



April 2015

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>



Allstar Amateur Radio System

April 16, 2015

HARC Goes Fusion

The Yaesu DR1X System Fusion repeaters have arrived. Ron, K3RJC, quickly got installed one at the K3RJC, 444.9 site. It is operating in the AMS mode which means either a digital or analogue signal can be passed through the repeater.

The WM3PEN repeater with multiple inputs will be replaced. The key is getting the controller matched with the repeater to allow both analogue and digital signals to pass through the machine. It is expected that once configured that the remote receivers will only allow a standard FM signal to pass through, while the receiver at the main site will allow either a digital or FM signal to pass.



Thanks to donations the repeaters have been paid for without touching the Club treasury. However upon further investigation we may need to buy a new controller instead of an interface board. This may cost around \$600. Donations towards the repeater fund are being accepted.

Allstar Amateur Radio System

April 16, 2015

This is a special meeting that will include a presentation on the Allstar Amateur Radio system presented by Doug, WA3DSP. Doug has put together a system that will run on the Beagle Bone Black. The Beagle Bone Black is a low cost credit card sized development platform that will run as a full blown system. Doug will demonstrate a complete system that will communicate from RF through the Internet to other Allstar connected networks. His package includes a Baofeng HT that's modified to work with the Beagle Bone as a node radio using a Cradlepoint Router and a Verizon Aircard for portable operations. He has also built a system that will control serial devices using the Allstar network. More information on his projects can be found at

<http://www.crompton.com/hamradio/BeagleBoneBlackAllstar/>

Dues and Elections

2015 Membership Dues are due. Renewal letters were sent to those that had not renewed as of the April meeting. HARC is the most active club in Philadelphia. With your support we can continue to grow.

Elections for the 2015 membership year will be held in May. Interested in serving on the HARC Board? Contact WA3PZO.

HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

Secretary - Charley Johnson, K3CJ

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY

Mike Wurgley, N3LXN

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO

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. The K3RJC 444.9 repeater is in Cherry Hill. More Club Information & Member Applications can be had by contacting any of the Directors via E-mail.

WM3PEN@arrl.org, the web page

<http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website

www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events

HARC Meeting

April 16, 2015

Allstar Amateur Radio System

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. Visit the Philadelphia ARES web site

<http://www.harcnet.org/aresindex.html>



VE SESSIONS

PhilMont Mobile Radio Club has testing in Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month. Exams , 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA.

Registration begins at 7pm.

Warminster Amateur Radio Club has testing the last Wednesday evening of each month except August and December. The sessions are at the Warminster Recreational and Educational Center on Little Lane, and start promptly at 7:00 PM (registration 6:45 PM).

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

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)

HARC Will Be At Warminster Hamfest May 3, 2015

The Holmesburg ARC will have 2 tables at the Warminster Hamfest on Sunday May 3 at the Middletown Grange Fair, 576 Penns Park Road Wrightstown, PA. Gate admission is \$5.00. Vendor setup begins at 6 AM and general admission opens at 7 AM. The hamfest generally finishes by 1 PM. The event is rain or shine.

We need help staffing the table. If you have something you would like to sell bring it along. If you have items that you would like to donate to the club to sell contact Bob, WA3PZO or Mike, N3LXN. If you have something you would like to sell but can't make the hamfest, we can sell it for you with 10% of the selling price going to the Club.

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.

As an incentive Pennsylvania "67" Challenge certificates may be earned by working stations in 20, 40, 60, or all 67 Counties. Paper or electronic QSLs are acceptable. The contacts can

be verified by a local club officer or mailed to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club.

Complete rules are posted on the HARC website. Questions on the Award can be directed to HARC at WM3PEN@ARRL.NET.



Congratulations to
Larry Campi, WA5TRX
For making a confirmed contact
with amateur radio operators in:
Special Endorsement: HF SSB

Pennsylvania 67 Challenge



Presented by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, WM3PEN, January 24, 2012

WWV's 25 MHz Signal Still Going Strong After 1 Year Back on the Air

Time and frequency standard station WWV silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it returned to the air on an "experimental basis" a year ago, and it's still up and running. Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was Matt Deutch, N0RGT, WWV's Lead Electrical Engineer.

"We have been at 1 kW for the past year," Deutch told ARRL. "We have had a few hiccups, but nothing serious." Deutch said he was pleased to see the 25 MHz signal included in a recent *QST* article, "just like the good ol' days" (see "Measuring Frequencies at VE3GSO," in the April 2015 issue of *QST*, p 37).

"Here at the site we have even been discussing giving the 25 MHz signal its own antenna again," Deutch said. "The ham in me wants to give it something more exotic than a plain ol' boring dipole. But what antenna could it be?" Deutch said he was inspired by the article "Amateur Radio Science" by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, in the February 2013 issue of *QST*, which asked hams to

do more to advance and contribute to the radio art, "but the gears in my brain are still turning," Deutch said.

The return of WWV's 25 MHz outlet came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented its loss last year in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by putting the signal back on the air, initially temporarily. The 25 MHz signal not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. Deutch said the WWV 25 MHz signal still gets signal reports from across the Atlantic.

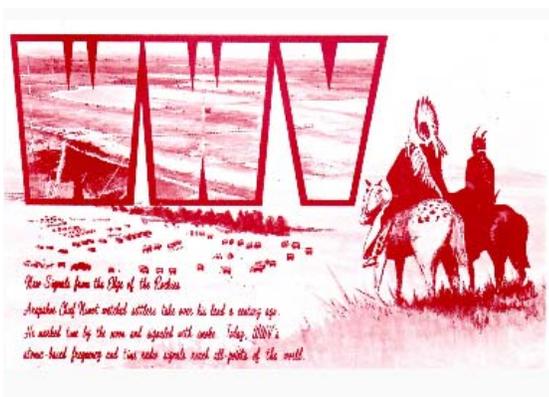
WWV has invited listeners' comments and signal reports. Just listen to them on one of their frequencies, write out a report giving signal strength time, etc. and then you can mail or email it. Their website gives more information (plus pictures of various cards):

<http://www.nist.gov/pml/div688/grp40/wwv.cfm>

Here is a similar page for CHU:

http://www.nrc-nrc.gc.ca/eng/servic...hort_wave.html

John, W0PV posted on QRZ.com that he emailed a written report. "A few days ago I was quite surprised with the response in the post mail! A very nice card stock tri-fold, with perforations to separate sections into a normal sized QSL card. The artwork and text is a tale of Native American heritage, and the officially signed QSL form is even stamped with a serial number (!) making my report registered and unique! IMO, well worth the minor effort required! See attached scanned composite image." (ARRL Letter and qrz.com)



ON THE AIR!

HARC Special Events:

13 Colonies Special Event: June 30 - July 5

WM3PEN will again be on the air for this week long special event. Several radio clubs will be helping us keep WM3PEN on the air. Interest in helping contact WA3PZO.



Field Day: June 27 -28 This annual event at Avelthorpe Park in Jenkintown is part of a national operating event. More details to follow.

Why Does the Club Want to Know if I'm an ARRL Member?

We recently received this question. The answer is simple. For HARC to remain an ARRL affiliated club and receive the various benefits associated with being affiliated 51% of HARC members have to be ARRL members.

Some of the benefits include being able to get Club liability insurance, referrals of Prospective Hams, information on new hams, upgrades, and new ARRL members in our area. HARC can also take advantage of a Commission program where the club gets \$15 for new ARRL members and \$2 for ARRL renewals.

World Amateur Radio Day April 18, 2015

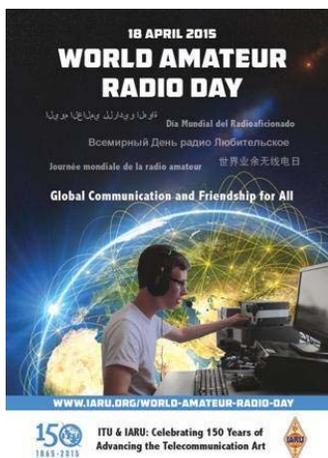
Every April 18, radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of **World Amateur Radio Day**. It was on that day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris. Since its founding, the IARU has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio.

Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum.

From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include over 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio.

Today, Amateur Radio is more popular than ever, with over 3,000,000 licensed operators!

World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU Member-Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide.



Stamps Sent to STFW

HARC's participation the Stamps for the Wounded program continues to expand thanks to many donations from club members, friends, families, and other ham radio operators.

Stamps For The Wounded accepts donations of US and foreign stamps as well as stamp collecting supplies and tools. This program helps thousands of patients through clubs and occupational therapy programs in veterans' hospitals and convalescent centers nationwide."

Stamps for the Wounded accepts any U.S. or foreign stamps that are not torn or damaged. They have also requested each stamp should have at least a quarter-inch margin around the stamp. Do not try to either to peel or steam the stamp off the original envelope. The inspiration behind SFTW began with the request from a friend. It was spawned at a Staten Island, N.Y., veterans' hospital effort as a therapeutic activity for the veterans.

Since the last meeting, Rich, AB3EO, shipped over 1 pound of stamps to the STFW program. Donations can be brought to any HARC meeting or contact Rich, AB3EO.

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 and via the HARC Spark.

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

April 16, 2015 Allstar Amateur Radio System

	<p>HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136 http://www.harcnet.org WM3PEN/K3FI</p>	
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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 # _____ Are you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? ____

E-mail _____

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