



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>



October 2015

Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Pennsylvania Northeast Phila Youth Run – Help Needed Pope Special Event – A Worldwide Success

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Highlights October 15 HARC Meeting

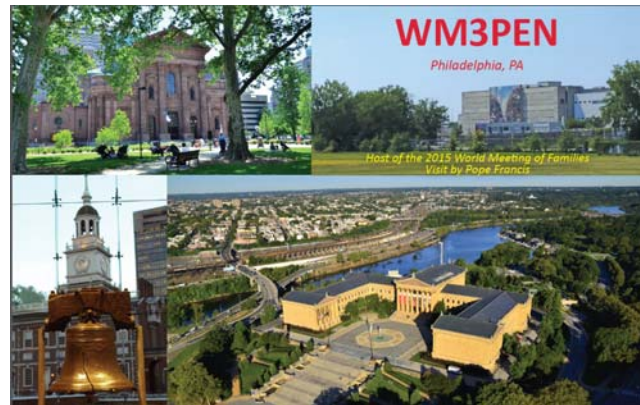
This month's HARC meeting has two special guest speakers. ARRL EPA Section Emergency Coordinator Walt (W.T.) Jones, WN3LIF, and Dick Stewart, K3ITH, Emergency Coordinator for EPA District 1 which includes the 5 county Philadelphia area. Also in attendance will be Philadelphia ARES Emergency Coordinator Roger Jordan, W4RJF.

Walt and Dick will speak on the role amateur radio has in assisting with communications in Pennsylvania. Amateur radio operators were activated in several nearby counties during the recent Pope visit to Philadelphia.

In many areas of the state amateurs participate in emergency drills and provide essential communications. Luzerne County ARES recently received a thank you for their assistance during the planning and implementation of the 2015 Wilkes-Barre Triathlon. Chief Howard Kocher of the Lehman Township Police said, "The dedicated work of the volunteer radio spotters certainly and very notably made the event run smoothly and safely. As the Police Departments in the Back Mountain area are outside the 10 mile radius of the power plant, we rarely have the opportunity to work with the Amateur Radio community. This event offered a valuable training exercise and demonstrated the value of the Public Safety/Amateur Radio interface."

Pope Francis visit to the United States September 22 – 27

Throughout the 5 day event 6 special event amateur radio stations were on the air to commemorate the event. Call signs from the Washington, DC area were K3P and N4P. From New York and New Jersey K2P. W3FRC/WMF was on the air from southeastern Pennsylvania and W3P and WM3PEN were on the air in Philadelphia. Over 26000 contacts were made during event. WA3PZO coordinated local, national, and international publicity for the event. HARC members participating included WA3GM, W3HWK, AB3EO, N3ZZK, WK2G, and WA3PZO.



WM3PEN QSL and the certificate offered.



HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

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Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 3rd. Thursday @ 8:00 PM. Pathway Bldg, Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road at Tabor Rd . Phila PA. Picnic in August. Holiday Dinner in December.



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.

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website

www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events

October 15 - ARES

October 18 - NE Phila Youth Run

November 19 - Compact Loop Antennas

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

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)

NE Phila Youth Run Sunday, October 18 NE Philadelphia Airport

It's that time of year for HARC to support northeast Philadelphia Youth by helping provide route and safety communications in the area of the Northeast Philadelphia Airport. This will be HARC's 12th year to support the 5 mile run and 2 mile walk. The walk starts at 8:15 and the run at 9:00 am. HARC members need to be on site by 7 AM. Our work is finished between 10:30 and 11. The event organizers are very appreciative of our efforts. Each year HARC is mentioned in the program booklet and receives several plugs by the public address announcer. To help out contact Rich, AB3EO or Bob, WA3PZO.



Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), Communications Exercise 7-10 NOV 2015 From Chon Gann, K3DHS

I am sure most of you are aware of the Department of Defense (DoD) auxiliary program called the [Military Auxiliary Radio System \(MARS\)](#). The MARS program is a joint service program supported by the service branches of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force. Today's MARS program has grown considerably into a modern contingency radio communications system for the DoD ensuring our nation can communicate during times of complex catastrophes and in cyber denied or impaired environments. MARS is the program that trains, organizes, and tasks dedicated citizen volunteer

amateur radio operators authorized to operate in support of the DoD Global High Frequency Enterprise Radio Network (GHFERN). The MARS program conducts frequent regional and national exercises to ensure the readiness of MARS operators.

As part of U.S. Army MARS Region 3 (MD/DC, VA, WV, PA, DE) we would like to request your support, assistance and joint participation during the next national level exercise scheduled for 7-10 NOV 2015. This exercise is based on a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) similar to the 1859 Carrington event. During this exercise both U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force MARS stations will attempt to contact local and regional amateur radio stations and nets using their amateur call signs to obtain requested DoD information to be used in various status reporting on local conditions. Requested data may include weather reports and or status of various infrastructure areas like, power, telecommunications, medical and emergency services. All responses to the exercise requests by MARS stations should be real-world status information. Please do not make up notional or false reports to any request for information. For example requests for local weather data should be the current conditions. Requests related to power should be the current electrical grid status for the area reporting (i.e. lights on or lights off). The most active time period for MARS stations to interact with local and regional amateur stations will be between 8-9 NOV 2015. MARS stations, using their amateur call sign, not their military call sign, will make voice or common mode contact on regional and local VHF/UHF and HF amateur radio nets and other local ad hoc amateur activity.

Stamps For the Wounded



HARC members are collecting postage stamps for the Stamps For the Wounded program. *Stamps for the Wounded* accepts any U.S. or foreign stamps that are not torn or damaged. They have also requested each stamp should have at least a quarter-inch margin around the stamp. Do not try

to either to peel or steam the stamp off the original envelope.

So save the stamps from your qsl cards or other mail. They do not need the common Flag Forever stamp. Bring the stamps to a club meeting and give them to Rich, AB3EO, who will mail them.

Many stations, including DX, included extra stamps with their qsl cards for WM3PEN that we are able to pass onto the SFTW program. We had 4 stamp albums donated and several mailings once stations received an insert with SFTW information in their qsl card. We even had inquiries from 2 clubs interested in starting their own program.

“Clarity on Parity” — the Video!

From the ARRL Letter 10/8/2015

In August, the ARRL acted to address objections and concerns being raised by representatives of community and neighborhood associations regarding the **Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015** — H.R. 1301 and S. 1685. “**Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity**” made it clear that the bill would *not* create new federal policy with respect to outdoor amateur antennas, nor would it require homeowners associations to approve huge radio towers. Now, a **new video** — “The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 — Separating Fact from Fiction” — doubles down on the arguments contained in the League’s August statement. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said the video will be made available on Capitol Hill to make sure that Members of Congress have correct information, instead of misrepresentations. “This short video is a companion piece for the “Clarity on Parity” statement on the ARRL website,” President Craigie said. “The video not only explains what H.R. 1301 and S. 1685 are all about but knocks down specific misinformation that opponents have been circulating on Capitol Hill.”

The nearly 6 minute video begins by explaining Amateur Radio — and especially its public service role — in layperson’s terms. It includes video clips of FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, who addressed the value of Amateur Radio in emergencies when he spoke at the ARRL

Centennial National Convention in 2014, and of Sen Roger Wicker of Mississippi, the sponsor of S. 1685, the Senate bill.

As the presentation outlines, radio amateurs living in deed-restricted neighborhoods may face “cookie cutter prohibitions” on outdoor antennas. It notes, however, that the FCC recognizes a strong federal interest in effective Amateur Radio communication from residences and, in 1985, adopted the PRB-1 limited preemption of state and local regulation of Amateur Radio antennas. As the statement — and now the video — point out, the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 would extend that limited preemption to private land-use restrictions.

The legislation “takes the time-tested 30 year old reasonable accommodation standard [in PRB-1] and applies it to deed-restricted communities,” the video states. “Unfortunately, there is a smear campaign against this legislation, and we need to respond to these blatant lies.”

The video stresses that neighborhood homeowners associations (HOAs) would have the flexibility to reasonably accommodate amateur antennas in a manner that best suits the particular community, although HOAs could not just say “no.” The legislation also does not take away any jurisdiction from community associations, nor does it negate any private contracts, the video asserts. “HOAs, not the hams, will decide on height and placement of radio antennas,” it says. “Amateur Radio operators in these communities just want a seat at the table to negotiate a reasonable accommodation from HOAs, but HOAs don’t want there to even *be* a table.” As the video concludes, “Opposing reasonable accommodation is just unreasonable.”

President Craigie suggested that League members could use the video at club meetings to help their fellow hams understand the legislation and show why it's so important to urge members of the US House and Senate to support the bills, which have more than 100 supporters in both chambers. “If your club has an e-mail reflector, Twitter feed, Facebook page, or newsletter, you could add a

link to the video to make it easy for people to find it online," she said.

President Craigie said her Congressman in Southwest Virginia is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1301. "I went to his official website and sent an e-mail thanking him and politely refreshing his memory about the appreciation we hams in the district have for his support," she said. "I'd like everyone whose representative is already a cosponsor to call a local office or put a short e-mail on the official website saying, 'Thank you!' This is a great way to keep the legislation in the Representative's mind and to let him or her know that the decision to co-sponsor is still very much on *our* minds. We should never take their support for granted. Speak out for Amateur Radio!"

Visit the ARRL website's Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page for more information about this legislation and how you can get involved.

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.

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

HARC in the Park? A National Park?

At the January ARRL Board Meeting, Board Members okayed a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial. While details of the event are not known yet, early postings indicate it will be a year long event similar to the recently concluded ARRL Centennial where WIAW was operated from every state and most territories. There are many National Park Service sites in the Philadelphia area. Will we want to operate portable from a site? We will have to wait for more details from ARRL. Stay tuned!

Stay Connected!

The HARC Club net meets every Wednesday night at 8 PM on the Club repeater. Check in and see what's going on. HARC has a Facebook page. Sign up today. Follow HARC on the web at www.harcnet.org and via the HARC Spark.



Upcoming HARC Events

Trying to plan out your calendar for a few months? Here's a list of upcoming HARC events.

October 15 – Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). EPA Section Emergency Coordinator, W.T. Jones, WN3LIF, and EPA District 1 District Emergency Coordinator Dick Stewart, K3ITH, will present an update on ARES activities.

October 18 – NE Phila Youth Walk & Run @ the Northeast Airport. 7 am to 11 am.

November 19 – KC3JV presents the design of a compact loop antenna with a easy to make differential tuning capacitor. Suitable for apartment living or vacations.

December 17 – Holiday Dinner



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

Next Club meeting is October 15, 2015

Topic: Amateur Radio Emergency Service

	<p align="center">HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136 http://www.harcnet.org 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. Membership year begins May 1.</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>		