



November 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 PL 146.2  
{K3FI} CLUB CALLS {WM3PEN}

Celebrating Over 25 years of Serving the Philadelphia Area  
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



## REMINDER !

*No General Meeting November or December  
Because of the holidays*

*HT Raffle Drawing December 14th*

## Mayfair Holmesburg Holiday Parade



This Sunday, Nov. 19, marks the 14<sup>th</sup> year that HARC has helped the Northeast kickoff the holiday season. HARC members will be helping with safety and logistical communications. A HARC member will be with each of the six divisions, at the reviewing stand, at Rhawn St., and in the staging area.

This year, thanks to Rich, KB3FGJ, HARC is hosting the list of the parade marching order. Rich and Bob, WA3PZO, have been attending meetings with the parade committee since the end of October.

If you have free time on Sunday we can use your help. We are meeting at Wachovia Bank parking lot SE corner of Rhawn St. and Frankford Ave. The parade starts at 1:00 PM, HARC members are needed at 11:00 AM for pre-parade briefing, and to assist with getting the units lined up. The parade will be finished about 4:00 PM.

If you plan to attend, please contact Mike N3LXN, Bob WA3PZO, or Dave KB3AKK so we know who will be there.

The Community Service Float in Division 6 is named after HARC Member Kim MacNamara, KB3COV, (SK).

## 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.



**2000 GMT on Dec 29 to 2000 GMT on Dec 30.  
3 PM Local Dec 29 to 3 PM Local Dec 30.**

**Hello** – celebrating one of the nicest words in any language – is about to come to a close. This was one of the largest PR campaigns sponsored by the ARRL. Now it's time to close the year with Voices on the air. HARC will be part of the celebration. You can too!

**Hello** was linked to the centennial of voice transmissions over the airwaves. In 1906 Reginald Fessenden was experimenting with voices over radio. There had been a report that he had been heard across the Atlantic, and his plan was to make a formal voice contact from Brant Rock, Massachusetts across the Atlantic to Machrihanish, Scotland. But a storm blew down the antenna at the Scottish site. Fessenden, in true ham spirit, went to “plan B.” Instead of transmitting to Scotland, he used the Brant Rock station to transmit Christmas greetings to ships of the United Fruit Company. (More about this is at <http://www.hello-radio.org/historyofradio.html>). In 2006, hams will complete what Fessenden failed to do in 1906 and achieve Plan A with special event stations.

There will be three primary special centennial event stations operating from 2000 GMT on Dec 29 to 2000 GMT on Dec 30. Representing the past are W100BO/W1F at Brant Rock with Steve Barreres, K2CX, as team leader. GB1FVT will be at Machrihanish with Duncan MacArthur, GM3TNT, as team leader. Representing the future will be W1AW in Newington, CT.

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In addition to the site locations showing the past and future of radio, the voice modes used will also reflect both traditional and new technologies. The stations will be operating AM from the early 1900's. SSB, FM, and Echolink/IRLP will bring the voice technologies through the 1900's and into the computers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. IRLP/Echolink will also allow those whose licenses limit them to VHF/UHF to join in the fun.

## Philadelphia and HARC Join In

Philadelphia area hams will also be participating in this event in several ways. On the evenings of December 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> the American Radio Relay League will be celebrating 100 years of Voice Over Radio with a message in lights on top of the Philadelphia Electric Company building.



William Penn will have the opportunity to say HELLO to the world courtesy of HARC members being on the air. HARC members will have an opportunity to sign up to use the WM3PEN call during the 24 hour period. Bob, WA3PZO, trustee for WM3PEN, says members will be able to schedule a time to operate a band or mode of their choice during the celebration. Operation will be similar to Field Day with multiple stations on the air at the same time. No two stations can be operating the same band and mode at the same time.

Operations will be on all bands including HF and VHF. You'll be able to make contacts on different modes, different bands, repeaters, simplex, satellites, even IRLP or Echolink.

### What do I have to do?

As we go to press we expect WM3PEN to be on HF courtesy of N3LXN, N3UBY, and N3ZZK. Some people will be operating from their QTH. This is a 24 hour operation so if you are interested in operating from 3 -4 PM on 20 meter phone send an email to WM3PEN @ AOL.COM. If you want to get on 75 phone at 3 am send an email. Regardless of which band or mode you want to operate just send a note to WM3PEN or contact Bob, WA3PZO. Bob will check the schedule and if the time is available you can go on the air.

We'll be operating like we do on Field Day. Only one station on a particular band and mode. All contacts must be logged. We'll have the Field Day laptops available for logging or you can use a paper log.

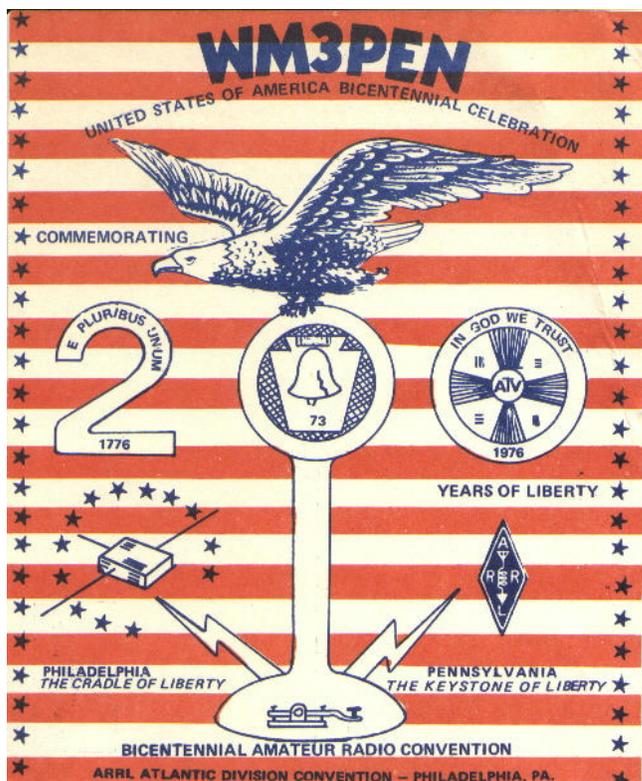
### Where can I operate?

WM3PEN is licensed as an Advance Class operator. You cannot operate in the Extra Class bands even if you have an Extra Class license. If you have a lower class license you must stay within your license privileges unless there is a control operator at your station.

If you only have 2 meter equipment and want to work your favorite repeaters, you can do that also.

### QSL Cards

QSL cards are being printed. QSL cards may be sent via the QSL bureau or direct to the Club PO Box. The address is WM3PEN, Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136 or via the address listed on QRZ.com. Cards being sent direct must include an S.A.S.E. so the Club isn't stuck with a postage bill.



### Original WM3PEN QSL Card - 1976

### Conformity Magazine features WA3PZO article

The November issue of *Conformity* magazine features an article by Bob, WA3PZO. The article *Hello! Hello!, Can Anyone Hear Me?* talks about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of voice over radio and amateur radio. It also features the WM3PEN QSL card. It can be found at: [http://www.conformity.com/0611/0611\\_F03.html](http://www.conformity.com/0611/0611_F03.html)

## RAFFLE

**FINAL CALL..**HARC will be raffling off a triband ICOM T-90A HT. Drawing will be in December 14. It will make a great gift for the holidays. We'll need help selling tickets. This is one of HARC's yearly fundraisers. Contact K3CJ for tickets.

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.

## PHILA ARES INFORMATION

### ARES Leadership meets with Philadelphia Emergency Management

(October 30) Philadelphia ARES had a successful meeting with John MacLean, the radio network administrator for the Office of Emergency Management in Philadelphia. Bob Famiglio, K3RF, 1st District ARES Emergency Coordinator, along with Dave Hogan, KB3AKK, Phila ARES Red Cross AEC, and Philadelphia Emergency Coordinator Larry Stevenson, K3HWE, met with Mr. MacLean at the Philadelphia Emergency Operation Center at 240 Spring Garden Street.

Here's Larry's report.

The interest of the city in developing a relationship with ARES/RACES exceeded our expectations. Our meeting lasted about an hour and included a tour of the area which Mr. MacLean believes can be used as an amateur radio room. The amateur radio area is a room just off of the Emergency Operations Center Communications Room. We were asked to develop a list of proposed equipment (radios, antennas, etc.), provide information regarding ARES/RACES facilities at other county EOC's and present ARES/RACES capabilities of the other EOC's. Mr. MacLean (who also heads up the inter-county radio Interoperability Project) is specifically interested in having the ability to communicate between the EOC's of each suburban county as well as to develop a deployable group with mobile or portable capabilities for certain situations. It appears they plan to create an entirely new EOC amateur radio facility.

He also informed us that the Philadelphia Red Cross office had approached him about developing an emergency communications system for their needs. Mr. MacLean seemed to think that the amateur radio ARES group was going to be the way to address the Red Cross' needs for more advanced communication than the Nextel and cell phone system on which they now rely. I expect we will be hearing more on this aspect developing at a later date. Our immediate goal is to complete the collection of information requested by the EOC.

The ARES-(EOC) meeting participants are following up to provide the requested information in the next week or so. I will have more information for you as things develop. The meeting was very positive.

Additional Philadelphia resident Amateur Radio Operators are sought to be signed up members of Philadelphia ARES. As Philadelphia ARES continues to grow, we are seeking more hams to sign up and register.

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>

### **ARC Background Checks**

There has been much discussion in recent weeks about the Red Cross requirements for background checks which extend beyond a criminal background check. There is a lot of work being done at the national level to qualify this information.

ARRL issued a very brief synopsis on the current situation.

- 1. We can appreciate the American Red Cross' concerns**
- 2. The ARRL, through its ARES program, provides support to the ARC but is a separate organization**
- 3. ARES members should read and understand any permissions they are giving to others.**
- 4. ARES members are free to choose their own comfort level in providing personal information to another organization without affecting their ARES membership.**
- 5. There is ongoing dialog on this topic.**

ARRL will continue to keep it's membership informed on developments. WA3PZO will have additional information in the January issue of **CQ**.

**From the ARRL:**

## **The ARRL Legislative Action Program wants you!**

(Nov 9, 2006) -- The ARRL Legislative Action Program wants League members who are willing to get directly involved in promoting and protecting Amateur Radio through coordinated, legitimate political action at the "grassroots level." The program is being staffed to prepare for the 110th Congress, which convenes in January. ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, who chairs the Legislative Action Committee, says members of Congress often base their votes upon their understanding of what their constituents -- the voters who put them in office -- want. "As a constituent, your opinion is important to them," Weaver says. "Constituent input helps lawmakers gauge positions on legislation and determine how a particular bill might affect voters in their states or districts." He says radio amateurs can be a valuable resource to members of Congress, who may have only a limited knowledge of Amateur Radio. "Your combination of being a constituent and a federal licensee can help make a difference by ensuring that your member of Congress and staff receive the balanced information they need to make good decisions on Amateur Radio-related legislation," Weaver adds. A new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the ARRL Legislative Action Program now is available for ARRL members and others interested in this ARRL grassroots effort. Contact your ARRL Division Director for additional information or to volunteer. There's more information on the ARRL Government Relations page.

## **FCC "omnibus" rule changes not yet in effect**

(Nov 10, 2006) -- The new Amateur Radio rules detailed in the recent "omnibus" FCC *Report and Order (R&O)*, WT Docket 04-140, adopted October 4 and released October 10, **are not yet in effect**. The changes will become effective 30 days after they appear in the *Federal Register*, the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules and notices of federal agencies and organizations. Since publication has not yet occurred, the effective date of the Part 97 rule changes cannot be determined. The ARRL will announce the effective date of these new rules as soon as it's known. The "omnibus" *R&O* does **not** include action on the Commission's proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes. A *Report and Order* in that proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, is still pending, and the ARRL will announce when the Commission releases it.