



December 2013

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>



*Annual Dinner – December 19
No Regular Club Meeting
Next Meeting January 16th, 2014
Topic: National Traffic System*

Annual Dinner

December 19, 6:30 PM
The Four Seasons Restaurant
11801 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia,
PA 19116

Pay for own dinner.
RSVP attendance to
WM3PEN@aol.com
Spouse or friend invited.



Year in Review

It's cold outside. We've had at least 2 times the amount of snow we had last winter and it's not even winter yet! Over the past month many club members have spent time in their shack on the air, working a new DX station, a special event, or participating in a contest. The Sound of Music says the hills are alive with music. I'll go with the phrase that the bands are alive with others that share our common hobby, ham radio. Maybe your radio adventure didn't take you on HF, but you travelled the airwaves on V/UHF. There is so much going on that it's really tough to keep up with all of the latest developments. I'm still learning after 43 years on the air.

As a Club we have come together to share or challenge each other to work that rare dx when it shows up, we have helped others get on the air, we have had interesting programs to introduce others to new radio topics. Our members reached out to help us find a new meeting spot. WM3PEN is known around the world because of the Club's participation in the 13 Colonies Special Event. The event has gotten so large that this year we were joined by the Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania amateur radio clubs and the Philmont Mobile Radio Club. There is room for more operators and more bands.

(Continued pg 3)

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
V.P./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 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. No meeting in July. Picnic in August.

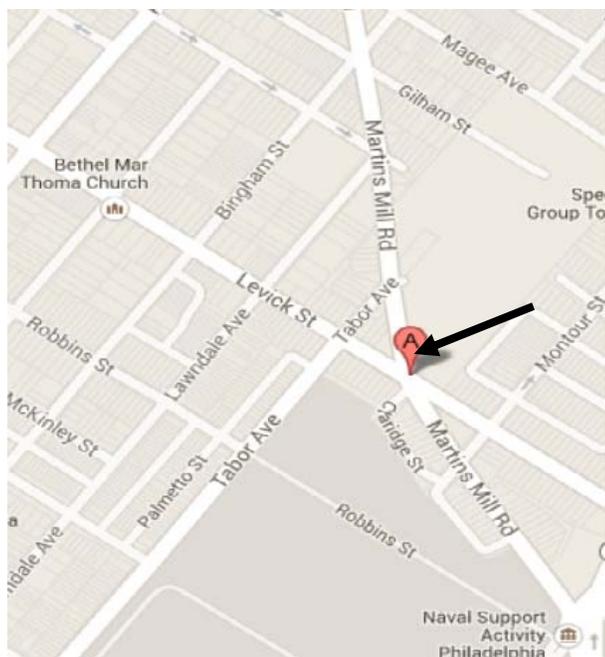
PHILA ARES INFORMATION

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>



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
Holiday Dinner: December 19
National Traffic System: Jan 16



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)

Year in Review Continued

Just a few days before the 13 colonies we had a team of ops at Field Day. In February and October WM3PEN was on the air participating in the School Roundup, placing first in the non-school club category for 3 events in a row. The October results haven't been posted yet, but we should have a top finish again. Not only was it fun telling students about William Penn, but they got a blast out of exchanging QSL cards. Maybe one day we'll work a school in each of the 50 states.

In October HARC provided communications for the Northeast Phila Youth Association. The organizers really appreciate our service. HARC serves the amateur community with its' bulletin schedule every week.

And then there is so much that goes on behind the scenes in keeping the repeater and the web site up to date.

As I look forward to 2014 there are more things we can do, but we need your help! We could offer license classes or testing sessions. We could have an elmer session before the regular club meeting gets going. We could have another type of net, whether it be technical or some other area of interest. At one point we had a photography net. The only thing that is missing is you! Think about how you might want to get involved and talk to WA3PZO or N3LXN.

The best of the Holiday Season to all and a prosperous New Year!

73 Bob, WA3PZO

NASA's Juno Spacecraft Hears Amateur Radio Operators Say 'Hi'

Message was first-of-its-kind for an interplanetary spacecraft

Newswise — Thousands of amateur (ham) radio operators around the world were able to say “Hi” to NASA’s Juno spacecraft Oct. 9 as it swung past Earth on its way to Jupiter.

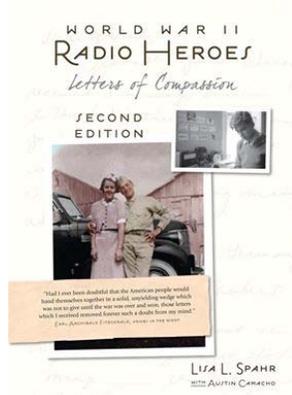
According to Donald Kirchner, University of Iowa research engineer on Juno and one of the coordinators of the all-volunteer “Say Hi to Juno” project, all licensed amateur radio operators were invited to participate by visiting a website and following posted instructions.

“The idea was to coordinate the efforts of amateur radio operators all over the world, and send a message in Morse code that could be received by the University of Iowa-designed-and-built instrument on the Juno spacecraft,” he says. “We know that over a thousand participated, and probably many more than that.”

Interestingly, Juno did not return the greeting or even decode the message itself. Rather, after the amateur radio operators’ messages were sent, the Juno team evaluated the Waves instrument data containing the messages after the Oct. 9 flyby. The message was visible early in the event when the spacecraft was still over 37,000 kilometers—about 23,000 miles—from the Earth.

Kirchner notes that although previous space missions—Galileo on its way to Jupiter and Cassini while headed for Saturn—were able to detect shortwave radio transmissions during their Earth encounters, it was not possible to decode intelligent information using the data from those spacecraft.

According to Bill Kurth, UI research scientist and lead investigator for the Waves instrument: “We believe this was the first intelligent information to be transmitted to a passing interplanetary space instrument, as simple as the message may seem,” he says. “This was a way to involve a large number of people—those not usually associated



World War II Radio Heroes Letters of Compassion Second Edition
Edition Lisa Spahr
List: 19.95

HARC members or at HARC Meetings:

\$15.00

Others: \$19.00

Shipping extra.

Contact:

WM3PEN@AOL.com or Bob, WA3PZO

with Juno—in a small portion of the mission. This raises awareness, and we've already heard from some that they'll be motivated to follow the Juno mission through its science phase at Jupiter.”

Kurth participated in a press conference on the scientific information gathered during Juno's Earth fly-by, as well as the success of the "Say Hi to Juno" project, at 10:30 a.m. (PST) or 12:30 p.m. (CST) today, Tuesday, Dec. 10 during the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco.

Kirchner says that the project originated when public outreach staff at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., wanted to know if the UI receiver was able to pick up a voice message. Although that isn't possible, Kurth and Kirchner came up with the idea that a slow Morse code message should work.

Kirchner is an amateur radio operator, himself, and took the lead in designing the project. His usual ham activities include being an assistant emergency coordinator with the Johnson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, which works closely with the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency to provide backup and auxiliary communications.

To make the transmission to Juno, he enlisted a student organization, the UI Amateur Radio Club, to set up a temporary station on the roof of Van Allen Hall. Operating for a few days up to the flyby, he and other club members contacted hundreds of stations in 40 states and 17 countries to raise awareness of the project.

The “say Hi” project was made possible by the fact that Juno passed within 350 miles of the Earth's surface on Oct. 9 in a maneuver to gain momentum for its July 2016 encounter with Jupiter.

Plans call for Juno to orbit Jupiter 33 times. Among a variety of investigations, Juno will explore Jupiter's northern and southern lights by flying directly through the electrical current systems that generate them.

The Waves instrument was built at the UI by a group of about a dozen scientists, engineers, and technicians, led by Kurth and Kirchner. Terry Averkamp, Chris Piker, and William Robinson, also an amateur radio operator, assist in the operation of the Waves instrument and in the data processing. UI researchers are Kurth and

colleagues UI professor Don Gurnett and research scientist George Hospodarsky.

The Juno project is a collaborative enterprise led by Scott Bolton, of the Southwest Research Institute of San Antonio, including the UI and many other organizations and individuals. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Pasadena, Calif., manages the Juno mission for the principal investigator, Bolton. The Juno mission is part of the New Frontiers Program managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Denver, built and operates the spacecraft. Launch management for the mission was the responsibility of NASA's Launch Services Program at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. JPL is a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. Watch the video at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yqHy_MpNiQ

The FCC has authorized the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW to also use the call sign **W1ØØAW** during 2014, the ARRL's centennial year.



Contacts made from the **Maxim Memorial Station** in Newington, from regional Centennial conventions, and during the **IARU HF Championship** will use W1ØØAW, with portable designators as appropriate. The “W1AW WAS” operations throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states will use W1AW, *not* W1ØØAW.

Bulletins and code practice transmissions during 2014 also will still use W1AW. Contacts with W1ØØAW will be worth 100 points in the **ARRL Centennial QSO Party**. To help kick off the ARRL Centennial, special W1ØØAW activity will begin at 0500 UTC on January 1, 2014 (midnight in Newington), and will include participation in ARRL's **Straight Key Night**; one CW station will use Hiram Percy Maxim's straight key. Activity will continue throughout New Year's Day.

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated

points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world. W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only **W1AW portable operations**. This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory. This is an on-the-air event like no other.

Complete rules available at
<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>

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.

13 Colonies Event Keeps on Going

Even though the 13 Colonies Special Event occurred in July, QSLs continue to come in. We got 12 DX cards via the qsl bureau. QSL cards were being still being received in early December. We have received over 500 QSL cards. EQSLs continue to come in. As of December 11 we had 1153 and of course contacts are being verified via LOTW as well. 1248 contacts have been verified via LOTW. A total of 3316 contacts were made during the 6 day event. The 2014 event will be July 1-6.

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

By Gary Pearce, KN4AQ 1996

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Technicians,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.

(continued pg 6)

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

(continued)

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh,
With an eight element beam,

And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean,
So I thought for a moment
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams,
On a mission this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of *CQ*,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late
QSLs, for a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth
Till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before –
Now it works like a champ).

A new low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That wouldn't compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?
An Elecraft, TEN-TEC
Or Flex, could it be!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
It might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those weekends
I worked Public Service?

(continued pg 7)

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

(continued)

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy.
It was *my* call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost a month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile up was big.
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What an old ham expects:
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

© 1996, 2010 Gary Pearce [KN4AQ](http://www.kn4aq.com)
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School Club Roundup

The Fall School Roundup occurred in October. Here are a few of the QSL cards we received from QSOs during the event. Results have not been announced, but here's hoping for a top place finish. HARC has placed first in the club - non-school category for the previous three events.



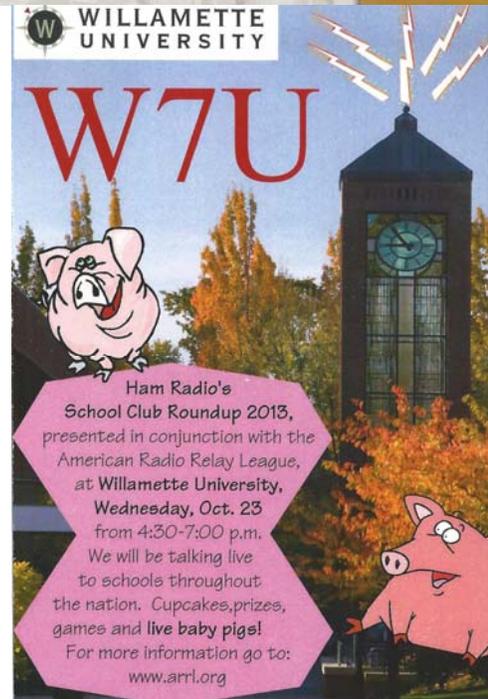
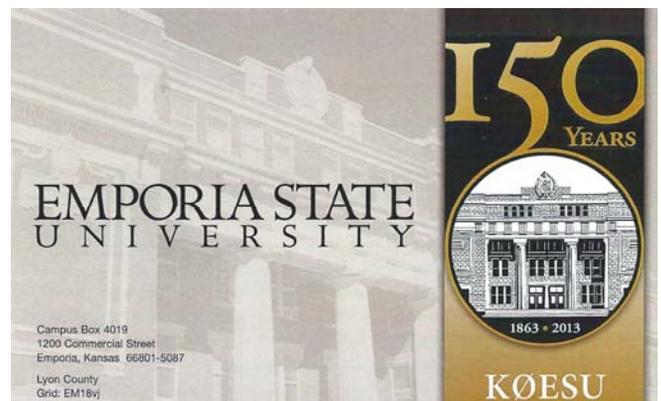
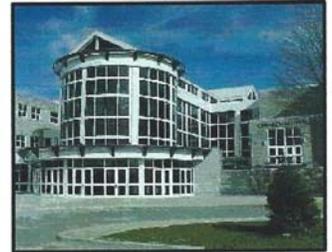
K9SOU



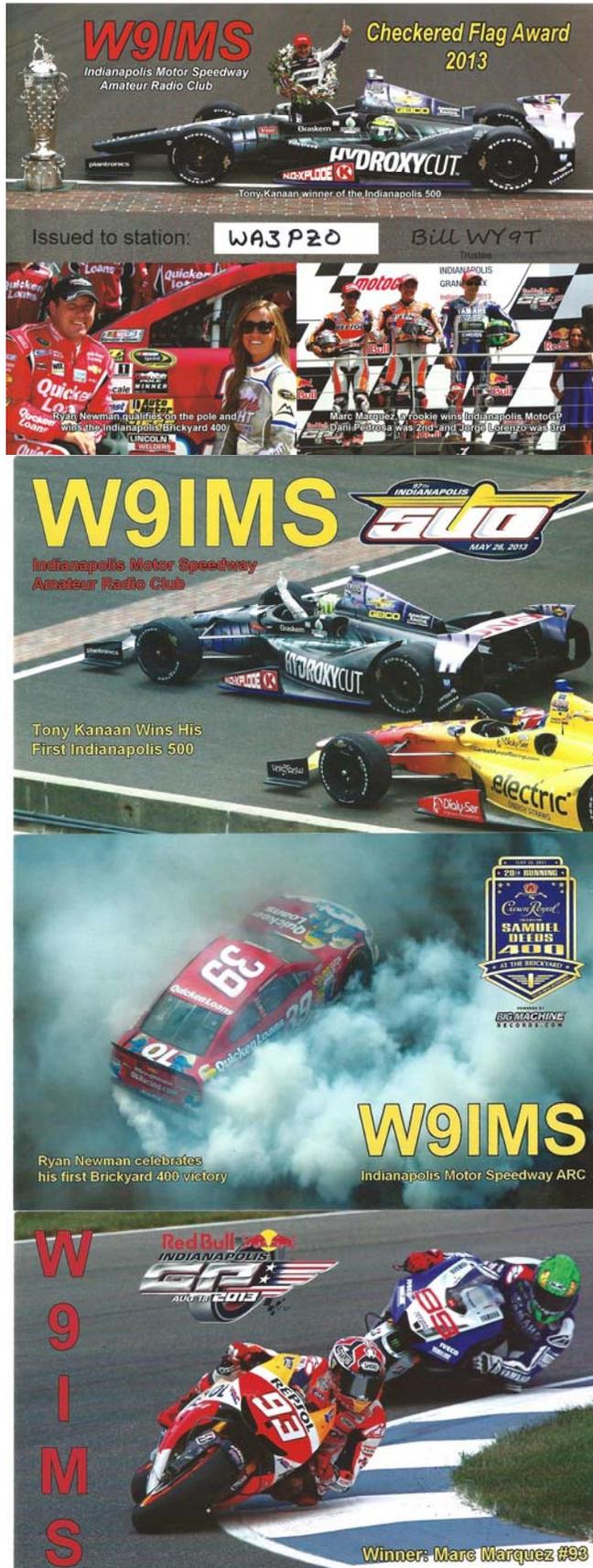
1965 S. Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Monroe County - Grid: EM69rd

www.mccsc.edu/~nrapp/ham



On the air:



Each year the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club is on the air for the 3 big races at the track. Work W9IMS during one or two of the races and get a QSL card for each. Work all 3 races and you are eligible for a certificate and 3 special qsl cards.

WM3PEN was on the air in November with contacts logged with 5J0R (San Andres Island), XF1P (Partida Island, Mexico), 7J7ACT (Japan), T33A (Banaba Island), K4D and W4D special event stations celebrating 520 years of the discovery of Puerto Rico, and J88HL (St. Vincent). Thanks to N3ZZK for making these contacts.

Shorts:

New Technician Pool Questions:

The ARRL VEC has announced that the [NCVEC](#) Question Pool Committee has released the new 2014-2018 Technician Class, Element 2, [question pool](#) to the public. This pool will take effect on July 1, 2014, and will remain valid until June 30, 2018. The [current Technician question pool](#), released in 2010, is valid until June 30, 2014. ARRL.

Town of Babylon Honors Super Storm Sandy First Responders

The Town of Babylon recently erected a plaque at Tanner Park in Copiague to honor those first responders and others who helped with Superstorm Sandy and the n'oreaster that followed. Tanner Park was seriously damaged during the storm and it was decided that it was a fitting place to erect the monument. The plaque reads: "When the Town of Babylon was struck by Superstorm Sandy in the Fall of 2012, many residents were exposed to dangerous storm conditions; some of whom were rescued from their homes. These brave men and women were the first to answer the call when their neighbors needed them the most. We thank them for their service and dedicate this plaque to them." As you can see they included The Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club on the plaque. Our

thanks to the Town officials for recognizing our efforts and thanks to all those GSBARC and ARES members that helped with the storm. May we keep ever vigilant and prepared as communicators, helping out any way we can. (article and pictures from The Compass, The Great South Bay Radio Amateur Club).



Voice of Russia (VOR), the former Radio Moscow during the USSR era, will cease shortwave broadcasts as of January 1, 2014. In addition, effective December 9 as a result of a [decree](#) signed earlier this month by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Voice of Russia radio company officially ceased to exist and merged with several other state-run news agencies as part of *Rossia Segodnya*, a Russia-based international news service. (ARRL)

ZS9MADIBA - Special call sign to celebrate President Nelson Mandala's legacy - The SARL will be operating special event stations from around South Africa using the call sign ZS9MADIBA. Members of the SARL are invited to apply for time slots to operate ZS9MIDIBA from their own shacks. QSLing is via the bureau or by sending your QSL to SARL, P O Box 1721, Strubensvallei 1735, South Africa. You

may also use Logbook of the World. To receive the special QSL card by mail, include \$1 for postage.

ZS9MADIBA is the South African Radio League Special Event Station commemorating the life and recent passing of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, elder statesman and first democratically-elected President of the Republic of South Africa. Affectionately referred to as "Madiba", he became one of the most recognized leaders in the world and was instrumental in the peaceful transition of South Africa from minority rule to a constitutional democracy. South Africans join the people of the world in mourning his passing and celebrating his legacy.

Greetings, Dennis, ZS4BS

Youth: December is YOTA Month!



During December several European countries will promote ham radio to youth as part of a Youngsters On

The Air ([YOTA](#)) event, on all bands and modes. Stations will be on the air with "YOTA" as a call sign suffix or appendage.

"The idea for this is to break the ice for some youngsters," said Bjorn Dettmaring, ON5CFG. "This is *not* a contest but a shout out to the world of ham radio. Try to get as many youngsters as you can on the air this month," he urged.

Awards are available for operators or SWLs working or monitoring YOTA stations. Dettmaring said the December event follows up on the success of the Youngsters On The Air events last summer. Awards are free and will be distributed electronically. Only contacts during December 2013 are valid. Each station may be counted only one time. -- *Thanks to Bjorn Dettmaring, ON5CFG*

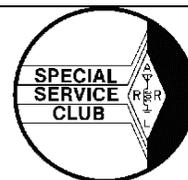
HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

Annual Dinner: December 19 – Details inside



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2013 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. Membership year begins April 1.

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) _____