



August 2009

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>



YOU & YOUR FAMILY INVITED

HARC CLUB PICNIC

Sunday, August 23th 12:00 Noon

Pennypack Park

Rhawn Street Entrance

Philadelphia, PA

Museum Ships Week

By Rich Shivers, AB3EO

The 6 & 7th of June was Museum Ships Week 2009, as hosted by the Battleship NJ, NJ2BB. This year there were 85 historic vessels worldwide getting on the air via amateur radio.

I was given the opportunity by the Becuna Radio Club; Ray W2RM, Tom W2KG, and John NW3C, to operate from the USS Becuna, SS-319, located at Penn's Landing, it is a WWII diesel submarine, moored alongside of the USS Olympia.

Arriving at 9:00 AM, an hour before the tours started, we began setting up the three stations that would be used. These were spread throughout the boat, one in the aft torpedo room, another up in the conning tower, and of course in the radio room itself. For antennas, dipoles were strung from up on the sail to temporary masts lashed both fore and aft, and one of the vessel's HF verticals, on top of the sail, was pressed into service. Routing an antenna cable down through the bridge (in the picture, the Plexiglas dome on the front of the sail) and into the conning tower was a bit messy between the dust, grease, and pigeon poop. (continued pg 3)



HARC in the PARK

August is a time to be outside with friends and family. HARC will be hosting it's annual day in the Park on Sunday, August 23 from noon until?

The Picnic in the Park will be held in Pennypack Park. Use the Rhawn Street Entrance just west of Rowland Ave. We're planning on being in the first pavilion after you pass through the gates.

There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert. Spouse, family, and significant others invited. We'll also have a drawing for a gift card as well.

RSVP to WM3PEN@aol.com so we can plan the food.

Hope to see you there.

DIVE! DIVE! DIVE! ***Sept. 24 HARC Meeting***

In September we'll be taking the plunge into the world of ham radio on a submarine. Ray Martin, W2RM, will talk about the Independence Seaport Museum's battle-tested World War II Submarine *Becuna*!

Launched in 1944, the *Becuna* (SS-319) completed five wartime patrols in the Pacific Ocean. *Becuna* is similar to many submarines built in Philadelphia for the U.S. Navy.

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
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WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

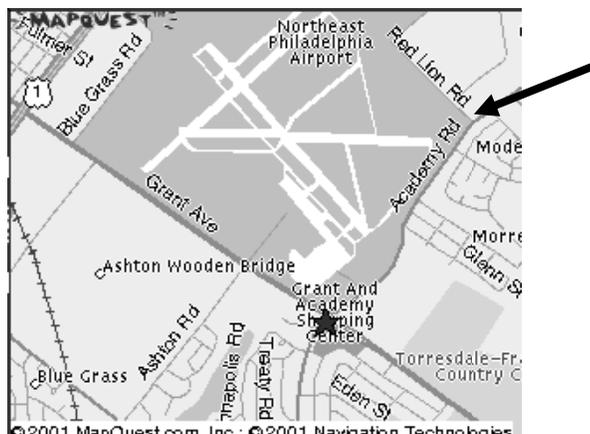
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in August.

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

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



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.

Your article could be here!

Interested in writing a story for the HARC Spark? We're looking for stories of your involvement with electronics or ham radio. Maybe you got a new piece of equipment, new software, antenna. Did you participate in a special event, contest, or other radio related event? Story ideas can be submitted to wm3pen@aol.com or to the Club address.

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 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

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

Upcoming Events

August 23 – HARC Picnic
September 23 – HARC Meeting
October 17 – JOTA
October 18 – Northeast Philly 5 mile run

Dive! Dive! Dive! (continued)

The operating environment was different. Word of the day was, “watch your head”. Hatches were small and equipment stuck out, with hard edges. In aft torpedo there was a some room as vessel equipment had been removed to create the visitor exit stairway. The radio room was a little tight but not too bad as it was designed for two. The conning tower was cramped. But there was plenty of cool air blowing, and the locations did not block the flow of visitors so we were visible but not in the way.

Time to get on the air. Some of the boat’s radios are still working, but for ease of operation modern ham gear was being used. Unfortunately, for operating, band conditions were not too good. John made quite a few contacts on 20, and Ray had a number on 40 CW. There was one on 17, we kept putting out CQ’s, but the band was quiet. Not surprisingly 15 & 10 were empty.

It was a great experience. I was warmly welcomed and meet a nice group hams. Ray had been assigned to the Becuna in 1964 as a radioman and we heard stories about life on board. Between operating and answering questions from the tours about the boat and what we were doing, the day went quickly. A few visitors were surprised to find a live body in the radio room actually using a radio.

For me the number of QSO’s did not really matter, it was the pleasure of just being able to operate from this special piece of history.



Rich, AB3EO, operating on the Becuna. All photos supplied by the author.

A very brief history.

Nicknamed “Becky”, the Becuna was commissioned in May 1944, and on August 23 put to sea from Pearl Harbor for her first patrol. She had five war patrol’s during WWII and is credited with sinking and damaging quite a few enemy vessels. She was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet in April of 49. In August 1951, Becuna completed an extensive overhaul after which she roamed the entire North Atlantic from Canada to the Mediterranean, and from Bermuda up into the Arctic, precipitating in fleet exercises and many training programs. She also provided countless services to the U.S. Submarine School by taking students aboard an operating submarine.

After 25 years of active service, Becuna was decommissioned on November 7, 1969, and assigned to the reserve fleet. On August 15, 1973, she was stricken from the naval register and on June 21, 1976 turned over to the Olympia Association as a submarine memorial.

Additional information can be found on the internet by Googling “Becuna”. I also recommend, Don Keith’s, N4KC, book “Final Patrol” which has the stories and history of all the museum submarines on display in the US.



W2RM, Ray, operating from aft torpedo.

With Many Thanks

HARC would like to thank Richard Shubert, K3PGC, and his family for the donation of his station to HARC. K3PGC has moved to a location where he is unable to take his radio equipment.

Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10

(via ARRL)

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40.

Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees. These fees are expected to recover a total of \$341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1> .

MFJ Purchases Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas Product Line

MFJ Enterprises, Inc., Starkville, Mississippi has purchased Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas Product Line from Laird Technologies, St. Louis, Missouri effective July 31, 2009.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna products will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire.

"We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas will bring over fifty new products to MFJ's impressive amateur radio product line. Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna products have long been a popular source for a wide range of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and yagi antennas for the amateur radio community. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and

will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product customers will appreciate continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue.

This announcement comes right during MFJ catalog time. The new MFJ 2010 Catalog will be a whopping 120 pages and will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line. A special customer support line is set up in Starkville, Mississippi by dialing 662-323-5803. This line will handle any Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product technical support, part requests, and customer services.

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. also owns Ameritron, Hy-gain, Mirage and Vecronics.

To order, get a free catalog, or for your nearest dealer, call 1-662-323-5953; or write to: Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas, 300 Industrial Park Road, Starkville, MS 39759; or go online: www.CushcraftAmateur.com; or fax to: 1-662-323-6551.

U of P ARC turns 100!

The University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on October 4, 2009 and will be hosting special event on the air. From October, 2009 to May, 2010, the club station on the Philadelphia campus will be signing W3KZ/100, and Alumni Club member stations will be signing W3ABT/100. A special QSL will be offered.

Your name headed to mars

Your name and call could be added to a microchip on the Mars Science Laboratory Rover heading to the red planet in 2011.

All you need to do is to go to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory URL below and fill in the blanks. While there is no space for your callsign, many radio hams are simply adding it right after their last name.

The Mars Science Laboratory is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program. This is a long-term effort of robotic exploration of the red planet.

The Mars Science Laboratory is a rover that will assess whether Mars ever was, or is still today, an environment able to support microbial life.

To get your name on that Mars bound microchip:
<http://mars9.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/participate/sendyourname/index.cfm>

Field Day Results

Call Used: **K3FI** GOTA Station Call: **(none)**
 ARRL/RAC Section: **EPA** Class: **3A**

Participants: **12** Club/Group Name:
HOLMESBURG ARC

Power Source(s): **Generator**

Power Multiplier: **2X**

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	300
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Total Bonus Points	850

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	15	16	316		
Total Points	30	32	316	378	Claimed Score = 756



VK2CZ visits Philadelphia

David Burger, VK2CZ, contacted HARC several months ago to see if he could hook up with some hams. Burger was in Philadelphia to give a speech on the history of IEEE in Oceania. There was a worldwide IEEE history convention taking place in Philadelphia.

Bob, WA3PZO and Beth, met David in University City and had dinner with David. We shared some ham radio stories on the similarities of Clubs in the two counties.

David and Bob both share an interest in history and writing.

David has a strong interest in contesting. We talked about WM3PEN. He suggested that the call would be popular in the CQ WPX contest since different call prefixes are multipliers in the contest scoring.





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



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) _____