

March 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>



Repeater System Update

The HARC Repeater System upgrades are continuing. As we went to press the new voting system has been installed at the main site and the remote receive sites in Abington and Cherry Hill are working. Tech Chairman Ron, K3RJC, is working on the Northeast Philadelphia input and hopes to have that up and running as soon as possible.

Ron will have a presentation on the repeater system at the March HARC meeting. He will answer questions about the system and have pictures from some of the sites.

Hello Philadelphia!

Thanks to donations of cash and services we were able to mail a letter to every ham in Philadelphia who was not a HARC member inviting them to join the fun. Over 900 letters went out to Philadelphia hams using the FCC database. The letters went out just before deadline so we are just seeing the first responses.

The production efforts included Rich, AB3EO (ie: KB3FGJ) on photocopying, labels (printing and applying to envelopes) by Beth Johnson and Bob, WA3PZO, and letter folding, envelope stuffing, sealing, and mailing by Charlye, K3CJ.

The Board is considering if we should mail to the nearby suburbs. Decisions will be made after we get past the City mailing.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jim - AI3K	Rick - KB3JWK
Russell - K3PXA	Horace - KC3AE
Joe - KB3GXX	Tom - N3NRW
Milton - N3PKF	Ken - KA3SDC
Ron - W3YD	Gregory - W3PDQ

HELLO!

Next Meeting
Thursday, March 22 8 PM
8th District Police Station
Red Lion & Academy Rds
HARC Repeater System

Batter Up!

As spring training begins for baseball teams I am reminded of warmer weather and outdoor activity. One of my favorite outdoor activities is ARRL Field Day. What makes Field Day so exciting to me is that it combines radio operating and antenna building with a cookout and backyard party.

A successful Field Day or any other club activity involves leadership, planning and teamwork. In any club there is always going to be a core group of players that ignite the spark and get things started. These people are leaders. But it is the participation of all of the individual members that makes any event a success. The best home run hitter cannot hit a grand slam unless other batters did their part to load the bases. It takes teamwork.

Being a member of a club is more than sending in your dues money. Every member of a club has to step up to the plate and swing the bat. Healthy and active clubs have many positions that need to be filled. In addition to the offices like club president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, successful clubs often have committees that oversee specific areas of club business and activities. Active club members are those who volunteer to help out and make things happen. Active members don't wait to be asked to get involved. Active members are involved for the good of the club. (The ARRL CLUB NEWS and The American Radio Relay League.)

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT

April 29 - March of Dimes Walk

At Polonia Bank Flyers Skate Zone
10990 Decatur Rd. west of Comly Rd.
Please check-in with net control by 7:45 A.M. at the west end of the parking lot.
Talk-in on the repeater 146.685 -600 131.8 .
Working frequency will be provided at check-in.
Event should be over around noon.

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO
Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

We have a few openings on the Board of Directors. If you would be interested in serving on the Board contact Mike, N3LXN.

Elmer's Corner -- Observing Band Edges

There's a lot of new HF activity since the new regulations took effect on February 23. Please remember that operators are required to keep their entire transmitted signal within the band limits. This means that if you are operating SSB mode your signal is typically 2.8 kHz wide so a rule of thumb is to stay 3 kHz from the edge of the band. For example if a Technician class operator wants to operate SSB on the 10 meter band then the operator should not operate any lower than 28.303 MHz or any higher than 28.497 MHz in order to stay within the band limits.

Band edges also need to be observed when operating CW, RTTY, Data and all modes permitted in the Amateur service.

Overdriving a SSB transmitter makes your signal unreadable and it will cause splatter that can be outside of the band. It is just good amateur practice to produce clean transmitted signals--it's also the law, part 97.303. (The ARRL CLUB NEWS and The American Radio Relay League.)

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>



VE SESSIONS

PhilMont Mobile Radio Club has moved it's testing from Northeast High School to Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month.

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

Intro Web Site Getting Hits

Last month we reported that the ARRL Volunteer Examine Coordinators were very busy. Now comes word that the two ARRL Ham Radio intro websites are busy as well. In February the Hello-radio.org and the emergency-radio.org web sites got over 857,000 hits in one month. That's a 30 % increase over the January stats. Let's help spread the word. We're not going to be busy; we ARE busy!

Advisory to Amateur Radio license/upgrade applicants: Use your FRN!

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) urges all Amateur Radio license and upgrade applicants to use their FCC Registration Number (FRN), if they have one, when completing Form 605, *not* their Social Security number. The FCC asks applicants to register via the FCC's **CO**mmission **RE**gistration **S**ystem (CORES), to obtain an FRN, and it *requires* applicants to use their FRNs when filing Form 605. The FRN uniquely identifies an applicant in all transactions with the FCC and avoids the need to provide a Social Security number on the application form. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says that if her department submits license data to the FCC using a Social Security number when the applicant already has an FRN, the FCC rejects the data because an FRN already exists. Somma also reminds applicants and Volunteer Examiner teams to attach any *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE)* for element credit to upgrade applications. Using your FRN and attaching any needed *CSCE* to your Amateur Radio application in Form 605 will eliminate delays in obtaining your license or upgrade. (ARRL Letter)

Have a Story to Share?

Did something interesting happen when you made a contact? Are you interested in sharing a technical tip or a short cut in the shack? This is your newsletter. Send story ideas to
WM3PEN@AOL.COM.

Atlantic Division 2007 Awards Nominations

Do you know someone who has really stood out in their service to amateur radio? That service could be in: technical abilities; public service; training; education, you name it. Wouldn't it be an honor for that individual or group to be recognized by their peers for their time and talents spent in good service to others? Why not nominate them for one of the Atlantic Division Awards that they qualify for?

Nominations are being sought for two awards, Amateur of the Year and Technical Achievement Award. Atlantic Division awards are presented annually to the hams who make us proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service. Nominations are taken from the ham community. Selection is made by an Awards Committee chaired by the Atlantic Division Vice Director.

The awards are conferred at the annual Division Convention. The nomination period closes April 14, 2007 for this nomination. For more information, go to <http://www.atldiv.org/AtIAwards.htm>. Present and past HARC members have won the award in the past. Bob, WA3PZO, was awarded the Amateur of the Year award in 1991. Former HARC member WA3IAO also won the award in the early 1990s.

Legislative Action Chairman Appointed

ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, announced that Dave Prestel, W8AJR, was appointed to the Atlantic Division's Legislative Action Chairman's position. In his new appointment, Dave becomes a member of the Atlantic Division Cabinet, and is responsible for overseeing the division's legislative action team. He will be putting together a team of volunteers to help contact US Senators and US Representatives know of our desires on a national basis. We are excited about Dave's leadership in this position.

Atlantic Division Cabinet Meeting

The ARRL Atlantic Division Director, Bill, N3LLR, Vice Director, Tom, W3TOM, a number of Assistant Directors and Atlantic Division Section leaders will be meeting later in March for an informational update and to exchange ideas on topics ranging from the new ARRL Legislation Action Program, to new ham recruitment, to getting new hams active on the air, etc.

Additionally, a special presentation will be made at the cabinet meeting to R.J. Harris W3HP of Mechanicsburg, PA, who was selected by the ARRL Board of Directors at the January 2007 Board Meeting as the winner of the 2006 Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award. RJ works for a Harrisburg radio station.

Section Managers or their representatives from the Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland/DC, Northern

New York and Western Pennsylvania Sections have confirmed attendance for this year's Cabinet Meeting. Representing Eastern Pennsylvania will be Section Manager Eric, WB3FPL, Section Emergency Coordinator Al, W3AHR, and Assistant Section Manager/Public Relations Committee Member Bob, WA3PZO.

Special guest, Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH from the FCC and the Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year award winner for 2000, will be giving a presentation.

Information and photos from the meeting will be available on the Atlantic Division website www.atldiv.org in late March.

HARC PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

March of Dimes Walk-America

April 29, 2007 At Polonia Bank Flyers Skate Zone
10990 Decatur Rd. west of Comly Rd.



Field Day

June 23-24, 2007

At Alverthorpe Park

Come one - Come all

Talk-in on the repeater output
146.685 -600 131.8 .

Call us through the repeater, or
simplex on the output.

Northeast Philadelphia 5 Mile Run

Sunday, October 14th, 2007 (Date pending)

We will be providing communications support for
the Forth Annual Northeast Philly 5 Mile Run

This run is in support of The Northeast Philadelphia Youth Alliance

It is being held at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport

We are meeting at start/finish area by the parking lot to the
right of the main entrance .

Talk-in on the repeater output frequency - simplex 146.685
Working frequency will be provided at check-in.

Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade

Sunday, November 18th, 2007

We will be providing communications support for

the 32th annual Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade.

We are meeting at Wachovia Bank parking lot SE corner of
Rhawn St. and Frankford Ave. The parade starts at 1:00 PM

PA Hams Participate in Severe Weather Drill

Ham radio operators across the state participated in the annual Severe Weather Drill sponsored by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Not every county participated in the communications exercise. Locally Montgomery County hams demonstrated voice and digital communications.

LOCAL CLUB SHARES HISTORY

HAMFESTS

In the area

In 1955, The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, an association of mobile amateur radio operators, provided emergency communications during the devastating flooding along the Delaware River and in the Pocono Mountains following Hurricane Diane, the sixth costliest U.S. hurricane of the 20th century...fifty years before Hurricane Katrina. In 1959, the club produced this short film to explain amateur radio, and especially mobile communications as practiced by the club. Go to Google Video and search for Phil-mont mobile or if you are reading this online. [Amateur Radio: "Every Single Minute" - Google Video](#)

W1AW 2007 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
2200 " (6 PM ET)	RTTY	Daily
2300 " (7 PM ET)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 " (8 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
0100 " (9 PM ET)	RTTY	Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM ET)	VOICE	Daily
0200 " (10 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM ET)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675
28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095
147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390
28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15
WPM CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20,
15, 13 and 10 WPM CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18
WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs
and CW bulletins.

31 Mar-1 Apr 2007 Timonium, MD
Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest - Baltimore
Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.gbhc.org>

Talk-In: 146.67-

15 Apr 2007 West Windsor, NJ
Springfest 2007 Delaware Valley Radio Association
<http://www.w2zq.com>
Talk-In: 146.67 - (PL 131.8)
Skating Rink at Mercer County Park

22 Apr 2007 York, PA
<http://www.yorkhamfest.org>
Talk-In: 147.33 (PL 123.0)
York County 4-H Center

29 Apr 2007 Mountaintop, PA
Talk-In: 146.805 (PL 82.5); simplex 146.520
Wright Township Firehall

6 May 2007 Warminster ARC
<http://www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm>
Talk-In: 147.69/.09 (PL 131.8) & 146.52
Middletown Grange Fairgrounds
Wrightstown, PA

1 Jul 2007 Wilkes Barre Hamfest & Computerfest
Murgas ARC Luzerne County Fairgrounds
<http://www.qsl.net/k3ytl>
Talk-In: 146.61 (PL 82.5)
Lake Lehman, PA

4 Jul 2007 Fire Cracker HamFest
Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club Bressler, PA
<http://hrac.tripod.com/>
Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 100)

15 Jul 2007 Valley Forge Hamfest & Computer Fair
Mid Atlantic ARC Kimberton, PA
<http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.html>
Talk-In: 145.130/- and 147.060/+ ctcss 131.8

30 Sep 2007 Hamarama
Mt. Airy VHF Club Wrightstown, PA
<http://members.ij.net/packrats/Hamarama/hamarama.html>
Talk-In: 146.52 simplex

21 Oct 2007 Annual Hamfest
RF Hill Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Sellersville, PA
www.rfhill.ampr.org
Talk-In: 145.31 (-), pl 131.8

New Ham Class

Rich, AB3EO (formerly KB3FGJ), is teaching a Technician License class for the Scouts. If you might be interested in helping out with the classes, contact Rich at KB3FGJ@AOL.COM.

IRAQ HAMS TAKEN OFF AIR



Iraq Amateur Radio Society President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, has informed ARRL that all Amateur Radio activity in Iraq has been suspended until the security situation there improves. He says the suspension affects both Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners -- including military personnel and contractors -- who have been on the air from Iraq. The request to halt all ham radio activity and the issuance of licenses in Iraq originated with a letter from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as part of a new security plan, Sayah said. He received subsequent confirmation via the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to shut down ham radio activity, although he allows for a possible misunderstanding on the part of government officials as to the nature and purpose of Amateur Radio.

In a note posted at w7dxx.com Diya, YI7DZ says:
Dear All:

Refer to my last message regarding the Amateur Radio in Iraq, today 13/Mar./2007, I got confirmation from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, to close down the activity of Amateur Radio in IRAQ, tell the security situation become better.

May be this is kind of miss understanding from Prime Minister Mr.Al Maliki, and coalition forces (American troops) But we send them clarification regarding the issue and the turn of Amateur Radio in Iraq, I send you this time to inform you that all activities of Amateur Radio in Iraq will suspended for unknown date or time, and there will be no Amateurs work in Iraq, for Iraqi's and foreigners.

Please work with us to support Iraqi Amateur Radio, any of you can help let him find a way to do ... we appreciate your support.

Hope to see you all in better security situation and new strategy to impose the law in Iraq.

My regards. Diya YI1DZ (ARRL Web and W7DXX.com)



HAMS Demonstrate Emcomm to Local Congressman

Members of the Delaware County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) can provide valuable backup communications in case of normal communications failure. Media resident Bob Famiglio, K3RF, and others recently demonstrated to Congressman Joe Sestak (D-07) that amateur radio operators can use their own radio equipment to provide critical communications services. Famiglio serves as the ARES District Emergency Coordinator for the five county Philadelphia area.

Famiglio, who is also an active firefighter with the Rose Tree Fire Company, said "amateur radio communication networks could be established at fire houses, Red Cross shelters and the 911 Emergency Communications Center in Lima." He explained that each of their members are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and have received disaster response training from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

As part of the demonstration Bob Wilson, W3BIG, of Folcroft, used a compact battery powered ham radio unit to establish communication with other ham radio emergency stations at the Chester County Emergency Operations Center in West Chester and another key station in Berks County over 50 miles away. Wilson, who serves as the group's Assistant Emergency Coordinator showed Congressman Sestak a simple antenna system that could be deployed in an emergency to quickly pass critical messages in and out of disaster areas.

A unique service amateur radio operators can provide is email via radio. Roger Jordan, W4RFJ, of Ridley Park explained that emergency managers are able to send email via radio even if the local internet connection is not operating. Jordan explained that if local officials lost their connection to the internet, they would be able to route their email to the ham radio digital radio network and forward their emails to other emergency management agencies in Harrisburg, Washington, D.C. or other states.

Jordan also showed the Congressman how amateur radio operators were able to combine a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit with Amateur Radio equipment to track search and rescue efforts or emergency units. The information collected via the specially equipped amateur radio station can show these units on a map so that coordinators in an emergency operations center can see where their resource units are.



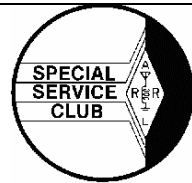
HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

Next Meeting: Thursday March 22th, 2007.
8PM @ 8th District - Red Lion & Academy Rds.
2007 Membership - Have you paid your dues?



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

HARC, PO BOX 6253, 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 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) _____