



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>

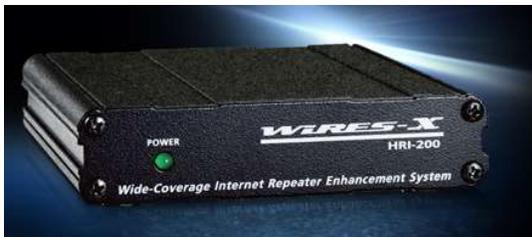


April 2016

Connecting via Yaesu Wires-X Club Meeting April 21 Dues are Due (see pg 8)

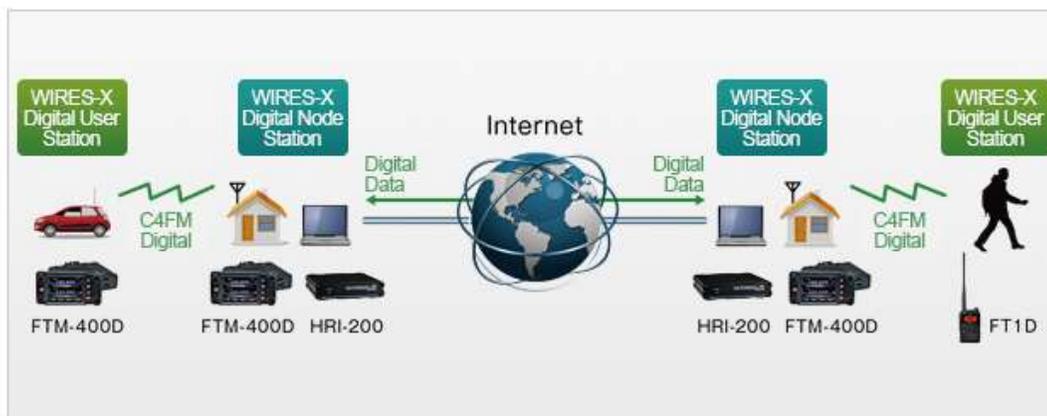
About the program:

WIRES (Wide-coverage Internet Repeater Enhancement System) is an Internet communication system which expands the range of amateur radio communication. For WIRES-X, an amateur node station connecting to the Internet is used as the access point and connects the wireless communication to the Internet. Users' stations can communicate with other amateur stations all over the world using a node within the radio wave range. WIRES permits C4FM Digital stations to communicate with analog FM stations.



About our Speaker:

Jim Fisher, KC3BRA, has been a computer hobbyist since 1981, starting with the Timex Sinclair. He is active with the Philmont Mobile Radio Club and the Philadelphia Digital Radio Association. He is on many digital modes from HF to 440. Jim has spearhead PDRAs participation in the 13 Colonies Special Event putting WM3PEN on D-STAR during the event.



HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

Secretary - Saul Broudy, W3WHK

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

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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; 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

October 15 – ARES

October 18 – NE Phila Youth Run

November 19 – Compact Loop Antennas

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

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 minutes, general meeting 18 Feb 2016

WA3PZO called the meeting to order at 2003; Attendance: 13
The planned program on QRP operation was not presented due to unavailability of projector.

Reports:

-W3WHK reported on his contact with the NE Philadelphia History Network re collaborative participation as NPOTA event.

It does not look like there will be an appropriate occasion for same, but contact will be maintained in case that changes.

-K3RJC repeater report: Echolink is off the air, he got the board but the cable is not available, he got the S-Com interface cable. He hopes all will be up and running by March.

Mark KC3JV suggested we attempt to recruit students to study and take their Tech exams, so as to increase club membership. We discussed whether it should be a one- or two-day event.

Upcoming events:

-Charter Day operation, March 13

-we are still looking for meeting programs, suggestions welcome

-HARC will have a table at the Warminster Hamfest on May 1

-Field Day: we are planning for bad weather; WA3GM will check on coax needed to bring antenna feeds into the pavilion

Miscellaneous:

-Jay needs antenna help: N3LXN and N3ZZK will do it when weather improves

-the Stamps for Veterans effort is still going well

-KC3JV will print copies of our newsletter for those who need hard copies

The meeting was adjourned at 2113

HARC minutes, gen'l meeting 17 March 2016

N3LXN (in WA3PZO's absence) called the meeting to order at 2022.

Attendance: N3LXN, KC3JV, N3ZZK, AB3LC, NW3K, N3UBY, K3CJ, NY3Z, K3RJC, W3WHK.

Announcements/upcoming events:

-club will have table at Warminster Hamfest 1 May, will sell members' items

-Field Day: N3LXN has the permit, Greg & Ron will buy coax in case needed for bringing antennas into pavilion in case of rain

-there will be an Icom service center coming to Mt. Laurel, NJ soon: expect an announcement in the next few weeks of high-level Icom reps speaking in the Phila area in early May

-Ham Cram: involves allowing the student to pre-study and then at the all day session review only the correct answers to the questions; WA3PZO will seek out more info on this

-May meeting speaker - Jim, KC3BRA, will speak on the Yaesu Wires system

-13 Colonies: plans are moving along. July 1 - 6, opportunities for all classes of license

Repeater update from Ron K3RJC:

-Echolink still not working(in progress); the problem might be the computer

-Fusion repeater: cables ordered: Ron needs to spend 2-3 nights working on-site, but hopes to get it in by late April

Meeting sort of petered out into discussion about 2110 or so, but the discussion continued for quite a while.

Saul Broudy W3WHK
Secretary

13 Colonies Special Event

July 1- 6

Stamps For the Wounded



HARC members are collecting postage stamps for the Stamps For the Wounded program. *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.

So save the stamps from your qsl cards or other mail. They do not need the common Flag Forever stamp. Bring the stamps to a club meeting and give them to Rich, K3UJ, who will mail them.

**In 2015 HARC sent over
10,000 stamps to SFTW**

Many stations, including DX, included extra stamps with their qsl cards for WM3PEN that we are able to pass onto the SFTW program. We had 4 stamp albums donated and several mailings once stations received an insert with SFTW information in their qsl card. We even had inquiries from clubs interested in starting their own program.



Latest box of stamps received from a ham in Wisconsin.

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

Scott, N3SW

For confirming contacts

with all 67 PA Counties

and

Completing the Pennsylvania 67 Challenge.

Pennsylvania Charter Day

March 13, 2016

On March 13, HARC celebrated Pennsylvania's 335th birthday by participating in Charter Day events. Charter Day is the day King Charles of England granted William Penn a charter for land in the New World to make up for a large debt that the king owed to Penn's father. William Penn had initially decided to name the land "Sylvania," which in Latin means woods. King Charles II added the prefix Penn to the name in honor of William Penn's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, who had served England as a rear admiral. Pennsylvania state museums are open for free on Charter Day and it's the one day each year that the Charter is put on display at the state museum in Harrisburg.

Thanks to Rich, K3UJ, and Saul, W3WHK, for being on the air.

NEW Philadelphia EC

Pat Taylor W3HVG is the new ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Philadelphia County. First licensed in 1958 as KN3EWH, Pat brings significant emergency management experience to his new assignment.

Formerly an engineer at the Susquehanna nuclear power plant in Berwick, Columbia County, Pat served as liaison to the county emergency operations center and volunteered with the RACES program. Later he served with FEMA's radiological emergency preparedness program, evaluating EOC staffs, radiological monitoring teams, hospital emergency rooms and ARES/RACES programs nationwide.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a field organization program of the American Radio Relay League Inc. administered locally by the Eastern Pennsylvania section staff. EPA-ARRL supervises more than twenty ARES units at the county level. Questions about the EPA section's ARES program may be directed to the Section Emergency Coordinator, WT Jones, WN3LIF.

W3EX succeeds N3KFR as Montco EC

Tom Nolan W3EX is the newly appointed ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Montgomery County. He succeeds Rocky Pisttelli N3KFR who stepped down after years of dedicated service.

Originally from upstate New York, Dr Nolan enlisted in the Navy and became an aviation electronics specialist and airborne radioman for long-range, anti-submarine patrol missions. On leaving the Service, Nolan pursued his doctorate of veterinary medicine and is licensed to practice in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. He completed a career in laboratory animal medicine at Merck and later as a partner in a medical device R&D firm. He is now retired.

Nolan was first licensed as KN2UZI and is a long time member of the ARRL. He is active in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary as communications officer for his flotilla.

Note of Thanks

Just a quick note of thanks for everyone's support. Between Beth's mom being in the hospital for 12 weeks and passing earlier this month and Beth having knee surgery in February it has left very little time for radio activities. 73 Bob, WA3PZO

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.



DUES ARE DUE

SEE PAGE 8

EPA SET 2016 - June 7 - 10!

By: WT Jones, WN3LIF, EPA SEC

From the Emergency Coordinator's Job Description:

- Establish an emergency traffic plan, with Welfare traffic inclusive, **utilizing the National Traffic System as one active component for traffic handling.** Establish an operational liaison with local and section nets, particularly for handling Welfare traffic in an emergency situation.

Cascadia Rising is the name of the exercise being run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Oregon and Washington. Now you are probably wondering what an exercise run on the other side of the country has to do with us in Eastern Pennsylvania. That is if you are awake and reading this part of the Monthly Update. Allow me to explain a little here.

The National Traffic System (NTS) has been a foundational part of amateur radio since the beginning. It has handled messages from the President of the United States, Governors of many of the States of the Union, Mayors of many cities in those States, and even the heads of organizations like the Lions Club and the Rotary. It is the one single part of Amateur Radio that made many, including those companies who handled message for dollars, stand up and take notice of Amateur Radio. NTS still functions today handling messages through out the United States and our good friends in Canada.

FEMA has taken notice of NTS and has decided to utilize it as part of the message process between the exercise location and its Region 3 Office in Philadelphia. It is a task that requires the accuracy and speed of the Transcontinental Corps and the dedication of the local traffic handlers in the EPA Section.

FEMA has shown great interest in Amateur Radio because we have an advocate at the top. He thinks we can do it and do it with style. I think he is absolutely right. The people who are involved with NTS on a daily basis including our Section Manager, W3JY, are working hard to make sure that the day to day operation of NTS meets the test and they have asked the ARES get on board for this for several reasons.

First, it is a reaffirmation of Amateur Radio's long haul capabilities via NTS.

Second, it is a time for those who have been traffic handlers to jump into the fray again. And that goes for all modes. The movement of messages will be as best suits the message but you know the purpose of exercises. It is to test everything so messages will be earmarked if the Exercise Controllers want to push a circuit a bit. So yes, you CW guys have a part to play here. Time to renew those skills and get involved.

Third, this will be a media opportunity for all the ARES/Clubs/Groups in EPA. While the core mission needs to be absolutely accomplished there is room for ARES and Clubs to have their own Simulated Emergency Test and piggy back on the banner of "Amateur Radio Supports FEMA Earthquake Drill". That is a good thing. You don't have to participate in the big event and you can go smaller but it is a good

opportunity to help Amateur Radio out by being present.

The Fourth item is now is the time for all ARES members to become familiar with Message Handling. Not tactical messages but record traffic as we should be doing. You and your organization can set up and solicit traffic from the public. Have John Q. Public give you the name, address, and telephone number and then pick from a list of standardized "Greeting Messages". Send the messages on our EPA Nets. In this cell phone day and age it will be fun for the sender and the receiver of the message. And just so there is no misunderstanding here. The messages from the "BIG" drill will be on the standard ARRL Radiogram. FEMA thinks that is just perfect. In fact they really like it. Has all the things in it to make it a real message. How about that?

The Fifth item is now is the time to get those go-kits out and make use of them. Set up in a public area (with permission) and demonstrate Amateur Radio. I have been told that some ARES groups even have Winlink go-kits complete with Pactor® modems. Get 'em out and make some use of them. If your go-kits are VHF/UHF only then set things up so you have a station to take the messages and then bring them up to HF for the nets.

So there are some of the opportunities for this event that should not be missed out on.

If you are a traffic handler then contact our **Section Traffic Manager, Scott, N3SW, at richardscottw at gmail.com** and ask him what you can do to help with traffic.

We don't want an Iron Man Situation here. This event lasts for 4 days. June 7 to 10. We need people who can handle the traffic to help out. I have been told there will be inject Health and Welfare messages coming into EPA from the Left Coast and they will need to be moved and delivered. So there is something for everyone.

If you are an ARES organization that would like to perform a SET during this then contact me at sec@w3luz.org. I have plenty of suggestions on what you might be able to do. How about simulating the intake of refugees from the disaster area who have been flown here because there is no where else for them to go? That scenario is something that could be a practice event for the real thing.

So again, this is an opportunity that should not be missed. Take advantage of it. Send me your comments or suggestions about this.

Upcoming HARC Events

Trying to plan out your calendar for a few months? Here's a list of upcoming HARC events.

April 21 – HARC Meeting

May 1 – Warminster Hamfest – HARC table

May 5 – Board Meeting

May 19 – HARC Meeting

June 16 – HARC Meeting

June 25-26 – Field Day

July 1- 6 - 13 Colonies Special Event

July 21 – HARC Meeting

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

Next Club meeting is April 21, 2016

Program: Yaesu Wires



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2016 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 # _____

Starting in May 2016 the Newsletter will only be sent via email.

E-mail _____

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