



April 2003

The HARC Spark

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

Celebrating Our 25th year of Serving the Philadelphia Area
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Editor: WA3PZO

PREZ SAYS!

Well this is it. The night we've been waiting for and dreaming about. If you don't know what I'm talking about where have you been? I've been thinking about how I would like to leave the next meeting with a shiny, new HT in my hands, and if you haven't figured it out yet this meeting someone will. It might as well be me I bought my ticket. If you haven't got yours there is still time before the drawing Thursday night. But seriously, now I would like to thank everyone for helping fund much needed repairs and additions to the repeater. [PL in the not to distant future and hopefully a new voter ASAP]

Hope everybody is looking forward to spring and the schedule of events all lined up this year. Hope to see everybody at the meeting but I still hope that I win the HT!

73 for now. Mike N3LXN



IN THIS ISSUE!



- ✓ Next Meeting - March 27
- ✓ Delaware Valley Simplex Contest Update
- ✓ Ham Class Update
- ✓ Fox Hunting Info
- ✓ Radio over Iraq
- ✓ Upcoming Events

HARC MEETING 8PM THURSDAY, MARCH 27 8TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION

On March 27th we'll be mixing it up a bit. Of course the main interest will be in the drawing for a new Icom Triband radio. In addition we'll be talking about some of the amateur radio news coverage around the world. We'll discuss some of the latest news of amateur radio and the War. Leading the discussion will be CQ's Public Service Editor WA3PZO, a veteran reporter on amateur radio during times of war.

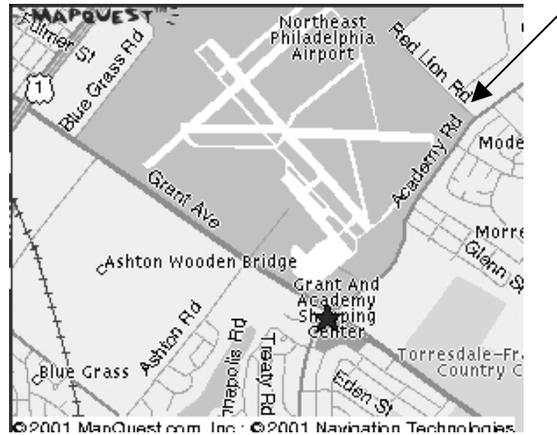


**Radio commentator
Paul Harvey plugs ham
radio's emergency
communications role**

(Mar 21, 2003) -- Veteran ABC Radio Networks commentator Paul Harvey on March 19 offered some kind words for Amateur Radio. The mention was the second item on "page four" of his *Paul Harvey Noon News and Comment* program: *"America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies--amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes. After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public."* The commentary's enigmatic and mysterious final sentence --typical of Harvey's habit of leaving his listeners hanging-- apparently refers to the fact that many Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Emergency Service (RACES) teams have ramped up their alert status as hostilities get under way in the Middle East. (ARRL)

H.A.R.C. Board Of Directors 2003
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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 1ST of month to be included in the next edition! **Send info to 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 Thursday @ 8:00 PM. General meetings are held the 3rd Thursday @8:00 PM.
8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd.
Phila PA EXCEPT AS ANNOUNCED



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.**



Is this guy a fox?

Reports have been received that W3CI has been heard on the HARC repeater. Late last year the Federal Communications Commission ordered Kornwell H. Chan, W3CI, off the air. According to the FCC, Chan submitted his amateur radio license to the Commission and agreed not to operate until September 1, 2003. "This was in settlement of an enforcement action against you for malicious interference." The FCC went on to say "Monitoring information before the Commission indicates that on November 6, 2002 you were operating on 147.195 MHz between 7 and 8 a.m. Please be advised that any further incidents of operation before September 1, 2003, will result in enforcement action against you, including license revocation **and re-instatement of the monetary forfeiture that was levied against you.**"

If you hear W3CI on the air, please make a note of the date and time and any activity (contact, etc) and send a note to the club, a board member, or email to WM3PEN@harcnet.org.

Will ham radio be shut down by war?

Some amateurs have been wondering if the FCC will shut down Amateur Radio now that there is war in the Middle East. The short answer is "no." Just prior to the Gulf War, §214.4(b)(4) of Title 47 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* was deleted. This section had mandated the closing of all Amateur Radio stations except Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations in the event that the president proclaimed a war or national emergency. The last time Amateur Radio was shut down was during World War II. While the Amateur Radio Service will not automatically be shut down if the president invokes the War Powers Act, Amateur Radio licensees must continue to observe any directives the FCC may issue in the interests of national security and of making spectrum available for government use. The FCC is directed to work in coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to issue "appropriate rules, regulations, orders and instructions" for use of the spectrum "as may be necessary to ensure the effective use of those portions of the radio spectrum shared by government and non-government users." Amateurs share most UHF spectrum with the US government.

2003 DELAWARE VALLEY FM SIMPLEX CONTEST A Night of Fun!



The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club of Philadelphia held its third annual Delaware Valley FM Simplex Contest on March 8, 2003. This year the Contest included 2 Meter FM Simplex and the 440 MHz FM band. With so many people having dual band radios this was a natural progression for the contest. The change in date avoids a conflict with the Delaware QSO Party.

Participation was down from last year but that didn't stop those operating from having fun! HARC members N3LXN and WA3PZO kept WM3PEN

on the air. Using the 146.685 input antennas in Abington, stations were worked up to 90 miles away. One fun part was chasing a roving mobile station, KV2R, through South Jersey. KV2R moved methodically from zip code to zip code racking up points with each station that he worked. As a roving station you get a new point from each zip code. Philadelphia has many zip codes. This could be a fun event for a winter night!

H.A.R.C. Fox Hunt Season is Open

By Bob, KB3SM

Greetings members of H.A.R.C. the official spring opener of our Fox Hunt Season was March 16th. It began Sunday at our usual meeting location, Woodhaven and Knights Roads in the Shopping Plaza Parking area. As with most of our hunts this one had a minor glitch we could not hear the hidden FOX*... We called him on another repeater and asked him to move to another spot, he did and was barely heard with a hand held 3 element beam, but we got a general heading and off we went. After about 20 minutes or so heading south on I-95 the signal began to increase and the Doppler boxes began their work. If you haven't seen a Doppler in action come along for a ride with one of the hunters next time! For all practical purposes a Doppler Box can be very effective tracking RF... All of the current H.A.R.C. hunters have one form of Commercial or Home brewed Dopplers, plus an array of other Gear**. Let me point out that Dopplers are not 100% perfect and can be fooled and tricked by RF black holes, reflections, ghosts, names used to describe getting LOST. It can send you running around in circles or 180 degrees in the opposite direction. It's all caused by buildings, trees etc... terrain is critical. This is when some practical experience comes in handy, using a combination of gear you can usually get within visual contact of the FOX*. This weeks winner at

about 40 minutes was Dick W3BMA. He was first in, shortly followed by Mike, N3LXN and Bob, KB3SM. You must be there to see what goes on to appreciate it and see if you can get bitten by the bug lots of fun and a certificate goes to the winner. We try to schedule a hunt every other Sunday as practical. Our hunt is basically a no rules first in wins... hunt, the FOX* hides somewhere west of the Delaware River in a mobile. He is set up with our FOX Box a 5 watt FM transmitter that sends audio Morse ID, VVV DE K3FI/3 HARC FOX HUNT HI. On 145.600 mhz From what we have determined so far a range of some 15 + square miles can be covered from our starting point. Our next hunt scheduled should be on 03.30.03. If you need info Email kb3sm@harcnet.org for any help or check out the Web Page for some Fox Hunt details and pictures <http://www.harcnet.org> .

*FOX = a Ham Op running a hidden device transmitting a signal from a mobile / portable location it can vary in operational preferences.

**Gear = many tracking items, directional antennas, attenuators, maps, compass, Doppler etc...

We are always looking to help someone get started and new comers are welcome to join the hunts...

Good hunting 73 de KB3SM Bob

Columbia Data Recorder Found

Columbia accident investigators found a key flight data recorder near Hemphill, Texas. The device could shed new light on what was happening to the spacecraft before it disintegrated over east Texas on Feb. 1. Seven astronauts, 3 of them amateur radio operators, were lost in the accident.

About the size of a bread box, the instrument uses magnetic tape to record data such as temperatures, pressures, vibrations, acceleration, electrical currents and strains on the vehicle. The recorder was recovered intact and taken to Johnson Space Center, where it must be cleaned up before determining how to get to the data without damaging it.

The recorder starts up about 10 minutes before the shuttle reaches the first traces of the upper atmosphere. Investigators believe it would have continued to run until the vehicle broke up.

To date, investigators have been forced to rely on telemetry data beamed back from the shuttle, video and photographs in attempt to piece together what destroyed the Columbia.

That information has helped NASA build a timeline of events as the orbiter crossed the southwestern United States on way to a planned landing at Kennedy Space Center.

Check out WA3PZO's Cover Story in April CQ on the amateur radio response to the Columbia Disaster.

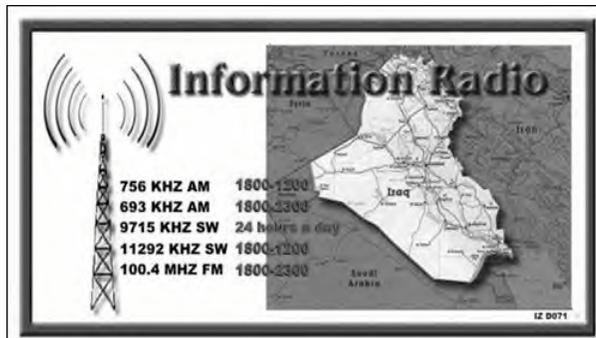
[Via AMSAT NEWS SERVICE & Florida Today.]

Radio Over Iraq

Last month we looked at the role ham radio has played in some of the tension areas of the world. This month we look at some radio transmissions over Iraq with a Pennsylvania connection. (All of this information is available on the web and is not jeopardizing any current operations.)

U.S. Psyop Radio Shifts Focus

By Nick Grace, ClandestineRadio.com March 4, 2003
The United States Central Command quietly shifted its psychological operations (psyop) broadcasts from the Iraqi military based in Southern Iraq to the Iraqi public. The shift, which went unreported by the mainstream press, signals a major development in military strategy that underscores the resolve of the Bush administration in seeking Baghdad's disarmament.



Information Radio, which is broadcast from the EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft, now targets the general public of Iraq. Approximately 360,000 newly redesigned leaflets advertising the program and its broadcast schedule, according to the Central Command, were dropped over the cities of An Nasiriyah, Rumaylah, and Al Basrah on March 1. The cities are located south of Baghdad within the southern "No Fly Zone" enforced by U.S. and U.K. coalition jets.

"In times of crisis," one of the new leaflets states, "Tune into 'Information Radio' for important news and information.

Coalition Forces Support the Iraqi people in their desire to remove Saddam and his Regime. The Coalition wishes no harm to the innocent Iraqi civilians."

Says another, "The Coalition stands with the Iraqi people against Saddam. For your safety stay in your homes away from military targets. The Coalition does not target civilians. Listen to Information Radio for more information."

Information Radio broadcasts, which began in mid-December 2002, previously aired messages urging Iraqi soldiers to "make the decision" and support efforts to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Its broadcasts, CRW has noted, were not intended for a civilian audience.

Listeners can monitor Information Radio on the following frequencies:

1500-2000 756, 693, 9715, 11292 kHz, 100.4 MHz.

PA National Guard Provides Service

(Global Specs Ops - <http://globalspecops.com/ec130.html>)

Commando Solo is an airborne electronic broadcasting system utilizing four EC-130E RivetRider aircraft operated by the 193rd Special Operations Group, Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Commando Solo conducts psychological operations and civil affairs broadcast missions in the standard AM, FM, HF, TV and military communications bands. Missions are flown at maximum altitudes possible to ensure optimum propagation patterns. This system may also be used to: Support disaster assistance efforts by broadcasting public information and instruction for evacuation operations. Other requirements, which involve radio and television broadcasting in its frequency, range.



Transmitters

A total of six transmitters cover the frequency range of 450 KHz to 350 MHz. These transmitters are capable of high output power and several modes of operation. Significant advantages of these transmitters are that the parameters of the transmission can be adjusted to coincide with established telecommunication standards. Transmission frequencies can be discrete, which is to say transmissions will not interfere with adjacent frequencies or channels.

Transmitting Antennas

Commando Solo utilizes nine fixed antennas for WE transmissions and one adjustable-length trailing wire for the MH and HF operations. The single trailing wire antenna limits the system to one transmission at a time in the MF/HF bands. Radiation patterns of all antennas show signal strength greatest at points broadside to the aircraft, and nulls in signal strength at points forward and aft of the aircraft.

Effective Radiated Power

The ERP of a specific transmission will depend on the combination of the power of the transmitter, line loss between the transmitter and antenna, and the efficiency and gain of the associated antenna. Commando Solo transmission line loss varies between 0 dB and 1.5 dB.

ARRL Membership – A Bargain

My ARRL dues cost me \$39.00 a year. That is 11 cents a day. Nothing else I buy costs me 11 cents. So what can I get for 11 cents today?:

- o If I shop carefully, 11 cents will buy me a couple of minutes talking on the telephone out of state
- o 11 cents is no longer enough to make a pay-phone call
- o 11 cents will pay for a good size sip of the coffee I buy every morning on the way to work
- o 11 cents will buy me a bite of a donut if I share it
- Or I can take that 11 cents and pay for my share of the things that ARRL will do today:
 - o The awards that are issued today
 - o The contest logs that are checked and a few paragraphs of writeup for the contest article
 - o The teachers that our educational folks talk to today about ham radio in the classroom
 - o The time and money to send the brochures to the Section Manager for his/her next hamfest
 - o The time and support for an ARRL-sanctioned hamfest
 - o HQ staff will help a few affiliated clubs with information, advice or materials
 - o The staff time to put some of the SM news up on the ARRL web page
 - o Headquarters staff will write a few pages of one of the several newsletters that come from ARRL HQ
 - o The work ARRL does every day to communicate with frequency coordinators
 - o The support of the OOs and other enforcement volunteers
 - o The support of all the OTHER field organization volunteers
 - o The work done today to register hams for the on-line courses and to get the next course ready
 - o The dozens of updates that HQ staff will make to the web pages today
 - o Don't forget the thousands of site visits made by hams and other interested people
 - o The QST, QEZ and NCJ editors will finish a few pages of their magazines today
 - o ARRL's news editors will do the research on an important news story
 - o The League's media public relations staff will work with a newspaper or broadcast station on a story about amateur radio
 - o The public relations people will also put together a few pages of its Media PR newsletter, sent to hundreds of media contacts
 - o Our international liaison will talk with one of the IARU sister societies about some common interest for the good of amateur radio
 - o The Book Team editors will finish editing a few dozen pages for the next book
 - o ARRL's Graphic Arts department will finish a number of figures for the magazines and books
 - o The Production Department will typeset a number of book and magazine pages
 - o The Production staff will also prepare a number of those pages for ARRL's CD ROM product.
 - o The ARRL VEC will coordinate a few dozen VE sessions

- o The VEC will answer a few dozen more member or VE-team questions
 - o ARRL's Technical Department Secretary will make a few dozen reprints or template copies for members
 - o The Lab staff will answer a few dozen technical questions
 - o The Lab's test engineer will perform a few dozen tests on a product review radio or talk to a manufacturer about testing issues
 - o The RFI staff will answer a half-dozen RFI questions, write a letter to a power company and prepare a case to go the FCC
 - o The ARRL DC staff will write a few pages of report, plan or attend a meeting with the government and plan or attend an overseas meeting to help protect amateur spectrum
 - o All across the country, the ARRL officers and directors will talk to members about ARRL and amateur radio
 - o All across the country, the ARRL Section Managers will do the same
 - o Thousands of ARRL volunteers will donate their time to do the job amateur radio has asked them to do
- I am sure that others associated with ARRL can add to this list that just came off the top of my head. This is the sort of thing that ARRL does day in and day out, every day, nationally at Newington, CT and in the Washington, DC office, internationally through ARRL work with the IARU and ITU and locally and regionally through our elected Board and Field Organization.
- What has more value to me, the bite of that donut, or the ever-growing list of the very real and important things done by ARRL and its volunteers every single day?
- My wife tells me I should eat fewer donuts anyway!
- 73,
Ed Hare, W1RFI
ARRL Lab
-

New Ham Class Update

Unfortunately things didn't work out at NTR for a spring class. No one signed up. We believe there was an advertising problem on NTR's side. So HARC is looking into an offer from the Mt. Airy Learning Tree Center to teach a course there in the fall. More details when they become available.

March of Dimes WalkAmerica Sunday, April 27th

Set aside April 27th for the next March of Dimes WalkAmerica. HARC has provided communications for this event for the past few years and we expect to be doing it again. Operators will be needed from approximately 8-12 Noon. If you are interested in helping with communications, contact N3LXN or WA3PZO.



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

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING MARCH 27

MEETING: 8TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION

DATE: MARCH 27, 2003

TIME: 8:00 PM

LOCATION: 8TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION



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The HARC Spark E-xtra

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Editor: WA3PZO

Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell proclaimed March 16-22 as Weather Emergency Preparedness Week.

During the statewide observance, county and local officials tested plans and procedures for response to severe weather conditions throughout the week.

"Severe weather can be dangerous and unpredictable," said Gov. Rendell. "Residents, businesses and government officials must understand the potential impact of severe weather conditions and then be prepared to respond if those conditions occur. Throughout the week, state, county and community elected officials, emergency managers and responders across the Commonwealth will review plans and test procedures to prepare for possible severe weather this spring and summer."

The weeklong activities included community-based public information programs, a three-day exercise and a statewide test of the Emergency Alert Systems (EAS) network. According to Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Director David M. Sanko, the statewide exercise allowed county emergency managers to work with schools, nursing homes, hospitals and day care centers across the state to test and review emergency response plans under non-emergency conditions for severe weather problems, as well as using it as an "all hazards" exercise. "By taking an 'all hazards' approach to this exercise, we're able to apply this training to any emergency situation," Director Sanko said. "This level of preparedness translates directly into lives saved and property protected."

An "all hazards" approach calls for an initial response based on the threat posed by the event, not the event itself. This is possible because many events, though widely different in nature, create similar risks to lives and property.

PEMA and the National Weather Service (NWS) issued exercise-based weather reports of developing conditions. This information was carried over usual weather forecast outlets as well as the Amateur Radio Operator's -- Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) with a statement that it is part of the exercise.

In addition to the 67 county emergency management coordinators, 501 school districts, more than 300 hospitals and 600 nursing homes, and all day care centers across the state were invited to participate in the weeklong activities. Severe weather triggered six presidentially declared major disasters in Pennsylvania in 1996, then a national record, as well as three declared flood disasters in one month during

1999. Floods and record-breaking snowstorms have caused more than a billion dollars in damage and loss to residents, businesses and local governments. More than \$600 million in state and federal disaster assistance was paid to help victims repair property, replace possessions and restore essential municipal services in the past six years.

ROCK-MITE NIGHT A BIG SUCCESS

Eighteen persons from four area clubs met at the Monroe County Vo-Tech School on Wednesday, March 12, to begin construction of the great little Rock-Mite kits. In addition to those who were building, there were at least a half dozen "helpers" and several people who just came in to watch. The helpers included Jerry, N3SEI from EPARA; Goody, K3NG from CARC; Mike, KB3HMR; Al Owen from the NJQRP; K3NZ from DELARC, and Bill from PARK. The director of the Vo-Tech was among those who came to watch.

The group agreed to meet again the following Wednesday night to complete the kits by installing them into Altoid mint cans or some other appropriate enclosure. Lamar promised to bake cookies for this second night as a reward to those who have completed their rigs.

Dave Benson of Small Wonder Labs, who furnishes the kits, has informed us that the Rock-Mite kits will be featured on the cover of the April issue of QST. K3NZ, one of our own builders, will be featured in the June issue of CQ Magazine. Norm has been making a fantastic record with his 20 meter Rock-Mite. Since November he has worked 45 states and 15 DX countries. His pride possession is now a QSL he received from a ham in Australia, with his 275 milliwatts of "power"!

The Rock-Mite is a complete transceiver with a built-in electronic keyer. It is crystal controlled hence it's name. It is built on a PC board that is 2 by 2 1/2 inches in size. It has become very popular in the QRP world. Close to 2000 of these little rigs have been sold.

Lamar Dirk, N3AT is the kingpin of our QRP enthusiasts in Monroe County and several other Counties in the EPA Section. It was under his guidance and initiative this evening came about. The Roc-Mite rig has brought many hours of pure happiness to the QRPp'ers in our area and with the enthusiasm displayed at this building session many more hours will follow.

(Story Courtesy of Bill Connelly, W3MJ& ARRL EPA Section)