



August 2006

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3FI CLUB CALLS WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



IT'S PICNIC TIME

HARC's annual picnic will be **Sunday, August 20**, in Pennypack Park. Use the Rhawn Street entrance east of Roosevelt Blvd between Lexington and Rowland Avenues. It is west of Frankford Ave. Time is 11 AM until. We'll have an assortment of hamburgers and hot dogs, and related goodies. If you would like to bring something, I'm sure we'll find a taste tester or two. Bring your family! Just drop us a note saying how many are coming! Contact Mike, N3LXN or email WM3PEN@harcnet.org.



Meetings - There will be no August meeting. Our next meeting will be September 28. Stay tune for details.

Repeater - The repeater has been off the air since early August. There are several indications that we lost electric power at the main site. Unfortunately HARC's Technical Committee has been on vacation and access to the repeater site is limited. We'll keep you posted.

Club Help - There are several openings on the HARC Board of Directors. If you are interested in helping your club and would like to serve on the Board contact Club President Mike, N3LXN. Bob, WA3PZO, has already announced that he is not planning to serve on the Board next year because of increased demands at the state, national, and international level.

Raffle - Starting at the Picnic HARC will be raffling off a tri-band ICOM T-90A HT. Drawing will be in December. It will make a great gift for the holidays. We'll need help selling tickets. This is one of HARC's yearly fundraisers.

According to Icom this palm-size wonder takes amateur radio operators back to the day when radios were simple to operate and designed to last for many years. Constructed in a die-cast aluminum chassis with oversized buttons, the 'T90A is perfect for hams who want a small radio that doesn't sacrifice operating performance, comfort and functionality.

In the quest to provide more in a smaller package, Icom did not compromise performance, as the 'T90A offers plenty of talk power! A full 5 watts on 6m, 2m, and 70cm is possible from NEW MOSFET technology along with the 7.4 V Li-Ion Battery pack. "Our in-field tests have seen 5-6 hours of operation from the 1300 mAh battery pack" reports Ray Novak, KC7JPA, National Sales Manager for Icom America's Amateur division.

If you ever get tired of chatting on local repeaters, the 'T90A also includes a Wide Band Receiver covering .495-999.990 MHZ (cellular blocked). Choose from either AM, FM or WFM operation for hours of additional enjoyment. Whether you are camping, hiking, or just taking a break from the job, don't miss your favorite television shows or late breaking news with pre-programmed TV stations!

For those needing emergency communications, the IC-T90A is capable of multiple signaling with DTCS and CTCSS. Along with encode and decode operation, the 'T90A can identify what is being used with the tone scan function.

The 'T90A gives you the ultimate in memory scanning management with Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS). Icom's exclusive DMS allows you to pick and choose any of the 450 memory channels you want to scan! Soft partition memory provides the DMS with a maximum of 18 banks or 100 channels per bank. No other multi-band hand held offers so much in scanning flexibility as the Icom IC-T90A.

For the active ham, the IC-T90A makes the perfect weather radio! With Icom's weather alert, the 'T90A checks the active weather station for NWS alert activity; even while monitoring local repeater communications! When an emergency occurs, the IC-T90A will automatically switch from an active channel to the weather channel and an audible signal will indicate that an emergency signal has been received.

Hams & World Politics: We continue to get reports from Lebanon that the number of hours that power is on each day has gone from 8 to 4 hours. Hams are still running off of emergency power, but with 95% of the fuel stations out of fuel there in minimal vehicle movement. Israeli hams have not responded to several inquiries about their operation.

In Cuba, the *Palm Beach Post* initially reported hams were off the air. That observation was supported by hams along the East Coast for a few days after Fidel Castro transferred power to his brother. About 3 days later reports began to come in that Cuban hams were heard on PSK-31. It seems that propagation came into play and as conditions changed Cuban hams could be heard on the air. However they were not talking about Cuba's leadership.

Philadelphia ARES® - Dave, KB3AKK, met with Philadelphia ARES Emergency Coordinator Larry Stevenson, K3HVE, to review recent activities. Seems the Salvation Army has expressed interest in having amateur radio support. Stay tune for more details.

Philadelphia ARES consists of licensed amateur radio operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public interest when disaster strikes and develop a coalition relationship with adjacent county amateur radio ARES for mutual benefit.

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.

Philadelphia County ARES is currently and carefully building a new team. Team members are composed of Philadelphia resident and adjacent county Amateur Radio Operators with common support interest. Of licensed operators interested in serving the community with their hobby, many are already involved with other services. **Phila ARES** has interest in forming a membership with the ability to also cross serve between Philadelphia and its immediate adjacent counties when such operations are beneficial. The Phila ARES, geographically central to the Five Pennsylvania County area and Three New Jersey counties can be of mutual benefit to volunteer organizations located in these surrounding areas.

The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club of Philadelphia is pleased to announce
the Delaware Valley VHF FM Simplex Sprint Contest
to be held on Saturday, October 21st, 2006.

Purpose:

- To promote FM Simplex operation.
- To provide a local fun, fast contest with equipment most hams already possess.
- To encourage youth participation in amateur radio.

When:

Saturday, October 21st, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST
This is during Scouting's JOTA weekend. (Jamboree on the Air)

Find a Scout troop near you and offer to set-up a temporary station at their location.
Cradle of Liberty Council Boy Scouts of America
JOTA Information Jamboree on the Air

Also ask your children/grandchildren to join you, and bring their friends.
The contest is open to all radio amateurs.

According to HARC President Mike Wurgley, N3LXN, the contest is designed for hams to have fun over a 4 hour period from 10 AM - 2 PM EST and as a way to introduce youth to amateur radio. The contest was moved from the evening to during the day, to encourage the youth element. The contest allows hams to meet their neighbors on the air as well as give many the opportunity to experience something else besides repeater contacts.

The contest gives individuals as well as clubs to participate in the event. Bonus points are being allowed for contacting club stations/callsigns. "We realize that everyone will not be able to contact WM3PEN so we're giving clubs a chance to put their club callsign on the air." This could be from a club station or an individual's home. There is no advanced registration for Club callsigns with the sponsoring group. This will allow many clubs to make a last minute decision to make their voice heard in the area.