

June 2008

The HARC Spark

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



FIELD DAY - JUNE 28 & 29!

The time has come again to brush off the radio, tune up the vocal chords, and get ready to have a good time. Field Day promises to be bigger and better than ever this year as HARC. HARC members and guests will be calling CQ Field Day de K3FI from Alverthorpe Park in Jenkintown.

Field Day is an annual operating event, designed to test operating capabilities of radio amateurs under simulated emergency conditions. The event has a number of objectives, particularly for our club. In addition to making as many contacts during the Field Day period as possible, it will provide an opportunity for members to experience HF operating conditions, and to

publicize the value of amateur radio to local government officials and media. We'll begin setting up around 8:30 AM on Saturday. This is an all day and all night event. We do need day AND night time operators. Operations will continue until 2 pm Sunday.

If you haven't been on the air for some time or this is your first Field Day we'll make sure you get on the air and do some operating.



LOCATION will be the same as last year. Alverthorpe Park, Jenkintown Rd., Jenkintown.

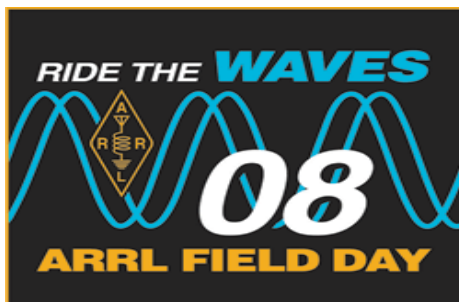
From Rt. 73 (Township Line Rd) take Jenkintown Rd just opposite Holmehurst Rd. A gated entrance to the park will be on the right. (approximately at the arrow on the map) Give a call on the repeater (or 146.685 simplex) and someone will unlock the gate. Parking will be on the left as you enter the park.



*Next Meeting
Thursday, June 26th 8 PM
8th District Police Station
Red Lion & Academy Rds.
Field Day Planning*

Where's the Spark been?

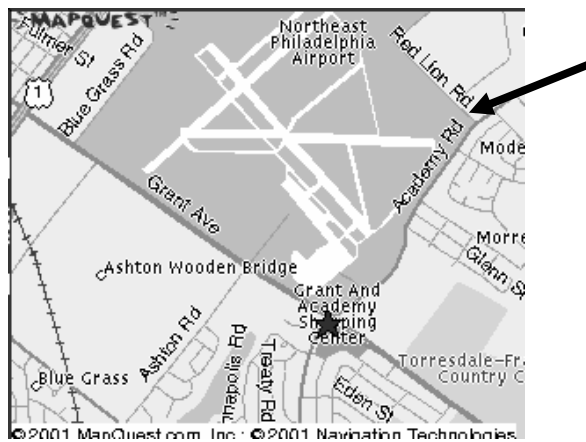
You have probably noticed that a few things have been missing from the Club over the past few months. If you said the newsletter and the 2008 membership renewal you are right. HARC's newsletter editor and treasurer Bob, WA3PZO, got married in mid April and used the beginning of the year to get ready for the wedding. By mid-May, Bob had to put his reporter's hat back on to cover major international disasters. So we're back. See **Membership renewal form on the last page of the newsletter. DUES ARE DUE.**



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. General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA



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

Club Address Change

HARC has had a PO Box since the mid 70s, however the Board of Directors has decided to give up the PO Box. Last year the PO Box cost \$75 to rent for one year. With postal rates on the rise the Board felt the money could be better spent. The Club's new address is:

Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
3341 Sheffield Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19136
WM3PEN@ARRL.NET

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

Newsline and the ARRL Audio News are available locally by dialing (215) 624-0672 and follow the prompts.

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.

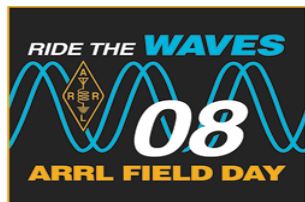
Exams are given at Ambler Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA. Registration begins at 7pm. Warminster - Contact Tom Michaud (WA3TQJ) at (215) 343-3494 (7-9PM)

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

NO CLUB MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST

HARC PICNIC
SUNDAY, AUGUST 19
PENNYPACK PARK
RHAWN STREET ENTRANCE
JUST WEST OF ROWLAND AVE.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS



Field Day June 28-29, 2008
At Alverthorpe Park
Come one - Come all
Talk-in on the repeater 146.685
-600 131.8 . Call us through the
repeater, or simplex on the
output.

Northeast Philadelphia 5 Mile Run

Sunday, October 19th, 2008

We will be providing communications support for
the Fifth 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 23th, 2008

We will be providing communications support for
the 33th 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

Help the club web site.

A good web site is not a list of links, but an information tool, a reference. It is a dynamic document one that provides the reader with useful information. It needs to stay fresh so viewers will want to visit it again. Club members can help make our site that type of internet destination.

We are looking for offerings of original material to become part of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club web page. If you have any construction projects, research you have done, techniques you found helpful, consider submitting his material. Pictures and drawings can certainly be included, and would make a fine addition. While our main purpose is amateur radio, anything pertaining to radio or electronics is welcome. We would like to put them out there for the entire amateur community. Let's make our web page one that other clubs link to.

The more we can offer to our visitors, the better our site will be. The internet is one of the major means of making our presence known. It has helped recruit new members and it keeps current members informed. Through our involvement with the annual Mayfair Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade www.harcnet.org has also become a resource for the community. We get visits by non hams too.

Currently we are receiving over 26,000 visits a year. That may sound like a lot, but it really isn't. QRZ.com probably

gets that in a day. An higher count for it's own sake does not mean anything, but increased visits show more awareness of the Holmesburg club and amateur radio.

If you have any ideas or something to submit, please see us at a meeting or send it to wm3pen@harcnet.org or ab3eo@arrl.net We are looking forward to seeing your contributions.

All credits and copyrights would remain with the author, and assistance can be provided for writing up the feature if you feel you need help.

Rich
AB3EO
HARC Webmaster

Field Day

Come out and operate and meet some of your fellow club members.

We'll be on site Saturday 8:30 AM until Sunday at 2 PM. Additional time to take down equipment.

New Extra Class License Manual

The "ARRL Extra Class License Manual" and "ARRL's Extra Q&A" are your tickets to every privilege granted to Amateur Radio operators. Expert instruction leads you through all of the knowledge you need to pass the exam, including rules, specific operating skills and more advanced electronics theory. Everything you need to know to pass the 50 question Extra class exam is right at your fingertips -- both books contain the latest Extra class question pool and answer key. Study the "ARRL Extra Class License Manual" to understand the theory and applications needed to upgrade your license. With more than 700 questions included in the question pool -- valid from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2012 -- reading the "ARRL's Extra Q&A" is the best way to review for the exam with confidence. The Extra class license is the highest of all three US Amateur Radio licenses. To upgrade to Extra class you must already hold a General class license (or have recently passed all of the exams required for a General class license). Upgrading to an Extra license only requires passing a written examination. As an Extra class licensee, you will have full privileges on all frequencies authorized by the FCC for Amateur Radio.

HAMFESTS

In the area

6 Jul 2008 Wilkes Barre Hamfest & Computerfest
Murgas ARC Luzerne County Fairgrounds
<http://www.qsl.net/k3ytI>

Talk-In: 146.61 (PL 82.5)
Lake Lehman, PA

4 Jul 2008 Fire Cracker HamFest
Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club Bressler, PA
<http://hrac.tripod.com/>

Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 100)

13 Jul 2008 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

28 Sep 2008 Hamarama
Mt. Airy VHF Club Wrightstown, PA
<http://members.ij.net/packrats/Hamarama/hamarama.html>

Talk-In: 146.52 simplex

19 Oct 2008 Annual Hamfest
RF Hill Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Sellersville, PA
www.rfhill.ampr.org

Talk-In: 145.31 (-), pl 131.8

Ham Radio Is A Real Value

(Originally published in AIRWAVES, The newsletter of the Sierra ARC, May 2008. via the ARRL Club Newsletter June 3, 2008)

By Mike Herr, WA6ARA

As a kid in the '60s I hung around my father, WB6MNX, and his ham buddies. The talk in those days was pretty much similar to now, what features their new rig had. But one thing I now note is that each ham had but one rig, yep, just one rig. It was usually a HF rig, and it was used both in the house and in the car. Before the 2 meter revolution everyone, except for the few brave experimenters in the VHF regions, was on the HF bands. But why did most ops have only one rig? The answer is simple economics; radio equipment was expensive back then.

As a novice I would lust over the Heathkit "perfect" novice station, the DX-60B, HR-10 receiver and HG-10B VFO. Wow! Ninety watts on CW or AM on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters (In my Novice days we only had privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meter). But with a price tag of \$200 it was way out of reach for a lot of people, especially for a teenager.

Today ham radios are much cheaper and offer much more features than rigs available to Amateurs in the mid 1960's. I cannot comment on every ham's financial situation but when comparing selling prices, average salaries and technological features, Amateur Radio is a bargain today.

Let's take a look at the previously mentioned DX-60B, HR-10 and HG-10B station. In 1965 it cost about \$200, only offered two modes (AM and CW), took up an entire desktop and it generated enough heat to warm half the house. Adjusted for inflation the "perfect" Heathkit novice station would cost \$1,323.00 today! Compared to entry level radios today that offer 100 watts on all Amateur bands, all modes (AM, FM, CW, SSB and digital), dual VFOs, general coverage receive and all sorts of bells and whistles, not to mention outstanding dynamic receivers and clean, stable transmitted signals, when adjusted for inflation, would have cost less than half the price of the 1965 model.

The Heathkit HW-101, an entry level SSB rig for many operators during the '60s and 70s, sold as a kit in 1971 for \$350. In today's dollars that same unit would be \$1,849, which buys a heck of a lot more radio the old '101.

The biggest bang for the buck is in a piece of equipment that we all use, a 2 meter rig. Back at the time the 2 meter revolution was in full swing FM transceivers were selling for about \$300 to \$500 which translates to thousands of dollars today. There were a few synthesized models but most were crystal controlled which meant purchasing a pair of crystals, one each for transmit and receive for each channel that you wanted to operate and were limited to two to ten channels. They were about the size of a large book and operated at 2 to 5 watts output. Today you can buy a shirt pocket handheld or a 65 watt mobile transceiver, fully synthesized 100 channels, scanning, CTCSS encode/decode, etc for what amounts to about \$28 in 1971 dollars.

Ham radio is CHEAP. In the 60s the typical ham had to work for a month to buy a rig, today it is more like one week. I remember in 1965 when dad bought a SBE-34 and he had to buy it on time because it was just so expensive. Compared to other hobbies and recreation, ham radio is a steal. You can be on the air with the local repeater for about \$150. A complete 100 watt HF station including an antenna is less than \$1000. If you are a builder, parts have never been cheaper or more available. A couple of minutes on the internet and you can order parts and have them at your house in a couple of days. No more waiting for the once a year trip to the Hamfest.

Of course you can spend tens of thousands of dollars creating the ultimate station. There is no limit as to what you can spend on any hobby but there a tremendous value to anyone who is attracted to Amateur Radio. Let's compare Amateur radio to other past times. A decent 4 wheel drive vehicle, with the extras to keep up with others in the local 4 WD club might set you back \$30K. That boat for water skiing or fishing during the summer is about the same. How about the home computer? Again, about the cost of a HF rig and you buy a new one every couple of years or so. Ham radio cost a fraction of what it did in the past and offers twenty times the features. So get out and enjoy ham radio and stop feeling guilty about the money.

FCC'S HOLLINGSWORTH SET TO RETIRE IN JULY

(from the ARRL Letter)

Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth has announced plans to retire from the FCC later this year. "My intention," Hollingsworth told the ARRL, "is to head out in July, assuming the results of the second round of the PAVE PAWS/440 repeater monitoring in California present no complications. It has been a privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators. I am extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators." Hollingsworth had planned to retire earlier this year, but changed his mind, saying, "There [were] several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community."

While his successor has not been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said he considered it an honor to have given something back to "the incredible enjoyment and benefits that Amateur Radio has given me since age 13. And to every one of the thousands of you that thanked us for our work, many of whom waited for long periods after a forum or radio meeting just to come up and express appreciation for what the FCC was doing in enforcement, you have no idea how much that was appreciated every single time. It sure wasn't a 9 to 5 job, but it was a gift and a daily joy to work for the best group of people on earth. The only bad day in nearly 10 years was September 21, 2001, when we lost Steve Linn, N4CAK. We still miss him." Linn, deputy chief of the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch for private wireless within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and his wife Lesley were killed in a car accident on their way to the Virginia Beach hamfest.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I met at Dayton, who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed."

"The Amateur Radio Service is part of the American heritage, and I am going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can," Hollingsworth explained. "Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio!"

Club Member Covers International Disasters Enjoys Honeymoon in Between Tornadoes

While Beth and Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, were on their honeymoon tornadoes formed bookends around a great getaway. On April 20th the newlyweds drove south and stopped in North Carolina. As they approached Rocky Mount, NC tornado warnings were issued. A tornado touched down about 2 miles east of their location. As they returned from a week in South Carolina the couple stopped in Virginia Beach, VA. While there severe storms rolled east from Interstate 95 to the Virginia coast. That day 8 tornadoes, including an F3, touched down south of Richmond and as far east as Newport News. Bob commented that towns and roads that they had just traveled on and through were now devastated.

In mid May a devastating 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck China. Over 69,000 people were killed and amateur radio operators were there providing communications. WA3PZO immediately established contacts around the world to report on the amateur radio response. You can read WA3PZO's report in the August issue of *CQ* magazine.

As we go press flooding dominates the central United States. So far communications have held up and there has been little need for amateur radio communications. All areas report that if communications is needed the hams will be ready to respond.

Atlantic Division Awards

Dave Prestel W8AJR was awarded the Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year award at the Atlantic Division Convention in Rochester, NY. Dave is involved with ARRL Legislative Action team and serving as the Atlantic Division Legislative Action Chair; he's been a vital force in the Howard County ARES/RACES team; he's been an active volunteer with the Columbia Amateur Radio Association public (CARA) service activities and an organizer of entry level licensing classes sponsored by CARA. Dave also has led the efforts to get the repeater coordinating council, T-MARC, functioning again. Dave is currently serving as the President of T-Marc.

Frank Brickle AB2KT and Robert McGwier N4HY have jointly been awarded the Atlantic Division Technical Achievement Award for their work in creating the Open Source DttSP Project to provide a basic core for Software Designed Radio (SDR) projects that are both efficient and capable of being integrated into a number of application environments. In making their work Open Source/Open Standards and by spending countless hours helping many other amateurs understand and advance the technology, they have made an outstanding contribution to amateur radio.



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

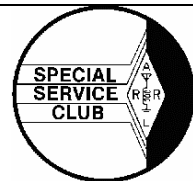
Next Meeting: Thursday June 26th, 2008.
8PM @ 8th District - Red Lion & Academy Rds.



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 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.

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) _____