

May 2009

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3FI CLUB CALLS WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



YOU'RE INVITED HARC CLUB MEETING

***Thursday, May 28rd 8:00 PM
8th District Police Station
Academy and Red Lion Roads
Philadelphia, PA***

TOPIC: SHOW AND TELL

May 28th Meeting

We want to see your awards, certificates, operating achievements, interesting QSL cards.

Also bring your oldest ham/radio whatever. A piece of equipment, a book or manual, QSL card. Anything electronic related. Please do not feel limited to just one item if you have a lot to share. There is plenty of room to display items.

June 25th Meeting

June - D-Star Presentation
Jack, WA3BXH, Philadelphia Digital Radio Association president, will talk about D-STAR activity in the Philadelphia area and give a demo of the D-STAR system.

D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) is a digital voice and data protocol specification developed by the Japan Amateur Radio League to investigate digital technologies for amateur radio. While there are other digital on-air technologies being used by amateurs that have come from other services, D-Star is one of the first on-air standards to be widely deployed and sold by a major radio manufacturer that is designed specifically for amateur service use.

We will also go over last minute plans for Field Day.

DUES ARE DUE!

It's that time of year again. Dues are due. Just \$20 a year helps support the club, the repeater, field day, and other activities throughout the year. **Membership renewal form on the last page of the newsletter.** Mail to HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136 or bring to a Club meeting.

Sprint Contest Results

Base Class: N3DG – Dennis

Rover Class: N3ZZK – Carl

Club Class: WM3PEN - manned by N3LXN

See you Feb., 27, 2010

Upcoming Events

May 28 – Club Meeting, 8th District Police Station – Show and Tell

June 25 - Club Meeting, 8th District Police Station – Field Day

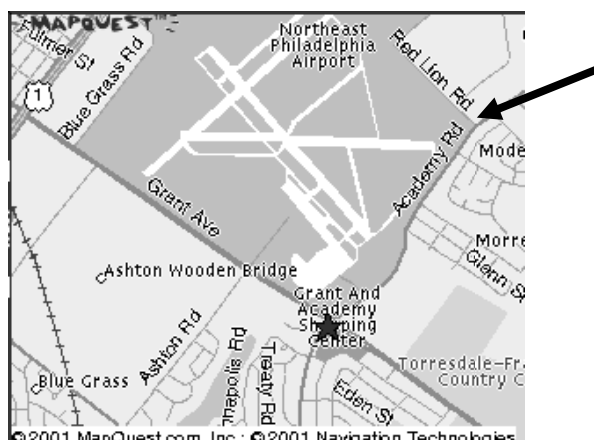
June 27 -28 – Field Day

August 23 – HARC Picnic

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO
UPARC Rep - Mike Feeley, KB3NDC
Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in June.



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.

May 28 Meeting

Show and Tell Night
Audience participation night. Sort of a brag fest and an antique display combined. A chance to show off your treasures.

We want to see your awards, certificates, operating achievements, interesting QSL cards. Also bring your oldest ham/radio whatever. A piece of equipment, a book/manual, QSL card. Anything electronic related.

Please do not feel limited to just one item if you have a lot to share. There is plenty of room to display items.

HARC Bulletin Schedule

Bulletin Station K3CJ

Wed 2000L Amateur Radio News Line
ARRL Audio News
The RAIN Report
Contests / Special Events / Hamfests
Sun 1000L This Week In Amateur Radio
Gate Way 160
Handy Hams
Contests / Special Events / Hamfests

Newsline and the ARRL Audio News are available locally by dialing (215) 624-0672 and follow the prompts.

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

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

www.HARCNET.org

FCC Requests Help with DTV Transition

ARRL Section Managers and Club Representatives

I emailed you a few months ago requesting assistance with the outreach efforts for the Digital Television Transition. Now that we are a few weeks out, we know better where our resources are needed. We have a Walk-In Center created at WHYI at 150 North 6th St, Philadelphia weekdays between 9 am. and 8 p.m. and weekends between 12 noon and 8 p.m. from May 29th through June 19th. The FCC has also contacted with several Grass Roots organizations to perform free converter box installation services and open walk-in centers.

The FCC has received requests for assistance from Broadcast stations for staffing their phone banks during the week of the transition. Particularly KYW CBS-3 (16th and Spring Garden Streets, Philadelphia) requested assistance during their telephone bank on June 12th. They welcome any member of the amateur community who feels comfortable explaining to non-technical persons about the digital television transition. A majority of the questions would likely cover television reception issues.

I am looking for any person in the amateur community who may want to volunteer their time on June 12th working at KYW. The phone bank will likely be open in the morning through the evening. We will provide training to those who would need it.

There may be additional requests from other stations on other days. So if your group is willing to help on June 12th or another date, let me know.

Thank you

David Dombrowski
FCC Philadelphia Office

If you are interested in helping out contact WA3PZO or WM3PEN@ARRL.NET.

VISIT FROM DOWN UNDER

David Burger, VK2CZ, will be speaking at the IEEE History Conference in Philadelphia (August 3 – 8), on the "History of IEEE in Australia and Oceania." He also serves on the IEEE Global History Committee.

David contacted HARC and Bob, WA3PZO has been keeping in touch. He holds several calls including VK8AA,4W3A and VK9XD, and K3HZ. According to

information on QRZ.com I'm a Senior Member of the IEEE, and Chair of the IEEE NSW Section for 2008.

I'm also a Fellow of "Engineers Australia", Chartered Professional Engineer(PE) in Electrical and Information, Telecommunications and Electronics. I also sit on Engineers Australia Sydney Division Committee and am on the interview panel for Chartered PE candidates.

I've operated SK0CT in Kista, H44/VK3HZ at Panatina Village near Honiara, VE6/VK3HZ in Calgary (Castleridge Way), AB2CX in Manhattan (101 West 12th St), Melville Island Miliikapiti OC-173 as VK8MI, 9M2RPN in Kuala Lumpur.

Also operated from Penshurst, Hamilton, Ballarat and Melbourne (in VK3)1974~1993, Darwin (VK8)1995~97.

Was the First non-North American station to achieve the E-QSL WAS certificate.

We're hoping to have dinner with David during his visit to Philadelphia. If his schedule permits we'll see about doing something with the Club.

DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
is pleased to announce

**An Evening with
Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH**

Former Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division
of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau

PACKARD LABORATORY BUILDING
Lehigh University
July 9, 2009, 7:30 pm

Advance Tickets - \$3.00 *
Tickets at the door - \$5.00

*ADVANCE TICKETS are available by mail.
Send check and a #10 (4" x 9")
self-addressed stamped envelope to:















DLARC
PO Box 3026
Easton, PA 18043-3026

Talk-in Frequency: 146.700+ PL 151.4
Contact: KE3AW@arri.net or (610) 432-8286
Information and Maps: www.dlarc.org

List of digital channels available for ZIP Code: 19136

Source: DTV.gov

Call Sign (Station)	Network	Phone Number	Channel Numbers 			Analog Turn-off Date	
			Analog	Digital Transition (Pre)	Digital Transition (Post)		Virtual
DMA: PHILADELPHIA							
 WMCN	IND			44	44	44-1	02-16-2009
 WLVT	PBS			62	39	39-1	
 WTVE	IND			25	25	51-1	02-16-2009
 KYW	CBS	215-977-5300	3	26	26	3-1	06-12-2009
 WPVI	ABC	215-871-1220	6	64	6	6-1	06-12-2009
 WCAU	NBC	610-668-3131	10	67	34	10-1	06-12-2009
 WHYY	PBS	215-351-0511	12	55	12	12-1	06-12-2009
 WPHL	MYTV	215-878-1700	17	54	17	17-1	06-12-2009
 WNJS	PBS	800-882-6622	23	22	22	23-1	06-12-2009
 WTFX	FOX	800-817-4325	29	42	42	29-1	05-22-2009
 WYBE	ETV	215-483-3900	35	34	35	35-1	06-12-2009
 WGTW	TBN	215-930-0482	48	27	27	48-1	04-16-2009
 WNJT	PBS	800-882-6622	52	43	43	52-1	06-12-2009
 WPSG	CW	215-977-5300	57	32	32	57-1	06-12-2009
 WBPH	IND	610-433-4400	60	9	9	60-1	06-12-2009
 WPPX	ION	727-576-7700	61	31	31	61-1	06-12-2009
 WWSI	TELEMUNDO	866-577-3327	62	49	49	62-1	04-16-2009
 WUVP	UNIVISION	856-690-3735	65	66	29	65-1	06-12-2009
 WFMZ	IND	610-841-4982	69	46	46	69-1	06-12-2009

April Meeting Has Weather Talk

The HARC April meeting featured Rick Blank, WB3BSA, who serves as Philadelphia's Skywarn Coordinator. Rick described the Skywarn program and shared his experience as a Skywarn spotter.

According to the National Weather Service the WX2PHI Mount Holly NWSFO SKYWARN Amateur Radio Communications Center will be staffed by SKYWARN Personnel .

The National Weather Service's Mount Holly Forecast Office, under the direction of the SKYWARN Advisory Committee is seeking SKYWARN volunteers to staff the WX2PHI SKYWARN Amateur Radio Communications Center (SARCC) station located at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Mount Holly, New Jersey.

The Mount Holly NWSFO serves approximately eleven million people in thirty-four (34) counties located within Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

SKYWARN Communication Center activation will be based upon prevailing and/or anticipated hazardous weather events including, but not necessarily limited to moderate risk for severe thunderstorms, major Winter Storm warnings and Hurricane/ Tropical Storm warnings. The Senior Forecaster on-duty at the Mount Holly NWSFO will determine the need to have the SARCC staffed with personnel. Ideally, the communications center will be staffed by at least two SKYWARN educated individuals.

Currently, the SARCC is located in a separate cubicle on the floor of the forecasting office and is equipped with a Kenwood TM-742 Tri-band amateur radio, a TNC, APRS capabilities, a computer, a telephone and a nearby FAX machine. It is expected that SKYWARN personnel will be responsible for acting as WX2PHI Net Control Operators using assigned SKYWARN (WA3BXW UHF, Complex Repeater Group, County) frequencies to obtain and evaluate severe weather information from active SKYWARN Nets and from other amateur radio stations. In addition, it is anticipated that real-time e-mail, telephone and facsimile traffic reporting severe weather conditions and data will also be handled by the SKYWARN volunteers staffing the SARCC. SKYWARN volunteers who are interested in participating in this program will be expected to become familiar with SKYWARN Net Control Operator guidelines and operating procedures designed by the Mount Holly NWSFO SKYWARN Advisory Committee specifically for the amateur radio communication center as well as with the operation of the radio, computer and telephone equipment.

Scientists Predict Solar Cycle 24 To Peak In 2013

At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado last month an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since Solar Cycle 16, which peaked with 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles – the solar minimum -- occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If December's prediction holds up and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will be what they called "moderately weak."

Although the peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928. Despite the prediction, the scientists said that Earth is still vulnerable to a severe solar storm. Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that escape from the Sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS. A single strong blast of "solar wind" can threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other essential functions.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots -- Earth-sized blotches on the sun marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause huge problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chaired the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during another below-average cycle." The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe and sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring. It also produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light, he said.

Biesecker cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that found if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause \$1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to 10 years for recovery, compared to the \$80-125 billion of damage that resulted from Hurricane Katrina. (via ARRL Letter)

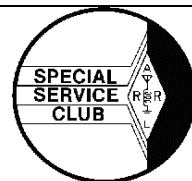


HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 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.

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) _____