

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club



March 2001

P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
146.685 Mhz Repeater -Packet BBS KB3BTF 145.030 Mhz
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>

Editor: WA3PZO

PREZ SAYS.....

HARC is on the move!...

We'll jump out of the gates last month with a successful 2 Meter Contest. The results are still being tabulated. Bad weather got in the way of the February meeting. Our drawing for the Icom HT will be at the March 29th meeting. In addition we'll have the presentation on the Clipperton DXpedition. Looking forward to the April 26th meeting we'll take a look at the New Digital Modes: PSK-31, MFSK and Beyond". Dennis Silage, K3DS, will bring a PSK-20, a 20 M single bander and a laptop with him. If you want to do a little advance reading check out an article by Dennis. On May 31 we'll have a working demo of the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) Network. Vic Tenaglia, N3IO (ex-KD3DE) will talk about this systems place in the evolution of "**Enhancing the Communications Art**" and "**Promoting International Goodwill**".

In operating events we will supply communications for the March of Dimes Walk-America on April 29th. Check out info on the new location. And if you're looking forward a little more remember Field Day is June 23-24.

We'll also be staffing tables at the Warminster hamfest on May 6 and the MARC hamfest on July 12.

Don't forget our nets on Wednesday night and Sunday morning. There is always something to do.

One World, One Language, Amateur Radio.

Marconi Challenge Comes to Philly.... Northeast Student a winner. (Info via ARRL)

In late February the College of Engineering at Temple University, Philadelphia, and its Amateur Radio club, The Temple University Amateur Radio Club, K3TU, the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's transatlantic wireless transmission by sponsoring a technical competition for high school and Temple undergraduate students. In 1901 Marconi succeeded in transmitting a radio signal across the Atlantic Ocean. The wavelength of the transmitted signal was approximately 1500 meters, and input power was measured in kilowatts. In contrast, the 2001 Temple University Marconi Challenge required contestants to transmit an infrared light signal at an approximate wavelength of 900 nanometers and power measured in milliwatts to a receiver at the greatest measurable indoor distance from the transmitter--likely in the same room as the transmitter!

First place in the high school competition was awarded to **Patrick Dahl, a junior at Northeast High School, Philadelphia**. His winning distance was 34 feet for a minimum discernable signal change of 10%. Anthony Matarazzo, director of the Southern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Club aerospace and medical magnet school program at Northeast High School, was Dahl's advisor. SPARC is home to W3YC, the oldest high school Amateur Radio station in the US.

"The Marconi Challenge gave our students a chance to see how electrical and optical systems could be combined to transmit a signal," said Matarazzo. "Ohm's law and focal length calculations made more sense to the students when the measurements they obtained could be applied directly in this competition."

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HARC Travels to Clipperton - Almost!

If you read the article on Clipperton 2000 in February *QST*, you will now have the opportunity to see the video. Thanks to Jay, WA3IFY, HARC will be presenting a program on the remote Island operation. Learn some history of the island from Magellan in 1523 to the U.S. Navy's occupation during World War II. Come to the Club meeting Thursday March 29 at the Naval ASO. Time is 8 PM.

MARCH-APRIL ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATERDAY
25 CQ WW WPX Contest, phone 10 Meter Net 9a	26	27 Chaverim 9pm	28 CW Practice: 7:30 Members net: 8:00	29 HARC MEETING 8pm	30	31 Baltimore Hamfest
1 April Baltimore Hamfest 10 Meter Net 9a	2	3 Chaverim 9pm	4 CW Practice: 7:30 Members net: 8:00	5	6	7 QCWA QSO Party
8 QCWA QSO Party 10 Meter Net 9a	9 VHF/UHF Spring Sprints	10 Chaverim 9pm Board Mtg - 8p	11 CW Practice: 7:30 Members net: 8:00	12	13	14
15 10 Meter Net 9a	16	17 Chaverim 9pm	18 CW Practice: 7:30 Members net: 8:00	19	20	21 Michigan QSO Party
22 Michigan QSO Party 10 Meter Net 9a	23	24 Chaverim 9pm	25 CW Practice: 7:30 Members net: 8:00	26 HARC MEETING 8pm	27	28
29 WalkAmerica 10 Meter Net 9a	30	1 May Chaverim 9pm	2 CW Practice: 7:30 Members net: 8:00	3	4	5

*Dates to Note: March 29 HARC meeting - Travel to Clipperton Island via HARC Tours.
Drawing for the Icom HT
April 26 HARC Meeting - PSK and other Digital Modes*

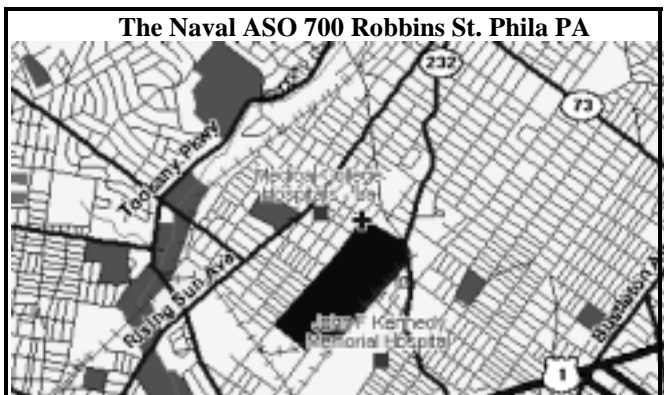
H.A.R.C. Board Of Directors 2001
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H.A.R.C. Maintains a Web Page @www.harcnet.org
 All members Online can be emailed via theircallsign
 @harcnet.org. Articles, pictures etc. submitted for the
 newsletter should be in standard ASCII or MS Word,
 .jpg or .gif formats and E-mailed to the Editor no later
 than the 2nd Saturday to be included in the next edition!
WA3PZO@Harcnet.org.

H.A.R.C. Nets meet on 146.685 weekly
 The Chaverim Net: Tuesday @ 9:00 PM
 CW Practice: Wednesday @ 7:30 PM
 Members net: Wednesday @ 8:00 PM you can listen to
 the Amateur Newsline & ARRL audio reports.
 SSB Net on 28.450 +- mhz Sundays @ 9:00 AM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The board of directors
 meets on the 2nd Tues. @ 8:00 PM. General meetings
 are held the last Thurs. @ 8:00 PM.

+ Marks the boundary of the buildings, the actual
 entrance is located where Rt. 232 Intersects. Stop at the
 guardhouse and ask if you're not sure where to go...



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. Info@harcnet.org, the web
 page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC PO
 Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.



**HARC is an
 ARRL Special Service Club.**

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster DX Bulletin No. 502
March 12, 2001 Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW
Provided by BARF-80 BBS Cleveland, Ohio Selected news.

3W, VIETNAM

YL operator Aya, 3W2QAQ, was heard active on 21040 kHz at 0015z and on 7013 kHz at 1420z. Also heard was 3W2NY on 21245 between 0430 and 0530z. QSL via JH1MZG. Hans, 3W2LWS, continues to be very active on 15/20/40 meters CW between 1900 and 0130z. QSL via WA1LWS.

A4, OMAN

Chris, A45XR, has been playing on RTTY a lot on 40/20/15/10 meters during various times throughout the day. Check around 80 kHz from the band edge. QSL via P.O.B 2038, CPO 111 Oman.

H40, TEMOTU PROVINCE (Just One More)

Well known DXer Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, who usually travels/activates many locations in Pacific, informs OPDX that he will be activating the Temotu Province (OC-065). He expects to begin operations about March 21st for 3 weeks. His callsign most likely will be H40RW. H40 is ranked near 48 on the most wanted list. He will be on CW/SSB/RTTY with various antennas, but no amp. Ron states that his linear is too heavy to carry. His liaison during the operation is via Dick, N6FF, E-mail address: n6ff@tco.net
The QSL will be a special color card as this will probably be "his last DXpedition". Ron would like to encourage everyone to QSL direct to ZL1AMO CallBook address.

IOTA NEWS

AS-056. (Change in plans) Masa, JA6GXX, will be active from Danjo Archipelago (Meshima Island), April 10-20th (March 21-30th was cancelled). This is not a DXpedition, and he will only be active in his spare time. Activity will be on 40 meters, and 14260 or 21260 +/- 10kHz. QSL only via the Bureau.

EU-064. Jean Marc, F5SGI, will be active from Yep Island (Iles de la France Metropolitaine Award AT-021) as F5SGI/p from April 14-21st (instead of the 26th). Activity will be mainly on CW on all HF bands. QSL via F5SGI, direct or via REF French National Bureau.

EU-038. Once again the UBA section "NOK" will travel to Texel Island to take part in the 2001 IOTA Contest. During the last 2 years they were active using the callsign PA6TEX, but this year they are trying to apply for a shorter callsign and special prefix (PF,PC,PG), which they hope will satisfy prefix and IOTA hunters. As soon as they can, they will inform us of the callsign. Activity will be before and during the contest on all bands/modes. QSL via ON4ALW: Ronald "Ron" Van Aken, Kapelstraat 5, 2330 Merksplas, Belgium (or via UBA Bureau). Please do not send QSLs via the DUTCH QSL Bureau!!!

SA-077. A group of Brazilians will activate Franceses Island in the Santana Archipelago, which is located at the opposite side of the city of Macae in the east coast of the State of Rio de Janeiro from March 29th through April 1st, 2001. Operation will be around the clock on CW/SSB on 80-10 meters including the WARC bands, depending on propagation. Look for callsigns/ operators: PU1NEZ/p (Carl), PY1LVF/p (Zeca), PY1NEW/p (Pete) and

J3, GRENADA

Paul, W5PF, wants to remind everyone that he and Dee, W2HEO, will be active here March 30th through April 11th. Operations will be on 40-10 meters, CW/SSB. Special attention will be given to the WARC bands and the General Class portions of the phone band. Suggested frequencies are: **CW** - 7030, 14030, 18080, 21030, 24910 and 28030 kHz **SSB** - 7085*, 14185/14240, 18140, 21320, 24940 and 28440 kHz * Listening frequency to be announced!

Their J3 callsigns will be assigned upon arrival, but they are expected to be J3/W1HEO and J3/W5PF. QSL with SASE direct to their respective callbook addresses or via the bureau.

LX, LUXEMBOURG

Philippe, LX2AJ, will be signing with the special callsign LX7I during the CQ WPX SSB Contest as a Single/Op/Single Band 20 meters entry. QSL via LX2AJ: Philippe Luty, 6A, Sentier de Bricherhof, L-1262 Luxembourg. The log will be on the InterNet after the contest on the Web page: <http://dx.qsl.net/logs>

SPECIAL EVENT (50 YEARS FOR VRZA)

Wim Visch, PA3BIZ, Vice President of the VRZA, informs OPDX that "this year the V.R.Z.A. (Dutch Amateur Radio Society) celebrates its 50th anniversary. For this occasion a special award will be issued. To qualify for this award, one needs to contact at least four of the following special stations who will be on the air throughout the year 2001: PI50VRZ/A, PI50CQP/A, PI50V, PI50R, PI50Z and PI50A. Each week the callsigns PI50V, PI50R, PI50Z and PI50A will be assigned to 4 of the 18 clubstations participating in this event and shifting the next week to four other clubstations until the circle is closed going the whole year round. QSL needs to be sent via the regular clubstations callsign i.e. PI4(clubcall) so please ask, if you work a PI50(?), for the clubstations callsign. The stations will be on all bands all modes, also during contests etc.... A log file of the four stations you have heard/worked, signed by two other amateurs, and accompanied by 5 USD or equivalent will be sufficient to apply for the award. Send to the manager: Ben Horsthuis, PA0HOR, Fr. Halsstraat 95, 3781 EV VOORTHUIZEN, The Netherlands."

TX0, CHESTERFIELD ISLANDS

Jacky F2CW/ZK3CW, Dany F5CW/FK8VHY and two others operators will leave Noumea on April 24th and hope to arrive at Chesterfield on April 27th. They leave Chesterfield on May 2nd to head back to Noumea on May 6th. They hope to have 3 stations active for operating on 160-6 meters. They have requested the callsigns TX0C or TX5C.

TX5, NEW CALEDONIA

Look for FK8GM and FK8HC to sign with the callsign TX5G during the CQ WPX Contest.

VP5, TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

Dave/W5AO, along with husband/wife team Connie/K5CM and Pam/N5KW, will operate from the VP5B station on North Cacios Island from March 21st through April 5th. Each operator will sign out the contest VP5/homecall. They will operate 160-6 meters SSB/CW and will be active during the CQ WPX SSB Contest as VP5V.

Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest March 31 - April 1, 2001

Starting at 6 AM each day

This is always a favorite with HARC members. In addition to the hamfest various speakers are scheduled to make presentations during the 2 day event.

On Saturday Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, FCC Forum, Bob Heil, K9EID, The Science of Audio, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, Steve Ford, WB8IMY, Editor of QST on PSK31, and Boy Scouts of America demo ATV and digital modes. On Sunday, Taking Amateur Radio to the Inner City, W3OJ. To get to the Hamfest: Take I-695 to I-83 North. Take I-83 to Padonia Rd East. Take the first Right for Deereco Rd and the park and ride lot, or go east to York Rd, turn right, and go to the York Road gate.

Best bets for parking: The Park and Ride lot off Deereco Rd, to the west of the fairgrounds.

Also, the Timonium Rd gate has some parking available.

Further info at www.gbhc.org.

PSK31 AND DSP

By Dennis Silage K3DS

WHAT'S A RIGBLASTER?

(Sounds Kinda Scary, Right?)

(via *REMARCS*, Mid Atlantic ARC)

No, it isn't what happens when you reverse the red and black wires! West Mountain Radio's RigBlaster (see the ad, p. 159 of March *QST* and www.westmountainradio.com) is an interface that allows you to do all kinds of sound card digital modes using the software of your choice. The authors of DigiPan offer a similar device for sale on their Web site (members.home.com/hteller/digipan/). Unlike a TNC, these devices have no commands to remember or parameters to wrangle with. They connect between a computer com port and your rig's mic jack. It's fun to be on modes where everyone is on the learning curve. It must have been like that in the early days of ham radio, when pioneers were making it up as they went along.

A computer hobbyist before getting my ham license in 1983, I got on HF digital in the 80's with my Apple II+. I even made a couple of contacts on HF packet (ugh!). iuSteaml. RTTY with its two-tone deedles was the most fun, though. I can't remember why I dropped RTTY for 10 years or so, but I'm glad I came back. I use the Kantronics KAM Plus interface that's also my VHF packet TNC.

Because there's no error correction and only upper-case, QRM/QRN produces text like iiQTH IS PTVAKHSBUGH.I_ And you thought Klingons don't get on the ham bands!

For newer digital modes that work from the sound card, I use West Mountain Radio's RigBlaster interface. On PSK31, I use DigiPan software. On MFSK16, I use the IZ8BLY Stream program. Both are excellent and free of charge. A lot of shareware costs nothing and is worth half as much, but these programs are a whole other ball game. Top-notch stuff.

With the TNC on one COM port and rig control on another, I had to install a third COM port to host the RigBlaster. This was tricky but finally worked out OK with only a little pain and profanity. The next computer I get for the shack will have at least 3 COM ports installed and fully trouble-shot before I take it home!

I like the super-narrow bandwidth of PSK31, its ear-friendly chime sound, and its usefulness at extremely low power. I've worked Europe when the power output meter did not move at all! I've seen over a dozen QSOs in a passband 2.5 kHz wide, not QRMing each other. Amazing!

Recently I worked JY9NX on PSK31 split frequency. It's not like working CW or SSB split, where you use 2 VFOs or, in a pinch, the RIT. I set a marker on the Jys transmit frequency and another 1 kHz down where he was listening. Then I could click back and forth to transmit and listen. I'm sure there's a more elegant way to do it, but this worked! Remember the beepity-boopity i.computerli and inlaboratorylt noises in old science fiction movies? That's what MFSK16 sounds like! Even though it slows down the copy somewhat, MFSK16's forward error correction (FEC) is a nice feature. Extremely low power is effective on this mode, too. I enjoy DXing and award-hunting, and I want to earn Worked All States and DXCC on digital. Getting on PSK31 and MFSK16 in addition to Baudot RTTY has started me moving again towards those goals. Wallpaper, here I come!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NO CODE TECH

** The code-free Technician ticket is now ten years old. For the first time, starting in February 1991, applicants could obtain an Amateur Radio license in the U.S. without taking a Morse code examination.

The Technician license has proved popular over the years, and Technician and Tech Plus licensees far outnumber other license classes today. -ARRL

MANNED SPACE FLIGHT - 40 YEARS OLD

** Almost 40 years ago the world was rocked when the era of manned space flight began as Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin was launched into space onboard the Vostok-1 spacecraft by the (former) Soviet Union. The actual anniversary is April 12th. -Robert, G8ATE

PSK AWARD

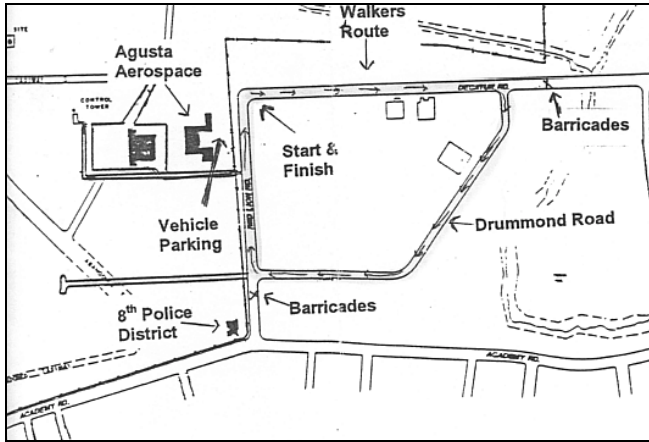
Greetings from the Penn-Ohio DX Society – Please pass the word to the PSK'ers in your group about our free Ø7Ø Club PSK award program. Info about the Ø7Ø Club can be found at our website <http://hometown.aol.com/n3dqu/podxs.htm>. 73 de N3DQU.



June 23-24, 2001

Always The Fourth

Full Weekend In June



March of Dimes WalkAmerica

The annual WalkAmerica will take place on Sunday, April 29 across the Philadelphia area. HARC will be supplying communications for the Northeast Philadelphia walk. This year the walk will be held near Red Lion and Academy Roads. We have been asked to be on site at 7:00 AM. The walk starts at 9:00 AM. The early start has been requested because of the new location. Walkers should be done the 1.5 mile route by 12:30 PM.

In previous years the event was held at Lincoln High School and went through Pennypack Park. Concerns about walkers spilling out into traffic prompted the change in location.

We'll need about 8 operators for the event. Early locations include Start/Finish (2), Water-stop(halfway), ambulance, pick-up golfcart, a walker with the pack,

The northeast walk raised \$56,000 last year to further the work of the March of Dimes which is saving babies. This year the goal is \$61,000. There were about 500 walkers in last year's event and they are expecting another 200-300 walkers this year. The event will take place rain or shine.

Florida QSO Party

The Florida QSO Party will take place on April 28-29. Phone and cw operation will be for a 10 hour period. If you are a county hunter this should provide a good opportunity to work all of Florida's 67 counties. For further information on the contest check out their web site www.qsl.net/fqp

Slow Speed Code Practice Net on 40 meters:

The Metro Amateur Radio Club's Slow Speed Code Practice Net meets on the second, third, and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 PM Central (currently 0100 UTC) on 7.138 MHz. Listen for "CQ MAC" and send your call sign at your speed. The net will QRS to match the speed of the slowest op. FISTS members are free to exchange numbers with other participants. NCS is Philip, K9PL. For more information, visit the MAC Web site, <http://www.qsl.net/mac>. (ARRL)

ARRL SEEKS TO EXPAND AMATEUR ACCESS TO 216-220 MHz

(ARRL Letter) The ARRL has suggested that the FCC expand the secondary amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz to provide hams with access to the entire 216-220 MHz band. The League commented this month in response to a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ET Docket 00-221, that proposes to reallocate 27 MHz of spectrum in various bands, including 216-220 MHz, from government to non-government use.

In general, the FCC seeks to allocate the entire 216-220 MHz band to the Fixed and Mobile services on a primary basis. At 219-220 MHz, Amateur Radio now is secondary to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS). Within the 1-MHz of spectrum, amateurs may install and operate point-to-point digital message forwarding systems, including inter-city packet backbones, but only under strict limitations.

While the FCC has promised to protect AMTS and other operations from new interference, it extended no such assurances to amateur operations at 219-220 MHz. In its comments, the ARRL expressed fears that additional co-primary users "will essentially foreclose what limited opportunities there are now for amateurs to make use of the 219-220 MHz segment."

The League suggested that in the face of such potential constraints at 219-220 MHz, permitting amateur access to the entire 216-220 MHz band on a non-interference basis would be one means to accommodate Amateur Radio operations in that portion of the spectrum. Such a move would, the ARRL said, "provide at least some opportunity for amateurs to engineer fixed links into the band, which would not be possible in the 219-220 MHz segment alone."

Last month, in comments filed in PR Docket 92-257, the ARRL suggested letting amateurs submit computer-generated field strength contours that demonstrate a lack of interference potential to AMTS sites, in lieu of having to get written permission. In this proceeding, the ARRL further suggested that amateurs who proposed to operate in the 216-220 MHz band be allowed to use "fixed-distance separations" in lieu of the present consent requirements, as a means to demonstrate the absence of interference potential to AMTS and other co-primary users. A copy of the ARRL's comments in ET Docket 00-221 is available on the ARRL Web site,

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et00221/index.html>

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION S ACT OF 2001 INTRODUCED

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 is now officially HR 817. Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida introduced the bill on March 1 in the US House of Representatives. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, visited the Congressman's office to thank him personally for his continuing interest in protecting amateur allocations.

The measure has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The bill seeks to amend the Communications Act of 1934 by requiring the FCC to make no reallocation of primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite allocations, diminish any secondary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite allocations, or make additional allocations within amateur allocations that would substantially reduce their utility without also providing equivalent replacement spectrum.

Early this month, a contingent of ARRL officials went to Washington for a three-day round of visits with senators and congressmen and their staff members. Haynie and Harrison also visited the FCC, where they spoke with Peter Tenhula, Chief of Staff to FCC Chairman Michael Powell.

Haynie was upbeat about the impact of the visits. "Once again we had an opportunity to tell our story about Amateur Radio and the important function it serves, especially in public service and education," he said.

PA HAM PICKS UP PEN - HAVE YOU?

The following is a letter I sent to Congressman Paul Kanjorski: I believe that if this bill is to pass we have to flood Congress with e mail. This legislation is introduced every year and dies at the end of the year. I really believe it's because we hams are not doing enough to pressure our elected reps. Feel free to use my letter as a guide.

The following is a web site which contains the e mails for most members of Congress:

<http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/>

73' Bob, WB3DYE

Dear Congressman Kanjorski:

I am asking that you support the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 and become a co sponsor of the legislation.

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001, HR 817. Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida introduced the bill on March 1 in the US House of Representatives.

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their utility without also providing equivalent replacement spectrum.

As you know amateur radio operators have assisted communities countless times in the face of disaster when "normal" lines of communications are not available. The importance of amateur radio is underlined by the fact that it is aboard the International Space Station. Many of the astronauts are amateur radio operators and have been busy establishing contacts with schools giving students an opportunity to ask questions of our space pioneers.

Regards,

Robert Reynolds
73 New Alexander St
Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18702
WB3DYE
cc: Pa Delegation

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Mar 31-Apr 1 Greater Baltimore Hamboree, Timonium, MD
Apr 29 Pen-Del ARC, Newcastle, DE
May 6 Antietam Radio Assn, Hagerstown, MD
May 6 Warminster ARC, Wrightstown, PA
Jun 1 - 3 Rochester Hamfest/Atlantic Division Convention, RARA, Rochester, NY
Jun 9 Columbia-Montour ARC, Bloomsburg, PA (EPA Section Convention)
July 15 - Mid-Atlantic ARC, Kimberton, PA

HARC GOES TO THE HAMFEST

HARC will have a table at the Warminster ARC and the Mid-Atlantic ARC hamfests this year. We'll be promoting the Club as well as having some space for Club members goodies. Interested in helping out contact N3LXN or WA3PZO. The more people helping out, the less time anyone will have to spend at the table.

HARC LOOKS AT DONATING BOOKS TO LIBRARY

At the March Board meeting WA3PZO commented that during recent visits to several libraries in the Northeast he noticed the books on ham radio were out of date. The suggestion was made that HARC donate several books to update the library collection. Books would be donated as the Club raised/collected funds via donations or other events. There will be a need to talk to the library to see if they will accept them. Some suggestions of books to donate include ARRL's Now Your Talking (\$19), Technician Q&A (\$12.95), Best of New Ham Companion (\$12), and Ride the Airwaves with A&Z(\$14.95). Books would have HARC info in them. This would be an on-going project as funds became available. If you're interested in helping out or contacting a library contact WA3PZO.

Radio-control Clocks Are Officially Accurate and Set Themselves for Daylight Savings Time

(The following is a press release sent to HARC from Atomix clocks.)

Think about this: the website for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, official timekeeper for the United States, gets more than 40 million hits every day for time updates. Its voice line gets more than 1 million calls annually. And that doesn't include all the local time lines that people call for time checking. It is said that as individuals we look at our clocks and watches on average twice per every waking hour every day.

With 16 waking hours each day that is a lot of time checking and coordination. Then ask yourself, how important is your time? And, how easy is it for you to keep track of it? In today's technological world, the demands upon our time are constant, with the very technologies designed to make our personal and professional lives more convenient, i.e.: phone, fax, pager, internet, email, and voicemail, often serving to hasten deadlines and create greater pressures.

Tracking time has become critically important to businesses that must turn on a dime and to individuals who struggle to maintain fast and full schedules. Only one method of timekeeping-timepieces that synchronize to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) atomic clock in Boulder, Colorado-ensures perfect time in the simplest way possible. Synchronized clocks contain a tiny am radio antenna that receives updates via radio waves throughout the day and synchronizes them to the NIST atomic clock. In fact, the clocks set themselves, change time for daylight saving time, never need to be reset after power outages, and provide for quick and easy changes between time zones. In 1967 the second, as determined by the atomic clock, was formally redefined as the international unit of time, but it is only within the last several years that the technology to synchronize with the clock has become affordably accessible to consumers.

Collier Smith, public affairs specialist for NIST, said he can't predict when, but imagines that as the price of this synchronization technology gets even lower, most other devices which include clocks will begin to incorporate radio-controlled technology, i.e. video cassette recorders, thermostats, ranges, etc., putting nearly perfect time into the homes of all Americans.

One recent synchronized, atomic time convert is self-professed 'gadget guy' Bill Boggs, Human Resources Performance Consultant with Boeing, in Wichita, Kansas. Boggs originally learned about radio-controlled clocks on a late-night radio show and was enticed by the ease of operation in not having to change the clocks, or worry about their precision. He now owns five of these clocks plus one watch and enjoys giving them as gifts. Time-enthusiast Boggs says he's enjoyed the accuracy and durability of his synchronized clocks and even got rid of his Rolex because he complained it didn't keep accurate enough time.

Art Steffen who works for Anderson Perry & Associates, a civil engineering firm in La Grand, Oregon, recently purchased six of these clocks for his firm so that everyone in the firm would have the exact same time. "As engineers we are very detail and precision oriented, so these clocks are perfect for us. We just like knowing that we have the absolutely correct time," said Steffen. "Having these clocks has eliminated the need for us to go around the office every two weeks to adjust all the clocks to the same time."

"The benefits of our clocks that self-synchronize to the atomic clock are so easy to grasp that once you have one you want to give one to everyone you know," says Bridget Haggerty, manager of marketing communications for the Chaney Instrument Co. which makes the Atomix(line of synchronized clocks. "I speak with customers almost every day. Many of them buy multiple clocks to get their own time systems precisely synchronized and then feel that everyone should have these clocks. Some people have bought as many as eight or ten for their friends and family."

Chaney Instrument Co., Lake Geneva, WI, leads the industry in bringing synchronized technology to the U.S. with its Atomix(line of timepieces which feature a patented new motor that ensures perfect time at a price that is perfect as well, often under \$30 at mass retailers. In fact, Wal-Mart offers a model for only \$19.99. The Atomix(line of clocks and watches also features a deactivation capability for states without daylight saving time.

Time-tracking enthusiasts can find more information on time and timekeeping including a chronology of tracking time, from sundials and lunar calendars to pendulum clocks and quartz watches on many websites devoted to time, including museum site that explore the history of time, biological time, time tracking and more.

Discovery Channel-

www.discovery.com/area/skinnyon/skinnyon970129/skinny1

Chicago Museum of Science and Industry Time Exhibit-www.msichicago.org/exhibit/time/index.html

National Institute of Standards and Technology-www.time.gov

TimeandDate.com - a guide to time zones calendars and more-www.timeanddate.com

Atomix clocks and watches-www.atomixtime.com

How Stuff Works - How Time Works-

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/time.htm>

Clockwork Genes - Discoveries in Biological Time Howard Hughes Medical

Institute-www.hhmi.org/grants/lectures





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