

April 2012

# 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>



## HARC Meeting April 26 8 PM

### DXpedition to Christmas Island (T32C)

What does it take to put a  
rare location on the air?  
8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station  
Academy & Red Lion Rds

Operating from a remote location halfway around the world takes years of planning and preparation. Come to the HARC meeting and hear the story of how a group from England. From the T32C website.

Between 1 and 24 October 2011, thirty eight radio amateurs from 11 countries activated the Island of Kiritimati (Christmas Island) in the Northern Line Islands, a part of the Republic of Kiribati. The DXpedition was organised by the Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) and operated using the call sign T32C.

Although planning for the DXpedition started over two years previously, not everything went to plan. A standard 8ft by 8ft by 20ft sea container holding 16 Yaesu FT DX 5000 transceivers, 16 Yaesu VL-1000 linear amplifiers, two 11 KVA diesel generators, the antennas and much, much more shipped from the UK to Christmas Island in February 2011. Although the container landed in Suva (Fiji) in April 2011, it became clear just two weeks prior to the start of the DXpedition that, due to a set of very unfortunate circumstances, it would not make it onto Christmas Island in time.

What to do? The decision was made to hand carry as much equipment as possible onto the Island and proceed with the DXpedition. Thanks to a tremendous response from our sponsors, the team members and the amateur radio community, ten brand new Yaesu FT450D transceivers (courtesy of Yaesu), nine linear amplifiers, and sufficient fibreglass poles were rapidly shipped to Honolulu to await hand carrying to Christmas Island.

On 28th September we checked in with Air Pacific for the flight to Christmas Island with approximately 450Kg of excess, yes excess, baggage. Having boarded the plane we thought nothing else could go wrong. Not quite true, imagine our response when the captain announced

a delay whilst they offloaded some of the cargo because the plane was overweight. Fortunately he chose to remove some commercial freight and not our equipment.

Despite the initial problems we encountered, the DXpedition was a major success making 213,169 QSOs and establishing at least ten new world records. Additionally we believe it conducted the first ever 6m Earth-Moon-Earth QSOs from T32, as well as the first ever terrestrial QSOs on 6m with Brazil, Paraguay and New Caledonia.



Kiritimati, Christmas Island, lies 232 km (144 mi) north of the the Equator, 6,700 km (4,200 mi) from Sydney and 5,360 km (3,330 mi) from San Francisco. Christmas Island is in the world's farthest forward time zone, UTC + 14, and Christmas Island is the first inhabited place on Earth to experience the New Year each year.

The entire island is a wildlife sanctuary and access to five particularly sensitive areas is restricted. The island is perhaps best known for the nuclear tests conducted in the region around Christmas Island by the United Kingdom in the late 1950s, and by the United States in 1962. During these tests islanders were not evacuated.

## 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  
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 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup>. Thursday @ 8:00 PM. 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in August.

## HARC Bulletin Schedule

### Bulletin Station K3CJ

Wed 2000L Amateur Radio News Line  
ARRL Audio News  
The RAIN Report  
Contests / Special Events / Hamfests  
Sun 1000L This Week In Amateur Radio  
Gate Way 160  
Handy Hams  
Contests / Special Events / Hamfests

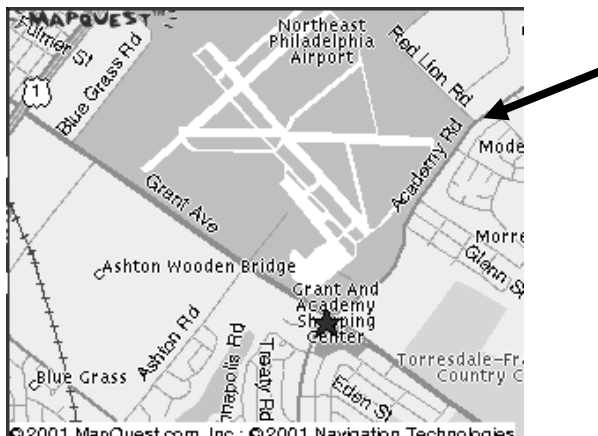
## PHILA ARES INFORMATION

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](mailto:WM3PEN@arrl.org), the web page  
<http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

## 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](http://www.harcnet.org))



## 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](mailto:rjlees@aol.com)

**Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website**  
[www.HARCNET.org](http://www.HARCNET.org)

*Upcoming Events*

**Next Club Meeting: April 26**  
**T32C Dxpediton**

## 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.

HARC Award Manager Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO said there was a need to have a County Challenge in Pennsylvania that was within the reach of most hams in Pennsylvania. When other state awards lost their sponsorship it was an opportunity for the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club to fill the void.

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

## 2012 Meeting Topics

**April** – Dxpediton – T32C Christmas Island

**May** – Field Day/13 Colonies Special Event

**June** – TBD (after Field Day)

### HARC Theme Nights



The idea of theme nights has taken off and we have topics for many of our meetings. So far we have technical, antennas, dxpeditions, contests, and special events. We also have some additional leads on SWL, QRP, and CW.

Here are some other possible themes: Net Protocols and Methods, Emergency Communications, Digital Modes, Foxhunting, Lightning Protection, Mobile Operation, VHF / UHF Systems,.....How Stuff Works, New Toy Demos.

Hopefully you get the idea. Feel free to suggest themes or, better yet, **volunteer** to lead a theme. Remember that this does NOT commit you to creating a viewgraph presentation, it's ok to just stand up and talk, demo something or whatever you want to do. Have an idea for March or June let us know.

**\$ DUES ARE DUE \$**

The HARC membership year begins in April. Dues are just \$20 per year and help support the Club's many activities including the repeater system, repeater telephone control, liability and equipment insurance, newsletter, special event operations, club meetings, Field Day, website, group email list, QSL card services, and others.

Use the form on the last page of the newsletter and send your dues to HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

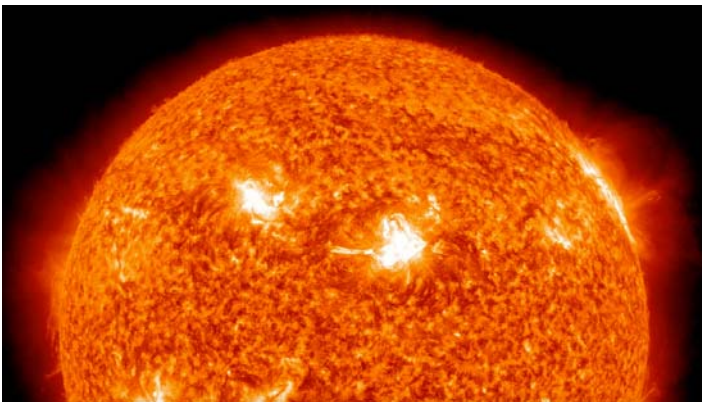
## HARC Celebrates Pennsylvania's 331<sup>st</sup> Birthday

On March 10 and 11, HARC celebrated Pennsylvania's 331<sup>st</sup> birthday by participating in Charter Day events. Charter Day is the day King Charles of England granted William Penn a charter for land in the New World to make up for a large debt that the king owed to Penn's father. William Penn had initially decided to name the land "Sylvania," which in Latin means 'woods.' King Charles II added the prefix 'Penn' to the name in honor of William Penn's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, who had served England as a rear admiral. Pennsylvania state museums are open for free on Charter Day and it's the one day each year that the Charter is put on display at the state museum in Harrisburg.



WM3PEN (William 3 Penn) was on the air, however conditions were just horrible as massive solar flares headed towards earth. In all 84 QSOs were made. Thanks to N3ZZK, KC3JV, AB3EO, and WA3PZO for working up some

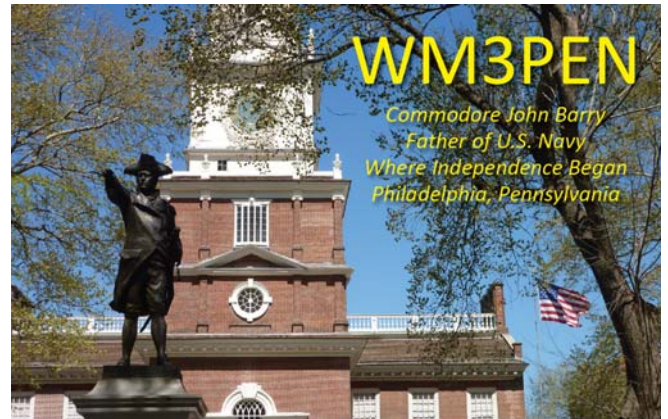
really lousy conditions. Conditions were so bad that some satellite communications were disrupted. As the solar flare hit the earth, WA3PZO reported that you could hear the solar waves on 20 meters.



## HARC Makes Plans for 13 Colonies Special Event

The 2012, 13 Colonies Special Event is fast approaching. Saturday June 30 9 AM until 11:59 PM Thursday, July 5 EDT. HARC members are already signed up to operate and we need more. Last year we made over 1200 contacts and with an extra day we should make even more. Activity will be primarily on HF, but there are also opportunities to operate on VHF as well. If there is interest in operating on V/UHF then we need some lead time to get the word out to the local clubs.

The theme for the 2012 event is Colonial Era US Naval Ships. WM3PEN will again be a bonus station honoring Commodore John Barry, Father of the U.S. Navy. Barry was born in Ireland. He resided and died in Philadelphia. He wrote a Signal Book which established a set of signals used for effective communication between ships. Special Event QSL cards were ordered this month. WA3PZO has worked with the event manager on updating information. In addition WA3PZO submitted an article on special event stations to CQ Magazine.



The ORIGINAL  
"Social Network"

Ham Radio!

[www.Hello-Radio.org](http://www.Hello-Radio.org)

## World Amateur Radio Day April 18

On April 18, 2012 we will celebrate the World Amateur Radio Day on the 87th Anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union, IARU. This year's theme for the World Amateur Radio Day is "Amateur Radio Satellites: Celebrating 50 Years in Space" in remembrance the launching of OSCAR 1 on December 12, 1961 and the launch of OSCAR 2 on June 2, 1962. For this reason there will be several special event stations from IARU's Member Societies active on different dates during April:

**6H6IARU** by the Federación Mexicana de Radio Experimentadores who has commissioned this operation to Grupo DXXE. This station will be active from 13 to 18 April in all modes and bands. QSL via LoTW and N7RO, direct or bureau. Daily logs uploads will be available in ClubLog.

**3G87IARU** by the Radio Club de Chile. This station will be active throughout the month of April. QSL via CE3AA.

**LZ1WARD** by the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs also will be active throughout the month of April. QSL via bureau.

**EL2RL** by the Liberia Radio Amateur Association will be active on April 18, 2011 on 10, 15, 17 and 20 meters. Direct QSL to EL2BA.

**HB9WARD** by Union Schweizerischer Kurzwellen-Amateure to be active also on April 18, 2011. This first time callsign will be on the air by HB9JOE and a group of radio amateurs from Bern. QSL via HB9JOE.

**HF87WARD** by members of the SP-CFF (SP0CFF). This station will be active from April, 17 to 30. QSL via eQSL.cc and WFF LogSerach. For those who want to send card direct, please send SASE to: Polish Club Flora & Fauna, Suchacz, Wielmozy 5b, 82-340 Tolkmicko, Poland. They will even have an award for this operation.

**CR6IARU** by the Rede dos Emissores Portugueses, REP. They will be active from April 13 to 19. QSL via bureau to CT1REP.

**KP4FD** by the Puerto Rico Field Day Group. To be active on April 18. QSL via QRZ.com Coordinator: Angel Santana, WP3GW.



(via ARRL)

### WHAT IS FIELD DAY?

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walkathons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities. But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

## The Ultimate Ham Transceiver

Dr. Loof Lirpa, of renowned audio component fame has turned his attention to the world of communications. The newest offering out of Lirpa Labs LTD is aimed for the ham radio market. The AF-41 HF transceiver.

This is the definitive radio for emergency communications. From the self-contained steam powered 13000 V power supply all the way to the automatically deploying 175' integrated tower holding the 53 element log periodic beam array. If you want to communicate in the field, and really you have to as there are few buildings that will accommodate the eight wheel drive main chassis comfortably, this radio is the way to go.

After climbing the #2 access ladder you will see the brightly lit main catwalk. Halfway down is hatch 8A and the main operator's position. Settling into this plush contoured seat is quite easy thanks to the well placed hand-holds, but be sure to buckle up. The foot stirrups are small, and it's 12' down to the main boiler fueling platform.

Get comfy, put on your dual mic headset, with the virtual display eyepiece, and sound canceling headphones, and look around. There is a lot to see within this 2M sphere. On the right shelf is the fifteen volume operations/maintenance/emergency procedures manual. It is nicely finished in burgundy colored Corinthian leather with the owners name embossed in gold on the front cover. The Old English script is very pretty but combined with using the actual Olde English language does make the reading interesting. However for the most part it is not really needed. All the controls are neatly labeled with glow in the dark radium paint. The band changing shift levers and interlocking controls are engraved with the appropriate runes and the hand-wheel for RF output power valves is along side of your right knee, very convenient, although the ejection lever is a tad close.

Transmit frequency coverage is complete, full legal limit operating power on the following bands; 160M, 80/75M, 60M, 40M, 30M, 20M, 17M, 15M, 12M, 10M, 6M, 2M, 1.25M, 70CM, 33CM, 23CM

There is also the ability to cover most of proposed bands for when they are approved. Currently supported are: 50,000M, 2205M, 1580-1875M, 630M, 600M, 50M, 25M, 4M, 50CM, 3 Angstrom.

On the receive side it is full DC to daylight plus or minus eight minutes. Thought you miss copied that last call, just employ the negative temporal shift function and go back and listen again, it's that easy. By using positive temporal shift you can listen ahead, this makes working those tough ones a piece of cake. You don't have to make the call until after you hear the confirmation. What could be simpler.

At the heart of the system is the liquid helium cooled pentagram-core processor. This five sided black monolith is an operating systems ~~nightmare~~ dream platform. It is configured with 3 petabytes of RAM and a 64KB Tandy hard drive. It supports voice command, well they are more like incantations actually, but it works. Just start a slow droning chant "eighty meter DX, eighty meter DX" and you will soon see it forming in the mists above the finals. It's a little eerie and it does take some getting used to. Of course these spiritual aberrations place you in the multi-op contest category, no matter, the majority of them are friendly, and the residual presence upon shutdown is minor.

Look for it soon at your nearest amateur radio supplier, awaiting only FCC, EPA, and NRC approval. The expected book price will be just under 10 mill, with a street price down in the 8.5 M range. But watch out for the options, they can easily push you up to nine digits. Now this may be a trifle high for the average ham but no problem for a well subsidized EOC.

**Strengths:** The most flexible digital device I have ever used. Doubles as a Cray I supercomputer. The steam power plant is enclosed in a folded dimension, so the problem of exhaust and third degree burns is a thing of the past.

**Weaknesses:** Improper programming may split time and matter. The heavy water the engine produces is difficult to sell anonymously on the black market.

**Similar Products Used:** Benton Harbor Lunch Box, TARDIS. A. E. Newman, AF4ONE (submitted by AB3EO)

## **FCC Seeks Public Comments on Emergency Communications by Amateur Radio and Impediments to Amateur Radio Communications**

In response to the Congressional directive to prepare a study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications, the FCC issued DA 12-523 soliciting comments from the public. The period for public comment runs until May 17, 2012.

"As part of the study contained in Public Law No. 112-96, the Commission has opened a 45 day period for comments to be filed on the issue," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Because of the short deadline for the study to be completed and presented to Congress -- before the end of August -- the ARRL and the amateur community must quickly mobilize their response."

The FCC Public Notice focuses on two specific areas for comments. The first is the role that Amateur Radio has played and continues to play to support emergency and disaster relief organizations, such as FEMA and local/state emergency management agencies. The second is to determine impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications. This would include the impact that private land-use regulations -- such as deed restrictions and homeowner association covenants -- have on the ability of licensed amateurs to fully participate in providing support communications to the served agencies.

"This study is not about zoning ordinances or regulations adopted by the local or state governments," Henderson explained. "Amateurs already have the limited protection of PRB-1 to assist them with those situations. The areas of concern here are the limitations that are placed on a property when it is purchased, either as part of the deed of sale or by restrictions imposed by the neighborhood/homeowner's association. Those restrictions -- sometimes referred to as CC&Rs -- are not currently covered by the FCC's PRB-1 decision from 1985."

To allow the ARRL to quickly collect and collate relevant information from the amateur community to help support the filing it will make with the FCC on this issue, a website has been setup. The site -- [www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information](http://www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information) -- provides details about what kind of information is needed by the ARRL.

Also on the site, you will find links to two online data collection forms. The first form allows you to provide information about specific emergency communications in which Amateur Radio has played a role since January 2000. The second form asks for specific information on the CC&Rs/deed restrictions that control your property. It also asks you to provide information on how those restrictions have

impacted your ability to fully support emergency communications.

"Whether you are an ARRL member or not, your information and situation are important to helping us make the case for all amateurs," Henderson said. "Whether your support communications are with ARES, RACES, SKYWARN, CERT or other emergency and disaster groups, your voice should be heard. If you cannot operate effectively from home during an emergency because CC&Rs prohibit adequate antennas on your property, that is important to document and quantify. This issue affects all of Amateur Radio, not just ARRL members."

Henderson said that due to the short timeframe that the FCC has allotted for public comment, time is of the essence. In order to allow the ARRL to develop its comments, the ARRL asks that all information sent by the amateur community be received at the ARRL no later than April 25, 2012: "We realize this is a very short turnaround asking for your response, but this is based on the time provided by the Commission for the comment window."

It is important that when you provide specifics of your CC&R, you also provide the ARRL with a copy of its actual wording. If you have the CC&R in a digital format (or you can scan the document into a file), it can either be uploaded through the website above or it can be sent via an e-mail to [CCRinfo@arrl.org](mailto:CCRinfo@arrl.org). If you do not have an electronic format, a hard copy may be sent via US mail to: CCR Study Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"We need factual, specific details," Henderson said. "The more accurate information we have -- including copies of the CC&R language -- the stronger case we can make. Having copies of the exact CC&Rs is important. It allows us to demonstrate the wide variation of restrictions. Including the specific text is as important as any other piece of information you provide."

If you have questions about what is being requested, you may contact the ARRL Regulatory Information Office via e-mail at [reginfo@arrl.org](mailto:reginfo@arrl.org). "Again, time is of the essence in this matter," Henderson said. "This is the best opportunity that amateurs have had to address the impact of overly burdensome private land use restrictions. If Amateur Radio is to succeed in this effort, it is going to take all of us working together."

**More from ARRL EPA Section Manager and Atlantic Division Volunteer Counsel K3RF**  
Dear fellow EPA section members:

By now many of you may be aware that the FCC has issued a public notice soliciting comments on emergency communications and impediments to amateur radio communications. Resulting from recent federal legislation, the FCC has been directed by Congress to study uses and capability of amateur radio service communications in emergencies and disaster relief. FCC was specifically directed to identify impediments to amateur radio Service

## Upcoming Webinars of Interest

Communications, such as the effect of unreasonable or unnecessary private land-use restrictions on residential antenna installations. Most significantly, the study is to make recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments.

This is important. Many of you will recognize that the statute is referring to private land covenants, deed restrictions, and other such legal impediments which do not allow radio amateurs to install effective antenna systems, or in many cases prohibits any antenna system in developments or communities that have planned residential restrictions on use of land. Such restrictions are becoming ever more common.

Dan Henderson, N1ND – Regulatory Information Manager, wrote a great article that is a call to action. Follow this link to read his thoughts. The full FCC notice is attached to the end of his article. <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-public-comments-on-emergency-communications-by-amateur-radio-and-impediments-to-amateur-ra>

Over the past 25 years in my capacity as ARRL volunteer counsel, I have provided legal advice to many of you about getting relief from private land restrictions. Those restrictions sought to prohibit you from using amateur radio antennas outside. We had little standing. Now, we finally have some movement towards the possibility of relief from certain restrictions. Also, keep in mind that the request for comment is much broader than private antenna restriction issues. Please consider all the FCC questions related to emergency communications.

If you would like to contribute and need help compiling your comments, feel free to reach out to me. We can work together to shape your experiences into a formal response. This affects all radio amateurs, whether or not they are ARRL members. If you have friends who are radio amateurs, but not yet league members, I encourage you to pass this message along to them. Their voices are just as important and should be heard. I am happy to help them compile and send their comments to the league.

We only have until May 17, 2012 to file comments. Let's not miss this chance to shape the future of amateur radio and the restrictions on it. We may not get another opportunity.

73

Bob Famiglio, K3RF  
EPA SM & Atlantic Division Volunteer Counsel

*\*\* Atlantic Division ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Representative Update*

Update from the Atlantic Division CAC Representative, Chas Fulp K3WW on the Contest Advisory Committee.

The Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) is established to investigate such matters regarding contests as are referred to it by the P&SC.

The date and time are: Tue, Apr 17, 2012 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM EDT To register, go to:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/406801945>

*\*\* Winlink 2000 Webinar*

This session will focus on Winlink used for EmComm purposes.

Presenters for this session will be Steve Waterman K4CJX, Lor Kutchins. W3QA, Dave Skolnick KO4MI and Phil Sherrod W4PHS.

Date and Time: Tue, Apr 24, 2012 9:00 PM - 10:40 PM EDT To register, go to:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/656044145>

**Warminster Hamfest  
Sunday, May 6  
Middletown Grange Fairgrounds  
Wrightstown, PA  
Vendors: 6 AM  
Gates open: 7 AM**

**HARC will have an indoor table at the hamfest.**

**If you have something to sell and you would like to put it on the table contact Mike, N3LXN. Club will keep 10% (up to \$10) of sale.  
We also need help to staff the table so that everyone can enjoy the hamfest.**

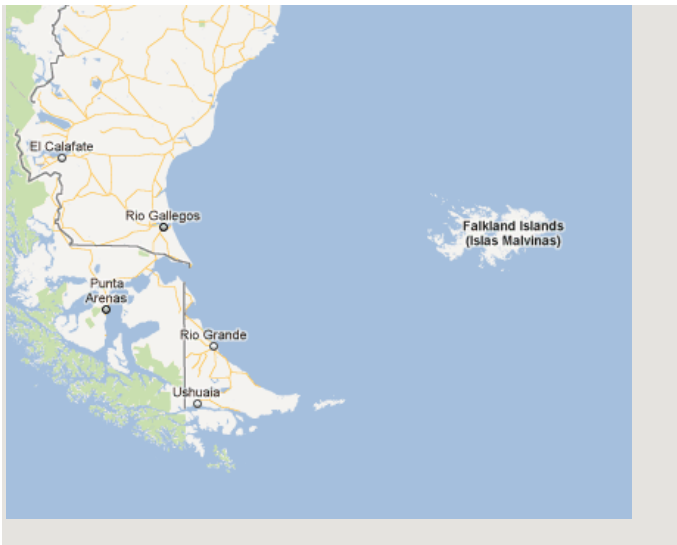


## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Falkland Invasion Ham Radio was there! (via DXcoffee.com)

April 2nd was the 30th anniversary of the **Falkland** or **Malvinas** invasion by Argentinean troops. Even after this long, the topic is still debated and it is a complicated one, given the several factors involved: the presence of oil and gas (even if there is some [doubt on this](#)), the deployment of British military forces, the heavy economic crisis in Argentina, the pressure from several countries supporting the Argentinean cause.

The position of supporting Argentina is claimed not only by South American countries, but also by Syria, Morocco, Angola and Mozambique. Furthermore, Argentina has presented a petition according to which, the United Kingdom must comply with the UN resolution requiring a start of negotiations with Argentina.

It is remarkable that many Caribbean countries belonging to Commonwealth, have supported this petition. Even in the UK, there are people who do not agree with the British policy regarding the Falkland Islands: Steven Morrissey, former Smiths' star, has openly sided with the Argentineans, just like Pink Floyd's bassist, Roger Waters.



Even amateur radio has played a role. Who hasn't worked **VP8LP, Bob McLeod**? Well, it was Bob, on that 2nd April of 30 years ago, who was the only contact at disposal of the British authorities.

We'll work our way through this story with help of **G3UML, Laurie Margolis** (one of the T32C operators, by the way). Laurie, back in 1982, was, besides being a ham, a **BBC** journalist. On the morning of 2 April, Laurie found the BBC radio newsroom in near panic, as news of the invasion were spreading with reports of the British colony of some 2000 inhabitants having been taken over.

At that time the BBC offices had an amateur radio club station with a large antenna on the roof. Laurie's senior editors asked him to try and get in touch with the islands as nothing else was working. It took Laurie six hours of listening and turning the VFO on 14,21 and 28 Mhz bands, before he was able to discern the voice of VP8LP on 21.205 MHz. Bob didn't want to reveal his own callsign, but began reporting on how things were: the Falklands had been taken over. There was an aircraft carrier and four more boats with heavy armoured vehicles already in Stanley and a large contingent of personnel.

The population was now under control of Argentinean military forces who had stormed the capital Port Stanley and occupied government offices. Local radio was broadcasting that all citizens would be treated normally and the situation was actually fairly peaceful, Bob said. The Argentineans had not made it to Goose Green yet, where Bob was, and this was why he was able to relay the news and the messages of reassurance that he was receiving.

In the meantime, at the BBC, the dusty attic which hosted the club station was filled with TV crews and journalists looking for a scoop. Even the Foreign Office telephoned asking Laurie what he had come to know. Damage details were still uncertain, but there had been three Argentinean deaths, one of them being elderly.

Bob reported of helicopters flying over Stanley, with 500 people having landed in Stanley itself, with the aircraft carrier carrying another 1500. An hour later the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington was speaking to the House of Lords, explaining the humiliation that the British nation was now experiencing. Laurie still keeps an audio tape of his conversation with Bob, VP8LP.

### Interest in the use of Wireless during the sinking of the Titanic?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00q89fy>

To mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, the BBC's Sean Coughlan narrates one of the most authentic versions of events in existence. Using voice synthesis to re-create the strange, twitter-like, mechanical brevity of the original Morse code, this programme brings to life the tragedy through the ears of the wireless operators in the area that night.


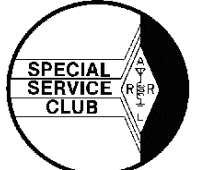
On the night of the disaster, the network of young Marconi wireless operators on different ships and land stations frantically communicated with each other across the cold expanses of the North Atlantic in an effort to mount a rescue for the doomed vessel.

All these messages were recorded at the time in copper-plate handwriting, now scattered across the world in different collections, but together forming a unique archive.



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

**Club Meeting – April 26 – DXpedition to Christmas Island**

	<p><b>HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB</b> <b>MEMBERSHIP FORM</b> HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136 <a href="http://www.harcnet.org">http://www.harcnet.org</a> WM3PEN/K3FI</p>	
<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 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.</p> <p>NAME _____ CALL _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip _____</p> <p>Telephone # _____ Would you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? ____ E-mail _____</p> <p>Are you an ARRL member? YES NO Membership Expires (mm/yy) _____</p>		