



June 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, June 25th 8:00 PM***

***8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station***

***Academy and Red Lion Roads***

***Philadelphia, PA***

**TOPICS: D-STAR - Field Day**

### ***June 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

There is currently one DSTAR repeater in Philadelphia with plans for an additional five DSTAR repeaters in the 5 county Philadelphia area thanks to a grant from the Southeastern PA Anti-terrorism task force. These repeaters will be aimed at HIPAA compliant service to hospitals for emergency communications during disasters.

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

Come out on June 25<sup>th</sup> and catch up on all that is going on.

### ***Field Day – June 27 & 28 Avelthorpe Park Jenkintown***

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.

### ***AB3EO Appointed Philadelphia ARES Emergency Coordinator***

Rich Shivers, AB3EO, has been appointed Philadelphia ARES Emergency Coordinator. In making the announcement ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator, Bob Wiseman, WB3W, said that AB3EO will be replacing Larry Stevenson, K3HWE, so he can devote more time to his new business.

Shivers has been an active member of ARES, serving as a Net Control Station on the Phila ARES Net and serves as Phila ARES webmaster.

## 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

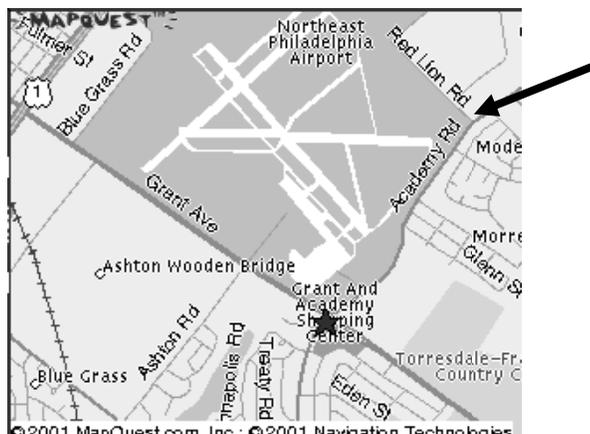
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup>. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in June.

## 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.



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](mailto:WM3PEN@arrl.org), the web page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

## 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.

*Thanks to all who renewed!*

## 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](mailto:rjlees@aol.com)

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

[www.HARCNET.org](http://www.HARCNET.org)

## Upcoming Events

June 25 - Club Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station – D-STAR, Field Day  
June 27 -28 – Field Day  
August 23 – HARC Picnic

## ARRL Field Day Tips and Techniques that Everyone Can Use

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

- 1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
- 2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.
- 3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.
- 4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.
- 5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.
- 6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."
- 7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."
- 8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
- 9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

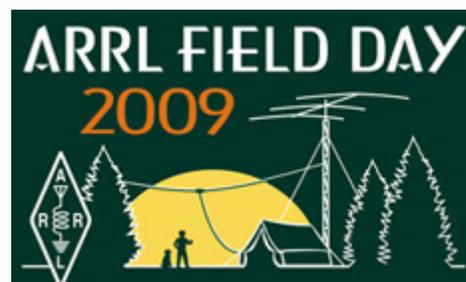
These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. it.



### FIELD DAY LOCATION

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 the repeater (or 146.685 simplex) and someone will unlock the gate. Parking will be on the left as you enter the park



*This article is part of a series of essays submitted by students at Trinity High School near Harrisburg.*

**"What Today's Youth Will Like About Amateur Radio" by: Ersikha Eugene, KB3STL, Senior**

Youths of today love to communicate. Whether it be through IM, texting, or talking on the phone. Youths also enjoy unique technology. Instead of the old, regular, boring IM and texting, why not try being a HAM. It's not just great on your sandwich, it's also fun with communicating. In physics, we learned of a special type of communication called Amateur Radio or being a ham. Using Amateur Radio is kind of like talking on a walky talky. But the best part is, instead of talking to just one person near you, you can talk to people all over the world. Believe it or not, it's true. You practically have the world in the palm of your hands. You can make friends in seconds without having to hop on a plane, ship, or train. You can do all this just from your little handheld or a fixed station.

You can use your handheld radio to scan through the frequencies and see if anyone is contacting with no effort at all. When you use the phone to call a foreign or exotic place, you actually have to know someone from that place and their number to call them. Being a ham, you can just call CQ and anyone, anywhere can answer. Don't be worried if you don't know them, you will get to know them and the next day you can say that you met someone from France or Australia yesterday. So than the next time you travel, you can call your ham friends and they can give you a tour of their home. Sounds fun huh?

To make it even more fun, Amateur Radio has a competition between HAM clubs to see who can get the most contacts with as many different countries as you can during a limited period of time. So Amateur radio is not just some old boring talking system, it's extremely fun entertainment. One of the greatest things about is, the people you talk to make you want to back everyday and chat some more. These people could become lifelong friends because they are very welcoming. Some are very smart and talk about things that are out of this world. Things you would never know unless you talk to hams. Others are very funny and tell jokes that could make you pee your pants. You will meet people with unique jobs and others with the coolest jobs. No matter who you meet, you can guarantee that they will be great company.

The other great thing about Amateur Radio, and probably the most important, is that you can use it in emergencies. You can call for help by saying "MAYDAY" and there is a good chance that someone will be there to get help. Hams are very familiar to emergency sites. When there are no other form of contact, hams have been there to save the day.

## The End of an Era

By Rich, AB3EO

It is with great disappointment that we have to report that the inspiration for the Troop 461 Radio Club call sign, WW3TI, Treasure Island Boy Scout Reservation, is being closed.

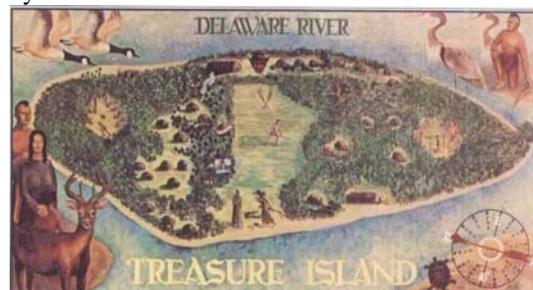
Almost 100 years old, opening in 1912, and besides the claim to be the oldest continually operated Boy Scout Camp in the country, the property holds a real historical value in Scouting. Treasure Island was the birth place of the Order Arrow in 1915.

The island has had it's problems, being subject to two consecutive floods of 2005 and 2006. The cost of the camp, a sharp decline in attendance since the floods, and the increasing environmental restrictions forced the Cradle of Liberty Council to reluctantly close the camp.

Troop 461/155 has spent many happy summer camping sessions there. Treasure Island is not just a name, it is a real island in the Delaware River just above Point pleasant, PA. The only way to get there is by boat. Even though is just an hours drive away, once there you are far removed from the rest of the world. There are no vehicles of any kind and very few electric lights. Each campsite seems to becomes it's own little village on this island realm. It's not big, just a mile long and a half mile wide, and campers soon become intimately familiar with all it's trails and special places. The major attractions like the noisy dinning hall, the refreshing swimming pool, and all the activity down at the boat house. Then there's the quiet places. The Chapel, in the open air, softly roofed by cool green leaves. Yoder's Lookout, where you can sit in the shade and watch the river flow by. The Ceremonial Grounds, hidden in a hollow, at the end of a long winding path.

The island is not a very good place for radio, this is a river valley and the land rises quickly to over 400 feet on both banks. There are no FM repeaters reachable from there, and even AM broadcast radio is degraded. Even so and while it has not been activated too many times, TI is listed with the US Islands Award Program as NJ017R. While the camp belongs to a Pennsylvania Scout Council, it is actually in New Jersey.

Treasure Island was a very special place and will be missed by many.



## ***Amateur Radio News for Free***

Do you know there are several free amateur radio magazines that are available on the web? Here are 3 which might interest you.

**WorldRadio Online** – Worldradio used to be a black and white monthly magazine published in California. When CQ took over WorldRadio it was made into an on-line color monthly publication. Best of all it's FREE! WorldRadio Online has columns on CW, Ten Meters, DX, Trail Friendly Radio, Propagation, Emcomm, Satellites, and Antennas to name a few. You can sign up to receive email notice when a new issue is published. Readers can download the entire magazine or a group of pages. For further information checkout [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com).

**Ham Mag** is published in France, but there is an English version. The FREE online monthly publication has well written articles by hams from around the world. It's saved as a pdf file. Back issues are available on line. Check it out at <http://ham.france.free.fr/>

Interested in CW? Even if your not a CW operator the K9YA Telegraph has stories on the golden age of CW and modern CW operations. According to the K9YA website - you're in the mood for Morse, hankering for history, gluttonous for gear, ravished for a review, needing nostalgia, or just plain famished for fun, you'll find it in the **K9YA Telegraph**. Check out [www.k9ya.org](http://www.k9ya.org). It's FREE.

### ***CQ Propagation Editor Challenges Revised Solar Cycle Predictions***

(Hicksville, NY – June 10, 2009) – CQ magazine's Propagation Editor is challenging the accuracy of the newest predictions on Solar Cycle 24. The revised prediction, issued in late May by a panel of solar experts, suggests a weak sunspot cycle with a peak in 2013. But CQ Propagation Editor Tomas Hood, NW7US, is asking "How Credible Are These 'Experts'?"

In an online commentary posted on the CQ magazine website, Hood notes that this same group of so-called "experts" has issued multiple predictions for this cycle already, all of which they now say are wrong, and asks why we should believe they're right this time.

"How much credibility should we grant to the panel of solar researchers and scientists that again releases a speculative prediction of the new Solar Cycle?" Hood asks, noting that NASA's lead representative on the panel says "it turns out that none of our models were totally correct."

Hood points out that, while the Sun itself is millions of years old, scientists have been tracking solar activity for just a few hundred years. "In my view," he says, "it is pretty arrogant to postulate that mankind has any real understanding and handle on what the Sun might do next."

"No one can postulate with any credibility just how intense the new cycle will be, because there's no direct correlation between this solar minimum and any regular pattern of past minimums," Hood notes, adding, "If none of the models are totally correct, how are they making this current prediction with such dismal expectations? I'm not holding my breath in favor of supporting any of the predictions at this point."

He also points out that there are already signs of "an awakening Solar Cycle 24," and encourages hams to "enjoy the unique propagation opportunities currently presenting themselves during this quiet phase," and to "prepare now for whatever the sun will do by honing your radio skills..."

The complete text of Hood's commentary is on the CQ website at < <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com> > and may be accessed by clicking the "online commentary" link on the lefthand side of the home page.

### ***Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year awarded to Warminster's George Brechmann N3HBT.***

George was the moving force behind Pennsylvania becoming the 27th state having a PRB-1 law on the books. The PRB-1 antenna legislation was presented by George's state senator, Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf. Several people played very key parts in this effort besides George: Eric Pauley, Senator Greenleaf's Assistant, Dave Eckman WA3YVR, Eric Olena WB3FPL, EPA-Section Manager, John Rodgers N3MSE, WPA-Section Manager and Chris Imlay W3KD, ARRL General Counsel. And last, but certainly not least were the number of amateur radio operators in Pennsylvania who took the time to contact their state senator and state representative. (Info from ARRL Atlantic Division Director N3LLR).

### ***HARC May Meeting***

If you missed the May HARC meeting, you missed members' collection of old equipment, club memorabilia, and other items of interest. We also celebrated a major birthday for Sid, W3KZA. Check out the pictures on the Club webpage, [www.harcnet.org](http://www.harcnet.org).



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) \_\_\_\_\_