

The York County Amateur Radio Club Special Event  
Shaker Hill Apple Festival  
September 23-24, 2023

The York County Amateur Radio Club celebrated the first days of autumn in fine style by operating a Special Event at the Shaker Hill Apple Festival on September 23-24. The annual festival took place at the 1875 Shaker Carriage House Museum in Alfred, which is supported by the Friends of the Alfred Shaker Museum. The carriage house, located in a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places, offers educational programming, and exhibits and conserves fascinating Shaker items.

On Friday, Rick, KB1ASM and Ernie, KB4EFX set up an HF rig on a multi-band wire antenna and another HF/VHF/UHF rig operating on VHF through a home-brew antenna. Band conditions for our club call sign, W1YCA, were challenging all weekend but operators were able to reach Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, the Carolinas, and Canada, about 30 stations in total.

Club participants were: Susan, KC1NQT; Paul, KC1NQU; Ernie, KB4EFX; Tony, AA3HD; Roger, N1XP; Brad, KC1JMH; Dave, KB1FGF; Rick, KB1ASM; and myself, Susan, WB2UQP. Our member check-ins were Tim, KB1PRG; Rob, AA1BS; and Dave, AA1LO. Festival attendee Monique, KC1RGX came by and ably called her first CQ's!

Despite cool temperatures and overcast skies, the company was warm and the conversations lively. We shared laughs, encouragement, and shared operating pointers and tech knowledge. The group agreed that the best food at the festival was the homemade apple crisp with whipped cream topping.

The opportunity to operate a Special Event in ham radio is incomparable. Special Events provide priceless outreach for organizers of festivals, parades, commemorations, and historical occasions. By helping to inform in this way, we also promote our hobby to onlookers. Importantly for me, Special Events enable operators to come together in friendship to share tips and bond, as this is often a solitary hobby.

The York County Amateur Radio Club's Shaker Hill Apple Festival Special Event was a great success. For more information about the club's activities, go to <https://w1yca.org>.

Written by Susan A. Bloomfield, WB2UQP