



February 2014

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3RJC 444.9 Mhz Repeater
K3FI - CLUB CALLS - WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Echolink

Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
February 20, 2014

February 20 HARC Meeting

Ron, K3RJC, will update us on Echolink being used on the WM3PEN repeater.

EchoLink is a computer-based Amateur Radio system distributed free of charge that allows radio amateurs to communicate with other amateur radio operators using Voice over IP (VoIP) technology on the Internet for at least part of the path between them. It was designed by Jonathan Taylor, a radio amateur with callsign K1RFD.

The system allows reliable worldwide connections to be made between radio amateurs, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. In essence it is the same as other VoIP applications (such as Skype), but with the unique addition of the ability to link to an amateur radio station's transceiver. Thus any low-power handheld amateur radio transceiver which can contact a local Echolink node (A node is an active Echolink station with a transceiver attached) can then use the Internet connection of that station to send their transmission via VOIP to any other active Echolink node, worldwide. No special hardware or software is required to relay a transmission via an Echolink node.

A Matter of a Degree or Two! Area Gets 1-2 Punch!

On Tuesday, February 4 the Philadelphia area experienced one of the worst ice storms to hit the area. Over 715,000 customers lost power in the region. The hardest hit areas were Chester and Montgomery counties. In those counties 1 in 4 Philadelphia Electric Co. customers lost power. By Sunday morning 647,500 customers had their electric restored. According to PECO the number of customers restored is more than the number impacted during some of the worse storms in the area including Hurricane Sandy.

While Philadelphia's suburban counties were hit the hardest, sections of the City were also without power. Bob, WA3PZO, reported that at 6 AM Wednesday it was 34 degrees in Holmesburg. He said his antennas were ice covered and SWR readings were high, but he had electrical power. Just 7 miles away in Abington, Mike, N3LXN, says they lost power for a day. Yet other areas of Jenkintown and Abington didn't have power restored until Saturday. Mark, KC3JV, was without commercial power for 15 hours. "I fortunately have a 4 KW generator and could run my refrigerator and hot air furnace." He said, "The generator is noisy but kept us warm and the food from spoiling!"

CW Practice

Charlye, K3CJ, has started code practice on the HARC repeater Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM. This is a good opportunity to practice or learn cw.

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN

V.P./Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJ

Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO

UPARC Rep - Mike Feeley, KB3NDC

Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 3rd. Thursday @ 8:00 PM. Pathway Bldg, Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road at Tabor Rd . Phila PA. No meeting in July. Picnic in August.

PHILA ARES INFORMATION

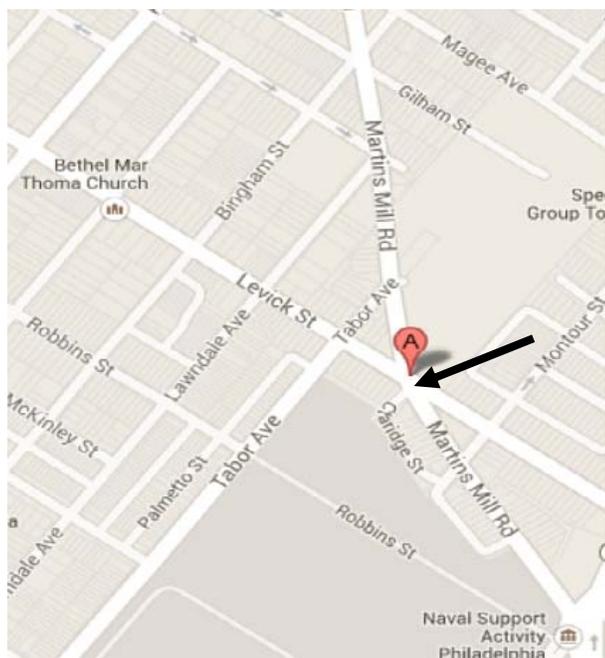
All amateurs interested in participating should check into the Phila ARES Net, Sunday's at 9:00 PM, hosted on the Phil-Mont Repeater System; 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL) ;444.80 MHz (+offset 186.2 PL) When control operators are available, Echolink node 29742, WU3I-L, is on the repeater. Backup link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



H.A.R.C maintains the 146.685 repeater located @ Univ. of PA., Phila PA with inputs in Abington, N.E. Phila, and Cherry Hill, NJ; More Club Information & Member Applications can be had by contacting any of the Directors via E-mail.

WM3PEN@arrl.org, the web page

<http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website
www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events
Echolink: Feb 20
Charter Day: March 9



VE SESSIONS

PhilMont Mobile Radio Club has testing in Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month. Exams , 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA.

Registration begins at 7pm.

Warminster Amateur Radio Club has testing the last Wednesday evening of each month except August and December. The sessions are at the Warminster Recreational and Educational Center on Little Lane, and start promptly at 7:00 PM (registration 6:45 PM).

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

HF AWARDS MANAGER

Are you getting close to having all 50 states confirmed for the Worked All States award or working enough grid squares for to qualify for the VUCC Award? As a HARC service you can now have your QSL cards verified by Bob, WA3PZO, and not have to ship the cards to ARRL Headquarters. You must be an ARRL member to qualify for the awards. Additional information and links can be found on the HARC website (www.harcnet.org)

Ice Storm continued.



FEMA generators arrive in Horsham. (FEMA News Photo)

On Tuesday evening, Chester County's Department of Emergency Services activated Chester County ARES/RACES (CCAR). CCAR members staffed the County EOC as well as shelters set up in the county including a large shelter at West Chester University.

Jim, WA3NOA posted on the CCAR website that "the County DES and the community are very grateful for the countless hours that CCAR volunteers have been providing in support of the power outages and shelter operations in Chester County."

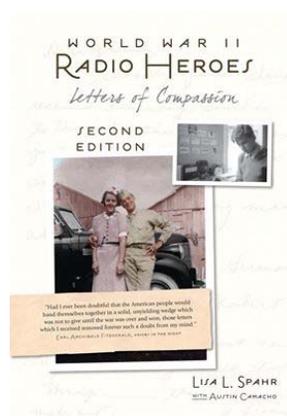
On Thursday, February 6, a message was sent to ARES District 1 members asking for help to support CCAR operations through midnight Sunday.

ARRL EPA Section Manager Bob Famiglio, K3RF, reported "that those ARES units that were asked to provide auxiliary communications to shelters have already served admirably and the cross county support offered was gratifying."

EPA Section Emergency Coordinator Bob Wiseman WB3W, "approved the use of 3917 kHz LSB as an undirected ARES resource net frequency at such times when the actual Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic Net is not in formal operation on that frequency, which is daily at 1800 eastern and other times

when warranted."

"As some of you may know, I have been an advocate of the re-integration of the National Traffic System and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service as it was originally intended many years ago," said K3RF. "Our friends at NTS are experts at passing formal traffic and our ARES teams are experts at local tactical communications. Together, we can have the whole situation covered. There will be more about this in the months to come as I am planning a section summit meeting sometime by this summer."



World War II Radio Heroes Letters of Compassion Second Edition Lisa Spahr
List: 19.95

HARC members or at HARC Meetings:
\$15.00 Contact:
WM3PEN@AOL.com
or Bob, WA3PZO

Have you been working W1AW portable? W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only **W1AW portable operations**. WM3PEN has worked W1AW in 10 states including Hawaii. Complete info on this special event can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party> As part of ARRL's Centennial QSO Party, KN4KL, and W4WV, will activate W1AW/KG4 from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in late February and early March! The operation will take place Wednesday, February 26, through Tuesday, March 4 UTC. This may mark the first time the US Navy has authorized the use of a "portable" call sign from Gitmo. QSL via ARRL Headquarters (225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111) or Logbook of The World (LoTW).



Coming in April!

The early history of ARRL and amateur radio is interesting. Mark, KC3JV, will present a program on this early period of history to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ARRL. April's meeting date is: April 17th.

Pennsylvania "67" Challenge Award

Amateur Radio operators around the world have the opportunity to participate in the Pennsylvania "67" Challenge. The Challenge, sponsored by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, is to make contact with all 67 Pennsylvania Counties. The Challenge is open to all amateur radio operators regardless of individual station capabilities. All contacts must be 2-way communications made in real time. These contacts may be on any Amateur Radio band/mode.

Contacts made using repeating devices such as FM repeaters, Amateur satellites, moon-bounce, and keyboard-to-keyboard contacts through digipeaters/nodes are valid, because these QSOs are made in real or near-real time. Contacts using IRLP, Echolink, or D-Star are valid as long as a radio is being used by both operators. All contacts must be made from the same county.

As an incentive Pennsylvania "67" Challenge certificates may be earned by working stations in 20, 40, 60, or all 67 Counties. Paper or electronic QSLs are acceptable. The contacts can be verified by a local club officer or mailed to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club.

Complete rules are posted on the HARC website. Questions on the Award can be directed to HARC at WM3PEN@ARRL.NET.

ON THE AIR!

HARC Special Events:

Charter Day: March 9

WM3PEN will be on the air Sunday March 9 to celebrate Charter Day, the day William Penn was given the Charter to Pennsylvania by the King of England. The event runs 0000Z to 2359Z, March 9. We can start Saturday night local time. Interested in helping to put WM3PEN on the air? Contact WA3PZO.

WM3PEN
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

William Penn

- In partial repayment for debt, Charles II of England granted William Penn a charter for Pennsylvania "Penn's Woods" March 4, 1681
- Founded City of Philadelphia October 27, 1682
- The democratic principles that he set forth served as an inspiration for the United States Constitution.

13 Colonies Special Event: July 1 -6

WM3PEN will again be on the air for this week long special event. Several radio clubs will be helping us keep WM3PEN on the air. Interest in helping contact WA3PZO.

★ *The 6th Annual:* 4TH OF JULY WEEK - 13 ORIGINAL COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT ★

Presented By The Original 13 Colonies Special Event Group - Independence week - 2014

CONTACTS
CLEAN SWEEP

REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA COLONIAL CURRENCY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT **ASLWEDL** HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS 4TH OF JULY WEEK SPECIAL EVENT, HONORING THE "13" ORIGINAL COLONY STATES AND OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1776. GOD BLESS AMERICA.

KEN VILLONE - KJLUS EVENT MANAGER *Ten Villone 73*

K1A - NEW YORK
K1J - NEW JERSEY
K1K - NEW HAMPSHIRE
K1L - MASSACHUSETTS
K1M - PENN.
K1N - RHODE ISLAND
K1O - CONNECTICUT
K1P - MARYLAND
K1Q - VIRGINIA
K1R - GEORGIA
K1S - CAROLINA
K1T - DELAWARE

WA3GM working the key in the ARRL CW DX Contest from the hotel room in Cocoa Beach, FL. 50 Watts And the home brew Paint Pole antenna. Approx 100 CW, PSK and Jt65 contacts this week. (WA3GM via Facebook)



NASWA DETAILS ITS 27th ANNUAL WINTER SWL FEST PROGRAM

NASWA, the North American Shortwave Association, has announced preliminary program details for its **27th Annual Winter SWL Festival** to be held at the **Doubletree Suites Hotel in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania on March 14 and 15, 2014.**

The **Winter SWL Fest** is the largest and longest-running annual meeting of shortwave radio enthusiasts and hobbyists in the Western Hemisphere. Beyond the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new contacts, the conference serves as a forum for discussion of radio-related matters of interest and import to the attendees, which have numbered in excess of 200 in some recent years.

This year's program of forums features two presentations by Australian Mark Fahey, who has travelled North Korea extensively in recent years. Over four successive trips to each province of the country, he has smuggled in and out monitoring and recording equipment enabling the capture and analysis of hundreds of hours of domestic radio and television broadcasting.

Scheduled for successive afternoons on Friday and Saturday, **Behind the Curtain: North Korean Broadcasting and Propaganda**, will extensively discuss and feature audio and video examples of

North Korean internal and external broadcasting, international and clandestine broadcasters that manage to penetrate through the regime's jamming, as well as descriptions and photographs of the media infrastructure used by the North Korean regime as the prime instrument of control over the population.

In addition to the ever-popular annual forums on **scanning** and unlicensed broadcasting (otherwise known as **pirate radio**), the 2014 Fest program also will feature the following sessions and presenters (subject to revision):

Radio Broadcasting: The Earliest Years – Dr. Harold Cones

Navigating a Future for the Radio Hobby – Sheldon Harvey, President of the Canadian International DX Club

Internet Radio 2.0 – Rob DeSantos

A Practical Guide to Loop Antennas – Jef Eichner

Developing a Shortwave Radio Archive – Thomas Witherspoon, President of Ears to Our World

Whatever Happened to Digital Radio? – Mark Phillips

Ionosounders and Other Real Time Propagation Aids – Tracy Wood

Ham Radio Tools for SWLs – Skip Arey

There's also **David Goren's Friday night Shortwave Shindig** radio studio party, as well as brief talks by Paul Ladd on **World Christian Broadcasting's shortwave transmitter projects**, Allen Loudell of WDEL radio on **trends in U.S. commercial radio**, especially news/talk radio; and Sheldon Harvey's **annual tribute** to those who departed us for a "higher station" over the last year. Not to mention: the **Saturday night banquet** and **Grande Raffle!**

Why not join us at the 27th Annual Winter SWL Fest? Details on location, registration, meals and lodging are available from the official web site: **swlfest.com**

Antenna Disguise

Maybe you want to get a V/Uhf antenna up a bit higher, yet hide it from the neighbors. The Wireless Association of South Hills (WPA) newsletter WashRag February issue has one idea. Hopefully this birdhouse won't ruffle anyone's feathers.



Yes, this works as an antenna and a wind chime. It's a quad device. Two audio frequencies, 2m, and 70cm. (QRZ News, January 2014, SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC)



Kevin Lampo wind chime antenna KB3SSZ photo

Send your name to the asteroid Benu!

NASA is inviting people around the world to submit their names to be etched on a microchip aboard a spacecraft headed to the asteroid **Benu** in 2016.

The "*Messages to Benu!*" microchip will travel to the asteroid aboard the Origins Spectral Interpretation Resource Identification Security Regolith Explorer, or OSIRIS-REx, spacecraft. The robotic mission will spend more than two years at the asteroid, which has a width of approximately 1,760 feet (500 meters). The spacecraft will collect a sample of Benu's surface and return it to Earth in a sample return capsule.

The deadline to submit names online is Sept. 30, 2014. Participants who submit their names to the "Messages to Benu!" campaign will be able to print a certificate of appreciation to document their involvement.

For more information and to submit your name, visit <http://planetary.org/benu>.

Participants who "follow" or "like" the mission on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OSIRISREx>) will receive updates on the location of their names in space from launch time until the asteroid samples return to Earth in 2023. Facebook fans also will receive mission progress and late-breaking news through regular status updates.

For more information about the OSIRIS-REx mission, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/osiris-rex> and <http://osiris-rex.lpl.arizona.edu>.

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to tps@planetary.org.

Warminster Hamfest May 4, 2014

HARC will have a table at the Warminster Hamfest in Wrightstown, PA on Sunday, May 4.

We'll be promoting the Club and the 13 Colonies Special Event. If you have something you want to sell, but don't want to get a table by yourself, then you can put your item on the table. Either donate some time to staff the table or if we sell the item, the Club will get 10% of the sale value.

For further information contact Bob, WA3PZO

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

January 16 Meeting – NTS – Details inside



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136

<http://www.harcnet.org>

WM3PEN/K3FI



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 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136. Membership year begins April 1.

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone # _____ Would you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? ____
E-mail _____

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