



EPARA BEACON

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ed Hugel- kc3olb

VICE PRESIDENT

Craig Sansig - w3wwp

SECRETARY

Kevin Forrest - w3kcf

TREASURER

Mike Oprihory - wr8th

MEMBER AT LARGE

Chris Sanders - aj3c

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

ED - kc3olb

SUPPORT TEAM

Quartermaster

John Victor - k3wh

MEMBERSHIP

Al Brizzi - kb3ovb

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ray Loewenthal - w3ril

PUBLIC INFO OFFICER

Ruth Ann - w9fbo

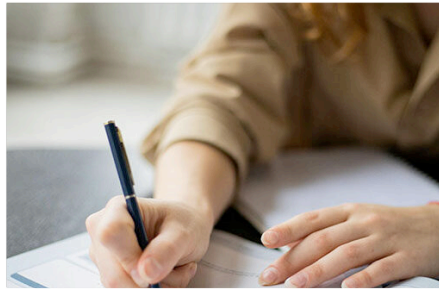


Welcome to the *EPARA Beacon*, the official newsletter of the Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association.

EPARA has served the amateur radio community in the Pocono Mountains for over 35 years. We provide opportunities for learning and the advancement of skills in amateur radio for Ham's and Non-Hams alike. We take pride in supporting our communities and surrounding areas by providing radio communications when needs arise.

We have been affiliated with the 'American Radio Relay League' (ARRL) since 1995 and continue to participate and support them in all they do for the world of Amateur Radio. From study material, testing, club events, contesting and much more. There is always something to do and learn. Come, join us and be part of this exciting hobby.

Feel free to join us for our monthly club meeting, starting at 1930 (7:30 pm) at the Monroe County Emergency Center (911Ctr).



Monthly VE Testing

To schedule you test, contact
Chris: aj3c.ve@gmail.com

Testing starts at 1800 prior to our
monthly club meeting.

WEEKLY NETS

EPARA Tech Net - Mon 2030
146.865 Mhz, PL - 100 Hz

EPARA Info /Swap Net Tue 2030
146.865 Mhz, PL - 100Hz

EPARA DMR RAG CHEW Wed 2030
Talk Group - 3149822

Webmaster/Newsletter
Kevin Forrest - w3kcf

Website:
www.epara-n3is.org

Email
eparahamradio@outlook.com

*** Newsletter Submissions ***

Kevin Forrest - w3kcf
eparabeacon@gmail.com

EPARA
P.O. Box 521
Sciota, Pa 18354

President's Comments



Dear Team Hams and Volunteers,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our officers and volunteers for your continued dedication. We are committed to keeping the EPARA beacon monthly update informative and educational, and we welcome any member input to ensure it remains a dynamic resource. My thanks to our secretary, Kevin (W3KCF), for his instrumental role in this process. We are proud of the improvements we've made and the fact that our meetings are running smoothly, allowing more time for presentations and discussions.

We encourage members to participate by volunteering for a demonstration or sharing their knowledge. Please contact me or any other officer if you are interested.

I would like to extend specific thanks to:

Ron (N3GGT): For his efforts with the Crystal presentation
Chris (AJ3C), Kevin (W3KCF), John (K3WH), and our VE's:
for assisting with the transition to digital. We will be
recouping \$7 of the testing fees to fund the digital equipment
required for VE testing.

Thank you - Net Controllers: Mike (WR8TH), Al (KB3OVB),
Ed (KC3OLB), and stand-in Ron (N3GGT).

We are excited about our new Field Day location, where we have previously conducted EME operations. Sign-up sheets are being prepared for upcoming events, including Field Day, the West End Fair, and our Hamfest. Details for the Christmas party are TBD. Please consider volunteering to help prevent individuals from working multiple shifts at the fair; if you are new, we are happy to explain what these roles entail.

Regarding our equipment, we are still looking for a 16-18' x 8' trailer (3k lbs or less) to house a permanent radio station. This follows a request from the director at the 911 center to vacate the shared radio room. I want to thank everyone who maintained those radios over the years, as well as Kevin (W3KCF), John (K3WH), Rose (KC3VMN), and myself for packing up the club's equipment and paperwork.

Finally, please join me in welcoming our new member, Ralph (KC3VII), from LVARC. I also want to thank Craig (W3WWP) for generously donating his 50/50 winnings back to the club.

Wishing all the fathers a Happy Father's Day this month.

Kindly,
Ed (KC3OLB)
EPARA President

EPARA MINUTES MAY 2026



Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association May 14th, 2026 General Membership Meeting 7:30PM

Open meeting:

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm on May 14th, 2026 by Ed - KC3OLB

Quorum: Yes

Total attending: 21 Present at 911 Center: 18 Present on Zoom: 3 Visitors present: 3

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of silence:

Membership Meeting – Minutes May 14th 2026

Secretary – Kevin - W3KCF:

Meeting minutes for May 14th, 2026 were posted in the EPARA Newsletter. Ed – KC3OLB asked members if they had seen and read the minutes from our previous meeting. He then asked if there were any questions or objections to the minutes as they were presented. With no objections, Ed asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented:

Motion to accept Minutes as Read: Pete – KB3YKJ and 2nd by Ron – N3GGT (Passed)

Treasurer's report:

For the May 14th, 2026 EPARA Club Meeting

By Mike – WR8TH

Treasurer's Report - Month of April 2026

A detailed report was read to the membership itemizing all transactions. Mike mentioned that if anyone was interested in seeing the detailed report, please contact him.

All transactions during this period are accounted for with accompanying documentation.

Motion to accept Treasures Report: Al – KB3OVB and 2nd Pete – KB3YKJ Motion Passed

Comments from the President: Ed – KB3OLB

Tonight's Presentation:

The history of crystals and how they are used in today's electronics. In addition, Ron -N3GGT will be doing a demonstration on how to use an attenuator.

Building an attenuator for our next fox hunt

Ed asked how many of you would like to build an attenuator to use on our next fox hunt. If there is enough interest, we will see about reserving a room to complete the project.

4th of July Parade in Stroudsburg.

Ed asked how many of you would like to participate in this year's 4th of July parade. The parade will be held on the 4th of July. Most of those attending said they had family obligations and would not be able to attend. As a club, we decided not to participate this year.

Digital VE Exams in June:

The exam sessions are going digital in June. The club purchased 3 Lenovo tablets with cases at a total price of \$392.00. In addition, we purchased 3 software applications for \$33.00 total to secure and lock down the tablets from the internet. Chris - AJ3C has set everything up through ARRL and we are listed on hamstudy.org. If you are a VE and would like to participate, you need to register on both examtools.dev and examtools.org.

Field Day:

This year's Field Day is the last weekend in June (27th – 28th) Setup will begin around 1500 on Friday the 26th. Kevin – W3KCF has permission to use the church's property in Pen Argyl. It's 12 acres on a hill with no obstructions or RF interference. It's the same site we have used for our EME outings. (Moon Bounce)

Ed passed out a signup sheet for those interest. We had 14 members sign up. Since the location has changed, we will provide a detailed map and directions to the property. At this location, there are numerous facilities close by. Food, Gas, stores etc. In addition, there is a fire pit on the property, so we'll have a nice time around the fire.

West End fair:

The fair will be here before we know it. This year it is August 23rd through the August 29th. At our May meeting, we will have a signup sheet available to select which days and time slots you may prefer.

Hamfest:

This year's Hamfest will be held at the Moose Lodge on September 20th. Next month we will have a signup sheet for those wishing to participate. I shout out to Allen, Joe, Rose and John who said they will be there.

Club Hats:

For those interested in purchasing a club hat, send us an email to: eparahamradio@outlook.com. The price is \$22 for our club hat with logo on the front and call sign on the back..

Christmas party:

This year's Christmas part will be on the 10th of December. We still have plenty of time to pick a location, so let us know if this works for you. If you have another location you'd like to try, please let us know.

Stroudsburg Library: The library Presentation Committee has asked if our club would be interested in giving a presentation this year regarding Amateur Radio. Ed spoke with library personnel and they said it would have to be June as earlier slots have already been filled. Chris – AJ3C said he could do a presentation and Thursday works best.

Net Participation: Ed mentioned we have 3 weekly nets. Come out and join us.

AL, KB3OVB: Membership

AL said the list he currently has show's 38 paid members, plus 4 lifetime members.

Old Business:

Ed mentioned that we are still looking for a suitable trailer for the club. We are looking for a 16' to 18' trailer with a dropdown rear entry and RV style side door. Price range \$2500-\$4000

Craig – W3WWP has been working on having HamCrazy create our new id cards. He said he is still waiting for those interested to send a photo ID to his email. Cost for the club id's will be \$9.00.

Those interest please send Craig – W3WWP a photo to his email. In the subject line, put club id photo.

csansig@yahoo.com

New Business:

New Members

We had the pleasure of voting in one new member tonight. Welcome Ralph – KC3VII

Announcements:

Chris – Aj3C mentioned that when we host exams for amateurs, the ARRL collects \$15. With the purchase of the testing hardware, the club now has expenses associated with hosting exams. We will now be able to keep \$7 per student to help recover our costs.

Len – KC3OND mentioned there was a new App available for Hams. He said the developer is willing to host a zoom presentation if we are interested. We will ask Len for more details at our June meeting.

50/50 Raffle: Tonight's 50/50 Raffle was won by Craig – W3WWP. He received a total of \$35.00 in cash. Thank You Craig, for donating the money back to the club.

Adjournment... Meeting was adjourned at 2020

Motion to close Pete – KB3YKJ and 2nd by Len – KC3OND Motion Passed

Secretary

Kevin Forrest

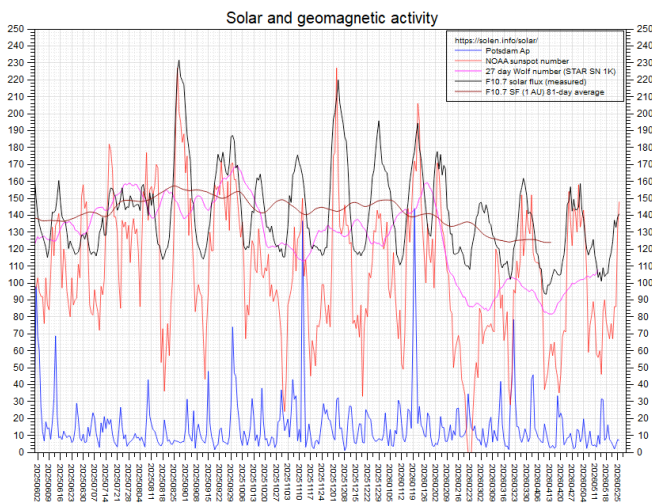
W3KCF

Technical Projects and Support

Space Weather/ Solar Index

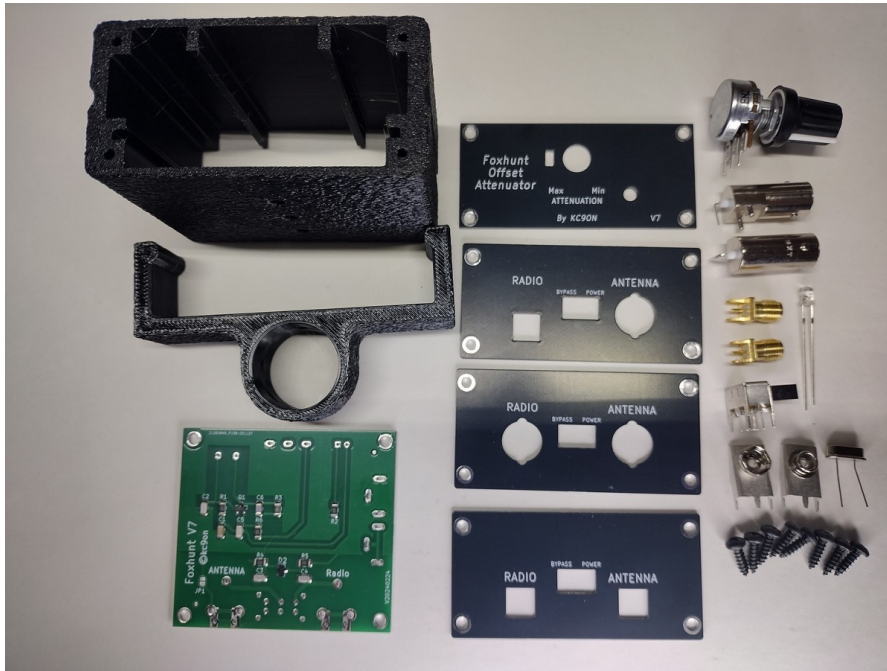
Presentation by Mike - WR8TH
June 11th Meeting

At a recent meeting, Mike said he was asked about doing a presentation on Space Weather. Specifically what do all the different indexes represent and what do the values mean. He said he would try to define them and give meaning to actual numbers. He said he would also discuss space weather in general and its affects on propagation.



FOX HUNT OFFSET ATTENUATOR V7

<https://kc9on.com/product-category/fox-hunting/>



Hello Folks

We had talked about building an attenuator after our last fox hunt. We realized after sloshing through the rain puddles, that we needed more than just an antenna to make this work. So, we talked about building an attenuator to use on our next hunt. We now have an opportunity to purchase kits from "3rd Planet Solar" at a 15% discount. Normal price is \$28, but John said he'd give the club a 15% discount. Ron - N3GGT had purchased a kit and gave a demonstration at our last meeting.

You don't have to purchase a kit to participate. You are welcome to show up and join in on the fun.

The kits have arrived. We ordered seven and six have been requested. The club paid shipping. The cost per kit is \$24. We plan on assembling the attenuators on site followed by another fox hunt. We'll talk about what time to gather at our June meeting.

Kevin - W3KCF

Field Day 2026

Field day is just around the corner and will be here before we know it. We will talk specifics at our June meeting and make sure everyone is informed on what to expect. Those that ordered Attenuator Kits, will receive them at the meeting. We plan to assemble them on Saturday during Field Day.

Now for the good stuff. We plan to set up on Friday the 26th at around 1400. Those that would like to participate are welcome. We will either grab some pizza or cook some burgers and dogs. If you plan on participating, get there on Friday and stake out your spot. There are 10 acres to set up on, so no one will be turned away.

For those that desire to rough it and still desire the creature comforts, there are plenty of food stops, a grocery store and a tractor supply all within a couple miles of our location.

Those coming down 33 from the north will get off at the first Wind Gap exit. Turn Left and come down to Alpha Rd. You will follow it down to the Sunoco Station and then cross Rt 512 where Alpha Rd turns into Mack road. Follow it down about 2.5 miles and you'll see the Field Day Banner.

Those coming up 33 will get off at the wind Gap exit at 512. Make a Rt turn and come up to Center Street. Turn Rt and follow it all the way to Mack Rd. Turn Rt and go about 6 tenths of a mile.

For those using Waze or Google Maps, here is the address.

1637 Mack Rd

Pen Argyl, Pa 18072



Courtesy of Ron - N3GGT

Points of Interest in Amateur Radio

Senator Ted Cruz Recognizing Ham Radio

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y_Sy0Ki4ho



VE Training Session

EPARA VE Sessions have gone digital. Starting in June 2026 we will begin conducting all sessions digitally. All VE's are welcome.

If you have not registered your VE credentials with Exam Tools, please register now, if you would like to participate. You have to register on both sites, as one is for offline and the other is live.

examtools.org (live) [exam tools.dev](http://examtools.dev) (offline)

EPARA SWAP AND SHOP

If you have anything you'd like to buy, sell, swap or trade, this is the place to post your gear. Share your information here and then again on Al's Swap Net. Tuesday Night at 2030 WX3OES 146.865 PL 100

Send information you'd like posted to Kevin - W3KCF
eparabeacon@gmail.com

Coax Cable Tester: Walt - w3fnz

Walt has two cable testers for \$30 each. The tan one has already been sold. These are the same testers he brought to the meeting and talked about how they worked and how he made them. To operate he says, just attach both ends of the coax in question to each SO 239 on the box and the lamps will indicate the condition. Wiggle the coax from the PL 259's down. Any blinking or lamp outage indicates an intermittent open. If a short exists the Red lamp will light.

