

January 2007

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater PL 146.2
{K3FI} *CLUB CALLS* {WM3PEN}

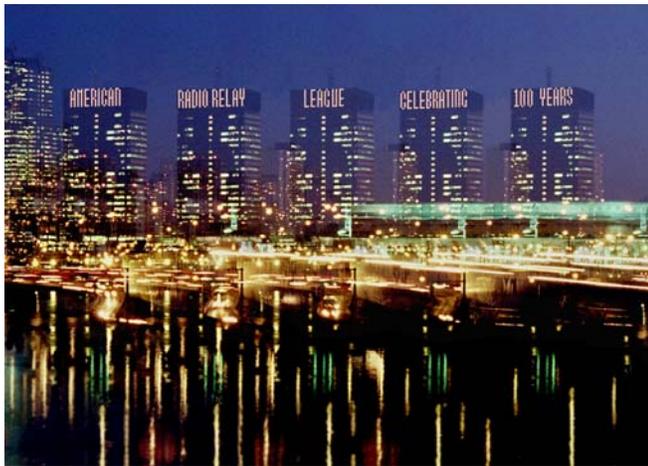
Celebrating Over 25 years of Serving the Philadelphia Area
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Next Meeting
Thursday, January 25th
8 PM
8th District Police Station
Red Lion & Academy Rds

Nominations for Club Officers

HARC is an organization of members. HARC would not be involved with as many activities as it is without dedicated volunteers. Now is the time to nominate those who will serve on the Board of Directors. Nominations are now open for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in running for office or would like to nominate some one for one of the offices contact Mike, N3LXN, send an email to WM3PEN@HARCNET.org or send a letter to the Club PO Box. Nominations should be received by the February 10, 2007. Elections will then take place and the new officers will take office in March.



Philadelphia celebrated 100 years of Voice Over Radio with a message on PECO's Crown Lights

HARC Members put WM3PEN on the air

While many were getting ready to celebrate New Year's Eve, several HARC members were busy calling CQ with WM3PEN. The Club call was one of several stations commemorating the 100th anniversary of voice being used on the radio. HARC put several stations on the air. On HF N3LXN and KC3JV teamed up, along with N3ZZK and NY3Z, and K3CJ, WA3PZO, and N3UBY. On VHF was KB3FGJ.

HF band conditions were the pits but we still managed to make contacts in the US and Canada. It was a frustrating 24 hours for the group as contacts were tough to make. However it appeared that all had a good time. The new WM3PEN QSL cards will be sent out. You can see the QSL card on the HARC website.

www.harcnet.org

Repeater Update

Technical Chairman Ron, W3BDC, has been preparing the repeater and the remote inputs for a new voter system. Ron and Mike, N3LXN, installed the new voter at the main repeater site at the University of Pennsylvania. Each of the remote input sites are being activated one at a time. The Cherry Hill input should be up by the time you read this newsletter. The Abington and the Northeast Phila. inputs will then be worked on. To access the system you now need a 146.2 PL.

An upcoming meeting will feature a presentation on the HARC repeater system. Stay tuned for further details.

See other Hello Stories inside!

*University of Pennsylvania
Re-Starting Amateur Radio Club*

RAFFLE

A group of University of Pennsylvania alumni, staff and students has recently re-activated the previously lapsed amateur radio callsign, W3ABT, of the University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club and has formed the nucleus of a new club at Penn. We are now working to identify additional faculty, staff and students at Penn, or students who will be attending Penn who have an interest in amateur radio or who are licensed radio amateurs. Our goal is to re-establish a student-lead, on campus amateur radio club and station at the University.

By means of this letter, we are asking for help from Philadelphia area amateur radio club members to identify current students, faculty, staff and alumni at Penn who might have an interest in helping to build a new, on-campus amateur radio organization. Any help you can give us in this regard will be greatly appreciated. In particular, we would like to receive contact information for licensed amateur radio operators or people with an interest in amateur radio who are now or will be associated in any way with the University of Pennsylvania.

Thank you in advance for any help you are able to provide.

73, Jan Carman, K5MA

Secretary University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club

Contact information:

Jan Carman, K5MA

P. O. Box 930

West Falmouth, MA 02574-0930

e-mail: jcarman@capecod.net

In other Club mail:

An email was received from a Israeli ham radio operator trying to make contact with an old friend in Philadelphia. The Phila. ham did not have an email address listed on QRZ.com so WA3PZO found him on E-Bay and sent a message to the Phila. ham. A response was received in a few hours and the two began to get reacquainted.

Another email was from a person interested in becoming a ham radio operator.



Carl, N3ZZK, and John, NY3Z operating during 'HELLO'

Winning Ticket ..HARC raffled off a triband ICOM T-90A HT. The winner was John Beaty KB3FSN. HARC appreciates all who participated and thanks Charlye, K3CJ for selling the tickets.

MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT TO END

(from Remarks) At press time we still do not know when the FCC order deleting the Morse requirement for HF access will go into effect. Watch the ARRL web page (www.arrl.org) for news, and check out the FAQ there at www.arrl.org/fcc/morse. Also see an article in February *QST* starting on page 79. Until the order goes into effect, existing requirements remain in force. When the new rules come into effect, Technicians who have not passed a Morse code test will gain certain HF privileges currently available only to Techs who have passed the code -- people who used to be termed "Tech Plus" licensees. That includes phone privileges from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz. This was something the FCC resisted, initially, proposing to keep no-code Techs off of HF despite the fact that the only difference between them and "Tech Plus" licensees would be an examination element that will no longer be required! The ARRL successfully argued that this position was unfair and also inconsistent with what the FCC did when the 13 and 20 wpm code tests were abolished in 2000. In a moment of lucidity unparalleled in recent times, the FCC changed its mind and decided to have just one set of Technician class privileges. Remember, however, that no-code Techs cannot operate on HF until the order goes into effect. Also remember that CW is still legal on all frequencies except the 5 MHz band channels, and we who enjoy it can promote Morse code because it's fun, it's challenging, and it lets you work signals too weak to copy on most other modes. With the requirement gone, Morse code can just be enjoyed. Try it! You might surprise yourself and decide it's a lot of fun.

License Exams

PhilMont Mobile Radio Club has moved it's testing from Northeast High School to Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month beginning in February. Exams are given at [Ambler Ambulance Association](#), 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA. Registration begins at 7pm.

Warminster - last Wednesday of each month. Contact [Tom Michaud \(WA3TQJ\)](#) at (215) 343-3494 (7-9PM)

Bryn Mawr - quarterly on a Saturday. Contact Bob Lees, W3ZQN, rjlees@aol.com

Bellmawr, NJ - 3rd Thursday of the month. Contact Dianne Nafis at 856-227-6281

PHILA ARES INFORMATION

All amateurs interested in participating should check into the **Phila ARES Net**, Sunday's at 9:00 PM, hosted on the Phil-Mont Repeater System; 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL) ;444.80 MHz (+offset 186.2 PL) When control operators are available, Echolink node 29742, WU3I-L, is on the repeater. Backup link is KB3IV-L.

All interested amateurs are welcomed and encouraged to check in for more information. There is always a different topic of interest to the amateur community discussed with an informal round table of comments and suggestions.

Look forward to having all check in on Sunday nights @ 9:00 pm.

See web site for more information.

- Visit the Philadelphia ARES web site
<http://www.harcnet.org/aresindex.html>

President Bush recognizes Anniversary Event



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 8, 2007

I send greetings to all those celebrating 100 years of voices over the airwaves.

Radio plays an important role in informing, entertaining, and protecting people everywhere. At the turn of the last century, Reginald Fessenden pioneered wireless communications and opened the door for technological advances that have improved the lives of Americans and individuals around the world. This occasion is an opportunity to remember Fessenden's broadcast of voice and music over the air a century ago and a chance to celebrate the many ways radio has enriched our lives and our Nation.

I appreciate all who work in radio, and I am grateful to the amateur radio operators who provide emergency communications that help make our country safer and more secure. Your good work strengthens our society and represents the American spirit.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you.

Slowing Old Age

A recent discussion on the DX-Chat reflector:

The process of getting older can be slowed a bit via uses of ham radio:

1. Having goals to look forward to.... like DXCC and IOTA, and county hunting.
2. Mental exercises.... like CW and solving circuit problems, reading and making schematics, etc.
3. Avoid isolation..... have rag chews and attend Hamfests and club meetings
4. Having someone to depend on and that depends on u.... like skeds and helping a ham friend or being an Elmer.....and, last but not least, EXERCISE.... like walking to the back 40 to check on the remote switch box.

Lacking a back 40, ham radio lets us down in the exercise factor.... but then what serves every need in life? Good health to all DXers, 73. (K4VUD)

From the ARRL:

The FCC's Philadelphia Field Office has issued a formal *Notice of Violation (NoV)* to a Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to identify in a timely manner. The Commission released the *NoV* to Andrew Ban, KB3GRK, of Feasterville, on December 20. The notice says that on September 12 and 13, 2006, an agent of the FCC's Philadelphia office monitored KB3GRK's transmissions on 439.850 MHz and observed that the operator failed to identify for nearly one hour in one instance and for more than 20 minutes in the second. §97.119(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication." The FCC has advised Ban that he must submit within 20 days a written statement addressing the alleged violations and action taken to preclude recurrence. The issuance of an *NoV* appears to be a departure from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's typical practice of addressing such alleged infractions with an advisory letter rather than a formal notice.

HARC Friends Leaving Area

Kay, NK3N and Carter Craigie, N3AO are moving to Blacksburg, Virginia, to be near their daughter and her family - including our first grandchild born last fall. Kay said, "While we are looking forward to getting on the air from our new home, we will miss our many long-time friends." Both have visited HARC and helped the Club out when we had antenna problems several years ago.

More HARC Operators



WA3PZO, K3CJ, and
N3LXN (L>R)
participate in 'HELLO'

World's Smallest Country For Sale

Article from: Agence France-Presse

A FORMER World War II fort in the North Sea, which was settled 40 years ago and declared a state with its own self-proclaimed royal family, is up for sale.

The tiny Principality of Sealand, which began life as Rought Tower in 1941, is a 550 sq m steel platform perched on two concrete towers 11km off the coast of Harwich, eastern England.

It is accessible only by helicopter and boat but according to its owners, who want offers of eight digits or over, boasts uninterrupted sea views, guarantees complete privacy and is a tax haven.

"We have owned the island for 40 years now and my father is 85," Prince Michael of Sealand was quoted as saying by The Times today.

"Perhaps it is time for some rejuvenation. Astronomical figures have been mentioned but we will just see what comes forward."

Although its nation status is disputed, Sealand boasts a military past like any other country, defending its sovereignty from outside threats.



OPPORTUNITIES

Several opportunities are coming up this year. Opportunities to have fun. Opportunities to serve the community. Opportunities to building club membership. Take a look over these and see if you see it as a opportunity for you to get involved.

1) **License Classes** - There are currently no amateur radio classes being held in Philadelphia. Are you interested in working with people interested in getting their license?

2) **License Exams** - There are currently no amateur radio exam sessions being held in Philadelphia. Would you be interested in serving as a Volunteer Examiner?

3) **Membership Drive** - There are approximately 1000 hams in Philadelphia, yet we rarely hear from many of them. We can generate mailing labels for everyone and send a letter, but we need help with postage. To mail 1000 hams a first class letter with a 2 page letter, copy the letter, buy envelopes, etc would cost close to \$500. Do you have access to any bulk mail privileges? Are you interested in contributing to the postage bill by sponsoring a zip code and covering those costs? Are you interested in contributing a roll of postage stamps? If you have any ideas how we can reach the hams in the City contact Bob, WA3PZO.

4) **Operating Events** - King Charles II of England granted the charter of Pennsylvania to William Penn in March of 1681. This year marks the 325th anniversary of Philadelphia. A new visitor center is being built at William Penn's home at Pennsbury Manor on the Delaware.

Everyone Knows Father Moran

One of the more interesting hams I've read about is Father Moran, 9N1MM. Last year would have marked his 100th birthday. He made his first trip to Nepal in 1949 shortly after the country opened its borders to foreigners. In the early 1950s he established a boy's school outside of Katmandu. For many years he was the only licensed ham radio operator in Nepal. He and King Hussein of Jordan, JY1, were two of the most famous hams on the air. Locally the people in Nepal knew Father Moran. They could even tell you his travel schedule in the village, because everyone new Father Moran.

The story goes that when a ham from the States traveled to Nepal to meet Father Moran, he brought a

pair of 12JB6 final amplifier tubes for his Drake transmitter. It was a prized possession since they usually burned out and they weren't found anywhere in Nepal. He died in 1992 after spending 40 years in Nepal.

Now comes word that a club station may be established in Nepal to honor the memory of Father Moran, 9N1MM, and to help Nepal hams has been resurrected. The local hams, led by 9N1AA, and with 9N7JO are scouting for a location and facility actively. The current plot they have their eye on could accommodate 160 m antennas.

Scientists Predict Big Solar Cycle

NASA Dec. 21, 2006: Evidence is mounting: the next solar cycle is going to be a big one.

Solar cycle 24, due to peak in 2010 or 2011 "looks like its going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago," says solar physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center. He and colleague Robert Wilson presented this conclusion at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco.

Their forecast is based on historical records of geomagnetic storms.

Hathaway explains: "When a gust of solar wind hits Earth's magnetic field, the impact causes the magnetic field to shake. If it shakes hard enough, we call it a geomagnetic storm." In the extreme, these storms cause power outages and make compass needles swing in the wrong direction. Auroras are a beautiful side-effect.

Hathaway and Wilson looked at records of geomagnetic activity stretching back almost 150 years and noticed something useful: "The amount of geomagnetic activity now tells us what the solar cycle is going to be like 6 to 8 years in the future," says Hathaway. A picture is worth a thousand words:

Cross correlating sunspot number vs. IHV, they found that the IHV predicts the amplitude of the solar cycle 6-plus years in advance with a 94% correlation coefficient.

"We don't know why this works," says Hathaway. The underlying physics is a mystery. "But it does work."

According to their analysis, the next Solar Maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160 plus or minus 25. This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past fifty years—which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history.

Astronomers have been counting sunspots since the days of Galileo, watching solar activity rise and fall every 11 years. Curiously, four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," says Hathaway.

These results are just the latest signs pointing to a big Cycle 24. Most compelling of all, believes Hathaway, is the work of Mausumi Dikpati and colleagues at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado. "They have combined observations of the sun's 'Great Conveyor Belt' with a sophisticated computer model of the sun's inner dynamo to produce a physics-based prediction of the next solar cycle." In short, it's going to be intense. Details may be found in the Science@NASA story [Solar Storm Warning](#).

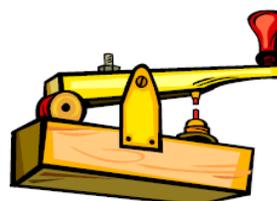
"It all hangs together," says Hathaway. Stay tuned for solar activity.

WM3PEN Makes News Around the World

From Italy: "William Penn" dirà Hello

www.harcnet.org per celebrare i 100 anni di voce radio nel dicembre 29 - 30. HARC Board Membri, Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, ed l amministratore di WM3PEN, conoscerà l'anniversario visitando Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO) da Filadelfia a radioamatori in tutto il mondo usando il callsign WM3PEN. Fu autorizzato nel 1976 per celebrare il 200° anniversario degli Stati Uniti, Penn avrà aiuto da membri del Holmesburg Amatore Radio Club,

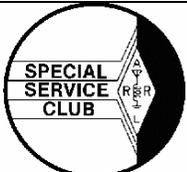
"William Penn" dirà Hello da Filadelfia a radioamatori in tutto il mondo usando il callsign WM3PEN. Fu autorizzato nel 1976 per celebrare il 200° anniversario degli Stati Uniti, Penn avrà aiuto da membri del Holmesburg Amatore Radio Club, www.harcnet.org per celebrare i 100 anni di voce radio nel dicembre 29 - 30. HARC Board Membri, Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, ed l amministratore di WM3PEN, conoscerà l'anniversario visitando Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO)





HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
 "Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

Next Meeting: Thursday January 25th, 2007.
 8PM @ 8th District - Red Lion & Academy Rds.
 2007 Membership Letters in the mail.

	<p>HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM HARC, PO BOX 6253, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136 http://www.harcnet.org WM3PEN/K3FI</p>	
---	--	---

All members in good standing are eligible to vote and hold a board office. Dues are \$20.00/year.
 Make checks payable to H.A.R.C. and mail to PO BOX 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-mail _____

Are you an ARRL member? YES NO Membership Expires (mm/yy) _____