



June 2006

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
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



FIELD DAY - JUNE 24 & 25!

The time has come again to brush off the radio, tune up the vocal chords, and get ready to have a good time. Field Day promises to be bigger and better than ever this year as HARC. HARC members and guests will be calling CQ Field Day de K3FI from Alverthorpe Park in Jenkintown.

Field Day is an annual operating event, designed to test operating capabilities of radio amateurs under simulated emergency conditions. The event has a number of objectives, particularly for our club. In addition to making as many contacts during the Field Day period as possible, it will provide an opportunity for members to experience HF operating conditions, and to publicize the value of amateur radio to local government officials and media. We'll begin setting up around 8:30 AM on Saturday.

This is an all day and all night event. We do need day AND night time operators. Operations will continue until 2 pm Sunday.

If you haven't been on the air for some time or this is your first Field Day we'll make sure you get on the air and do some operating.

LOCATION will be the same as last year. Alverthorpe Park, Jenkintown Rd., Jenkintown.

From Rt. 73 (Township Line Rd) take Jenkintown Rd just opposite Holmehurst Rd. A gated entrance to the park will be on the right. (approximately at the arrow on the map) Give a call on 146.685 simplex and someone will unlock the gate. Parking will be on the left as you enter the park.



June meeting - Thursday June 22 This will a planning meeting for Field Day. This year we'll have a tower and HF Beam, thanks to the work of Carl, N3ZZK. It's expected that several scouts will be visiting. Sal will have the Field Day grill going and as usual Ron, K3RJC, is supplying the generator. Antennas need to be put up early and there's always help needed to take everything down on Sunday afternoon. Operators are needed from 2 PM Saturday until 2 PM Sunday so there is plenty of time to get on the air.

Speaking of meetings - There will be no July meeting. In place of the August meeting will be a picnic in the second half of the month. Stay tune for details.

Repeater news - In the past few weeks the amplifier died at the main site. Ron, K3RJC, replaced the amp with our backup amplifier. Ron continues to work on the new voter and pl modifications needed to get the remote receivers back up and running. Remember once the pl modifications are done the new PL frequency will be 146.2.

When a carrier came on the repeater several club members got out their direction finding equipment and started to track down the unwanted signal. Thanks to W3BMA, N3LXN, K3CJ, and others for tracing the problem to a Cherry Hill location.

Website - Hey we've got a website for you. Yes --- www.harcnet.org - is full of information thanks to the hard work of Rich, KB3FGJ. Rich is also maintaining the new Philadelphia ARES website which is co-located with the HARC site. Stop by. Take a look and tell Rich what a good job he's doing.

Club Help - There are several openings on the HARC Board of Directors. If you are interested in helping your club and would like to serve on the Board contact Club President Mike, N3LXN.

Philadelphia ARES® - Philadelphia ARES consists of licensed amateur radio operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public interest when disaster strikes and develop a coalition relationship with adjacent county amateur radio ARES for mutual benefit.

Philadelphia County ARES is currently and carefully building a new team. Team members are composed of Philadelphia resident and adjacent county Amateur Radio Operators with common support interest. Of licensed operators interested in serving the community with their hobby, many are already involved with other services. **Phila ARES** has interest in forming a membership with the ability to also cross serve between Philadelphia and its immediate adjacent counties when such operations are beneficial. The Phila ARES, geographically central to the Five Pennsylvania County area and Three New Jersey counties can be of mutual benefit to volunteer organizations located in these surrounding areas.

The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club of Philadelphia is pleased to announce
the Delaware Valley VHF FM Simplex Sprint Contest
to be held on Saturday, October 21st, 2006.

Purpose:

- To promote FM Simplex operation.
- To provide a local fun, fast contest with equipment most hams already possess.
- To encourage youth participation in amateur radio.

When:

Saturday, October 21st, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST
This is during Scouting's JOTA weekend. (Jamboree on the Air)

Find a Scout troop near you and offer to set-up a temporary station at their location.
Cradle of Liberty Council Boy Scouts of America
JOTA Information Jamboree on the Air

Also ask your children/grandchildren to join you, and bring their friends.
The contest is open to all radio amateurs.

According to HARC President Mike Wurgley, N3LXN, the contest is designed for hams to have fun over a 4 hour period from 10 AM - 2 PM EST and as a way to introduce youth to amateur radio. The contest was moved from the evening to during the day, to encourage the youth element. The contest allows hams to meet their neighbors on the air as well as give many the opportunity to experience something else besides repeater contacts.

The contest gives individuals as well as clubs to participate in the event. Bonus points are being allowed for contacting club stations/callsigns. "We realize that everyone will not be able to contact WM3PEN so we're giving clubs a chance to put their club callsign on the air." This could be from a club station or an individual's home. There is no advanced registration for Club callsigns with the sponsoring group. This will allow many clubs to make a last minute decision to make their voice heard in the area.