



November 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>



MOBILE RADIO ILLEGAL IN PHILADELPHIA? HARC NOT PARTICIPATING IN "PARADE OF TALENT" HOLIDAY DINNER PLANS

PHILA CELLPHONE LAW INCLUDES MORE THAN PHONES

As of November 1 Philadelphia Police can stop you for operating a handheld device while driving. That includes texting or tweeting, poking or posting.

However a closer reading of the law includes:

*(3) Prohibited Conduct. No person shall use a mobile telephone or **wireless communication device in any way, including for voice communication, messaging or emailing:***

(a) while operating a motor vehicle on any Street within the City;

(b) while using a skateboard, scooter, inline skates or bicycle on any Street within the City.

(4) Exceptions.

*(a) Persons using a hands-free device for voice communication, provided that such person does not touch the mobile telephone or **wireless communication device** connected to such hands-free device while operating or using the vehicle, except as permitted under subparagraph (c).*

*(c) Persons using a mobile telephone or **wireless communication device** while maintaining a motor vehicle in a stationary position in a parking lane or space out of moving traffic lanes, and not in gear.*

The BOLD has been added for emphasis.

(continued pg 3)

34th Annual Mayfair - Holmesburg

"Parade of Talent" HARC DECLINES

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, HARC was asked to staff a Club table at the Parade of Talent. The table would give the Club an opportunity to promote ham radio to thousands of participants in the community.

However in an email to Parade/Event Director Gary Cozens, Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, stated that HARC would not staff a table this year because of health concerns at the event. The Philadelphia School District was just beginning to vaccinate students with the H1N1 vaccine. In addition the City of Philadelphia declared a health emergency in the City.

Josuweit said that Club members enjoy participating in the parade, but with the holidays coming up, he was being cautious since many kids would be coming up to the booth and touching radio related equipment. Many students and adults have not received even the seasonal flu vaccine. He said "I won't ask a Club member to do something I feel uncomfortable about." We are planning to be back next year.

Josuweit said his concerns are valid. A local doctor told him that he is seeing at least 5 cases of H1N1 flu cases every day. It's at the point that they are not even testing for H1N1 because every case has come back positive. In addition many groups that traditionally staff community outreach booths have stopped doing them because of health concerns.

HARC has posted info about the 'parade' on it's website.

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO
UPARC Rep - Mike Feeley, KB3NDC
Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
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

***HARC Dinner: Dec 10
Next Club Meeting: Jan. 28th***

PHILA CELL PHONE LAW INCLUDES MORE THAN PHONES

An article in the Philadelphia Inquirer said a 9th District Police Officer said there are some exceptions. He said they are:

If your device is hands-free. If you're calling 911. If you're using a two-way radio while conducting official business for the city, state, or feds.

Otherwise, the law says to pull to the side of the road and put the car in either "park" or "neutral."

Club leadership has been in contact with local ARRL Volunteer Counsel to get their reading on the law. For now, the police won't fine you; they'll only warn you. But come Dec. 1, it's going to cost. Violations start at \$75 a pop. That amount can climb to \$150, then \$300, if you don't pay the fine on time.

We'll keep you up to date with additional information as it received. A copy of the bill appears on pg. 4.

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**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.**

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ICOM Radio Line Up Changing

At a recent meeting of the Warminster Club, Rick, K3TL, from HRO in Delaware talked about the new radios and that included the Icom 9100. He did not expect it to hit our shores until well after the new year, maybe as late as the May Hamvention in Dayton. This is an HF thru 6m radio with all mode 2m and 440, plus the add on extras of 1.2Gig and D-Star - price is expected to be around \$4000. Icom is now discontinuing the 756 Pro, 746 Pro, 910 2m/440 satellite radio, and maybe the 706 too. (Tnx Mark, WA3QVU, K3PDR email reflector)

HARC HOLIDAY DINNER Club House Diner

2495 Street Road, Bensalem

just west of Knights.

6:30 PM December 10

RSVP by Dec. 8 to Mike, N3LXN

mwurg@comcast.net

215-886-1361

Wives, significant others, are invited.
Cost: Order will be off of the menu. You will be responsible for order, tax, and tip.

Sail the Caribbean with Ham Radio

From Carl, N3ZZK:

Run this pass your club members. This a my cousin WI1S who is a licensed travel agent from Daytona Beach. Check out his site www.sprucecreektravel.com

The idea of a ham radio cruise is still alive. The time would be about mid-October to mid-November next year. It would be on the Holland America Eurodam out of Ft. Lauderdale for 7 days to the Eastern Caribbean. Prices will start at \$699 for an inside cabin.

There will be a station on the ship that can be operated whenever the ship is not in any territorial waters and we're going to try and make arrangements for guys to operate on the ground in the Turks & Caicos and the Virgin Islands. Make a little noise about this with your HARC buddies and see what kind of response you get. Was told that you can also operate from your cabin using a screwdriver antenna mounted on the railing and depending on who's in the cabin on either side a wire antenna can also be put up.

With enough interest, I'll come up and arrange for a cruise line rep to and give a presentation at a club meeting.

Carl Gerhart
N3ZZK

(This is a private undertaking and does not involve the Club Board of Directors in any official capacity.)

NEW CELL PHONE LAW

City of Philadelphia

City of Philadelphia - 1 -
City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

BILL NO. 080645-A

(As Amended on Floor 4/2/2009)

Introduced September 18, 2008

Councilmembers Green, Greenlee and Rizzo

Referred to the Committee on Streets and Services

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Chapter 12-1100 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Miscellaneous Regulations and Penalties," by adding a new section prohibiting the use of a hand-held mobile telephone by a person operating a motor vehicle or other vehicle on a City street, under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 12-1100 of The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended as follows:
CHAPTER 12-1100. MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS AND PENALTIES.

* * *

§ 12-1132. Prohibiting Use of Mobile Telephones by Persons Operating Vehicles.

(1) Legislative Findings. The Council of the City of Philadelphia finds:

(a) The City of Philadelphia is the largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the sixth-largest city in the United States.

(b) As a result of its large and dense population, the City of Philadelphia experiences significant motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic within its boundaries.

City of Philadelphia

*BILL NO. 080645-A, as amended continued
City of Philadelphia - 2 -*

(c) Philadelphia has consistently been named as one of the most walkable cities in the United States and this bill will protect the health, safety and welfare of pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders and inline skaters.

(d) Mobile telephone usage has continued to increase in popularity in the United States.

(e) Studies show:

(.1) Mobile phone usage while driving increases the likelihood of a crash fourfold;

(.2) Drivers operating motor vehicles while using a mobile phone are as impaired as drivers with a 0.08 percent blood alcohol level-the level that defines drunk driving in most states;

(.3) The act of dialing a mobile phone is the most dangerous part of making a mobile phone call while operating a motor vehicle;

(.4) The cost of crashes caused by mobile phone usage while operating a motor vehicle is estimated at \$43 billion, annually.

(f) Text messaging, instant messaging, web browsing and other mobile phone technologies are becoming increasingly popular and present an additional danger to motor vehicle operators.

(g) Studies show:

(.1) The use of text messages has increased over 1,000 percent from June of 2005 to June of 2007.

(.2) Today, Americans send and receive more text messages per month than phone calls.

(h) The use of mobile phones while operating a motor vehicle, skateboard, inline skates or bicycle poses a great risk to the health, safety and welfare of the operator of those vehicles, as well as pedestrians.

(i) Requiring the use of a hands-free device for mobile phones while operating a vehicle within the City of Philadelphia is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Philadelphia.

City of Philadelphia

*BILL NO. 080645-A, as amended continued
City of Philadelphia - 3 -*

(j) Failure to use a hands-free device for a mobile phone while operating a vehicle within the City of Philadelphia shall constitute a violation of the Philadelphia Code.

(2) Definitions.

(a) "Hands-free device" shall mean an external device that connects to a mobile telephone or wireless communication device that allows the user to engage in a call without touching the user's telephone or wireless communication device.

(b) "Street" shall have the same meaning as stated in § 12-102(16) of this Chapter.

(c) "On-board communications device" shall mean a communications system or device that is hard-wired into the motor vehicle.

(3) *Prohibited Conduct.* No person shall use a mobile telephone or wireless communication device in any way, including for voice communication, messaging or emailing:

(a) while operating a motor vehicle on any Street within the City;

(b) while using a skateboard, scooter, inline skates or bicycle on any Street within the City.

(4) *Exceptions.*

(a) Persons using a hands-free device for voice communication, provided that such person does not touch the mobile telephone or wireless communication device connected to such hands-free device while operating or using the vehicle, except as permitted under subparagraph (c).

(b) Persons using a mobile telephone for voice communication to call "911" in an emergency, or to report a traffic accident or unsafe driving by another motorist.

(c) Persons using a mobile telephone or wireless communication device while maintaining a motor vehicle in a stationary position in a parking lane or space out of moving traffic lanes, and not in gear.

City of Philadelphia

BILL NO. 080645-A, as amended continued
City of Philadelphia - 4 -

(d) Persons using on-board communications device for non-personal communication in the course of ordinary business in their employment with a City, State or Federal agency or authority.

(5) *Penalties.*

(a) The penalty for a violation of this Section shall be a fine of not less than \$150, nor more than \$300. In lieu of payment of such fine, a person who receives a notice of violation of this Section may, within 10 days of receipt of such notice, pay \$75, pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 1-112 of The Philadelphia Code.

Explanation:

Italics indicate new matter added.

2009 SKYWARN® Recognition Day December 5, 2009 (0000 - 2400 UTC.)

1) What is SKYWARN Recognition Day?

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world. Information regarding SRD is updated at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

2) Why are the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League cosponsoring the event?

The NWS and the ARRL both recognize the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather. Many NWS offices acquire real time weather information from amateur radio operators in the field. These operators, for example, may report the position of a tornado, the height of flood waters, or damaging wind speeds during hurricanes. All of this information is critical to the mission of the NWS which is to preserve life and property. The special event celebrates this special contribution by amateur radio operators.

3) When is SKYWARN Recognition Day?

This year SKYWARN Recognition Day begins at 0000 UTC on December 5, 2009. It will last 24 hours.

4) How many NWS stations are participating in the event?

It is estimated that around 100 NWS stations will participate this year.

5) What frequencies and modes will be utilized?

Each NWS station will transmit on different frequencies and modes depending on the individual capabilities at each site. Check the internet for specifics. Most stations will operate on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 2 meters using phone operations. However, some sites will utilize other modes including PSK-31, RTTY, packet, and CW. The use of repeaters to make contacts is allowed. VoIP modes like IRLP and Echolink are also encouraged.



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) _____