



February 2007

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater PL 146.2
{K3FI} CLUB CALLS {WM3PEN}



Celebrating Over 25 years of Serving the Philadelphia Area
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>

Next Meeting
Thursday, February 22nd 8 PM
8th District Police Station
Red Lion & Academy Rds
SHOW ME YOUR CODE!

It's Official!
Morse Code Requirement
Ends Friday, February 23

NEWINGTON, CT -- Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules in accordance with the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235. Beginning on that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Publication of the new rules in the January 24 Federal Register started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement -- still a matter of controversy within the amateur community -- is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code

examination. Starting February 23, all Technicians will have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. When the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

On or after February 23, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General. The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz so there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband. The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page.

SHOW ME YOUR CODE
Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007
8th District Police Station
Red Lion & Academy Rds.
8 PM

This month bring your telegraphy collection to the meeting for an old fashion show and tell. That's right bring your telegraph key, bug, paddle, or other sending device. Bring a code oscillator, training material, advertising, or anything else that is Morse Code related.



No Code Required!

Beginning Feb 23, you do NOT need to know Morse code to get an Amateur (ham) Radio license.
Learn more about it at www.hello-radio.org

WV3E Silent Key

George Szymanski, WV3E, became a silent key on Feb. 5, 2007. George and his wife Anna frequented HARC meetings and events.

He grew up in Jersey City NJ. During World War II he served with the United States Merchant Marine as a radio operator. After the war ended he continued working at sea while attending Villanova University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1953 he began teaching biology at Camden High School. George Szymanski remained at Camden High until his retirement at the end of the 1988 school year, a 35 year term of service. During this time he also worked with the school band for a short spell in the early 1950s, and for many years was in charge of the school's audio-visual equipment. George Szymanski also shot movies of the school's football team. George Szymanski has lived for many years in Philadelphia. He operates amateur radio station WV3E; is a member of the Polish American Historical Association and the South Jersey branch of the Dennis Roland Chapter, American Merchant Marine Veterans.

Few knew he was an accomplished musician. He played several instruments and was organist at his church. He was a member of the Polish Heritage Soc. of Phila., Associated Polish Home, Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish Heritage Society, Polish National Alliance Group 1, American Merchant Marine Veterans, Dennis A. Roland Chapter, S. Jersey Branch and the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. Donations to the Kosciuszko Foundation, 15 E. 65th St., NY NY 10021-6591, would be appreciated by George's family. (Some of the info via: The Delaware Valley Rhythm & Blues Society, Inc.)

WA3PZO Nominated for Excellence in Technology Journalism

Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, has been nominated for an Excellence in Technology Journalism award which is presented by the Public Relations Society of America's Technology Section. The Award recognizes journalists in technical/trade magazines and newsletters who have published articles that are valuable to their readers, show clarity in the communication and are significant in disclosing, explaining, interpreting and reporting innovation and recognizing newsworthiness.

Josuweit's article "Hams to the Rescue!", January, 2006 Conformity magazine covers the amateur radio response to the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes and the use of radio email (Winlink). (http://www.winlink.org/News/HAMS_to_the_Rescue.pdf) Bob is CQ's Public Service Editor.



VE SESSIONS

PhilMont Mobile Radio Club has moved it's testing from Northeast High School to Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month.

Exams are given at [Ambler](#)

[Ambulance Association](#), 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA. Registration begins at 7pm.

Warminster - last Wednesday of each month. Contact [Tom Michaud \(WA3TQJ\)](#) at (215) 343-3494 (7-9PM)

Bryn Mawr - quarterly on a Saturday. Contact Bob Lees, W3ZQN, rjlees@aol.com

Bellmawr, NJ - 3rd Thursday of the month. Contact Dianne Nafis at 856-227-6281

VE Sessions Skyrocketing

The ARRL VEC has seen a 65% increase over January of last year in the number of test candidates served (2,987 vs. 1,808).

The ARRL VEC averages 5,500 test session per year. 4,314 future test sessions have already been registered. Hundreds more pour in every week!

We're not going to be busy; we ARE busy!

Special Event - No Code Required

W1AW will be on the air beginning 12:01 AM February 23 making available the opportunity for a new General, or any ham, to contact the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station in Newington, Connecticut.

W1AW will be active throughout the weekend in the General bands and the Technician portion of the 10 meter band. The station is expected to be on the air during the day when band conditions and peak activity can be expected. Suggested SSB frequencies are:

1855 kHz, 3990 kHz, 7290 kHz, 14290 kHz, 18160 kHz, 21390 kHz, 28480 kHz

Cool First Contact Award

What better way to commemorate a ham's first QSO than with a First Contact Certificate? If you make a contact with a ham and he/she tells you that you are his or her first contact, then send them a certificate. Send a certificate for a first contact on HF. ARRL always has First Contact Certificates available to anyone requesting them. See <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/award/certificate/>. Include your mailing address when sending your request to clubs@arrl.org

Election of Officers

And the nominees are.....

No one has expressed interest in running for office. Now's your chance to join the Board of Directors and help direct the club for the future. For further info contact Mike, N3LXN.

New Jersey "Cellular Telephone" Bill Pose Potential Problems for Ham Radio Operation

(ARRL) -- Bills aimed at thwarting "driving while cellular" and "driving while distracted" behavior have been introduced in several states, and most are worded broadly enough to proscribe some Amateur Radio mobile operation. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, so far has catalogued 11 active pieces of legislation. Bills introduced in Montana and New Mexico have been sidelined for now, but related measures -- more than one in some states -- remain alive in Georgia, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. Henderson reports that ARRL Field Organization volunteers and members called the League's attention to the various pieces of pending legislation, none of which specifically exempt Amateur Radio mobile operation.

"In most cases we try to work to have language exempting Amateur Radio inserted into the bill, rather than narrowing by definition the behavior or activity the bill seeks to address," Henderson explains. "It is a far easier approach and removes ambiguity down the road." Henderson says that, if requested, the League will advise radio amateurs preparing to testify about a bill before a state legislative committee. "We offer some suggestions regarding what to cover and how to approach their testimony," he said. "We also will speak with legislators or their aides to try and clarify questions or help them craft language that help accomplish our goal of specifically exempting Amateur Radio operation from these measures." Most of the measures include exceptions for emergency communication and law enforcement agencies.

In Georgia, House Bill 5 (HB 5) would assess those anyone found to be "driving while distracted" while using a wireless communication device one driver's license infraction point. The bill defines "device" to cover not only cellular or mobile telephones -- whether or not they're hands-free, but any "wireless communication device, personal digital assistant, radio or citizens band radio." HB 5 thus appears to include such routine activities as changing the station on your car radio.

In Montana, House Bill 233 (HB 233) would restrict drivers from "the use of electronic communication devices, or any other activity that causes the driver to become inattentive." This bill was tabled in committee on January 30, following a hearing a few days earlier.

In New Jersey, Assembly Bill 1966 (A 1966), would broaden the scope of that state's existing law prohibiting the use of a hand-held wireless telephone while driving. It would expand the law to cover "distracted driving" by prohibiting a motor vehicle operator from engaging in "any activity unrelated to the actual operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle." It also would make enforcement primary and raise the fines imposed on violators.

HARC PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

March of Dimes Walk

April 29, 2007 At Polonia Bank Flyers Skate Zone
10990 Decatur Rd. west of Comly Rd.

Field Day

June 23-24, 2007

At [Alverthorpe Park](#)

Come one - Come all

Talk-in on the repeater output 146.685 -600 131.8 .

Call us through the repeater, or simplex on the output.

Northeast Philadelphia 5 Mile Run

Sunday, October 14th, 2007 (Date pending)

We will be providing communications support for the Forth Annual Northeast Philly 5 Mile Run

This run is in support of [The Northeast Philadelphia Youth Alliance](#)

It is being held at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport

We are meeting at start/finish area by the parking lot to the right of the main entrance .

Talk-in on the repeater output frequency - simplex 146.685

Working frequency will be provided at check-in.

Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade

Sunday, November 18th, 2007

We will be providing communications support for the 32th annual Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade.

We are meeting at Wachovia Bank parking lot SE corner of Rhawn St. and Frankford Ave. The parade starts at 1:00 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>

HAMFESTS

In the area

31 Mar-1 Apr 2007 Timonium, MD
Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest - Baltimore
Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.gbhc.org>
Talk-In: 146.67-

15 Apr 2007 West Windsor, NJ
Springfest 2007 Delaware Valley Radio Association
<http://www.w2zq.com>
Talk-In: 146.67 - (PL 131.8)
Skating Rink at Mercer County Park

22 Apr 2007 York, PA
<http://www.yorkhamfest.org>
Talk-In: 147.33 (PL 123.0)
York County 4-H Center

29 Apr 2007 Mountaintop, PA
Talk-In: 146.805 (PL 82.5); simplex 146.520
Wright Township Firehall

6 May 2007 Warminster ARC
<http://www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm>
Talk-In: 147.69/.09 (PL 131.8) & 146.52
Middletown Grange Fairgrounds
Wrightstown, PA

1 Jul 2007 Wilkes Barre Hamfest & Computerfest
Murgas ARC Luzerne County Fairgrounds
<http://www.qsl.net/k3yt/>
Talk-In: 146.61 (PL 82.5)
Lake Lehman, PA

4 Jul 2007 Fire Cracker HamFest
Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club Bressler, PA
<http://hrac.tripod.com/>
Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 100)

15 Jul 2007 Valley Forge Hamfest & Computer Fair
Mid Atlantic ARC Kimberton, PA
<http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.html>
Talk-In: 145.130/- and 147.060/+ ctss 131.8

30 Sep 2007 Hamarama
Mt. Airy VHF Club Wrightstown, PA
<http://members.ij.net/packrats/Hamarama/hamarama.html>
Talk-In: 146.52 simplex

21 Oct 2007 Annual Hamfest
RF Hill Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Sellersville, PA
www.rfhill.ampr.org
Talk-In: 145.31 (-), pl 131.8

New Ham Class

Rich, KB3FGJ, is looking into the possibility of teaching a Technician License class for the Scouts. If you might be interested in helping out with the classes, contact Rich at KB3FGJ@AOL.COM.

Nor'easter Prompts Amateur Radio Activity in Ohio, Northeast

While many of us scraped the ice off of our cars hams were busy.

(ARRL) -- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN volunteers activated February 13 and 14 as a fierce winter storm generated potentially dangerous weather conditions from the Great Lakes into New England. In Ohio, ARES teams in five counties took on a variety of weather-related duties February 13. Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW, says District Emergency Coordinators in his Section were ready to deploy volunteers in the event of shelter openings or by request of served agencies.

"I am proud of all the ARES volunteers in Ohio who responded or were prepared to deploy upon notification," Piper told ARRL.

Piper says that Seneca County ARES members activated a net from the county's emergency operations center to gather reports of local weather conditions, road conditions and stranded motorists. The Ohio Single Sideband Net, which convenes three times a day on 75 meters (3927.5 kHz), and VHF/UHF repeaters kept northern Ohio radio amateurs in contact with each other.

In western Ohio, ARES teams in Darke, Green and Shelby counties assisted local emergency management agencies and hospitals by helping to transport essential personnel. "Many of these operations started early Tuesday morning when the storm hit and operated at each hospital shift change," Piper explained.

In Montgomery County, the local emergency management agency requested ARES activation early Tuesday, and a net was begun on the 145.11 MHz repeater.

SKYWARN Activates in the Northeast

Meanwhile, SKYWARN was active across portions of the US Northeast for this week's winter weather event. The storm dumped up to three feet of snow in portions of northeastern New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, northwestern Massachusetts and Maine, with whiteout and blizzard conditions reported because of high winds throughout much of the region. The storm dumped sleet and freezing rain across much of interior Southern New England and heavy rainfall in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts and along coastal areas.

"Amateur Radio operators supported SKYWARN and the National Weather Service Forecast Offices in Taunton, Massachusetts -- WX1BOX -- and Gray, Maine -- WX1GYX -- with reports of snowfall, wind damage and flooding," said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, the ARES/SKYWARN coordinator for NWS-Taunton. Macedo says the heaviest snow fell across northern Massachusetts

and southern New Hampshire, which received anywhere from 8 to 15 inches.

"Luckily, little infrastructure damage occurred, though urban flooding near the evening commute was a problem on major roads in eastern, southeastern and coastal Massachusetts and Rhode Island," Macedo said. "Winds gusted to between 45 and 55 MPH, and as temperatures dropped rapidly, untreated roads iced up quickly."

Macedo said SKYWARN volunteers used several repeaters and linked repeater systems across New England, and the [New England Reflector System](#) was active on IRLP reflector 9123, *EchoLink* *NEW-ENG* Node 9123. He said the VoIP system served to relay SKYWARN reports from across New England and as a pathway for NWS-Taunton to communicate with NWS-Gray, both directly and through NWS-Gray liaison Ken Grimmard, NIDOT.

"We continue to build a strong SKYWARN program for the NWS-Gray office," Macedo said. "These reports that we get from spotters are extremely helpful, and we had two operators -- Jerry Hume, KB1NHD, and David Lowe, KB1NJP -- at the office for much of the afternoon and evening."

SKYWARN currently has *EchoLink* and VHF/UHF capability at WX1GYX, noted Tom Berman, N1KTA, a forecaster at the NWS Gray office. Since NWS-Gray has no HF capability as yet, it requested NWS-Taunton to go to the Seagull Net on 3940 kHz to gather snowfall and weather condition reports, since the net covers much of Maine and New Hampshire. The reports were then delivered to NWS-Gray via *EchoLink*.

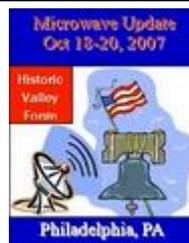
"Here is an example of how HF and *EchoLink*/IRLP communication can complement one another," Macedo said. Cold, dry conditions are expected over most of the US Northeast during the next few days.



Get Connected!

HARC will be starting a membership drive by contacting all hams who live in Philadelphia. That's about 960 hams! With the new rule changes we're hoping to attract hams to the Club and help them get radio active.

Mailing to that many hams is expensive. We've had 400 stamps donated so far. If you would like to cover the expense of a roll of stamps (39.00) contact WA3PZO. The stamps have already been purchased so money to offset the bill will be accepted.



Microwave Update 2007 sets schedule, issues first call for papers

-- Microwave Update 2007 will take place Thursday through Saturday, October 18-20, in historic Valley Forge Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, sponsored by the [Mt Airy VHF Radio Club](#).

Registration, accommodation and program information is available on the [Microwave Update 2007 Web site](#). Register by September 1 and save! Papers, articles and presentations are invited on topics related to microwave theory, construction, communication, deployment, propagation, antennas, activity, transmitters, receivers, components, amplifiers, communication modes, LASER and practical experiences are welcome. Submit abstracts in *MS-Word* or as a *PDF* by June 1 and completed papers, articles and presentations (diagrams, photos and illustrations preferably in black and white; color accepted) by August 15 to Paul Drexler, [W2PED](#), 28 W Squan Rd, Clarksburg, NJ 08510.

Volunteer Examiners - How long does it take?

Most of us have gotten our license by appearing at a Volunteer Examination Session. Here Volunteer Examiners administer the ham radio test to you.

Just what's involved?

Recently Perry Green, ARRL VEC Dept Asst Manager, explained that it takes three weeks from once the paperwork is received until the credentials are mailed out.

To walk through the process:

- VE candidates take an open book exam and mail it in to the ARRL VEC. (hint – fax it in and avoid the time in the mail)
- ARRL VE Dept reviews the exams several times during the month
- Candidates whose test have been reviewed and they were successful in passing the exam will receive a sealed VE badge and a certificate with their name.
- One ARRL Dept produces the VE badge while another ARRL Dept produces the certificates.
- These need to be married up to mail out to the new VEs

In special circumstances, a VE candidate may request that their exam be reviewed and scored. If their exam shows they are successful in passing, the ARRL VEC Dept will mail out a letter to them authorizing them to participate as an ARRL VE. If that is the case, please call Perry Green at the ARRL VEC Dept.

- Bill N3LLR



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

Next Meeting: Thursday February 22th, 2007.
8PM @ 8th District - Red Lion & Academy Rds.
2007 Membership - Have you paid your dues?



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

HARC, PO BOX 6253, 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 PO BOX 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-mail _____

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