



September 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>



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NO EVIDENCE OF *"SIGNIFICANT CRASH RISKS"* *WHILE OPERATING MOBILE*

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote a letter to National Safety Council (NSC) President Janet Froetscher in July expressing the ARRL's concerns that Amateur Radio not become an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers. Froetscher replied, saying the NSC does not support bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radios while driving. Noting that there is significant evidence that talking on cell phones while driving poses crash risk four times that of other drivers, Froetscher observed that the NSC position calling for bans on the use of cell phones while driving is grounded in science. "We are not aware of evidence that using Amateur Radios while driving has significant crash risks," Froetscher wrote in her August 24 letter. "We also have no evidence that using two-way radios while driving poses significant crash risks. Until such time as compelling, peer-reviewed scientific research is presented that denotes significant risks associated with the use of Amateur Radios, two-way radios or other communication devices, the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibition on their use."

Froetscher said that while "the specific risk of radio use while driving is unmeasured and likely does not approach that of cell phones, there indeed is some elevated risk to the drivers, their passengers and the public associated with 650,000 Amateur Radio operators who may not, at one time or another, not concentrate fully on their driving." She points out that the "best safety practice is to have one's full attention on their driving, their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road. Drivers who engage in any activity that impairs any of these constitutes an increased risk."

HARC Board of Directors

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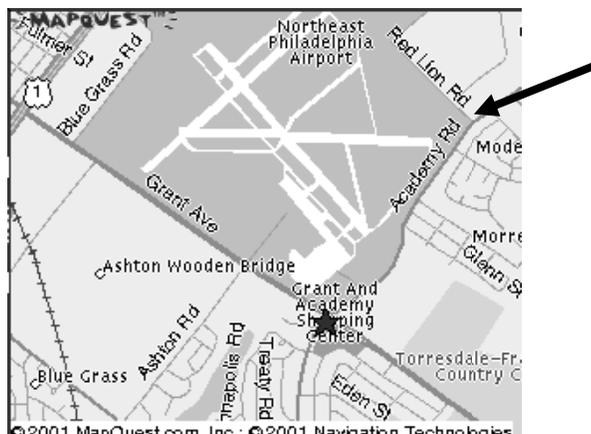
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in August.

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

October 17 – JOTA
October 18 – Northeast Philly 5 mile run
October 22 – October HARC Meeting
November 22 – Be There in the Square

NO EVIDENCE OF "SIGNIFICANT CRASH RISKS" WHILE OPERATING MOBILE

(continued)

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the ARRL "appreciates NSC President and CEO Janet Froetscher's clear statement that the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radio while driving. We applaud the NSC for taking positions that are grounded in science. At the same time, all radio amateurs should heed her call to concentrate fully on driving while behind the wheel. It is possible to operate a motor vehicle safely while using Amateur Radio, but if it becomes a distraction we owe it those with whom we share the road, as well as to our passengers, to put safety first." (from the ARRL Letter/ American Radio Relay League)

Faster Than a Speeding Pigeon?

In South Africa, an information technology company proved that it was faster for them to transmit data with a carrier pigeon than to send it using Telkom, the country's leading Internet service provider. Internet speed and connectivity in Africa's largest economy are poor due to a shortage of bandwidth and its high cost. Local news agency SAPA reported that on September 9, an 11 month old pigeon named Winston took 68 minutes to fly the 50 miles from Unlimited IT's offices near Pietermaritzburg to the coastal city of Durban with a data card strapped to his leg. Including downloading, the transfer took two hours, six minutes and 57 seconds -- the time it took for only four percent of the data to be transferred using a Telkom line. SAPA said Unlimited IT performed the stunt after becoming frustrated with slow internet transmission times. The company has 11 call centers around the country and regularly sends data to its other branches. Internet speed is expected to improve once a new 11,000 mile underwater fiber optic cable linking southern and East Africa to other networks becomes operational before South Africa hosts the soccer World Cup next year. (from the ARRL Letter/ American Radio Relay League)

**Have an Idea for a Club Program?
Do you know of someone willing to speak at a club meeting?**

Have you done something that might be of interest to the members?

Contact Mike, N3LXN or Bob, WA3PZO with your ideas.

PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY

October 10th-11th

The PA QSO Party is a friendly radio contest that is sponsored annually by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club. It will occur on October 10th-11th (Saturday into Sunday). The object of the contest is simple. Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many other amateurs in Pennsylvania, the United States, Canada and the world. Pennsylvania Amateurs receive multipliers for each Pennsylvania county, US and Canadian section, and one multiplier for DX entities. Non Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many Pennsylvania Amateurs as possible. Non-Pennsylvania Amateurs receive a multiplier for each Pennsylvania County with a QSO. A Pennsylvania Amateur is defined as an Amateur operating in the State of Pennsylvania, without regard to the Amateur's home address. Other Operators are considered Out-of-state. HF through VHF QSOs are permitted. No repeater contacts are allowed.

Philadelphia is a rare county. In fact a ham from Connecticut contacted HARC looking for a good spot to operate from for the contest. If you decide to participate in the contest, please be sure to list "Holmesburg ARC" as the club that you are affiliated with when you turn in your score. Please see <http://nittany-arc.net/paqso.html> for further information.

**ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST
OFFICE MOUNT HOLLY NJ
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2009
*(from the NWS)***

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE IN MOUNT HOLLY NEW JERSEY WILL CONDUCT ITS ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2009. OUR OFFICE SERVES 34 COUNTIES IN FOUR STATES COVERING EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, NORTHEAST MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND MOST OF NEW JERSEY, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE PHILADELPHIA METROPOLITAN AREA.

THIS YEAR'S OPEN HOUSE WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM NOON UNTIL 400 PM IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS TOUR A PLEASANT AND COMFORTABLE EXPERIENCE, VISITORS WILL BE ORGANIZED INTO GROUPS OF APPROXIMATELY 20 PEOPLE WHEN THEY ARRIVE. EACH GROUP TOUR WILL THEN INCLUDE A BRIEF VIDEO ABOUT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE...A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH STAFF METEOROLOGISTS AND A TOUR OF THE FORECAST OPERATIONS AREA. EACH GROUP TOUR WILL LAST BETWEEN 30 AND 40 MINUTES AND WILL BEGIN ABOUT EVERY HALF HOUR STARTING AT NOON.

\$\$ For Sale \$\$

S/W Receiver The **Kenwood R-1000** covers 200 kHz to 30 MHz in thirty 1 MHz bands with 1 kHz digital display resolution. Solid performance, straight forward operation are the strengths of the R-1000. Stable operation and good selectivity combine to make this radio suitable for demanding voice or RTTY applications. Refinements include: S-Meter, 12 hour clock-timer (with remote activation), Noise Blanker, Dimmer, three position attenuator and tone control. The carry handle (loose) can be swung-away to the top or bottom. The rear panel has antenna inputs for coaxial or hi-Z wire antennas. 120 VAC. \$125.00 Contact WA3PZO@aol.com.

S/W Receiver The **Kenwood R-2000** was the first modestly priced communications receiver to offer a host of advanced capabilities. The R-2000 tunes from 100 to 29999.9 kHz in five modes (AM, FM, USB, LSB, and CW). The R-2000 presents the listener with three different tuning rates (and a frequency lock) plus convenient 1 MHz UP/DOWN buttons. A noise blanker, four position attenuator, AGC and all mode squelch are also included. The ten channel memory stores frequency and mode. The band-scan mode permits the R-2000 to scan between two user selected frequencies (at three rates!). The built-in seven digit fluorescent tube digital display indicates frequency to the nearest 100 Hz. With dimmer switch. The dual 24 hour quartz digital clock-timer can be used to activate the radio and an auxiliary device (recorder, etc.) for absentee DXing. The large front mounted speaker insures good fidelity. The rear panel has input for coaxial or hi-Z wire antennas. 120 VAC. UL listed. \$250.00 Contact WA3PZO@aol.com.

Development of Mobile

The vintage BBC TV *Tomorrow's World* clips now available on the web contains one that shows the results of the pioneering work of Chelmsford (England) Radio Amateurs who developed one of the early mobile phones 30 years ago. The base station for the mobile telephone system was developed by Chelmsford Radio Amateur Lew Schnurr K0BUO/G5AAN. Arthur Butcher G3KPJ and Geoff Mills G3EDM also worked on the project in 1979 at the Chelmer Institute, formerly the Mid-Essex Technical College, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford.

The mobile part of the system used a modified Amateur Radio 2 meter portable FM transceiver running half-duplex on channels in the 140 and 153 MHz bands using an experimental licence. From the portable FM transceiver it was possible to both make and receive telephone calls. In those days the telephone network used a pulse dialing system, so when a number was dialed the carrier of the transceiver was pulsed on and off. This system was developed many years before the mobile (cell) phone networks were created and it was featured on the BBC TV

programme "Tomorrow's World" broadcast on September 13, 1979. Watch the Tomorrow's World Video, partly recorded in Danbury Park near Chelmsford, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/tomorrowsworld/8018.shtml?all=2&id=8018>

Ham Displays Yields Results

By Eric Olena, WB3FPL, EPA Section Manager, ARRL

Just a quick note to let everyone know what I have been up to lately. On Sunday September 13, 2009 I attended a different kind of activity to man an ARRL display table. The event was the 23rd annual Tri-County Fire Muster at the New Berlinville Fire company. I agreed to the display from a request from Kyle, N3YYL. The event started about 10:00 am and I had to leave about 2:00 pm although it was slated to run until 4 pm.

The crowd was fairly small and the activity at our table was very minimal. However, in the four hours W3PA and I were able to get two individuals who stated that they were interested in learning more about Amateur Radio. One of the fellows is from Boyertown, PA and the other from Frederick, PA.

That brings us to why I am letting everyone know about this type of activity which I encourage and am willing to assist with. At the Fire Muster we handled the two requests like we have for the other shows that I have participated in. We take contact information from the person and tell them that we will contact one or more clubs that are close to their home address. For the two fellows above I notified four clubs, Dauberville DX Association, Reading Radio Club, Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club and the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club. (If there are any other clubs I missed that would be interested in helping these two, let me know.)

For the most part most of the interested persons we have signed up over the years all need assistance with classes, testing and support. I encourage everyone to make use of these types of opportunities.

Obviously the display does not have to be an ARRL display, it can be a club display. While big displays with working radios are outstanding they are also require extreme amount of work. I usually just use a static display of ARRL pamphlets and perhaps a few samples of available books. I do have two display boards one with pictures from the Katrina efforts and one with just EPA pictures and proclamation. A laptop with "Amateur Radio Today" or some other available CD is often running but it is usually ignored by most people.

If you think 2 possible new members from a minimal effort of four hours is not worth it. How about 20 new for a better amount?? That's what my wife's group gets at the PA Farm Show over 7 days of 10 plus hours per day with maximum effort to set up and tear down. Now our lighter effort seems well worth the time.

SONOGRAMS OF THE SUN EXPLAIN MYSTERY OF THE MISSING SUNSPOTS

Boulder, Colorado -- Scientists from the National Solar Observatory (NSO) in Tucson, Arizona, have discovered that a solar jet stream deep inside the Sun is migrating slower than usual through the star's interior, giving rise to the current lack of sunspots and low solar activity, according to work being presented at the meeting of the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society (AAS/SPD).

The Sun normally undergoes an eleven-year cycle of magnetic activity related to sunspots, solar flares, and the interplanetary storms called "CMEs". The current "solar minimum" quiet period has been unusually long and deep, confounding scientists who hope to understand the origins of space weather and the Sun's magnetic field.

Drs. Rachel Howe and Frank Hill, both of the NSO, used long-term observations from the NSO's Global Oscillation Network Group (GONG) facility to detect and track an east-to-west jet stream, known as the "torsional oscillation", at depths of ~1,000 to 7,000 km below the surface of the Sun. The Sun generates new jet streams near its poles every 11 years; the streams migrate slowly, over a period of 17 years, to the equator, and are associated with the production of sunspots once they reach a critical latitude of 22 degrees.

Howe and Hill found that the stream associated with the new solar cycle has moved sluggishly, taking three years to cover a 10 degree range in latitude compared to two years for the last solar cycle, but has now reached the critical latitude. The current solar minimum has become so long and deep, some scientists have speculated the Sun might enter a long period with no sunspot activity at all. The new result both shows that the Sun's internal magnetic dynamo continues to operate, and heralds the beginning of a new cycle of solar activity.

"It is exciting to see", said Dr. Hill, "that just as this sluggish stream reaches the usual active latitude of 22 degrees, a year late, we finally begin to see new groups of sunspots emerging at the new active latitude." Since the current minimum is now one year longer than usual, Howe and Hill conclude that the extended solar minimum phase may have resulted from the slower migration of the flow.

GONG and its sister instrument SOHO/MDI measure sound waves on the surface of the Sun. Scientists can then use the sound waves to probe structures deep in the interior of the star, in a process analogous to a sonogram in a medical office. "Using the global sound wave inversions, we have been able to reveal the intimate connection between subtle changes in the Sun's interior and the sunspot cycle on its surface," said Hill.

"This is an important piece of the solar activity puzzle," said Dr. Dean Pesnell, of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

"It shows how flows inside the Sun are related to the creation of solar activity and how the timing of the solar cycle might be produced. None of the forecasting research groups predicted the current long extended delay in the new cycle. There is a lot more to learn in order to understand how the Sun creates magnetic fields."

The new science of helioseismology, enabled by instruments such as the ground-based GONG, the Michelson Doppler Imager aboard the SOHO spacecraft, and NASA's planned Solar Dynamics Observatory, has revolutionized understanding of the solar interior. "While the surface effects of the Sun's torsional oscillations have been observed for some time, understanding of the dynamo and the origin of sunspots depend on measurements of the solar interior that are only possible with helioseismic techniques", said Hill.

2009 Northeast Philly 5-Mile Run and 2-Mile Walk SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 2009

The NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ALLIANCE is a dedicated group of member Youth Sports Organizations located in Northeast Philadelphia. The Alliance, and the Annual Race Event that supports it, were inspired by State Representative Dennis M. O'Brien... who envisioned the Alliance and the Race as a way to demonstrate community spirit, promote physical fitness, and raise needed funds to help support the member youth sports clubs of Northeast Philadelphia.

HARC will again provide communications for this event that starts and finishes at the NE Phila Airport. We'll start at 7 am and finish by noon. We'll need help with communications along the route as well assisting with parking along the Ashton Road entrance. Contact Rich, AB3EO or Bob, WA3PZO to volunteer (wm3pen@aol.com).

Be There In The Square! Sunday, November 22

The H.A.R.C. web page will be the information source for the Mayfair Holmesburg Holiday Celebration. Due to city charges for police and sanitation services the Mayfair - Holmesburg Parade Committee is working hard on an alternate celebration this Holiday Season.

HARC has been asked to assist with bringing in the holidays on Frankford Ave. While it does not appear that there will be a parade this year, there is discussion of an event near Frankford and Cottman Aves. Stay tune for further details.



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) _____