



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

Position Open



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.

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 thank every one that participated in this year's field day. We had a great turn out and a lot of fun; even if it did rain on Saturday. Food was good. attenuators got assembled and Kevin Young passed his extra exam with a perfect score.

Our presentation at the Stroudsburg Public Library is on July 17th at 1030. Join us if you can. Chris AJ3C has graciously consented to give the presentation regarding Ham Radio.

Upcoming events will be here soon, so please look for sign-up sheets at our next meeting. The West End Fair is on August 23rd through the 29th, and our Hamfest is in September on the 20th.

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 trailer for the club. Mike spotted one on Market Place that fit our needs perfectly. It was 16' x 7' with a drop down in the rear and a side door. When Kevin requested additional information, he got no response. A day later it was listed as pending.

Finally, please join me in welcoming our newest member Evan, who was voted in at our June meeting.

Hope everyone had a safe and joyous 4th of July.

Kindly,
Ed (KC3OLB) EPARA President

EPARA MINUTES JUNE 2026



Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association June 11th, 2026 General Membership Meeting 7:30PM

Open meeting:

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm on June 11th, 2026 by Ed - KC3OLB

Quorum: Yes

Total attending: 19 Present at 911 Center: 17 Present on Zoom: 2 Visitors present:

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of silence:

Membership Meeting – Minutes June 11th 2026

Secretary – Kevin - W3KCF:

Meeting minutes for June 11th, 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 June 11th, 2026 EPARA Club Meeting

By Mike – WR8TH

Treasurer's Report - Month of May 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: Joe – KC3VLN and 2nd Len – KC3OND Motion Passed

Comments from the President: Ed – KB3OLB***Tonight's Presentation:***

Tonight's presentation will be given by Mike – WR8TH. He will be explaining 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.

Field Day - Building an attenuator

Ed said we would be assembling our attenuators at field day. Those that purchased an attenuator kit, bring them to field day. Ron – N3GGT and Ed – KC3OLB will be brining all the necessary tools to complete the task.

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:

Tonight, we held our 1st digital exam before our normally scheduled meeting. Everything went well. This will be a boost to our club going forward.

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. 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.

Joe – WA2QDI asked what kind of facilities were on site. With it being an open field, he asked if it were possible to have a Porta Potty setup on site. The club approved the rental up to \$300. Craig – W3WWP said he would look into the rental details.

Chris – AJ3C said he would be brining his specialty dish – pulled pork. Kevin said he would be brining his trailer, two generators and his Starlink Mini for internet. Craig – W3WWP said he would bring water, hot dogs and hamburgers. Joe – WA2QDI said he would bring a generator, delta loop and cabling.

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 at our July meeting.

Hamfest:

This year's Hamfest will be held at the Moose Lodge on September 20th. At our July meeting, 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 party will be on the 10th of December. We still have plenty of time to pick a location, so let us know.

Stroudsburg Library: We finally have a commitment date for the club to do a presentation on Amateur Radio at the Stroudsburg Public Library. The presentation will be on July 17th at 1030. Chris – AJ3C said he would be available to do the presentation. All are welcome. Come out and support the hobby.

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

Club Nets: All nets are up and running. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

•Tech Net Monday at 2030	WX3OES	146.865	PL 100
•Swap Net Tuesday at 2030	WX3OES	146.865	PL 100
•DMR Rag Chew Wednesday at 2030	TG	3149822	

Reports of officers and committee's:**Ed -KC3OLB – Program Committee**

If you are interested in giving a presentation in the upcoming year, please contact Ed at KC3OLB@gmail.com

Public Information Officer:

We are looking for a Public Information Officer. (PIO) Anyone interested, contact the board.

QuarterMaster: John – K3WH

John said everything is going well. We will be setting up Kevin's – W3KCF trailer for field day, so those that would like to get hands on experience with these radios, will have the opportunity.

Ray – W3RIL – Social Media:

Ray said all was going well with social media. Please visit facebook and post.

Kevin – W3KCF – Newsletter:

Everything is going well with the newsletter. If you have any tech articles you'd like posted or equipment you'd like to sell, please drop me a note and I'll make sure it gets in. Each month, there will be something new. I'll continue to send out the newsletter via the groups io, but it will always be up on the website.

Contact information: eparabeacon@gmail.com

AL, KB3OVB: Membership

AL said the list he currently has show's 39 paid members, plus 4 lifetime members.

Old Business:

Ed mentioned that we are still looking for a suitable trailer for the club. We saw a trailer come available that met our needs, but when we contacted the owner, he never responded. Shortly after that, the sale was pending. We'll keep looking. It was suggested that we take a look at municibid.com (Online Government Auctions)

Craig – W3WWP has been working on having HamCrazy create our new id cards. He said he was going to pay for the club ID's and hopes we will be getting them soon.

Those interested 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 Evan.

Announcements:

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. If you'd like further information regarding this app, check out Peter Hopkin's site. www.hamdash.com

50/50 Raffle: Tonight's 50/50 Raffle was won by ED – KC3OLB. He received a total of \$80.00 in cash and donated \$75.00 back to the club.

Adjournment... Meeting was adjourned at 2015

Motion to close Pete – KB3YKJ and 2nd by Ron – N34GGT Motion Passed

Secretary

Kevin Forrest

Technical Projects and Support

Classic antenna principles from 1959

Classic antenna principles established in foundational training films (like the widely studied 1959 U.S. Navy training film *Antenna Fundamentals*) still govern modern wireless today. At their core, antennas act as transducers bridging wired circuits and free space. When alternating current (AC) is applied, moving electrons create alternating, time-varying electric and magnetic fields that detach from the conductor and propagate outward as electromagnetic waves.

To visualize exactly how electric charges and magnetic lines of force interact to launch an electromagnetic wave:

The fundamental parameters governing these waves include:

- **Directivity:** The ability of an antenna to focus radiated energy in a specific direction rather than uniformly in all directions (isotropic). A **half-wave dipole** is inherently bidirectional, while adding reflectors and directors (e.g., a **Yagi-Uda** antenna) narrows the beam and increases directivity.
- **Resonance:** Antennas are designed to physical lengths that are fractions of the signal's wavelength (e.g., $\frac{1}{2}\lambda$). The current is at its maximum at the center of a dipole and zero at its open ends.
- **Polarization:** The orientation of the electric field (E-plane) wave relative to the Earth. Antennas are typically mounted either **horizontally** (parallel to the ground) or **vertically** (perpendicular). The transmitting and receiving antennas must share the same polarization to maximize signal strength.
- **Radiation Patterns:** Visual, 3D graphical representations of how an antenna distributes its power in space, typically plotted as a main lobe (the primary direction of maximum radiation) and minor, side, or back lobes

If you're bored and can't sleep, this may help.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/999803185813127>

Points of Interest in Amateur Radio

Field Day - 2026

Field Day has come and gone, but not forgotten. We had a good turn out, plenty of food and a lots of fun. We began setup Friday afternoon and with Antenna's up, and radios tuned, it was now time to relax, eat pizza and talk about our hobby.

Looking forward, we thought Saturday would be even better. Stations up, equipment ready menu's set, what could go wrong. I guess we must have ignored the weather report. Thinking most of the time, the reports are never spot on. Well, this time they got it right. It poured all day but we persevered. We cooked in the rain, made contacts had a VE session and enjoyed Root Beer floats. It didn't hurt that our porta potty was delivered early and centrally located. Life is good...

Arriving for setup - Friday Afternoon



Chris Relaxing with Dave's Dog



Pizza After Setup



Points of Interest in Amateur Radio

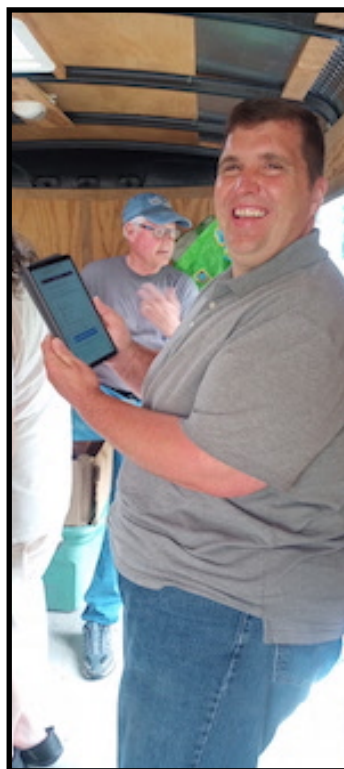
Field Day - 2026

As the rain began, we decided we could still assemble our attenuator kits. For those that wanted assistance, Ron and Ed were right there to help. We used the trailer as our mobile lab. It worked perfectly. Around 1600, Kevin Young arrived for his extra exam. With the noise and surrounding chatter, he aced the exam. A perfect score. 50 out of 50.

Testing Attenuator Kits



Kevin Y After his Extra Exam



Pizza After Setup



Points of Interest in Amateur Radio

Field Day - 2026

Field day is over and we tend to think it revolves around us. In actuality, Ham Field Day is a worldwide event. While it is primarily organized and promoted by the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) in the US and Canada, operators from all over the globe tune in to participate. While Field Day attracts huge participation across North America, the global nature of the hobby means international stations are actively on the air trying to contact these temporary, off-grid locations. Participants from outside the US frequently participate to earn contact points with North American hams, making the airwaves truly worldwide during the weekend.

Reflecting on the day



Most Important Equipment



It's raining - Now What



CW Again



Points of Interest in Amateur Radio

A colorful poster for an 'Intro to Ham Radio' event. The background features a teal and yellow sunburst pattern. At the top, the title 'Intro to Ham Radio' is written in large, orange, stylized letters, with 'AKA Amateur Radio' in a smaller, cursive font below it. A light green rounded rectangle in the center contains text about discovering the world of amateur radio. Below this, two ham radio setups are illustrated: one with a microphone and a radio unit, and another with a radio unit and a microphone. The event details, including the date, time, location, and registration information, are listed at the bottom in bold, black and orange text.

**Intro to
Ham Radio**
AKA Amateur Radio

Discover the world of amateur (ham) radio and learn how wireless communication works without the internet or satellites. We'll cover the basics, licensing, equipment, and how ham radio is used for recreation, emergency communication, and public service.

Featuring:
***Eastern Pennsylvania
Amateur Radio Association***

FRI., JULY 17TH, 2026 | 10:30AM
HUGHES LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
1002 N. 9TH STREET, STROUDSBURG, PA 18360

Registration recommended.
Call 570-421-0800 ext. 317

Points of Interest in Amateur Radio

For amateur radio and emergency relief coordination, the primary shortwave (HF) frequency to monitor for the recent Venezuela earthquake is **7.135 MHz**.

Radio amateurs and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) are actively requesting that operators keep this 40-meter frequency clear of non-emergency traffic to allow Venezuelan responders on battery power to coordinate disaster relief.

Additional emergency frequencies requested for monitoring include:

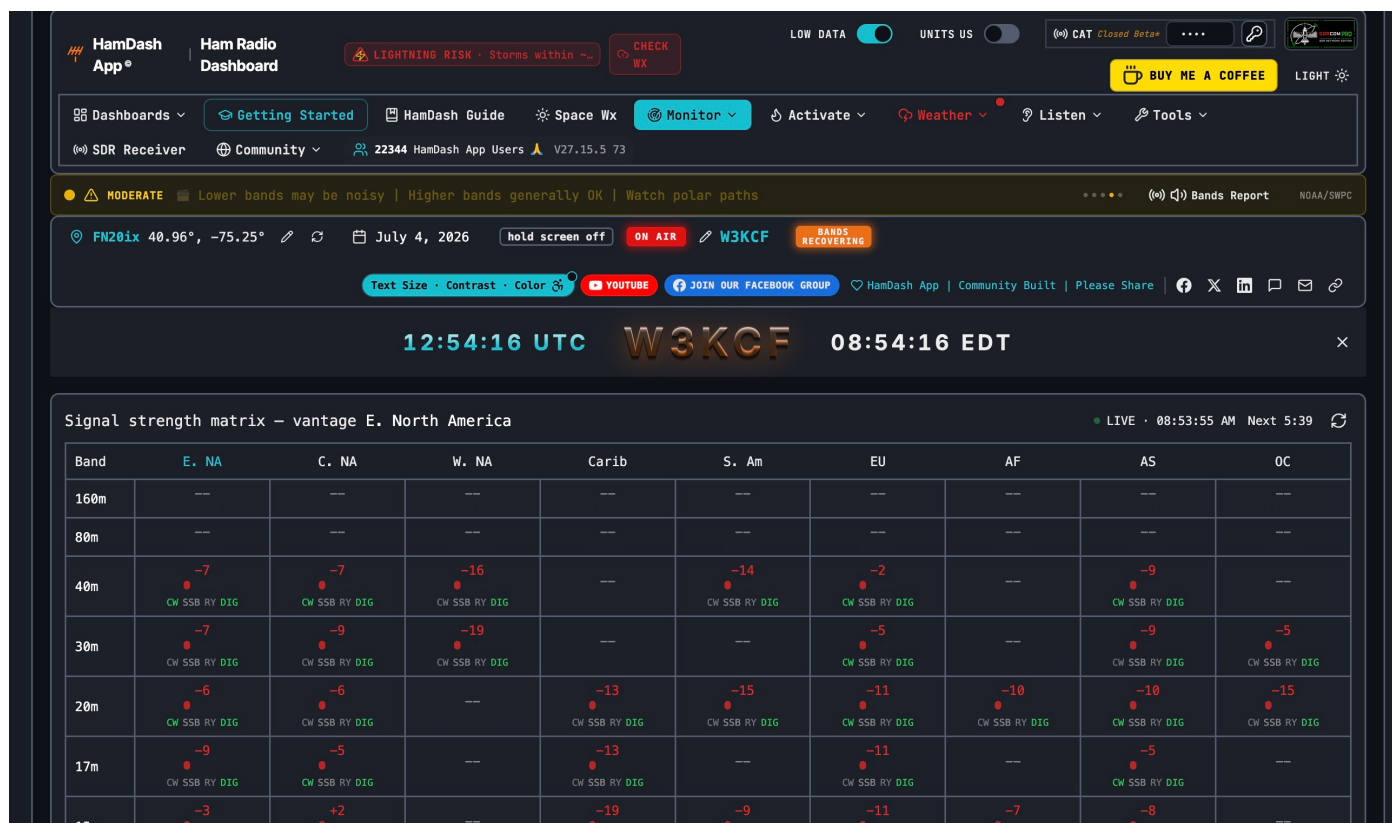
- **80-meter band:** 3690 kHz
- **40-meter band:** 7060 kHz and 7095 kHz
- **20-meter band:** 14120 kHz

HAMDASH APPLICATION

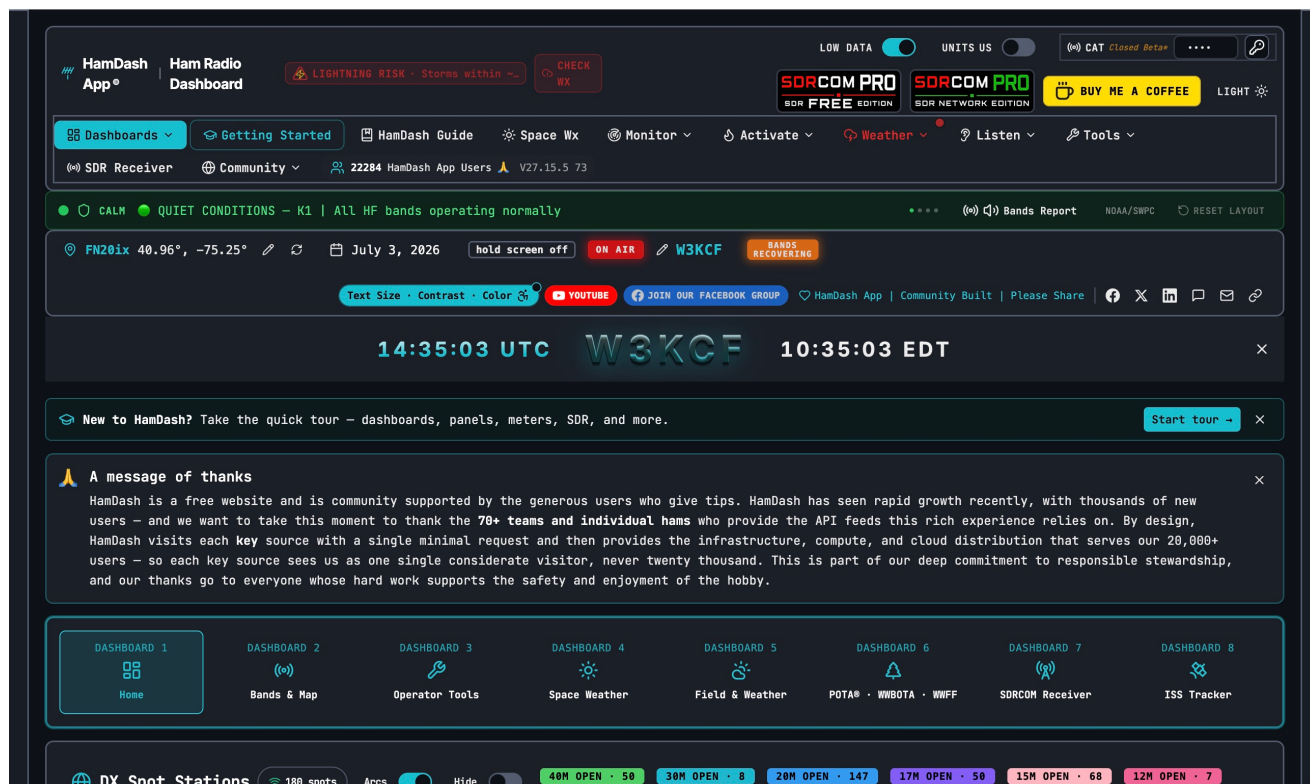
What HamDash Is

HamDash is a free, browser-based situational-awareness dashboard for radio amateurs, shortwave listeners, and anyone curious about the radio hobby. You open a web address — **hamdash.com** — and the dashboard is running. There is nothing to download, nothing to install, no drivers, no accounts required to look around, and no special equipment. It works on any modern device with a web browser: a phone, a tablet, a laptop, a desktop, on Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, or iOS. HamDash gathers live information from dozens of public, authoritative data feeds and presents it in a single clean screen, organised into dashboards you can read at a glance. It tells you what the radio bands are doing right now, where signals are travelling, what the Sun is doing to propagation, where the weather may affect your station or your safety, who is on the air from parks and summits, and much more.

This guide is the complete, authoritative reference for HamDash. It starts at the root — what you see when you first arrive — and works outward, branch by branch, through every dashboard, every panel, and every feature. You do not need to read it in order. Use the contents below to jump to whatever you want to understand.



HAMDASH APPLICATION - CONT.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEVELOPER

HamDash is a free website and is community supported by the generous users who give tips. HamDash has seen rapid growth recently, with thousands of new users — and we want to take this moment to thank the 70+ teams and individual hams who provide the API feeds this rich experience relies on. By design, HamDash visits each key source with a single minimal request and then provides the infrastructure, compute, and cloud distribution that serves our 20,000+ users — so each key source sees us as one single considerate visitor, never twenty thousand. This is part of our deep commitment to responsible stewardship, and our thanks go to everyone whose hard work supports the safety and enjoyment of the hobby.

Len - KC3OND brought this information to us and is trying to set a time for the developer to do a Zoom Presentation after one of our meetings.

hamdash.com

VE Training Session

EPARA VE Sessions have gone digital.

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) 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.



EPARA SWAP AND SHOP

For sale: Yaesu FTDX 101MP like new and lightly used. Purchased new in 2022 from DXE for \$5200.

Also SPE Expert 1.5K-FA Solid state Amplifier with internal automatic tuner. Easily handles 2Kw. Two radio inputs and 4 antenna inputs. Excellent condition bought new in 2023 \$5400.

These are redundant in my shack as I primarily use my Andromeda SDR and RF2K-S Linear. Asking \$3500 for each or \$6750 for both.

For Additional Information Contact John Victor - K3WH

jvictor@ptd.net

