

76 is extremely important to PARA.

Here is a summary of what has happened over the last months:

- You may recall, we purchased a backup 76 repeater, the Kenwood, for Valley Forge, several years ago, and it has become the main repeater due to problems at Worcester
- We also moved the amplifier from Worcester to Valley Forge, but with the antenna problems, it didn't do much for us.
- We evaluated the Valley Forge site and determined the hard line feed and 2 meter antenna were both defective.
- PARA found a new friend: Tim Eichelman. Tim donated and installed a replacement hard line for us at the Valley Forge Tower for the 76 machine.
- We purchased a new G7 2m antenna and Tim installed it at the top of the tower.
- Tim used his software to reprogram the Kenwood to put out the 20 watts needed to drive the amplifier to its rated output, 100 watts.
- We started and finished a site cleanup at Valley Forge. That includes junk inside and outside and five pickup truckloads were hauled out. We even got paid for the junk. About 30 old antennas and destroyed stationmaster's were on the ground behind the shed and many of them buried. They were hauled away. There were old repeaters from 30 to 40 years ago that were hauled away. Donated junk was hauled away. Al has a detailed report.
- Shed repair was started that includes frozen, broken, and missing hinges. One T111 panel has been purchased, cut, and pre-painted for the worst door on the side. I need help doing this to complete the repair.
- Yet to do, 3 more doors, the shed front needs repair (3 panels needed) , and the back repaired (4 panels needed). Then they need to be painted.
- The side of the shed nearest the Tower has been painted.
- We plan to put new T111 panels over the rotten T111 panels on the front and back of the shed. (7 new panels required) (Still much cheaper than replacing the shed.) \$350 estimate
- The present electric service wires are a disgrace. We found conduit that was purchased over 30 years ago to complete this repair. That will soon be installed.
- We will burry the conduit and run a new 8-3 cable through it. It will then be connected at both ends.
- We got a new power supply, a Samlex 40 amp rack mounted professional unit that has battery switch-over capability. We bought a new backup 12 volt deep cell battery and connected it with a fused wire. The Repeater, Amp, & battery wires now have power pole connectors.
- We obtained a 9u rack and mounted the Kenwood repeater, the new power supply, and amplifier in new rack. It looks good and organized.
- Tom W3EX donated a computer for Valley Forge: to program the Kenwood, the SCOM controller, and the future MESH interface. It is there and working.
- The whole inside of the shed looks great and uncluttered.
- We still need better control for the repeaters at Valley Forge. What we have is unacceptable. There will be another expense at some time in the near future.
- The 76 machine is very usable and working much better, although the amplifier is off due to an intermittent noise. We have ordered a new amp. It will be used at Valley Forge. When the Henry amp is repaired, it will go to Worcester.
- We need to get the Worcester 76 machine back to working status – we purchased a replacement voter for parts. The membership approved another 2 meter amplifier for Worcester. That will go to VF. We have to deal with some link interference and maybe change frequencies
- **There is a request for upping the power of the 443.9 machine at Valley Forge – cost \$750 to \$850 IF Approved. [20 watts to 100 watts]**