



January 2010

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>



HARC REPEATER UPDATE FM SPRINT FEBRUARY 27TH NEXT HARC MEETING JANUARY 28TH

Delaware Valley FM Sprint Saturday, February 27th, 2010

Purpose:

- To promote FM Simplex operation.
- To provide a local, fun, fast contest with equipment most hams already have.

When:

Saturday, February 27th, 2010 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM EST

The contest is open to all radio amateurs.

According to HARC President Mike Wurgley, N3LXN, the contest is designed for hams to have fun over a short period during that quiet time of the year. You don't need to devote an entire weekend, just an enjoyable Saturday night. So get a cup of coffee, a comfortable chair, and sit down for a few hours to see who is on the air. There will be some rovers running around during the full contest period to keep activity going the entire time. (Please consider being a rover yourself. Did you ever hear a pile-up on 2M FM, just announce that you have changed zip codes, and you will have one.)

This is a low key contest, do not feel rushed, there is plenty of time for a short chat. You can move a participant to another band. Rovers can arrange meets. Ask questions, meet someone new. We have designed this as a fun event, to enjoy using the radio, and learn where your station's signal goes.

The contest gives clubs as well as individuals a chance to participate. Bonus points are awarded for contacting club stations/callsigns. "We realize that everyone will not be able to contact WM3PEN so we're giving any club a chance to

REPEATER UPDATE

The HARC Repeater on 146.685 hasn't been up to par for sometime but work is continuing to make things better.

At the January Board meeting Technical Chairman Ron, K3RJC, reported that the Northeast Philadelphia input has been repaired and it should be able to be installed in the near future. Work included replacing the PL encoder and making sure audio passed through the receiver.

In addition at the main site, both the repeater amplifier and power supply failed. The amplifier has been repaired and a new 70 amp power supply is backordered from the factory. Total cost of \$450.

In addition the Club has to pay another \$400 for equipment and liability insurance. All three bills has put a serious dent in the Club treasury.

The Club will be selling some equipment it owns as well as looking for donations. You can see the equipment list inside the newsletter or if you would like to make a donation bring it to the Club meeting or send it to: HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136.

WEB PAGE UPDATE

When it rains it pours. At the same time it was noted that the Club website was infected with a virus and may be unsafe. Upon checking out the website we found that several pieces of unsafe code worked its way into the HTML coding on the page. It is unknown why the host server company did not pick up on the problem. Our webmaster, Rich, AB3EO, is working on the problem.

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.



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.

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.

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

Next Club Meeting: Jan. 28th

FM SPRINT (continued)

The contest gives clubs as well as individuals a chance to participate. Bonus points are awarded for contacting club stations/callsigns. "We realize that everyone will not be able to contact WM3PEN so we're giving any club a chance to put their club callsign on the air." This could be from a club station or an individual's home. Clubs are not required to register in advance. This will allow many clubs to make a last minute decision to make their voice heard in the area.

The rules are simple, equipment requirements minimal. It is really a pleasant way to spend an evening on the radio.

Where:

Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club is located in Philadelphia, PA. Since FM simplex is short range most of our operating will be local. This does not mean others can't work the contest. Try it from your location and submit a log. Get a group together and run a sub-contest.

Rules

NOTE: Rule changes

Rover time limit has been eliminated. Time frame for log submittal has been shortened. (This is so we can announce results at the March meeting.)

Frequencies:

Limited to the FM simplex frequencies on the following bands.

2 Meter, 220 band, 440 band

No contacts are permitted on the calling frequencies.

Classes;

- Base
- Rover
- Portable - Limited to 10W, with transceiver mounted antenna

Exchange:

Call sign, your sequential contact number, ZIP code
Note: You should not use a separate set of sequential numbers for each band. Start at the beginning of the contest and keep going in order even if you change bands.

Sample contact exchanges

K3FI this is WM3PEN - Please copy Number 3, zip 19136

K3FI this is WM3PEN Rover - Please copy Number 3, zip

Sample contact exchanges

K3FI this is WM3PEN - Please copy Number 3, zip 19136

K3FI this is WM3PEN Rover - Please copy Number 3, zip now 19136

K3FI this is WM3PEN Portable - Please copy Number 3, zip now 19136

Scoring:

1 point per contact

1 point bonus for each club station contact

Multiplier is the number of unique ZIP's contacted
For Rovers/Portables, multiplier is the number of unique ZIP's contacted plus the number of ZIP's activated.

Final score = multiplier times contact points.

Awards will be issued to individual top scores in all classes.

Club station awards will also be issued in the base class.

Log:

Heading: Your name, address, call sign, & contest class.

Listing of contacts to include;

Your contact number; their call sign, zip, contact number; band, an indication if you contacted a club station.

For rovers and portables, your zip at time of contact.

Logs may be submitted in any format that you choose. Spreadsheets are nice, hand written lists are just as acceptable.

Entry Deadline

All logs, either paper or electronic should be received by March 20, 2010.

Logs may be sent to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, 9029 Eastview Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19152, or emailed to AB3EO@arrl.net.

Special Rules:

- Stations can only be worked once per band. Rovers and portables can be worked again when they have moved to a different ZIP.
- Rovers and portables cannot straddle ZIP code lines, only one ZIP may be given during each contact.
- Teams are permitted, but only one transmitter is allowed to operate at any one time.
- No contacts on calling frequencies. 146.52, 223.5, 446.00
- Only mode allowed is FM phone simplex.
- No repeater contacts, satellite, or EME, please stay on FM simplex frequencies.
- No crossband, no split frequencies contacts.
- Pre-arranging contacts by use of repeaters, telephones, or otherwise is not allowed, nor in the spirit of the contest.
- Requesting a move to another band during a contact

Some additional considerations

Safety Issues

- Rover and portable operations need some discretion. Sitting in a parked car talking on the radio invites suspicion. Walking around with a HT even more so. We suggest these participants be team efforts. Having a copy of your license might be helpful.
- Rovers, unless you have a partner in the vehicle, please don't work the contest unless you are parked. Trying to log stations while you are driving is a bad idea. Also be aware of Philadelphia's new cell phone law.

Where is everybody

- In the past participants have generally worked on the frequencies just above the calling ones. Look around: 146.535, 146.550, 146.565, 146.580, 446.020; on 220 look down, 223.480
- Obviously, these are not the only frequencies available. Please be aware there are regular groups that use simplex and have their favorite meeting places. Be considerate, there is plenty of space for everyone.

While it is not required, if club stations could let us know in advance we will publish their calls so participants can look for them. For questions or additional information contact AB3EO@ARRL.NET

WHAT DID YOU DO ON HAM RADIO?

The editors decided to ask what did you do exciting on ham radio in the past month?

This month Bob, WA3PZO, describes operation in the January ARRL VHF Contest. This was going to be Bob's first contest operating SSB on 6 and 2 meters, and 432 Mhz. The contest was a simple exchange of your grid square. A grid square is based on your latitude and longitude. Bob is in FN20. Others in the City are in FM29. What made the contest interesting was the 'running' of the bands. If you made contact on 6 meters you might ask the other station what other bands you operate. Both stations switched to an agreed upon frequency and move to 2 meters and then to 432. If you had the equipment you could go to 902 Mhz and 1296Mhz.

On Sunday morning Bob was listening to 2 stations running the bands. They were on their way to 432 Mhz. The contact included NC1L in Southwick, MA. Bob jumped in NC1L de WA3PZO. Contact was made.

With the running of the bands it was necessary to keep a log by band. The alternative would be having an entry for the same station 3 times on a paper log. Bob used a traditional paper log which became a bit confusing. Over the course of the 24 hour contest, Bob spent less than 2 hours, but racked up about 100 contacts. The bands were active all day. Next time Bob is thinking about getting more serious. Already planning of adding CW and computer logging, Bob is getting ready for the next contest.

Remembering the unit men - Volta Jim Linton VK3PC

Alessandro Volta, born in Como Italy in 1745 was absorbed in the study of electricity during his school years.

At the age of 20 he wrote to many leading scientists and those letters showed a high level knowledge of the topic.

His discovery of electrical current generation by placing two dissimilar metals in brine was the start of battery technology.

The best metals for the purpose at the time were zinc and silver, and Volta created a number of cells to find that when connected in series it was possible to receive an electric shock.

His work made him famous and wealthy, and his name was adopted in 1881 as the unit of electromotive force.

Items for Sale

YAESU FT840 – HF 160-10 Meters with Astron Power Supply - \$450. Contact: Bob, WM3PEN at aol.com.

The compact **Yaesu FT-840** has two direct digital synthesizers and rotary encoder that provide silky-smooth tuning. The excellent general coverage receiver tunes .1-30 MHz in 10 Hz steps. A 12 dB attenuator may be inserted for clear copy of very strong signals. The FT-840 uses a die-cast RF power amp with thermally switched fan to ensure full power output (up to 100 watts). The digitally synthesized local signals ensure clean, low-noise transmitter output on all HF amateur bands. Other features include: backlit 10 Hz LCDIF shift, reverse CW, dual VFOs, 100 memories, attenuator, noise blanker, meter, scan modes and speech processor. The rear panel features various I/O jacks. Only 9.5 x 3.7 x 7 inches.

Items for Sale

MFJ 986 – Antenna Tuner \$200 Contact Bob, WM3PEN at [aol.com](mailto:Bob@wm3pen.com)

The **MFJ-986** 3 KW roller inductor tuner lets you get your SWR down to absolute minimum for maximum power out -- something a tapped inductor tuner just can't do. Plus you get a peak reading SWR/Wattmeter, six position antenna switch, balun for balanced lines and full 1.8 - 30 MHz coverage including 160 Meters, MARS and all the WARC bands. A 3-digit turns counter plus a spinner knob gives you precise inductance control -- so you can quickly retune to your frequency. You get a peak and average reading cross-needle meter that shows you SWR, forward and reflected power at a glance! A directional coupler gives you even more accurate readings over a wider frequency range. You get a 6-position antenna switch that lets you select two coax lines and/or random wires (direct or through tuner), balanced line and external dummy load. A new current balun for balanced lines minimizes feedline radiation that causes field pattern distortion, TVI and RF in your shack. Ceramic feed thru insulators for balanced lines withstand high voltages and temperatures.

Kenwood R2000 SW Receiver \$200 Contact Bob, WM3PEN at [aol.com](mailto:Bob@wm3pen.com)

The **Kenwood R-2000** was the first modestly priced communications receiver to offer a host of advanced capabilities; succeeding the **R-600** and **R-1000**. The R-2000 tunes from 100 to 29999.9 kHz in five modes (AM, FM, USB, LSB, and CW). The R-2000 presents the listener with three different tuning rates (and a frequency lock) plus convenient 1 MHz UP/DOWN buttons. A noise blanker, four position attenuator, AGC and all mode squelch are also included. The ten channel memory stores frequency and mode. The band-scan mode permits the R-2000 to scan between two user selected frequencies (at three rates!). The built-in seven digit fluorescent tube digital display indicates frequency to the nearest 100 Hz. With dimmer switch. The dual 24 hour quartz digital clock-timer can be used to activate the radio and an auxiliary device (recorder, etc.) for absentee DXing. The large front mounted speaker insures good fidelity. The rear panel has input for coaxial or hi-Z wire antennas. 120 VAC. UL listed.

Need to know a grid square?

The following Web pages may be of interest to those radio amateurs who chase Grid Squares (Grid Locators) or for those who need to know their Grid:

- Enter your address (or callsign) at: http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php
- Zoom in to your QTH and click on it, and it will display your grid at: <http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php>

Kay, N3KN, ELECTED ARRL PRESIDENT

As its first order of business at the 2010 Annual Meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors elected ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, of Blacksburg, Virginia, as the organization's new President. She will take over the reins from outgoing President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, at the close of the Annual Meeting. In October, Harrison advised the Board that he would not seek re-election.

"I'm excited about working with the new team of officers to carry out the Board's directives here in the US and internationally in cooperation with the IARU," she said after the election. "All the way back to the League's founding in 1914, Amateur Radio has always existed in a challenging environment. The League will continue meeting today's challenges so hams can continue to serve the public, explore technology and have fun on the bands."

First licensed in 1983, Craigie has been a Volunteer Examiner for more than 20 years, now working with the New River Valley Amateur Radio Club's team. In 1986, she became ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania, moving up to Atlantic Division Vice Director in 1990. Six years later, she became Atlantic Division Director; in 2000 she was elected Vice President and in 2006 First Vice President of the ARRL. She has served on all the standing committees of the ARRL Board of Directors and also worked on the League's Enforcement Task Force, the committee whose pressure finally resulted in the FCC's assigning Riley Hollingsworth to clean up the ham bands.

Craigie's first assignment as Vice President was to design what became the ARRL Education & Technology Program. Later, she chaired the National Emergency Response Planning Committee, tasked with recommendations on the League's readiness at the national level to respond to extraordinary disasters. In 2009, she chaired the ad-hoc committee that produced [*The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks, The Issues*](#). This document offers guidelines to assist radio amateurs and anyone wishing to utilize the capabilities of Amateur Radio in understanding the FCC Rules that prohibit communications in which the amateur has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer..

On the air, Craigie enjoys DXing -- that's what attracted her to ham radio in the first place -- award-hunting and contesting. She holds VUCC on 6 meters, 5BDXCC (endorsed for 12, 17 and 30 meters), the DXCC Challenge award, WAZ and WAE Class 1 CW. She enjoys digital modes such as RTTY and PSK31, as well as CW and phone. She is involved with SKYWARN through the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Craigie's husband Carter, N3AO, is a retired. (ARRL)



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

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 28



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 _____

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Telephone # _____ Would you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? ____

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