



December 2014

# 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>



## Holiday Dinner *December 11, 2014*

**HARC Holiday Dinner  
December 11, 2014  
6:30 PM  
Andy's Diner  
2224 Roosevelt Blvd,  
Bensalem, PA 19116**

Come join us as we celebrate another successful year. Family, friends invited. Just drop an email to WM3PEN at AOL.COM to let us know you will be there so we can reserve a spot for you. You will be responsible for your own dinner.

Andy's is just outside the City limits on the southbound side of Roosevelt Blvd, Rt.1.

There will be no regular December meeting. Hope to see you on December 11<sup>th</sup>!



## HARC to Apply for IRS Tax Exempt Status

Following the passage of a new Constitution, HARC will be submitting an application for IRS 501c3 status. With the holidays upon us, the actual filing will take place as the Treasurer has time.

### A Thank You and A Wish

Any organization is as strong as it members. We had good times on the air. WM3PEN is known worldwide primarily due to our participation in the 13 Colonies Special Event. We're known in schools across the US during the School Roundup and we're known in the community and with city government via the Northeast Philadelphia Youth Run. The HARC Spark is read by hams throughout the Mid-Atlantic states and beyond. Many HARC members have their club affiliation on their QRZ.com page. Each activity helps promote the club.

We need to do more. Tell your friends and those that you talk to that HARC is Radio Active. In order to be active we need members to step forward and participate in Club activities or take on a new activity for the Club. Talk to a Board member or contact WA3PZO.

From our house to your house –

***Happy Holidays!  
Bob, WA3PZO***

## HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

Secretary - Charley Johnson, K3CJ

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY  
Mike Wurgley, N3LXN

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO

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 (Even 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](mailto: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](http://www.HARCNET.org)

*Upcoming Events*

**HARC Holiday Dinner**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Andy's Diner**

2224 Lincoln Highway (Rt1) Trevoese, PA

6:30 PM

## 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)

## 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))

## 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](mailto:WM3PEN@ARRL.NET).



**Congratulations to  
Larry Campi, WA5TRX**  
For making a confirmed contact  
with amateur radio operators in:  
Special Endorsement: HF SSB

## Pennsylvania 67 Challenge



Presented by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, WM3PEN, January 24, 2012

## Getting a lot of mail this month?

Here's something to do with all of the stamps on your holiday greeting cards (or other mail).

WM3PEN participates in the *Stamps for the Wounded* program. Sponsored by The Lions International Stamp Club, *Stamps For The Wounded* accepts donations of US and foreign stamps. This program helps thousands of patients through clubs and occupational therapy programs in veterans' hospitals and convalescent centers nationwide. *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. They do not want the common US Forever Flag stamp.

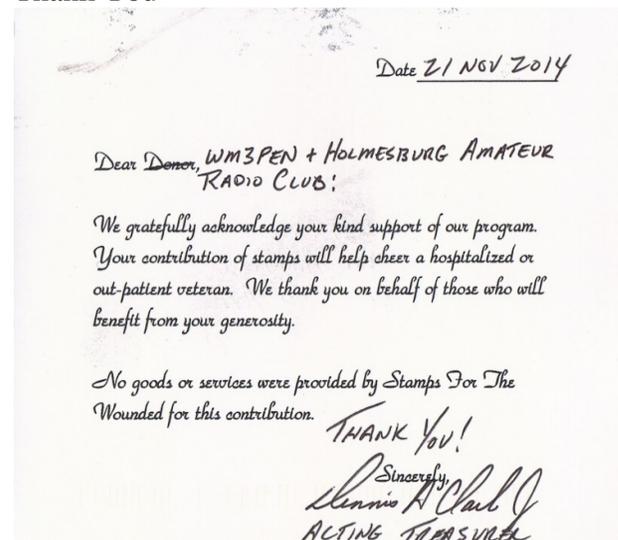
HARC recently received this note from the program.

The text says:

We gratefully acknowledge your kind support of our program. Your contribution of stamps will help cheer a hospitalized or out-patient veteran. We thank you on behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity.

No goods or services were provided by Stamps For The Wounded for this contribution.

Thank You



## A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

(From the ARRL Letter. By *Al Brogdon, WIAB*)

In March 1980, Mount St Helens spectacularly exploded. Before the explosion, radio amateurs had been assisting with communication among a number of sites where ongoing measurements were being taken, because scientists had concluded that the mountain was nearing the point of eruption. The hams continued to work after the volcano's several eruptions, with both emergency communications and a continuation of their previous support work. Sadly, two of those hams lost their lives during the disaster -- W6TQF and KA7AMF.

By the 1980s, some towns and neighborhoods had begun to impose very restrictive rules about antennas and towers -- rules that would prohibit effective amateur antennas. Many of these cases were fought through the legal system successfully by the affected hams. As with so many issues that involve many hams all over the country, ARRL joined the fight, providing legal assistance through the League's general counsel and volunteer counselors who were also hams.



Mount St Helens erupted in March 1980. [Robert Krimmel/USGS photo]

advanced technical work in areas that were not of wide general interest, and (2) to act as a catalyst for technical development in the Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite Services.

The ARRL introduced a new periodical in December 1981 -- *QEX*. Its purposes were (1) to publish articles that documented

On May 21, 1981, at the request of the ARRL, the FCC restored 160 meters to exclusive Amateur Radio use. Before this, the FCC rules included an array of restrictions on 160 meter operation, to protect the LORAN (Long-Range Aid to Navigation) system. Now, hams could run a full kilowatt on 160, day and night, anywhere in the country!

In the 1980s, packet radio and packet repeaters -- digipeaters -- came into being. Numerous *QST* articles detailed this mode of operation, helping interested hams to get up and running on packet.

In 1982, cable TV systems expanded across the US, bringing with them the potential for CATV -- cable TV. Some cable channels were on 2 meter amateur frequencies, and because many poorly installed and maintained cable systems "leaked" TV signals, causing interference on the 2 meter band. Of course, if signals could leak out, other signals could leak in, and hams sometimes caused interference when their signals got into the cable TV system. Cable companies often blamed the problem on hams, rather than take the blame for their poor equipment and maintenance. In the meantime, the FCC was in a fiscal crisis, because of budget cutbacks. Although it was willing to enforce the regulations and bring the cable companies in line, it was unable to fund that enforcement effort. This problem continued for some time before it was corrected.

During the 1980s, the SKYWARN system was established and became affiliated with the National Weather Service, so hams could report dangerous weather events that they saw. To this day, SKYWARN members have proven extremely valuable for monitoring weather conditions and providing "ground truth" reports to the NWS. Much SKYWARN communication occurs via 2 meter repeaters.

Harry Dannals, W2HD, had been ARRL President for 10 years when he decided to step down in 1982. At the same



time, ARRL Secretary and General Manager Richard Baldwin, W1RU, retired. At their first 1982 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors elected Vic Clark, W4KFC, as the League's new president, and David Sumner, K1ZZ, as the new Secretary and General Manager.

On the afternoon of January 13, 1982, Air Florida Flight 90 took off from Washington National Airport. But the Boeing 737 slowly settled toward Earth, clipping the 14th Street Bridge (I-395) and destroying seven cars that were on it, before crash landing in the ice-covered Potomac River. The area's ARES operators and nets sprang into immediate action and provided much-needed communication support among the various governmental agencies that had responded.

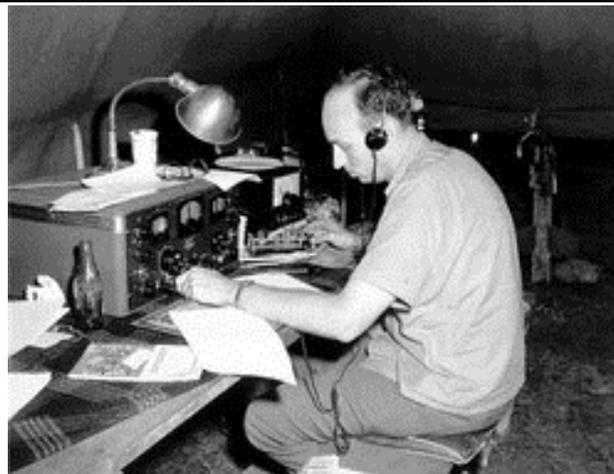
In February 1973, the FCC proposed a new Amateur Radio license class that would not require Morse code testing, and invited comments. At the time, the ARRL opposed the proposal.

From 1965 to 1985, the FCC, ARRL, and US hams took note of what was called the "JA Phenomenon." The number of Japanese hams grew from 70,000 in 1965 to 499,000 in 1975, and then to more than 1 million by 1985! A new Japanese codeless license class helped spur that growth.

On June 16, 1983, the second attempt to launch a Phase III Amateur Radio satellite (AMSAT-OSCAR 10) was successful. Articles in *QST* kept hams up to date on its progress. OSCAR 10 was, by far, the most capable amateur satellite to date.

**New Atlantic Division Director and Vice Director**

Tom, W3TOM, and Bob, K3RF, have been elected ARRL Atlantic Division Director and Vice Director. At press time a replacement for K3RF as EPA Section Manager has not been named.



Then-future ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, at the 1950 PVRC Field Day site in Fort Meade, Maryland. [Photo courtesy of PVRC]

Also in 1983, Amateur Radio in the US reached a new level of formal governmental recognition of Amateur Radio's emergency communication capabilities, when ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with National Communication System Deputy Manager John Grimes.

Articles began appearing in *QST* during 1983 explaining what personal computers could do and how they might be put to use in the ham shack.

In October 1983, the US military invaded Grenada. Mark Baretella, KA2ORK (now N2MD), then a medical student at St George's University School of Medicine on Grenada, became the only non-military source of information from the island, as he relayed messages between other Americans on Grenada and their families in the US. This resulted in excellent media coverage for Amateur Radio.

Amateurs throughout the world were saddened to learn of the unexpected death of ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, in November 1983. A well-known ham as early as his teenage years, Clark won the first Hiram Percy Maxim Award in 1936. He also served the ARRL in various roles and offices and was considered a first-rate operator. He was truly one of the giants of Amateur Radio.



Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, was the first to use Amateur Radio from the space shuttle. [NASA photo]

In November 1983, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, became the first ham to make contacts from aboard the Shuttle *Columbia*. His first contact was with WA1JXN. W5LFL operated his 2 meter FM transceiver during his non-duty hours during the mission's 10 days in orbit.

In September 1984, phone privileges on 75, 15, and 10 meters were expanded. In addition, US stations in Alaska and in the Pacific had their 40 meter phone privileges expanded, so they could avoid the high-power international broadcast stations.

At the 1983 Dayton Hamvention, volunteers administered Amateur Radio examinations for the first time, under FCC supervision, demonstrating the feasibility of a volunteer examiner system. The following year, the FCC began designating Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (the first was the Anchorage, Alaska, Amateur Radio Club

VEC), including the ARRL VEC, now the largest and most successful.

In June 1985, ARRL co-founder Clarence D. Tuska died. He was the last surviving pioneer of early organized Amateur Radio. Tuska was still a teenager and Hiram Percy Maxim was a well-known inventor in his 40s when they first met and eventually formed the League a century ago. Tuska, who went to a career in radio manufacturing and patent law, served as the ARRL's first secretary as well as the first editor of *QST*. The fascinating story of their early association and how it came about was told in the April 1989 issue of *QST* and [recounted and updated](#) in the January 2014 *QST* "It Seems to Us" editorial, "Present at the Creation."

On August 15, 1985, the FCC opened the 902 to 928 MHz band for amateur use. Also in 1985, the 10 MHz band (30 meters), one of the so-called "WARC bands," was opened for US amateur use. The band was one of those gained at the World Administrative Radio Conference 1979.



ARRL Co-Founder Clarence D. Tuska.

Also in August 1985, astronaut Tony England, W0ORE, took along ham radio, including slow-scan TV, on a shuttle *Challenger* mission. His aim was to get youngsters involved in the space program and ham radio.

On March 21, 1987, "Novice enhancement" came to pass, 12 years after the ARRL had first asked the FCC to implement it. Novice privileges were

expanded to allow operation on 28 MHz SSB, 220 MHz, and 1270 MHz, as well as operation using RTTY, AMTOR, and packet. This was a giant step toward getting Novices more into the mainstream of Amateur Radio.

During Field Day 1987, those new privileges allowed Novices to make contact with the Goodyear blimp *Enterprise*, thanks to KA4KVI, WB4RFC, and N4ORN, who had put a ham station on board.



The results of a new ARRL contest were reported photographically in the April 1987 *QST* -- "The Messy Shack Photo Contest." Winners in each of the nine categories truly outdid themselves, making our hearts swell with admiration and pride at our fellow amateurs' efforts.

The August 1987 *QST* reported an interesting solo hike by VE3HBF, 89 days on foot from the southwestern tip of England to extreme northeastern Scotland. A solo hiker, David was never alone. He had a 2 meter handheld with him, so that other hams could keep him company along the way, and so he could call for help, if needed. As he walked, he visited historic radio sites along the way, and was visited by other hams on several occasions.

In 1987, Amateur Radio in the US celebrated the bicentennial of the US Constitution with "200" call signs for club stations, a "We the People" WAS, and other radio events.

On January 1, 1988, the Canadian Radio Relay League became fully autonomous, ending its long-held status as a division of the ARRL.

## 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](http://www.harcnet.org) and via the HARC Spark.

## 13 Colonies Event Update

The 2014 13 Colonies Special Event is starting to wind down. At the end of November WM3PEN received 567 QSL cards and 1575 EQSLs. As time permits qsl records will be checked to see if we can apply for additional levels of the US County Hunters award and the CQ Worked All Prefix (WPX) award. The 2015 Event will take place June 30 – July 5.

## Red Badges on the Air December 31

The next ARRL "Red Badges on the Air" activity will take place on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31. That's when holders of red ARRL name/call sign badges will once again be roaming the bands, offering yet another chance to boost your ARRL **Centennial QSO Party** total. ARRL officers, elected officials such as Director or Section Manager, as well as Headquarters staffers and volunteers, and other members of the ARRL family will take to the air *en masse* for both occasions. Contacts with red badge wearers are worth as much as 300 points per contact for working ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. Many of the 200 or so holders of red badges will be on the air. These events are considered activity days, *not* contests, and operation is permitted on *all* bands. Participants can call "CQ ARRL Centennial QSO Party" on phone or "CQ CENT" on CW or digital modes. While the focus is to encourage ARRL red badge holders to hand out Centennial QSO Party points, all activity is welcome, regardless of point value.

**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

**December 11, 2014 - Holiday Dinner**



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
2015 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 May 1.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Are you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? \_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an ARRL member? YES NO Membership Expires (mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_