

President's Message January 2014

The next meeting of CPRA will be held at The Wharf on Derry Street in Harrisburg on Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 PM. At this meeting we will discuss CPRA field day. The concept was approved at the last meeting. This Field Day will not be an event relying on just hams from our existing organization. 50% of the manpower may come from outside groups and individuals. HRAC has been invited to participate. This field day will be a success for several reasons that will be explained at the meeting.

Several outdoor CAT5 cables at Blue Mountain were discovered to be defective. The cable was exposed to intense UV radiation from the sun and was deteriorating. It was turning green and the jacket was decomposing and flaking off. They were replaced. Other cable runs at other locations have this cable and all have been replaced except for Truce in Lancaster County. That location is having its cable replaced as soon as weather permits. The manufacturer will replace the cable and damaged equipment.

The IRLP lost its internet connection via PEMA HQ. NOROC, a wireless internet service provider, supplies this service free of charge for the club. The internet connection was changed to an alternate gateway. The reception of the WISP at PEMA HQ was restored by resetting the equipment. We are waiting for a suitable period to see if the NOROC gateway is reliable. We will be changing to a computer running PF Sense instead of a conventional router. Meanwhile we are using a gateway in Carlisle.

The camera system has been upgraded recently. We have 10 cameras on this network and an additional 10 cameras on separate networks. The total is now 20 cameras viewing mountain top locations. They may be viewed using Google Chrome not Internet Explorer. <HTTPS://airvision.kb3hjc.net:7443>. Click on "proceed anyway" In order to obtain a security certificate you must register and pay a FEE. We are not in a position to pay a fee.

Username: cpin Password: cpin

Click on live view to view the cameras and select an individual camera or a group of cameras. Please do not logon and watch for days. This ties up assets and the available bandwidth is metered. Waggoner's Gap and SPARC (Manheim) are not illuminated at night. Enjoy

The Cumberland County EOC has 32 or more flat panel TVs. There are 32 inputs and each TV can select a specific input. One of the inputs is the RACES room. A computer is being installed in the RACES room to connect to the video server located off-site. Any of the cameras can be selected to be displayed on the flat panel TVs. We are using an HDMI connection and cameras capable of 720p. None of the cameras available to the County are in high definition. The quality of the picture should be impressive. The video server is working well. Individual cameras need rebooted every few days. Ubiquity should be coming out with new firmware soon to correct this problem.

The linking project is gaining momentum. We are adding a link to the Reading area to the Berks Amateur Radio Club (BARC). The primary purpose of this link is to connect the BARC repeaters with repeaters in the Harrisburg area. We have a microwave presence at Eagles Peak and will be adding a link over a 15 mile path (one hop) to Mt Penn in Reading. The equipment has been configured and tested. Now we just need good weather. A generous donation has been made for the equipment and tower work. From Mt Penn a 15 mile path is being evaluated to the PEMA Eastern Office. This would provide a microwave connection from PEMA HQ to the PEMA Eastern Office.

On December 5th we met with the Communications group for the eight county area. A request was made to connect via their 8 county microwave system to every RACES room located in each county 911 center. This would provide a telephone, fax, and control of amateur repeaters. Commercial software will be used to control each amateur repeater connected to the system. This software will be demonstrated at the next general meeting.

As a club we strive to maintain high standards. Please continue to maintain these standards in all your communications. Language must conform to acceptable norms. Please report errant behavior to our trustee for further action: painsp@hotmail.com . At the next meeting we will have an update concerning the two individuals that were asked not to use any of the CPRA repeaters.

Tim Barefoot, W3TWB (formerly AA3BJ) collapsed at a recent W3HZU club meeting. He was taken to the York Hospital and was in critical condition. Tim is home and has made an amazing recovery. Prompt CPR at the York Club House made a difference. His progress continues.

Emergency power at Blue Mountain may soon be a reality. We met with the chief engineer at Clear Channel and worked on outstanding issues. If you have skills in running power through metal conduits and are able to provide assistance contact Terry Phillips painsp@hotmail.com

During the discussion for emergency power, the disposal of the abandoned metal building across the road from the building that we occupy came up. Clear Channel has given us permission to remove the building and keep the funds for recycling the building. A contractor has been engaged to do the demolition. No volunteers are needed.

Phil Thesis, K3TUF, ARWG President, wants to discuss our network and linking system. He is not able to attend the next regular CPRA meeting due to a scheduling conflict. I suggested that he come to the next Board meeting.

This is your club. Come out and support it. New ideas are welcome.