



"Anyone wishing to take over the membership list and trusteeship of club station W7QF is welcome to do so and is guaranteed our full cooperation in the transition," said a solicitation distributed by Weidner on February 29. "We intend to keep the ARLHS active until June 30, 2016, after which time we will terminate the web page, [BeaconBot](#), and all club activities, if no one is willing to assume ownership and leadership." For more information, contact Weidner via [e!](#) would like to add a few net control tips to those posted in last month's issue: Remember the 10 minute ID rule. It is NOT enough to ID with your call at the beginning and end of the net, especially when nets often run over 20 minutes. Announce the name of the net several times during the net - an easy way is announce it when you are calling the next list of check-ins. Remember, operators who are tuning around or who arrive after the beginning of the net will have no idea what net they are listening to and whether it is an "open" net if the name and type of check-in is not frequently announced. - Sherri Brower, W4STB, ARRL Southern Florida Public Information Officer

The ARES E-Letter for February 17, 2016-[mail](#) or telephone, (856) 486-1755.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter Mar 10, 2016.

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## Tips for Beginning Net Control Operators

In northwest Ohio, we have acquired many new hams and encourage them to operate as net control station (NCS) for various routine nets to gain them experience, providing us with a pool of competent net controllers in the event of an emergency/disaster. Here are some of the basic tips we convey to our novice net control stations for a smoothly running net:



- ➔ Get a glass of water or something to drink.
- ➔ Make yourself comfortable. Sit in a good location with plenty of room on a desk or table to write.
- ➔ Have a good writing instrument and a back-up along with an extra piece of paper in case you need to jot down notes.
- ➔ Take your time; go at your own pace. Remember, you are in control of the net and the frequency.
- ➔ Don't worry about making mistakes; there are no mistakes to be made.
- ➔ To handle the crowd that is trying to check in, you will develop your own way.
- ➔ Stop stations from checking in ("Let's hold it for a minute") until you are caught up.
- ➔ Weak stations and stations who give their call signs too fast, are always a problem -- skip them at first. Go back later for repeats.

- ➔ Write your log as you see fit. You are the one that has to read it.
- ➔ Headphones are a good idea -- they help you focus on what you are hearing and help keep you from getting distracted.

As I mentioned before, there are no mistakes, only experience. When you've finished the net that is what you will have. -- Steve Bellner, W8TER, Maumee, Ohio  
Used with permission ARRL ARES E-Letter, Jan 2016

## Another Important Tip for Beginning Net Control Operators

I would like to add a few net control tips to those posted in last month's issue: Remember the 10 minute ID rule. It is NOT enough to ID with your call at the beginning and end of the net, especially when nets often run over 20 minutes. Announce the name of the net several times during the net - an easy way is announce it when you are calling the next list of check-ins. Remember, operators who are tuning around or who arrive after the beginning of the net will have no idea what net they are listening to and whether it is an "open" net if the name and type of check-in is not frequently announced. - Sherri Brower, W4STB, ARRL Southern Florida Public Information Officer

The ARES E-Letter for February 17, 2016

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## Young Connecticut Ham Off to an Award-Winning Start

Fifteen-year-old Matt Shea, KC1DLY, had no Amateur Radio ticket 1 year ago. Today, he's an Amateur Extra class licensee and already holds two of the League's



**ARRL CEO-Elect Tom Gallagher, NY2RF (left), with Matt Ettus, KC1DLY, and his WAS and DXCC certificates. [Sean Kutzko, KX9X, photo]**

flagship operating awards -- [DXCC](#) and Worked All States ([WAS](#)). His 100W station is quite modest, with a 35-foot end-fed wire in the attic for his antenna (and he even operates on 160 meters!). He confirmed all of the contacts necessary for the two awards using Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). ARRL CEO-Elect Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, on March 7 congratulated Shea and presented him with his awards.

"I play radio daily and absolutely love it," Shea, a high school sophomore in Southington, Connecticut, said on his [QRZ.com](#) profile. In addition to ham radio, he's on the Southington High School Robotics Team, and he's been busy recruiting new radio amateurs among his friends at school. "I am hoping to get a few more new hams on the air to keep the great hobby going!" he said. -- Thanks to Sean Kutzko, KX9X  
Used with Permission ARRL Letter, Mar 17 2016

## W1AW 2016 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

### Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf	Tue, Thu

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET)  
1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

### Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM ET)	CWf	Mon,Wed, Fri
2000 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
2200 " (6 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
2300 " (7 PM ET)	CWs	Mon,Wed, Fri
2300 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 " (8 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
0100 " (9 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM ET)	VOICE	Daily
0200 " (10 PM ET)	CWf	Mon,Wed, Fri
0200 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM ET)	CWb	Daily

### Frequencies (MHz)

**CW:** 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975  
21.0675 28.0675 147.555

**DIGITAL:** - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095  
28.095 147.555

**VOICE:** 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390  
28.590 147.555

### Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM  
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM  
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, and CW/digital/phone bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The CW/digital/phone audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to [w1aw@arrl.org](mailto:w1aw@arrl.org).

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on page 103 in the April 2016 issue of QST or on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

## REPEATER FREQUENCIES

<b>Davidsonville</b>	<b>Millersville</b>	<b>Glen Burnie</b>	<b>Annapolis</b>
<b>147.105+</b>		<b>147.075+</b>	
<b>223.880-</b>	<b>224.560-</b>		
<b>444.400+</b>			<b>442.300+</b>

**PL: 107.2 for all repeaters**

The 147.105 and 147.075 repeaters are frequently linked. Please leave an extra second after the courtesy beep to allow the link to reset as well.

*Visitors are welcome to all meetings and nets.*

*Meetings are held in the Clubhouse at the  
**Davidsonville Family Recreation Center,**  
 Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off  
 MD Route 214 near Davidsonville, MD.*

*For en-route directions, make initial contact on the 147.105 repeater.*

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### Wednesday Night Talk Net -- All are welcome

8PM, On the AARC Repeater 147.105

#### Other Amateur Radio nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time
Morning Commuter Net	147.105+      PL 107.2	Weekdays	0600
AA County ARES Net	146.805-Mhz      PL 107.2	Sunday	2000
Baltimore Traffic Net	146.670-Mhz	Daily	1830
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	3.820Mhz	Daily	1800
MD-DC-DE Traffic Net	3.557Mhz	Daily	1900 and 2200
Maryland Mobileers Net	146.805      PL107.2	Monday	1930
Maryland Slow Net	3.563 MHz	Daily	1930
REACT Net	442.300+Mhz      PL107.2	1st Sunday	1930

## “That Nerd Hobby of Yours”

Frostfest 2016 gave me the perfect opportunity to visit with my daughter, Cindy, her husband and importantly of all, my grandson. Frostfest was in Richmond and I knew I was only one hour east of my grandson—uhh, my daughter Cindy. I kept my Kenwood V71 on 146.520 during my ride hoping to hear some traffic on the way down.

Well I got to Frostfest. The drive down was uneventful and the hamfest was OK. I did meet some hams from the AARC. Now for the important part of the journey. I headed the truck east out of Richmond. Not being to Cindy's house from Richmond before, I turned on the maps app in my cell phone to find the best route. That was when I noticed that my phone battery was low. So, as you are trained to do, you plug in the charger. Panic, the phone is not charging, now what will I do. I remembered that this charger worked in my X Y L's car, so I didn't believe the charger was the problem. Fault finding time. Perhaps the problem is the pesky fuse. Darn! my VOM is at home. Oh well, I can deal with this I will simply pull the fuse and check it. Removing the cover off the fuse block to find that there is NO FUSE DIAGRAM. Darn! Darn! Which one of the 30 fuses do I check? I thought I would close the hood and just drive manfully onwards.

The cell phone was now about 40% so I planned to use the Map APP to get me to I-64. Once on I-64 I could turn the phone off to save the battery. Two of my three daughters attended college in Newport News VA. I had traveled I-64 many times during the 8 years I went to see them so I was very comfortable with this route and had no need for the GPS.

Then it dawned on my, Cindy recently moved to her new home in a new neighborhood. I had only been there a couple of time and my main recollection was that her new home is pretty deep into the neighborhood and involves a number of turns. This was the reason that I was trying to conserve battery life.

Approaching the normal exit I remember taking, an overturned truck was on the exit ramp and no traffic was allowed on the ramp. I knew there was another exit on east so I pressed on.

As I was going further East, I was listening to a QSO on 146.520 where two stations were discussing the Frostfest. One was KB2EMC and he had mentioned that he was in Norfolk. He and the other ham were talking about their Frostfest adventures. I was focused on my location, a cell phone with low battery life, and I am driving a standard transmission truck, and I am not sure where I am going to see my grandson.

In true cavalier style I took this exit and thought I would turn my cell phone on. My cell phone is now at 10%. A level of panic became deeper because I realized that I would have no map to get me to my Grandson's house. So I turned off my cell hoping I would be able to find the correct turn.

Eventually I made a turn from the major road that let to Cindy's neighborhood. After several miles nothing looked familiar and I convinced myself that I made a wrong turn. I turned around, got back on Route 17 and thought I would turn on my cell phone. Only 5% battery was reported,

SOUsed with permission The ARRL Letter Mar 3 2016 this this amount I opened the map app and learned that I had turned correctly. I just did not go far enough. Finally I arrived in Cindy's neighborhood but I knew that I was still about a mile from her home. I turned on my cell phone and immediately it shut itself down. Darn it!!!! Here I was, no working cell phone, no address book (in the cell phone) and no paper map. What do you do? You try to find her house by memory, but I had no luck.

I remembered that the street Cindy lived on started with an "H". So I drove around, around, and around. I talked to folk walking their dog, I even spoke with a police officer. He gave me directions to the only street in the neighborhood that started with an "H", but that didn't help either.

In exasperation, I stopped at an intersection deciding whether to drive home, when I remembered the QSO on 146.520 that I heard earlier and decided to take a chance to see if anyone was listening. I called "CQ CQ CQ this is K3MAW" and KB2EMC came back to me. I explained that all I wanted to do was to visit my grandson and told him my story. I asked if he would call and ask my daughter to "come and find me". KB2EMC came back to me a minute later saying that Cindy would be right there

Ham radio saved my evening. If it weren't for my 2 meter radio and a gracious ham, I would not been able to get word to Cindy to drive over and lead me back to her home. That evening Cindy said to me, "I guess that nerd hobby of yours paid off!"

73

Mike Watterson

K3MAW

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## Getting It Right!

In "Article Profiles First African-American Radio Amateur, Rufus Turner, W3LF," which appeared in the March edition of *The Anne Arundel News*, we inadvertently -- and incorrectly -- added an "A" to the designation of the diode Mr Turner helped to develop. The diode the article refers to is the 1N34, not the later 1N34A, which typically had a hermetically sealed glass envelope. Thanks to Frank Donovan, W3LPL, for spotting this error.

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## Winter 2016 Edition of Radio Waves Now Available:

The [winter 2016 edition](#) of ARRL's [Radio Waves](#) newsletter for Amateur Radio license instructors and radio science educators is now available.



Some of the articles in this issue include, "In-Depth Licensing Class Probes Electronics;" "Exploring Complex Concepts through Electronic Kit Building;" "Two Schools Experience ARISS Impact;" "West Chester Amateur Radio Association on Hand for Pi Day," and "Youth Nets." In addition, the Instructor Corner offers resources for classroom and licensing instruction, and there's news of the ARRL Education & Technology Program, a calendar of upcoming events, and more.

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## Social Media and Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In the last ten years, there's been an explosion in social media. I've found some to be really great. Others, I haven't found to be to my liking. Here are my opinions on a few of the most popular social media websites:

\* Twitter (twitter.com). I like Twitter. I have more than 3,000 followers on Twitter, and it's not only helped me sell more books, I've found out about a lot of great projects, and I've met and corresponded with a lot of great hams there. It's a lot of fun. If you have a Twitter account, follow me there. I'm @kb6nu.

\* Facebook (facebook.com). I have a Facebook account and I even have a page for my study guides. I don't like using Facebook, though, and avoid it when I can.

\* Reddit (reddit.com/r/amateurradio). Reddit hosts a very active amateur radio forum. What I like about Reddit is that these guys, unlike say the forums on eHam.Net or QRZ.Com are really interested in doing stuff, not just complaining or arguing. A lot of the hams on Reddit, and it's associated IRC channel (talk about retro!), #redditnet, have used my study guides, and apparently, I'm quite popular there.

\* Blab (blab.im). Blab is an interesting concept. It's kind of like an interactive podcast. You can record the blab sessions and then post them to YouTube or your own website. When I suggested having a regular Blab session to talk about ham radio topics to my blog readers, they weren't very enthusiastic about it. Even so, I think that I'm just going to do it. Sometimes you just gotta go with your gut, and my gut says this could be fun and eventually popular. Blab is integrated with Twitter, so if you follow me on Twitter, you'll find out when I'm blabbing.

The biggest problem with participating on these social networks, of course, is that it takes a lot of time, time that could be used for building stuff or getting on the air. Even so, I would say that, overall, using them has certainly increased my enjoyment of amateur radio and has connected me to people that I probably would not have connected with otherwise.

What do you think? What social media accounts do you have? Which do you prefer? What have they done for you?

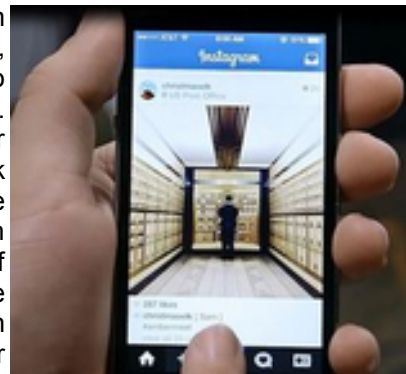
-----  
When he's not blabbing or tweeting, KB6NU likes to work CW, build stuff, and teach ham radio classes. He's also a prolific blogger ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides](http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides)). If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

### ARRL Now on Instagram!

ARRL now has a presence on , a social networking app made for sharing photos and videos. Similar to Facebook or Twitter, everyone who creates an account has a profile and a news feed. Photos or videos you post on Instagram will be displayed on your profile. Other users who follow you will see your posts in their own feed. Likewise, you'll see posts from other users who you choose to follow. Instagram is available for free on iOS, Android, and Windows phone devices. It can also be accessed on the web from a computer, but users can only upload, share photos or

videos, and create an account from their devices.

Before you can start using the app, Instagram will ask you to create a free account. You can sign up via your existing Facebook account or through the app itself. After you sign up, you may be asked if you want to follow some friends who are on Instagram in your Facebook network.



Instagram is all about visual sharing. Every user profile has a "Followers" and "Following" count, representing how many people they follow and how many users are following them. Every user profile has a button you can tap to follow them. If a user has their profile set to private, they will need to approve your request first. Interacting within posts is fun and easy. You can double tap any post to "like" it or add a comment at the bottom. The @ sign represents a link to your user profile. For example, if you choose your username to be JaneDoe, other users can tag you in their posts by commenting @JaneDoe, which, by clicking it, will bring them directly to your profile.

If you want to find more friends or interesting accounts to follow, use the search tab (marked by the magnifying glass icon) to browse through posts recommended to you. You can also use the search bar at the top to look for specific users or #hashtag.

ARRL uses Instagram to promote current events, happenings at Headquarters, and news. ARRL is on Instagram as @arrlhq. Follow us, and you'll have instant access to all photos and videos that we post. It's an interesting and entertaining collection that will only grow over time! -- Thanks to Erin Day

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### MDC TWEET & MDC FACEBOOK

We are moving into a new phase of the Amateur Radio communications and communities - the future is looking bright as Amateur Radio continues to be an affordable mechanism for a personal unencumbered way to communicate. Let's strive to promote our hobby of radio, electronics, engineering, science and self-preparedness; social media plays a key role in this communication awareness. It allows us to open new doors and see new perspectives. Change is good, especially when it encourages others to do the same and experience the enjoyment of a new hobby - amateur radio. It all starts with you sharing these experiences with others.

Please join us as we embrace avenues of change and share our successes with so many others. 'Tweet' us at "@MDCARRL" and share your ideas. We have a Facebook page for the ARRL MDC Section. If you are on Facebook.com, search for "ARRL-MD-DC-Section" and "like" us.

<<http://www.facebook.com/ARRL-Maryland-DC-Section-147302645336393/>>

Lots of current information can be found there, take a look.

Used with permission MDC Section NEWS March 14, 2016

## Amateur Extra Question Pool

NCVEC Announces Third Public Release of 2016-2020 Amateur Extra Question Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the [third revision](#) of the Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool that goes into effect on July 1. This revision supplants the Element 4 question pools released on January 8 and February 5, and includes corrections, modifications, and various editorial changes. The Element 4 question pool diagrams are in a separate document.



"We would like to remind the public that users of question pool documents are free to correct minor typographical or punctuation errors, including obvious minor omissions of same," the NCVEC Question Pool Committee said in releasing this revision. "Such corrections must not cause a change in the meaning of a question or any of the proposed answers to the questions."

The QPC notes that FCC Part 97 rule citations are not a part of the exam question itself, but are included for reference purposes, and that errors in or changes to Part 97 are not considered adequate reason to remove a question from the pool.

## UPCOMING HAMFESTS and PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

This is a list of Hamfests in the Maryland-DC Section area.

Included in this list of Hamfests are ones nearby in Pennsylvania, northern Virginia, NE West Virginia, Delaware and Southern New Jersey - these locations are close enough for a very doable drive for most MDC section members and these are listed as a courtesy to our neighboring Section Managers.

The MDC Section Manager, Marty Pittinger - KB3MXM, and/or a designated ARRL representative(s) plan to attend all ARRL sanction HamFests in the Maryland-DC Section.

They hope to see you all there.

### CULPEPPER AMATEUR RADIO SWAPFEST

Date: Saturday, April 9, 2016

Location: Culpeper Agricultural Enterprise

10220 James Monroe Highway, Culpeper, VA 22701

Website: <<http://w4cul.org>>

Sponsor: Culpeper Amateur Radio Association

Talk-In: 147.120+ (PL Tone 146.2) W4CUL repeater

Public Contact: Bob Stohlman, K4RCG

223 West Park Avenue, Culpeper, VA 22701

Phone: 540-825-2770

Email: <[bobstohlman@gmail.com](mailto:bobstohlman@gmail.com)>

### YORK HAMFEST & EPA CONVENTION

Date: Saturday, April 9, 2016, 8 to 1 PM

Location: Elicker's Grove Park

511 Roths Church Rd, Spring Grove, PA 17362

Route 30, 1 miles South on PA Route 3059

Website: <<http://www.yorkhamfest.org>>

Sponsor: York Hamfest Foundation

Type: ARRL Hamfest & Convention

Talk-In: 147.330+ MHz (PL Tone 123.0) W3MUM

Abbottstown

Public Contact: Duane Sterner, KB3QLQ

7197 Hershey Road Spring Grove, PA 17362

Phone: 717-332-1385

Email: [duane.sterner@yahoo.com](mailto:duane.sterner@yahoo.com)

### VHF SUPER CONFERENCE

Dates: Friday, April 15 thru Sunday April 17, 2016

Location: Holiday Inn Washington-Dulles

International Airport, 45425 Holiday Drive, Sterling,

VA 20163

Website: <<http://vhfsuperconference.com/>>

Registration: Before March 15th & save or at the door

Transportation: Free Shuttle to Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum

Sponsor: Southeastern VHF Society, North East Weak Signal Group,

Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club and Hosted by the Grid Pirates

Contest Group and Directive Systems & Engineering

Talk-In: None, bring your H/T's

Public Contact: Terry Price, W8ZN

2702 Rodgers Terrace, Haymarket, VA 20169

Phone: 703-754-3876

Email: <[w8zn54@verizon.net](mailto:w8zn54@verizon.net)>

### DELAWARE STATE CONVENTION (Delmarva AR & Electronics EXPO)

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016, 6 - 4 PM

Location: Sussex Technical High School

17099 County Seat Highway

Georgetown, DE 19947

Website: <<http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com>>

Sponsor: Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 147.090 MHz (PL Tone 156.7) WS3ARA Millsboro

Public Contact: Herb Quick, KF3BT

PO Box 1431 Seaford, DE 19973

Phone: 302-629-4949

Email: [herb@hamiltongraphics.com](mailto:herb@hamiltongraphics.com)

### 44th ANNUAL HAMFEST & WPA CONVENTION

Date: Saturday, April 24, 2016, 8 to 2 PM

Location: The Boston Spectrum

6001 East Smithfield Street, Boston, PA

Website: <<http://www.trarc.net>>

Sponsor: Two Rivers ARC of McKeesport, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.730- MHz (PL Tone 100.0) WA3PBD Homestead

& 146.520 MHz Simplex Mobile

Public Contact: William Hetrick, N3LQC

190 Mary Reed Road Baden, PA 15005

Phone: 724-242-5347

Email: [n3lqc@comcast.net](mailto:n3lqc@comcast.net)

Used with permission The ARRL Letter, Feb. 11, 2016





