



# The VHF Transmitter

KEYSTONE VHF CLUB, INC. W3HZU FOUNDED 1955 - YORK, PA



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## From the President

by Brad Kline, N3JDQ

As I write this I've just returned from the Skywarn & Severe Weather training session presented by YARS and the county EMA in cooperation with the National Weather service. With the recent rash of thunderstorms and tornadoes in our area, this is an especially important subject. As most of you know, Greg, KE3CW, lost his tall tower during a recent storm. This tower supported not only Greg's equipment, but also the ATV repeater, remote receiver for the 6 meter repeater, and the remote receiver for the 10 meter repeater. So if you notice that some of our machines are not on the air, this is part of the reason. The other part has to do with the clubsite itself. It too was the victim of a storm. During VHF contest weekend, the 2 meter repeater antenna at the top of the tower took a direct lightning strike. Let me tell you as an eyewitness it makes a lot of noise when that happens as well as interesting odors as things smoke. The full damage done is still being assessed, but it seems to be fairly extensive. The good news is that the repeater survived but with reduced sensitivity and a lower antenna.

On a sad note, we have recently lost an active member and supporter of the club. Charlie Spencer, WN8TIH, lost his battle with leukemia. I myself owe my start

in weak signal VHF work to Charlie. One night in 1992, I heard Charlie (then N3DEJ) talking with someone on the repeater and he mentioned to the other person that he had a Kenwood TS700S for sale.

As soon as I could get to a phone I called Charlie and told him I was interested. The next night I picked up my first multimode 2m radio. Charlie also gave me all the parts for a nice 2m quad. Since that time I've been hooked on contesting and working weak signal VHF contacts. I know many of you also have special memories of Charlie.

## YARS Report

by Buzz Kutcher, N3GKP EC/RO

The latest YARS training was held on Saturday, June 22. The turn out was great. With the storms we have had lately, the SKYWARN topic was a timely one. Tom Dunham, N2KBI, of the National Weather Service made a presentation on severe weather, thunderstorms and tornadoes. After Tom's lecture, a mini table top session was held. The hams attending were grouped with EOC staffers and an actual York county weather event was replayed. Those of you who remember the July 4th flooding of several years ago are familiar with the scenario. It was a good opportunity to work with the non-hams of the county EMA staff, one-on-one.

The next training session will be held on August 15 at Pleasant Acres.

Don't forget to check in to the YARS Net on Monday evenings at 2030 hours. All hams are welcome to check in.

## HAMFEST UPDATE

by Bob Stanhope, KB3YS

The planning for the hamfest is going along very well. In fact, it's ahead of the schedule I anticipated!

We will be setting up tables and allowing vendors access to the building on Saturday afternoon. We are planning to have 160 tables set up, and will be able to expand.

The big item this year is the establishment of a web page domain. You can find us at: <http://www.yorkhamfest.org> This site contains table locations and reservation information, tail-gating reservations and reservations for taking amateur radio exams. For more info, check out the site or contact me at 843-0237 or e-mail at KB3YS@JUNO.COM

At the next meeting which will be held at my home on 7/25 at 9. We welcome your attendance and comments. If you can't attend the meeting, use e-mail.

## Calendar of Events

### June 1998

Edited by Bob Gundlach, N3NBT

- July 2 Keystone VHF Club meeting- CLUB SITE-Deininger Road
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 4 Hamfest, Harrisburg, PA
- July 5 Hamfest, Murgas ARC, Lehman, PA TI 146.610 (PL 82.5)
- July 9 Executive Board meeting-Club site, 7:00 PM
- July 12 Hamfest, Kimberton, PA TI 146.835
- July 12 Hamfest, Pittsburg, PA TI 147.090
- July 18 Hamfest, Beach Haven, PA TI 145.130 (PL 77.0)
- July 26 Hamfest, BRATS- Timonium, MD TI 147.030

## New Members

Welcome to the club!  
voted in on June 4th

Jason Howe, KB3CJQ

## CONGRATULATIONS

Barb Green, N3RMI  
and  
Donna Lee Hover, N3VPJ  
General Class

NEXT MEETING  
JULY 2 at the clubsite  
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
JULY 16

The second reading on the proposed club constitution and bylaws will be heard at the July regular meeting. They will be voted upon at that time also.