Hello all,

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of KDKA radio. There are plans in the works for operating special event stations in honor of this occasion. As I am the PA state coordinator for the 13 Colonies special event, Joe - W3BC asked if I might be interested in heading up this event and I agreed.

Here is where we are at this point:

* The event will be all month long in November of 2020.
* The plan is to make this operation available to southwestern PA amateur radio operators.
* There are plans to have multiple callsigns for the event. Three 1X1 callsigns have already been reserved. Also, the call W8XK will be used as it was the original callsign of KDKA.
* We had a meeting at the last Breeze Shooters hamfest. The meeting was announced and open to any interested persons.
* There has been interest from a couple of clubs in utilizing their tower trailers and, as such, there are plans to operate from the old KDKA radio transmitter site in Saxonburg (and perhaps other sites).
* There are also plans to have KDKA officials involved.

Here’s the deal:

In an event like this it is important to have good communications between the participants. I set up a Groups.IO group for this purpose. I **insist** that if you are interested in partaking in this event that you join the group. This is where the discussions will occur. It is crucial that you do this.

<https://groups.io/g/kdka100> to join the group.

Although I am a “Skyview Guy” this will not be a Skyview centric event. This is open to southwestern PA stations. The details of how this will all work out have not been ironed out as of yet, nor will they be until I can get a feel of how big this is going to be.

If you tell me that you want to participate in some way I **FULLY** expect you to do it. Not only do it, but do it well. If you feel you might not be able to do what you say, please don’t volunteer. Or, if your effort might be conditional please let me know that and I can work around it.

I fully expect all operators to operate above board. If you have never worked a pile-up before, it can be challenging. Some folks love it, some folks get nervous as hell. Sometimes you get people that cause intentional interference. You need to be able to deal with that. If you have never worked a pile-up but want to give it a try, I recommend sitting back and listening to a good DXpedition operator, or other good op that knows how to do it. If you volunteer I will help you in this regard. 13 Colonies operations lead to some pretty big pile-ups and my operators need to know what to do, and what not to do.

I would like event operators to have a good station. It’s a pickle when there is a special event station on the air and no one can hear them because they are running 50 watts into a dummy load. To be successful you will need a good signal. If you don’t have such a station, fear not. There will be opportunities to operate from stations such as Skyview and other participating clubs (list TBA). If it is a club participating I would prefer a club liaison to work with me.

At the Breeze Shooters KDKA meeting there were some pretty big ideas being tossed around. That’s fine, but if you have a big idea please help make it a reality. My personal opinion is that this is a big event, but not a huge event.

As I type this, below me under my desk is a large chunk of the base insulator of the old KDKA radio broadcast tower in Allison Park.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please address them to me. I am reachable at [radiofreebob@gmail.com](mailto:radiofreebob@gmail.com). Please also feel free to remind me of things in case something gets lost in the shuffle. I look forward to coordinating this event and anticipate it to be a great time.

Please get on the Groups.IO ASAP as we need to get things going and organized.

Acknowledgments to event originators:

Pete, W3WC

Joe, W3BC

Ron. W3WN

Mike, K3AIR

Bill, N3BPB

Others

Best 73 all

Bob, WC3O