



June 2010

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>



HARC IS RADIO ACTIVE!

FIELD DAY JUNE 26-27

Expanded Simplex Contest and New Award Announced

Plans being made for Special Event July 2011

FIELD DAY June 26-27 Alverthorpe 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.

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.

HARC will again be on the air for the weekend. Set up begins early Saturday morning with operation beginning at 2 PM. Operations will continue for 24 hours.

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.

See map and more info on page

**NEXT HARC MEETING
Thursday, June 24 - 8 PM
8th District Police Station
Field Day Planning**

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)

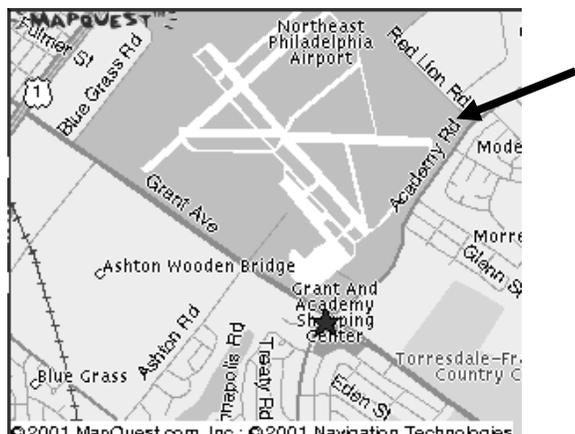


**HARC is
RADIO
ACTIVE**

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 August.



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.

Your article could be here!

Interested in writing a story for the HARC Spark? We're looking for stories of your involvement with electronics or ham radio. Maybe you got a new piece of equipment, new software, antenna. Did you participate in a special event, contest, or other radio related event? Story ideas can be submitted to wm3pen@aol.com or to the Club address.

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

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

Upcoming Events

Next Club Meeting: June 24th
Field Day: June 26-27th

New 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.

HARC Award Manager Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO said there was a need to have a County Challenge in Pennsylvania that was within the reach of most hams in Pennsylvania. When other state awards lost their sponsorship it was an opportunity for the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club to fill the void.

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

New Pennsylvania FM Simplex Contest

Following the growth of local FM Simplex Contests across Pennsylvania, the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club of Philadelphia announces the Pennsylvania Sprint.

The Pennsylvania Sprint is a 4 hour contest open to all radio amateurs. The inaugural event will occur February 26, 2011 from 7 - 11 PM. Pennsylvania amateur radio operators should make contact with other Pennsylvania hams by exchanging a contact number and their zip code. Hams in surrounding states may also participate.

The Holmesburg ARC has been sponsoring a Delaware Valley FM Simplex contest for several years and has seen an increase in participation by hams in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. At the same time other clubs in Eastern and Western Pennsylvania have been sponsoring their own version of a FM Simplex contest.

According to HARC Contest Director Rich Shivers, AB3EO, the Contest will help to promote FM Simplex operation, serve as a learning experience as to how far your signal will travel without the use of a repeater. HARC Club Call Trustee Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, sees this as a fun, fast contest using equipment that most hams have already.

Contest operations are limited to the FM Simplex frequencies recognized by your local band plan on 6 Meters, 2 Meters, 222 MHz and 440 MHz. No contacts are permitted on the calling frequencies. There are four operating classes. These include Base, Club, Rover, and Portable operation. Certificates will be issued for first, second, and third place, in all classes, in each ARRL section.

Complete rules can be found at www.harcnet.org/contest.htm.

For further information contact
AB3EO@ARRL.NET

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



Original 13 Colonies Independence Week Special Event July 1 - 6

All original 13 colonies will have stations on the air using special event calls K2A - K2M. Pennsylvania will be represented by K2M. There will be at least 2 stations on the air from PA. The other is KR3O/K2M. The object is to work one station from each of the 13 colonies. You are then eligible to receive a nice certificate.

K2A (NY-KU2US) will issue a special event QSL card for a QSO with K2A for those Ops that request one in certificate. SASE Please and your FULL DATA-QSL CARD for return QSL card only. You can have the certificate, or the QSL card for K2A, or both if you want. K2A cannot send QSL cards for the other Colony Stations. Just for K2A in NY.

Other Colony stations MAY offer a special QSL card also. Inquire to their home call on QRZ.com OR check their State information page on 13colonies.info.

All HF bands will be in play except the WARC bands and 60 meters. The Colony stations will be operating on or near the "13" of each band (Eg.14.213, 14.013, 14.313, 7.213, 7.013, etc.). 2 meters and 6 meter simplex are encouraged.

The SE stations are on the east coast and, are very close to each other. It will be harder for these states to contact each other so, use of 40m-160m is encouraged.

The SE will begin July 1st at 1300 UTC and end July 6th at 0400 UTC.

This SE will be annual each year, with a different spectacular multi-color certificate for variety - be sure to collect all issues. This is going to be fun, and hopefully the propagation gods will be co-operative - BETTER THAN 2009!



ARRL FIELD DAY 2010
June 26-27

www.arrl.org

HARC to Participate in 2011 Original 13 Colonies Event

In July 2011 the Holmesburg ARC will be participating in the event. During recent conversations with Ken, KU2US, the event organizer, Bob, WA3PZO suggested that Philadelphia be on the air as the capital of the colonies.

HARC members will be on the air using WM3PEN. Bob said it would be a great tie in with the club call since the Liberty Bell was made to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of William Penn's 1701 Charter of Privileges.

Since the event will be celebrated on both HF and VHF, it gives club members an opportunity to work a band and mode that you are interested in.

A special QSL card will be developed along with operating guidelines. If you haven't had the opportunity to operate a special event station you will get a real thrill from it.

There is some planning for this event to make sure we are all using the same information. This will be similar to a Field Day operation. If you are interested in helping with the planning, contact WA3PZO.

Maybe you want to operate during the event but need another antenna up or some changes in the shack. This is your opportunity to get prepared.

This year get on the air and operate this year's special event so you have an idea what will be happening.

Celebrate the 4th! Be Radio Active!



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

NEXT MEETING June 24



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) _____