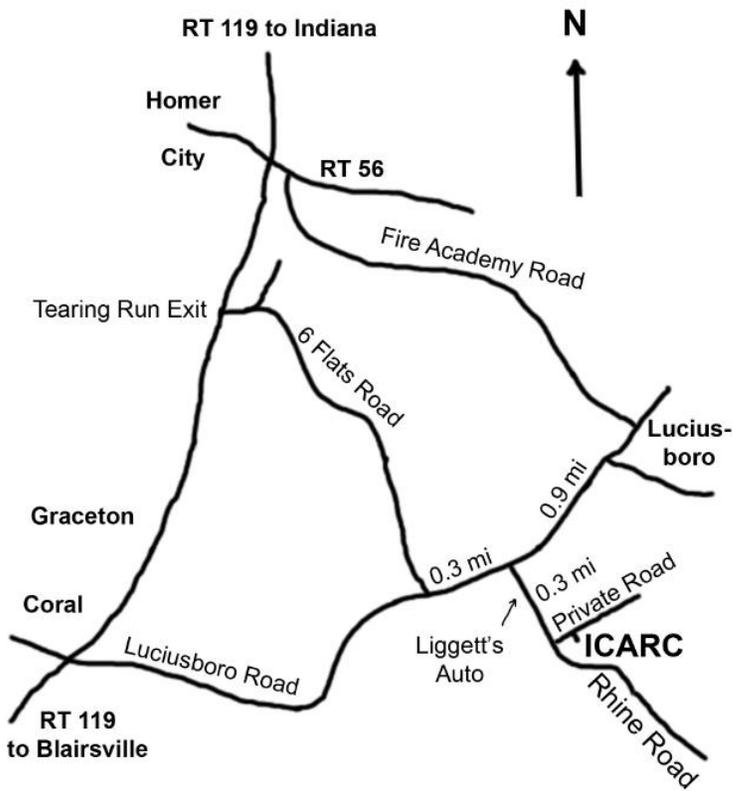
then continue 150 feet to **STADIUM DRIVE**.

Turn **LEFT** and **PARK**

11

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club Repeater Site W3BMD 146.91/31

Latitude: 40 29' 54" N Longitude: 79 08' 00" W
40.2990 N 79.0800 W



These groups have rolled out the welcome mat, and they are all looking forward to seeing you!

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