



March 2018

# 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>



## Paper Chasing - Certificates March 15

### HARC MEETING March 15

Last month's meeting focused on electronic logging and qso confirmations via LOTW and EQSL. This month we'll look at some of the certificates you can get. Rich, K3UJ, will talk about qsl confirmations that are in the form of a certificate. According to K1BV, the Awards columnist for CQ Magazine there are very short term awards that are only offered over a few days, annual or short term awards that are offered yearly, and permanent awards that are issued on an ongoing basis. Check out K1BV's website at <https://www.dxawards.com>.

HARC offers a long term award for getting on the air.



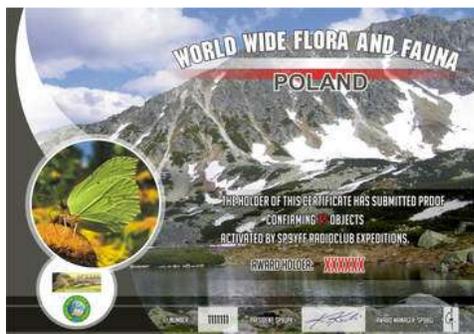
Congratulations to  
SAMPLE

For making a confirmed contact  
with amateur radio operators in

Special Endorsement:

Presented by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, WM3PEN,

## Pennsylvania 67 Challenge



### ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its *Petition*. "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League's proposal.

ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a "periodic rebalancing" between those two objectives, the League maintains.

"There has not been such a rebalancing in many years," ARRL said in its petition. "It is time to do that now." The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005. (cont. pg 4)

## HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Saul Brody, W3WHK

Secretary - Steve Miller, KC3AZT

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Rich Shivers, K3UJ  
Sol Volen, N3UBY

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO  
WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 3rd. Thursday @8:00 PM. Pathway Bldg, Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road at Tabor Rd . Phila PA. 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 Meeting – April 19*  
*HARC Meeting – May 17*

## 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

Phil-Mont 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**, Monthly, Last Mon. 7:00 pm at the Wilson Senior Community Center 580 Delmont Avenue Warminster, PA 18974.

George Brechmann (215) 443-5656.

Mid-Atlantic ARC provides VE Test Sessions quarterly on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 0900 and hosted by the Lower Providence Township Building. The VE Test Sessions are coordinated by Dick Stewart [K3ITH](mailto:K3ITH).

## 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))

## **Stamps, Stamps, and More Stamps for SFTW**

2016 turned out to be a banner year for HARC's participation in the Stamps for the Wounded Program. Over 31 pounds of stamps were collected and shipped to the SFTW program. While the numbers were down last year we had a record number of people contribute to the program and a number of repeat contributors. Thanks to all. We have had many inquiries about SFTW from the 13 Colonies event. The collected stamps are distributed to various centers around the country to help with physical and occupational therapy programs for our wounded vets.

### **Interested in Going Digital?**

Mark, KC3JV, has an offer for anyone who owns an Icom rig and is interested in trying PSK31 or RTTY.

If you have any of the following ICOM RIGS: 703, 703 Plus, All versions of the 706, 718, 7000, 7200, 73000 and the 9100 and wants to try PSK 31 or RTTY, Mark has the cable, stand alone Modem, Mini Keyboard and external power (Wall wart or Battery) and memory card for recording QSOs. and INSTRUCTIONS. NO COMPUTER is necessary Modem has its own display. It is compact enough to use from a beach chair. Just supply any of the above rigs and it's yours to try. It is available to all club members to try. Contact Mark, KC3JV.

### **Fly Signal Fly**

If you are interested in operating on the satellites here is a group project for those interested. Mark, KC3JV, has an inexpensive antenna that will let you make a contact via the various amateur radio satellites.

Mark indicates that we can work in teams to build the antenna. We will need one team to make up the RG 58U cable with ring terminals. Another team will use the clothes hangers and cut the 2M elements the other will cut the 440 elements

Another team will bag all the screws and bolts and compass. Finally, the last team will drill the boom.

Mark will take care of marking up the boom. I will cut it to length and use my router to make the handle end. The biggest expense is the 8 ft of good quality RG-58U and the proper SMA or BNC connector.

Each member who buys a kit will be sent home with all the parts and predrilled boom. for final assembly at home.

This could be a building project and then get together in the field to aim for the sky. We'll talk about it at the Club meeting. For more information on the antenna go to:

[http://www.amateurradio.bz/4\\_dollar\\_satellite\\_antenna.html](http://www.amateurradio.bz/4_dollar_satellite_antenna.html)

### **In May we will put together the LEO FM Satellite antenna:**

All that are interested should save 11 wire hangers from a cleaners or purchase them. All that are interested should send a check to HARC for \$12 to cover the cost of the RG 58U coax, hardware,(screws washers, ring terminals. wood handle and clips)

Those interested should say if they want a male or female SMA, or BNC fitting for the COAX.

Everyone will be send home with a predrilled handle, cut elements for the antenna and all hardware necessary to assemble at home. They must have a screwdriver.

### **HARC About to Turn 40!**

**HARC** will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2018. How would you like to celebrate it? We have archives of information and photos of the club. Should we have a party? Should we do something special? Let any of the Board members know your thoughts.

## 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.



### 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. For further info check out [www.harcnet.org](http://www.harcnet.org).

### ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees (cont from Pg 1)

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific, data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic that includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

“The Committee’s analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago,” ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 378,000, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL said that after 17 years of experience with the current Technician license as the gateway to Amateur Radio, it’s urgent to make it more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education “that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service,” ARRL asserted.

ARRL said its proposal is critical to developing improved operating skills, increasing emergency communication participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

“ARRL requests that the Commission become a partner in this effort to promote Amateur Radio as a public benefit by making the very nominal changes proposed herein in the Technician class license operating privileges,” the petition concluded. (via ARRL Letter)

Remember the FCC has not issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making as we went to press. Now is the time to study the proposal and think about the impact on the amateur radio service. There have been changes over the years: Novices being crystal controlled, Technicians only on VHF and above. Power limits, etc.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Charter Day – March 11

On March 11, HARC celebrated Pennsylvania's Charter Day. Thanks to the efforts of Saul, W3WHK, and Rich, K3UJ, WM3PEN was on the air. Band conditions were not great, but contacts were made.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Warminster Hamfest

May 19<sup>th</sup> – Centennial Celebration of the Nation's 1<sup>st</sup> Regularly Scheduled Airmail Delivery

June 3 – Pennypack History Day

June 23 -24 – Field Day

July 1 – 7 - 13 Colonies Special Event

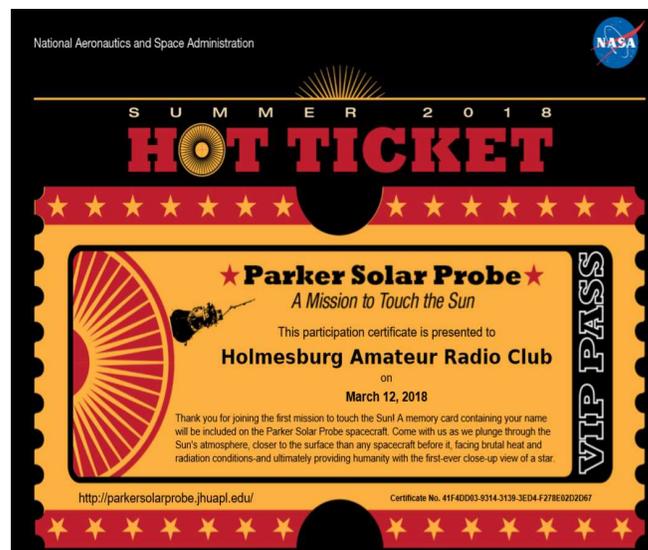
**March Noreasters cause power outages, trees down, and antenna damage.**

The Philadelphia area got hit with a one-two punch as 2 strong Noreasters reeked havoc on the area. HARC members were not spared. As we went to press 4 members reported antenna damage. WA3ERQ said his folded dipole was taken down by the snow. N3ZZK said his driven element on his beam is bending from the snow. He also lost a dual bander off of the tower. He found it laying on the roof. KB3AKK's Gap vertical is now horizontal. WA3PZO's dual band vertical is set up for the satellites. Needless to say once the weather breaks there will be a few antenna parties.



## Where are the sun spots?

Many HARC members want to know where the sunspots are hiding. Well thanks to NASA intrepid HARC members now have a ticket to explore the sun.



Parker Solar Probe will swoop to within 4 million miles of the sun's surface, facing heat and radiation like no spacecraft before it. Launching in 2018, Parker Solar Probe will provide new data on solar activity and make critical contributions to our ability to forecast major space-weather events that impact life on Earth.

Parker Solar Probe is an extraordinary and historic mission exploring arguably the last and most important region of the solar system to be visited by a spacecraft to finally answer top-priority science goals for over five decades.

But we don't do this just for the basic science.

One recent study by the National Academy of Sciences estimated that without advance warning a huge solar event could cause two trillion dollars in damage in the US alone, and the eastern seaboard of the US could be without power for a year.

In order to unlock the mysteries of the corona, but also to protect a society that is increasingly dependent on technology from the threats of space weather, we will send Parker Solar Probe to touch the sun.

**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

**March 19 - Club meeting**

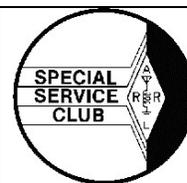
**Certificate Chasing**



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
2018 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 # \_\_\_\_\_ Would you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? \_\_\_\_

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

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