



HARMONICS

1916

South Jersey Radio Association

2018



SJRA Registers Field Day Score Improvement Operating as 7A

By Rich, KV2R

About sixty SJRA participants turned out for Field Day 2018 at Savich Field. While falling short of last year's magnificent total of 18,000 points, the crew achieved a very respectable score of 15,984 points. Of course, much more was achieved than a good score in the yearly test of emergency radio communications - we honed our skills, enjoyed the competition, welcomed new operators, and enjoyed Dom's (KD2EPM) wonderful cooking. The event also marked a noticeable improvement in SJRA member turnout as more than 40 came out, about a twenty per cent improvement over last year.

SJRA continued to compete in the 7A (seven generator-driven transmitters) category in which we competed for the first time recently last year and placed first. Several experienced operators felt we have a good chance to finish first again in 7A based on contacts with other teams. We also continued last year's practice of using a digital station. Using PSK31 and RTTY that station achieved only 58 QSO points compared to 168 last year. This may prompt a different choice for the seventh transmitter next year.

Two CW stations, 20 m and 40 m, achieved more than 1,000 contacts this year. With significant contributions from the 80/15m station CW again totaled nearly 11,000 points (4 points per QSO). SSB contributed about 1,482 contacts, led by the 40 m and 20 m stations for

a total of about 2,800 points (only 2 points/QSO).

This represented about a 30 per cent drop from last year, perhaps due to weather and propagation conditions. Drops from last year in QSO points from GOTA (92 versus 386 points) and digital (58 versus 168 points) also contributed to the lower score. But we should remember that less favorable conditions probably were responsible for these trends, and that they also affected other clubs. Overall the total of 13,854 QSO points compares well to recent totals (other than last year), and there is reason to think we will still pull out another 7A first place.

Bonus points were scored by the old standbys like emergency power use (700 points), public location (100), information table (100), media publicity (100), ARRL bulletin copy (100), etc. Of course we always seem to have a satellite contact thanks to Joe, KC2TN, but this is always interesting and not over 'til it's over. Social Media bonus points (100) were fully achieved thanks to Bob (KE2D), Joe (KC2TN), Jon (W2MC) and Mark (KD2JPW). Frank (AA2AW) acted as the primary safety officer (100 points). We were also graced with the presence of Chris (KC2GNQ) who both represents an ARES-served agency (Red Cross) (100 points) and is an elected official (100 points). And Joe Howarth, NJ 8th District Congressman was our first high level attendee in quite some time. Several members ensured their children managed radio contacts, giving the club an additional

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SOUTH JERSEY RADIO ASSOCIATION

HARMONICS is published monthly and is the official news letter of the South Jersey Radio Association. The SJRA was established on June 16, 1916 and has been meeting continuously since it's inception. The club has been affiliated with the American Radio Relay League since 1920.

The SJRA meets each month on the fourth Wednesday, January through September; and usually the third Wednesday, October, November and December; in one of the Meeting Rooms of the Gibson House at 525 East Main Street, Marlton, NJ 08053. Visitors are always welcome at our general meetings. **"Our Meetings are Smoke Free"**

SJRA operates the K2AA Repeater (145.290 - PL 91.5) located in Medford, NJ and the K2UK Repeaters (146.865 and 442.350 - PL 131.8) located in Pine Hill, NJ. The repeaters are open for use without restriction to all licensed amateur operators.

There are currently over 100 SJRA members active in most all aspects of amateur radio. Membership is by application and is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Club dues are currently \$30/yr. for memberships, \$22.50/yr. for retired-person membership (62 plus 1 yr. membership), and \$15/yr. for additional family members and student membership. Membership information is available on the SJRA website: www.sjra.org or from Alan Handley, K3WWT, 610-532-5407 Email: sjra@sjra.org SJRA's web page: www.sjra.org

SJRA VE Team: ve@sjra.org is the SJRA/ARRL VUCC card checker

Joe Fisher, KC2TN, is the SJRA/ARRL WAS card checker

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Picnic: Vacant (Please Volunteer)
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Web Site: Ira Weinstein, W2IRA

Harmonics Staff:

Publisher/Editor: Al Ziegler, KD2ST
Alternate Editors: Ted Groke, W2TAG and Jon MacMillan, W2MC
Circulation: Jim Vecchiola, KR2T

 ★ Harmonics is now available for SJRA members on the WEB in pdf ★
 ★ format at: <http://www.sjra.org> ★
 ★ South Jersey ARRL Section News is available on the WEB at: ★
 ★ <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SNJ> ★
 ★ *****

LOCAL WEEKLY NETS

Mondays FM Net	K2AA Repeater, PL: 91.5	145.290 @ 8PM
Fusion on 2 ND & 4 TH Thurs.	K2AA Repeater, DN mode	145.290 @ 8PM, Fusion
6M SSB on 1 st Thurs.		50.150 MHz USB @ 8PM
2M SSB on 3 RD Thurs.		144.260 MHz USB @ 8PM

Harmonics Deadline

Articles submitted for the next Harmonics will be accepted until Monday, September 10, 2018. Email:
harmonics@sjra.org

SWAP SHOP - For Sale/Wanted ads are free of charge and are accepted for Amateur Radio related items only. While ads are not restricted to SJRA members, there is only limited space available and members have priority for listings. No items will be accepted for inclusion in the Swap Shop from commercial vendors or traders. All ads must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the scheduled SJRA general meeting date.

GENERAL ADVERTISING - Limited commercial advertising is accepted on a space available basis. Annual advertising rates range from \$25/yr (Min 1/8 page) to \$200/yr (Full Page). Information is available from Ken Botterbrodt, K2WB.

Meeting Minutes

Membership Meeting of 25 July 2018

The meeting, held at the Gibson House in Marlton, NJ was opened at 1935 by Ken, K2WB. No question of the night was asked.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as printed in Harmonics, motion by N2HQL/W2RLE. The Treasurer, WB2EOD reported 117 paid up members. His report was approved on motion by KA2OSV/WA2RHJ.

Membership, by Art, N2CPR- one application to be considered at the next BOD meeting. He reminded all present about the current membership drive, get 2 members by December, get 2019 dues for free.

Public Service- those interested in helping with the MS-150 should see Art, N2CPR.

Ken, K2WB reiterated the rules of the membership drive.

Matt, N2IDW reviewed the net schedule (web page or Harmonics).

Radiosport- John, W2FDJ- 8/19 ARRL rookie roundup; 9/8-10 ARRL September VHF contest; 9/15-16 NJ QSO party. Dates not yet set - SJRA QSO party.

VE Team- Al- N3AVT Approaching 250 elements given, He is taking signups for 10-15-80 CW for FD 2019.

Web Team- Ken K2WB- most information has been updated.

Harmonics- Al- Nothing New.

Repeater- Joe KC2TN Fusion working ok, Pine Hill MUA still no information.

Health & welfare- Aug. birthdays sent to Harmonics- Get Well Card sent to WE2Q.

Field Day preliminary report- KV2R 13854 QSO points, 2110 Bonus points- no points for

Gota Station, the rules require a minimum of 20 QSO's from a person to count.

Ken; Field day pictures are on the server.

Old Business- Still chasing LV79 for use during lighthouse weekend

New Business- None

Recess at 1955.

Program began at 1955- A webinar presented on Ham Radio Deluxe software, complete with a discount code.

Minutes of June 6, 2018 BOD Meeting

The meeting was opened at 1934 By Ken, K2WB.

Minutes of the May BOD meeting were approved as submitted N2HQL/NJ2IT, with a change in the nets report from 6M to 50.150 MHz.

Treasurer's report was read from an e-mail, passed on a motion by W2FDJ/N2CPR.

Membership, by Art, N2CPR: Daniel J. Fernandes, KD2PPB, was accepted, motion W2MC/NJ2IT. Some discussion regarding additional info desired on app; ARRL member, interests, name you want on badge, etc.. Ken commented that the membership committee was doing a great job. Al, KD2ST will alter pg 2 of the application.

Programs- July will be a webinar on Ham Radio Deluxe.

Repeater- Ken & Joe went to the Pine Hill MUA meeting; we need escrow money & drawings asap. We need a new equipment cabinet, \$1,500 escrow needed with our final proposal. Joe read through the proposal, and some changes were recommended to wording,

(Continued on page 4)

(Meeting Minutes from page 3)

“occasional access during business hours may be needed” was added.

Contests- by Jon W2FDJ VHF contest this weekend.

Health & Welfare- July Birthday list to Harmonics, June Cards sent.

A minor review of the roundtable discussions was done, a more in depth review at a later date.

Discussions, pro & con on the web team actions and priorities.

Still awaiting insurance certs for Field day, as well as meeting rooms etc.

Old business; LV79 use is still in question and efforts in this endeavor are shelved temporarily. Plans for a radio conference should go forward, motion W2MC/W2FDJ. (Passed)

New Business- none

Adjourn 2121

The July 4, 2018 BOD Meeting was cancelled due to the scheduled evening being on Independence Day.

By Lou Priestley, N2HQL



President's Message

Ken- K2WB

The summer is going to be over well before we know it. Field Day 2018 is over and a good memory. Some of us are already looking forward to Field Day 2019.

As the summer draws to a close, you should look carefully at your antenna farm and it may be time to start planning on any improvements or repairs that could be done while the weather is still pretty good.

While working on your projects always think of safety and get assistance for big jobs.

Use the right tool for the right job and never climb a tower without the spotters, climbing gear and ground help.

Bring a friend to a meeting, SJRA meetings are a great night out, we even offer great programs to keep you entertained. We have about 120 members and growing... Let's see if we can get to 200! We are having a Membership drive. Sponsor two new members and get next year's membership for free. Contact Art N2CPR or Allan K3WWT if you know someone.

Our club will have a table at the GCRC Hamfest in September. We will need help manning it, contact me or Jon, W2MC is you are interested in helping.

Last year's Club QSO Party was a success. This year we are running it for 24 hours not 48. Final rules will follow soon. The date has been decided. The 2018 Club QSO Party will be on October 13th at 18:00 utc (14:00 EDST) and will run to Sunday October 14th at 17:59 utc (13:59 EDST). We had a great time last year. If you are interested as operating as K2AA let me know. I will produce a schedule soon.

Another club in the area operates a very successful conference for VHF contests. The SJRA runs and operates a very successful VE test session. It has been noticed that a lot of people get their license and don't know how to get to the next step. The SJRA tried an Elmer program elmer@sjra.org but there does not seem to be a lot of activity. This year we thought we would try to have a General Amateur Radio Conference.

There would be 20-minute topic presentations during the day such as using repeaters, getting on the air, low cost first station, and more. The day would start with a VE test session. The door fee (TBD) will include lunch. We are also going to try to get some vendors to attend. In addition to all this there will be a

(Continued on page 10)

(SJRA Registers Field Day Score Improvement Operating as 7A from page 1)

100 bonus points, and the bonus points total was 2,110. This shows that any member can contribute, sometimes in unexpected ways to the Field Day effort.

In the end the three important results were that we preserved and honed the emergency preparedness capability, no one was injured, and we enjoyed ourselves. It does not hurt that we are looking forward to #1 in 7A when all the results are in.



(l to r) Chris Canatella, KC2GNQ; Ken Botterbrodt, K2WB; Congressman Joe Howarth, NJ 8th District

Items for Sale

Ameritron ALS-600 - 600 watt solid state HF amplifier with 50 volt linear power supply: \$1,000 (local pickup or free delivery within a 50 mile radius of Voorhees, NJ only). This equipment is in very good cosmetic condition and comes from the estate of W1OT. Contact N2UU (Bob Weiman) at: 609-315-1826.

Kenwood TS-870 with Kantronics KAM-II TNC for RTTY.

Original Kenwood Box, Cables, Power Cord etc. Clean Non-Smoking environment. Contact: ken at k2wb dot com

SJRA Membership Drive

Attention SJRA Members: Sign up two new members by December 31, 2018 and get your 2019 Membership free.

For additional information please contact Art, N2CPR or email:

Membership at sjra.org

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Congratulations to South Jersey Radio on your Centennial

Get Your Free Copy of A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles

Dan, KB6NU, cwgeek at kb6nu dot com

A link to *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) was posted to reddit recently, and I liked this document so much that I thought I would share it with you. It was originally written for the military, but is now available for free from the Defense Technical Information Center.

The preface to this document reads:

"Under project Agile, Stanford Research Institute has supplied several teams to assist operating personnel in improving the performance of field radio networks. In this work, it has been observed that U.S. military and civilian antenna manuals often contain misleading information regarding the operation of field antennas and tend to be overly complex. Consequently, this guide has been prepared to assist in training personnel concerned with the construction of simple HF antennas in the field."

I must say that *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* does this very well. It not only explains how dipole antennas work, it also does a very good job of describing the basics of radio waves and propagation. And it does this without getting overly technical.

For example, to the right is Figure 10. It's used to describe current flow in a dipole antenna.

The *Field Guide* reads:

"Electric current in a conductor consists of the flow of small particles called elec-

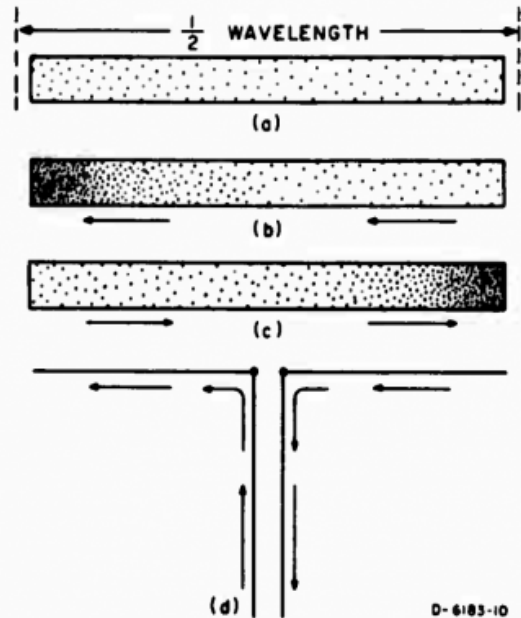


FIG. 10 CURRENT FLOW IN DIPOLE ANTENNA

trons. Figure 10(a) represents a dipole with electrons in it. When the transmitter is turned off, the electrons distribute themselves evenly throughout the dipole, as shown. All electrons repel each other and try to get as far from each other as possible; that is how they achieve the uniform distribution shown in Figure 10(a). When the transmitter is turned on, the electrons flow back and forth from end to end as shown in Figures 10(b) and 10(c). First the electrons flow to the left and crowded at one end as shown in Figure 10(b). Second, since the electrons repel each other, the push off to the right and get crowded together at the other end, as in Figure 10(c)."

It then uses this description to talk about voltage and current distribution along a dipole antenna:

(Continued on page 8)

Radio Sport aka Contests

John, W2FDJ, johnd152 at Verizon dot net

Member's Activities:

Please send your thoughts and ideas to me at **johnd152 at Verizon dot net** for publication.

Congrats to all who had fun working the 13 Colonies! On the SJRA nets we have discussed a few members who participated and got all 13. (KD2EPM, Dom and W2FDJ, John, AA2AW, Frank being three)

Please send me your summary sheet so I will be able to list your claimed score next time. John/W2FDJ **contests at sjra dot org**

Upcoming Contests - see arrl.org or wa7bnm.com for rules and more details.

Every Tuesday only

Phone Frey 10:30PM -11PM (yes 30 min) (ten weeks - 4 times a year)

Every Wednesday only

CWops Mini-CWT test 9-10AM, 3-4 PM, 11-12PM. (Three one hr sprints)

Every Thursday only

NCCC Sprint 10:30 PM-11PM (yes 30 min)

Every Thursday only

NCCC RTTY Sprint 9:45-10:15PM (30 min)

50 Mhz Fall Sprint 8/25-26, Sat 7PM EDT-Sun 11PM EDT 6 meters - mode not specified

ARRL September VHF Contest 9/8-10, Sat 2PM EDT to Sun 11PM 50mhz and up. All modes

New Jersey QSO Party 9/15-16, Sat noon to midnight EDT. Sun 10AM to 4PM EDT 80=10mtr; CW, Phone

144 Mhz Fall Sprint 9/17 Mon 7PM EDT to 11PM. 2 meters; mode not specified.

220 Mhz Fall Sprint 9/25 Tue 7PM EDT to 11PM 220 Mhz; mode not specified.

CQ WW DX Contest RTTY 9/28-30 Fri 7PM EDT to Sun 7PM EDT; HF - RTTY

CLUB QSO Party (SJRA Sponsored) 10/13-14 Sat 2PM EDT to Sun 2PM HF/VHF; All modes

Other Thoughts

Here are a few You Tube video's this month I recommend for viewing. Just go to <https://www.youtube.com> and enter the title of the video in the search window.

The WARC (World Administrative Radio Conf) bands are 30m, 17m, and 12m and were authorized for worldwide use in 1979. But I have never operated on them and don't have an antenna for them yet. So I have been looking around for multiband antennas that might get me on at least the highest two WARC bands. One of the many possible candidates is a Hex Beam. Here are videos showing a few different versions.

"Assembling the MFJ-1846 Six-Band-Hex-Beam Antenna (#152)" by David Casler KE0OG.

"Ramsey EU-124 2010 <W0JZE assembling Hexbeam High Quality" by MW0JZE

"HEX-BEAM HD MARK II" by SP5I Edwin Gostynin.

If you have some recommended video's let me know and we will share them with the membership. /John W2FDJ

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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(Introduction and Brief History to DX Clusters- Continued from page 8)

there are over 1,000 hams connected directly and 10,000 hams connected worldwide. Try typing "show/config" at a console prompt, you'll get a big list of all nodes and users connected. [In Ham Radio Deluxe Logbook, getting to the "Console" is a matter of dropping down the "Show" dropdown and switching from "Spots" to "Console". Don't forget to switch back.]

If you try this on your node and you don't see lots of users and peer nodes, you need to leave that node and find another one. Your buddy's node serves no one if there's no one else connecting.

Yes, WA9PIE-2 is a high-volume global spotting network. It's not necessary to use Ham Radio Deluxe in order to connect to it. Anyone who can setup a telnet connection to dxc.wa9pie.net on port 8000 can connect with whatever software they use. WA9PIE-2 is in a Google data center in the central United States. Hams from all around the world connect to it and share DX information. Because WA9PIE-2 doesn't filter spots, it's a "globally local node". In other words, two hams in Europe connected to WA9PIE-2 are able to immediately see the same spots that two hams in the Pacific Northwest would see.

It's worth pointing out that the VE7CC-1 cluster node is also very popular. Lee lives east of Vancouver, BC and he's the author of CC-Cluster and the popular CC-User software. VE7CC-1 and WA9PIE-2 are directly connected and share spots unfiltered.

Setting Up Your Connection

Once you have selected a DX cluster node that has a broad coverage area and high availability, there are a few things you should consider.

The first thing you should consider is filtering spots that get delivered to you. Many times hams have asked me, "Is there some way that Ham Radio Deluxe will filter spots coming to me from outside my area?" My answer is always, "Why would you want your computer to do all that work when you can prevent the spots from being sent to your PC in the first place?" That is

- let the cluster node do that work for you, rather than asking your PC to do it.

There's little benefit in seeing a DX spot from Spain in the middle of the afternoon in Chicago telling you that a station from Mount Athos is on 160m. You won't hear it. As such, you should filter it from being sent to you. There are a number of ways to do this. But the easiest way is to send the following command to your cluster node - "accept/spots by zone 3,4,5". If you live in the United States, you will only see spots from CQ zones 3, 4, and 5. (This is the way I do it myself.) You can find DX cluster filtering guides on the internet.

Within Ham Radio Deluxe, make use of the "WSI filter" (Worked Status Indicator). This filter will hide all the DX spots that you don't need and leave only the DX spots remaining that help build your DXCC mixed, mode, band, or challenge totals.

Summary

It's not necessary to bounce around between DX cluster nodes to "see if there are better spots elsewhere." There's no value in connecting to "your buddy's DX cluster" (or your own) if that node isn't globally relevant. Pick a DX cluster node that is a "global spotting network" and has high-availability.

Please see screenshot on HRD's website (click on link at beginning of article.)

Pick a DX cluster node that doesn't filter spots inbound or outbound. But do filter the spots in your cluster connection so that you won't see irrelevant spots.

This is "global crowd-sourcing" at it's finest. In fact, hams were early pioneers of crowd-sourcing. Find a crowd. Don't just be a consumer of spots. Send some too!

As always, feel free to share this with your friends. I will also post this on our blog - along with all other newsletters - at <https://www.Ham-Radio-Deluxe.com/blog>

Thank you es 73 de Mike, WA9PIE

Upcoming Regional Hamfests September 2018

September 15th: **Delaware Valley Radio Association Hamfest** 8am to ? at West Windsor Community Park; West Windsor Township, NJ 08550. Website:

<http://www.w2zq.com/hamfest-details>

September 16th: **ARRL Southern New Jersey Section & Hamfest** presented by the **Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club** 8am to ? at Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds; 235 Bridgeton Pike (Route 77), Mullica Hill, NJ. Website:

<http://w2mmd.org>

Note: The SJRA will have a table at this event. Please stop over and catch up on the latest Club activities.

September 21st & 22nd: **Kutztown Antique Radio Meet** 7 am to ? At 740 Noble St, Kutztown, PA.

Website: <http://dvhrc.com>

September 22nd: **Garden State Amateur Radio Association Hamfest** 8 am to 12 pm At 100 Tornillo Way, Tinton Falls, NJ 07712. Website: <https://www.gsara.club>

September 28th-30th: **2018 Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference** Holiday Inn Bensalem, 3327 Street Rd, Bensalem, PA 19020 Website: <http://www.packratvhf.com/conf/VHF%20Conf%202018%20posterV1.1.pdf>

Test Session Report for July 18, 2018

We did not have any applicants. We filed one administrative action for a late renewal.

The totals for July 18 are the same as they were for June.

	Tech	General	Extra	Total
To Date	147	63	35	245

(President's Message Continued from page 4)

workshop to help program your radio and other testing equipment to help check out your radio. A complete list of presentations will be coming out in the next coming weeks.

Contact me, **ken at k2wb dot com** if you have any suggestions of topics you would like to see at the conference.

The date is Saturday November 10th, 2018. The club will be looking for presenters and other help.

If you have any ideas or projects that you would like to see the club get involved with, contact any board member or club officer.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope to see you on the air soon.

73's

de Ken K2WB/7

President SJRA



SJRA Jackets, Shirts, Hats

Order NOW - Next order going in soon!



Spring Jacket is \$51 (S,M,L,XL), Fall Jacket is \$58 (S,M,L,XL),
 Shirts are \$28 (S,M,L,XL), Hats are \$25 (one size fits all)
 Name and Call Sign embroidery included....Larger sizes slightly more!
 Email Joe, KC2TN, with orders or additional info: kc2tn at comcast dot net

Amateur Radio FCC License Testing

The SJRA sponsors *FREE* Amateur Radio FCC License testing on the third Wednesday of each month, except Nov & Dec are current TBD. The location is: New Brooklyn United Methodist Church; 1336 E. Malaga Rd. Williamstown, NJ 08094. Registration is at 7:00 PM and testing begins at 7:30 PM. Walk-ins are accepted.

VE team members can be reached at **VE at SJRA dot org**. A calendar and more information can be found on the SJRA web site.

August Meeting:

Is the Fourth Wednesday, August 22, 2018

The meeting commences promptly at 7:30 PM in the first floor Meeting Room of the Gibson House on Main Street, Marlton, NJ 08053. Guests are always welcome.

Program For August:

Get Ready for the September VHF Contest - Ken, K2WB

SJRA Member September Birthdays

September Birthdays are: Donald Cavallaro, KD2EHE; Alan Cohen, WA3ZKI; Matthew Grohgans, N2IDW; Alan Handley, K3WWT; John Hill, W2HUV; Craig Martin, N2ASU; John Mulvey, N2ADE; Dominic Sacca, KD2EPM; Michael Tolotta, W2OSD; Gerald Blachniak, KD2KIA; Lawrence Eichel, K2NA

Health and Welfare Co-chairpersons: Roy, WB2EOD and Dara, KC2THQ

September Meeting:

Is the Fourth Wednesday, September 26, 2018

First Class Mail

South Jersey Radio Association
15 Pelham Road
Marlton, NJ 08053

