



November 2011

# 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>



## *Repeater Update! October Public Service Events Holiday Party December 8*

### **Repeater Update!**

#### **146.685 Back in Service Antennas Need Replacing New Input/Backup System**

In mid-November the WM3PEN repeater returned to service at its main site at the University of Pennsylvania. Thanks to the work of K3RJC, N3LXN, N3ZZK, and WN3A a new Diamond vertical was installed. The Station Master antenna that had been at the site for about 7 years was hit by lightning and cannot be repaired.

A more permanent folded dipole antenna will be ordered for the repeater. The antenna will cost about \$600. The Diamond antenna costs \$200. In addition a new polyphaser lightning protector will be needed. In addition the main amplifier was only putting out 60 watts instead of several hundred. It was decided to send that back to the manufacturer for repair. The repeater currently has remote inputs in NE Phila, Abington, Cherry Hill. An additional input is planned for Temple University Hospital.

#### **Backup site:**

We're working closely with Temple University Hospital to install the backup repeater at the hospital on Broad Street. K3RJC, N3LXN, and WA3PZO met with hospital officials and toured the proposed site. The 10 story building will provide a good location for HARC's backup repeater as well as an additional input for the main repeater site. At the moment we're waiting for a

memorandum of understanding (MOU) to be approved by the hospital's legal department.

The hospital will have professional antenna installers mount the antenna, the additional input antenna for the main repeater and run all of the antenna cables. HARC will have to supply the repeater antenna, the remote input antenna for the main repeater as well as a beam for the link back to the main site.

Total cost for all of the antennas as well as pl boards for the link transmitter, polyphaser, amp repairs, etc will run close to \$3000. We're also looking at upgrading one of the controller for internet access.

#### **Help needed:**

While the Club has some funds available, it's not enough to take care of all of the upgrades. We are looking for donations to help pay for the upgrades. This is your repeater system. A lot of things have come together in the past few months and we're looking at returning the HARC repeater system to stellar status. Contributions can be made payable to HARC and sent to HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

### **HARC Holiday Dinner Thursday, Dec 8 6:30 PM Club House Diner**

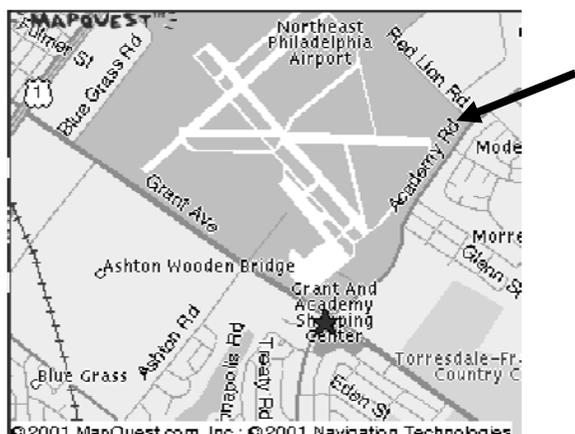
2495 Street Rd  
(just west of Knights Road)  
Pay for own dinner.

RSVP attendance to [WM3PEN@aol.com](mailto:WM3PEN@aol.com)  
Spouse and friends invited.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>. Thursday @ 8:00 PM. 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in August.



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](mailto:WM3PEN@arrl.org), the web page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

## 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](http://www.harcnet.org))

## 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

## 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](mailto:rjlees@aol.com)

**Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website**  
**[www.HARCNET.org](http://www.HARCNET.org)**

## Upcoming Events

**Next Club Meeting: January 26**



## HARC Public Service Events

Thanks to all who helped with the Northeast Philadelphia Youth Run at Northeast Airport in October. The Race officials really appreciate our work. State Representative (and City Council Elect) Dennis O'Brien thanked the Club for supplying valuable communications assistance during the run.

Philadelphia EPEX Airport Drill – Thanks to Carl, N3ZZK, and Sal, N3UBY, for assisting with the drill. See story elsewhere in this issue.

Mayfair Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade – Things were going fairly well, but as the parade date came closer Rich, AB3EO, and Bob, WA3PZO, found out that we weren't being included in meetings. Rich and Bob support the email and website for the parade. As conversations continued complaints surfaced that we didn't have the website built in time. We fired back that no information was supplied so we would have content for the website. Unfortunately with the lack of information and impromptu meetings being called without checking to see if Rich or Bob were available, both made the decision not to participate in this year's parade. In order to help make the parade a success Rich and Bob continued to support the email and website through the parade. We're not sure what will happen next year. Thanks to all who set the parade date aside.

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### AIRPORT DRILL SHOWCASES DELAWARE COUNTY ARES-RACES By Bob, W3BIG, Delco ARES Emergency Coordinator

The October 29 airport drill, PHL EPEX 2011, highlighted the communications expertise of Delaware County's ARES-RACES unit. Despite brutal weather con-

ditions including a nor'easter featuring freezing temperatures, blowing rain, sleet and snow, a team of 13 radio operators provided communications that helped make the important drill a success.



(pic via N3ZZK)

The exercise, held every three years, tests the capabilities of airport management and local emergency service units in responding to a major aviation disaster. The drill simulates the crash of a commercial airliner with a resulting fire and scores of injuries.



(pic via W3BIG)

Delaware County ARES was tasked with providing communications for patient transport and recovery. A communications base was established inside Atlantic Aviation's hangar adjacent to runway 26.

A radio operator was assigned to each of five buses used for transporting simulated victims. Radio operators assigned to the buses included Jim Rowland, KB3UGL, Sonya Fazio, KB3UGI, Rich Caruth, K3ZEZ, Nat Stinson, K3NAT and Mike

Thomas, KB3SUS. Sol Volen, N3UBY and Carl Gerhart, N3ZZK, both of Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, also participated.



(pic via W3BIG article)

Bob Famiglio, K3RF, served as liaison to the airport operations staff and Hal Frantz, KA3TWG, served as liaison to Delaware County DES inside Mobile-1, the county's communications and command vehicle. Four operators including Joe Ames, W3JY, Ace Trexler, KB3ACE, Craig Skotnicki, KB3SUM and Bob Wilson, W3BIG manned the communications base inside Atlantic Aviation's hangar, serving as net coordinators and command and control. The exercise this year broke new ground as it was the first time frequencies outside the Amateur Radio bands were utilized to carry the bulk of message traffic. Commercial band digital transceivers were employed to afford the ARES unit an opportunity to use equipment and frequencies of adjunct services.

Amateur Radio frequencies were used to provide backup and command and control. The KA3TWG repeater in Bethel was employed for main event communications. For tower to base communications D-STAR frequencies on 1.2 Ghz

Although inclement weather caused officials to abbreviate the operational phase of the exercise, the communications aspect of the drill was not curtailed. Delaware County ARES stayed on the job from 0800 to 1600 hours, shepherding buses to and from the airport to area hospitals. The decision to integrate commercial and Amateur Radio frequencies to coordinate message traffic proved to be a valuable and successful test.

Airport managers were impressed with the capabilities and professionalism of Delaware County ARES-RACES, expressing how important the contribution was to the success of the exercise.

Temple Backup Repeater Site pictures  
(See story page 1 – (Photos via K3RJC)



(Looking Northwest from repeater site)



(Looking east towards NJ.)



(Looking south towards center city)

### HARC Theme Nights

Did that get your attention? In 2012 we would like to have a theme for each of the Club meetings. The idea of a "Theme" is meant to be wide ranging and can encompass any aspect of Ham Radio. In general, there will be a theme leader who can do whatever they want for the evening. They could do a demonstration, a powerpoint presentation or just get us talking about the topic. The idea is to make it easy to lead a theme while giving information to us about the topic. So I hope you will volunteer to lead a theme and give all of us the benefit of your knowledge.

Here's a starting list of possible themes: Antennas, DX Chasing, Contest Operating, Net Protocols and Methods, QRP Rigs and Operation, Emergency Communications, Digital Modes, Foxhunting, Morse Night, Towers and Grounding, Lightning Protection, Mobile Operation, VHF / UHF Systems,.....How Stuff Works, New Toy Demos.

Hopefully you get the idea. Feel free to suggest themes or, better yet, **volunteer** to lead a theme. Remember that this does NOT commit you to creating a powerpoint presentation, it's ok to just stand up and talk, demo something or whatever you want to do.

In January 2012, Mark, KC3JV, will talk about NVIS antennas. We have a DVD on order on the T32C dxpedition to Christmas Island in the Pacific. The DVD explains what's involved with a

major dxpedition. From the shipping of equipment from England to getting on the air and making contacts. N3ZZK, WA3ERQ, NY3Z, and WA3PZO worked T32C on several bands and modes.

### Special Event Opportunity

The 13 Colonies Special Event operation is a major event. Here's an opportunity to practice your skills for July or learn what is involved with a special event operation.

The first activity with a special event station is picking a reason to have an event at all. HARC has an opportunity in March to use the Club call WM3PEN that would tie in with Pennsylvania's history. On March 4, 1681 King Charles II of Great Britain granted Pennsylvania founder William Penn a Charter for land that is now Pennsylvania. It's Pennsylvania's 'birth certificate.'

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania celebrates "Charter Day" on the second weekend of March. In 2012 it will be on Sunday, March 11 marking the 331<sup>st</sup> birthday of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission annually celebrates Heritage Week and Charter Day. On Charter Day the original Charter is available for public viewing and all State owned historical sites are open with free admission. The proposal is to operate a special event station on March 10 and 11 on all bands. HARC would offer a special QSL card. HARC could also contact the staff at Pennsbury Manor, Penn's summer home, in Morrisville and see if they would be interested in hosting a special event station. The other option is to operate from our home stations. In order to get proper publicity we need to make a decision by the first week of December. Send your comments or if you are interested in operating to [WM3PEN@aol.com](mailto:WM3PEN@aol.com).

## *HARC Awards*

### **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.

HARC Award Manager Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO said there was a need to have a County Challenge in Pennsylvania that was within the reach of most hams in Pennsylvania. When other state awards lost their sponsorship it was an opportunity for the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club to fill the void.

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



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"Social Network"

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[www.Hello-Radio.org](http://www.Hello-Radio.org)

### **ARRL Legislative Update**

"2011 has been an unusually active year for the ARRL's legislative advocacy program. No threat to Amateur spectrum privileges is ever good news," according to ARRL President Kay Craigie, WT3P. "However, the surprise inclusion of a threat to most of the 70 cm band in H.R. 607 resulted in the kind of membership response that bodes well for future occasions when Amateur Radio's interests are at risk. Software for generating letters addressed to legislators and a video explaining the problem with H.R. 607 were created by volunteers and put to good use by thousands of members. We did it in 2011. We can do it again. There certainly will be future occasions when we need high-volume, high-quality advocacy response."

There have been many legislative challenges to Amateur Radio in the past, not just to particular spectrum privileges but sometimes to our very existence as a radio service. The first challenge actually happened during World War I. Fortunately, members of a brand-new organization called the American Radio Relay League responded to its call to write to Congress."

### **Legislation Status**

#### **H.R. 607**

While H.R. 607 is still officially alive in the House of Representatives, it is not considered to likely make it out of Committee for consideration. The thousands of letters sent from ARRL Members such as yourself let members of Congress loudly hear your objections to

losing a significant portion of our 70-cm allocation **very clearly.**

When a bill is going to be formally considered by a House committee, it goes through what is called a "mark-up" session before it begins the process of hearings and potential votes. During a mark-up session, members of the committee of jurisdiction and other interested members of the House may offer amendments and changes to the bill. Once a bill is marked-up, any further changes are done by the formal rules and procedures of the House and Senate. At this time, H.R. 607 is not scheduled for a mark-up session or even for debate.

### **S. 191 / H.R. 81**

The ARRL is still promoting S. 191 and H.R. 81 – "*the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2011.*" While not companion bills, both would achieve the similar purpose. Both bills direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study to determine how private land use restrictions, so-called CC&Rs, impact Amateur Radio's capability to support emergency management and public safety officials in emergencies.

As stated in S. 191, the scope of this legislation is to: "(1) include a review of the importance of amateur radio emergency communications in furtherance of homeland security missions relating to disasters, severe weather, and other threats to lives and property in the United States, as well as recommendations for--

(A) enhancements in the voluntary deployment of amateur radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and (B) improved integration of amateur radio operators in planning and furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives; and (2) (A) identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and (B) make recommendations regarding such impediments for consideration by other Federal departments, agencies, and Congress."

S. 191, introduced by Senator Joe Lieberman of CT and cosponsored by Senator Susan Collins of ME is the same bill that was unanimously

approved by the Senate in the last session but died in committee in the House. At this time it is being held for action in the Senate. H.R. 81 is the same bill previously introduced by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee and is pending in committee in the House. The ARRL is focusing its activities on S. 191 at this time. Once either bill begins moving in its chamber of Congress, we will be contacting the ARRL members to become involved in a letter-writing campaign, similar to your efforts displayed earlier in 2011 with H.R. 607. Watch the ARRL Web or for a future issue of *Legislative Update* when there is a call for action. (ARRL Legislative Update #3)

### **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>.

The NWS and the ARRL both recognize the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather. This year SKYWARN Recognition Day begins at 0000 UTC on December 3, 2011. It will last 24 hours. It is estimated that around 100 NWS stations will participate this year.

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. You can earn a certificate for the event by working one NWS station. Send a list of NWS stations worked along with a SASE to:

Skywarn Recognition Day, 920 Armory Road, Goodland, KS 67735.



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

**Holiday dinner - December 8**



## 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.

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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) \_\_\_\_\_