



July 2003

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



Editor: WA3PZO

Celebrating Our 25th year of Serving the Philadelphia Area
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>

FROM YOUR EDITOR

It's been a few months since the last issue of the newsletter. For that I apologize. However several major family health issues have taken priority over many activities, including ham radio. Adding to the list of things to deal with is notification of company downsizing by the end of the year. It seems that anyone with three years or less will not have a job. If you have been watching the papers, you know that the unemployment rate is high and finding a job is tough. There are a few things in the works and hopefully I won't be part of the unemployment statistics.

Hopefully your summer is going well and you're able to do some antenna work and participate in a contest or club activity. There will be no Club meeting in July and our August meeting will be our annual picnic in Pennypack Park (Rhawn St.) on August 24th.

There are many activities to get involved with the Club. As with many organizations it's a few that make's it happen. If you're interested in getting involved, contact a Board member, Club President N3LXN, or myself.

Until next time.....73s.....

UPCOMING EVENTS

NO JULY CLUB MEETING

HARC PICINIC
AUGUST 24, 2003
PENNYPACK PARK
(Rhawn St. Entrance)
12 Noon - ?



**FOX HUNTS
CONTINUE**

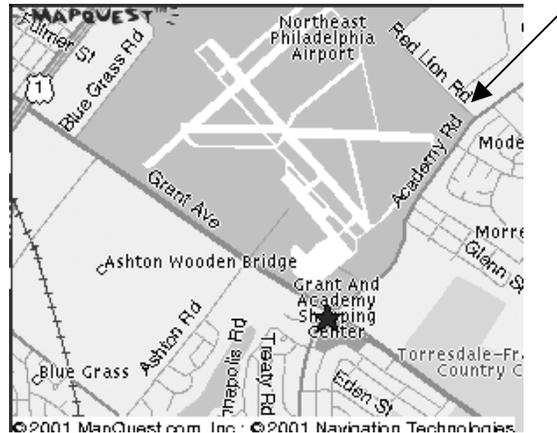
**N3LXN ACE
HUNTER**

FOX HUNT NEWS

On the 18th of May Hunt N3LXN bagged his 6th Win on the clubs Fox Hunt, also making him the next FOX. After a few weeks we scheduled another hunt rain or shine we got rain. I had managed to recruit another NEW Hunter to the group, Sol also known as N3UBY was to be my pilot for this Hunt. I met Sol at his place, we got a little wet setting up the gear at our Fox Hunt Kick off point... The fox was loose and running... As usual we had people with previous engagements drop out! One hunter drove up to the start location, and said it's raining to hard, I am not going to get wet putting on my antennas (name withheld)? Yet another was not being heard from at the last minute? The clock ticked down and the MCW signal was heard VVV DE K3FI/3 HARC FOX HUNT HI. it was on the air! I barely had copy on my Doppler an unusable signal! Quickly I got out the 3 element Tape Measure Beam and was able to get the directional heading standing in the rain (wasn't that bad misty)! No-one else came to the starting location or was heard from? I was alone the start bell rang so off we went. North was my heading we drove onto I-95 away we went. I was not getting a working signal but knew after a short time it should be getting stronger. Sure enough after several miles the signal became strong enough for the Doppler to work, and it was telling us we were doing ok... Following I-95 beyond Street Rd. to the fork just prior to Rte 413 the Doppler indicated to go to the left on the fork... we did! The signal was bouncing around a couple units on the S meter when we approached the rte 1 exit the Doppler indicated we take the right turn exit, again we did... Another couple miles the signal was getting very strong, and as we came up to the Oxford Valley Mall the Doppler said turn in there, as we did it indicated make a right as we pulled in the Mall parking lot... Now the signal was Full scale and I reach out for the HT that was on the 3 ele. beam it also has my attenuator on it and I dropped 60 DB on the signal bringing it back to a useable meter reading. We circled outer drive of the lot... the Doppler pointing mostly straight ahead we knew it was close, until the Doppler said we had past the fox it was now in back of us... Turning around there was a road heading out of the Mall the Doppler was indicating that way! We looked around not seeing anything yet knowing it was close we headed down the road. As soon as we past the intersection we got the turn around you past the Fox signal again, we went down until we were able to make the turnabout.

H.A.R.C. Board Of Directors 2003
President : N3LXN : Mike Wurgley
Vice Pres: WA3PZO : Bob Josuweit
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H.A.R.C. Maintains a Web Page @www.harcnet.org
All members online can be emailed via theircallsign @harcnet.org. Articles, pictures etc. submitted for the newsletter should be in standard ASCII or MS Word, .jpg or .gif formats and E-mailed to the Editor no later than the 1ST of month to be included in the next edition! **Send info to WA3PZO @ Harcnet.org**
H.A.R.C. Nets meet on 146.685 weekly
The Chaverim Net: Tuesday @ 9:00 PM
CW Practice: Wednesday @ 7:30 PM
Members net: Wednesday @ 8:00 PM you can listen to the Amateur Newsline & ARRL audio reports.
SSB Net on 28.450 +- mhz Sundays @ 9:00 AM
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 8:00 PM. General meetings are held the 3rd Thursday @ 8:00 PM.
8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA EXCEPT AS ANNOUNCED



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. Info@harcnet.org, the web page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC PO Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.



**HARC is an
ARRL Special Service Club.**

Fox Hunt News Continued.....

Nearing the intersection again Full signal we were on top of the Fox still unable to see it, there was the Red Robin Diner to our left... the only place to park we pulled onto the parking lot, pulled around to the back lot service area and there was the Fox hiding in the bushes. Nearly 14 miles and about 25 minutes had past, we were the winner the ONE and ONLY hunter to show up... It is always fun, but without competition not as much, at least N3UBY was impressed and I think maybe will be another future Hunter. We went to Friendly's for breakfast. My opinion the Hunt was Easy one compared to many others... See you all out there next time, also remember we usually have a FOX HUNT at our PICNIC so take a ride along with one of the Hunters and see how it goes. One final note Mike N3LXN and Bob have now qualified for Trophies at having 5 or more Fox Hunt Wins. And a certificate always goes to first place winner getting 5 or more wins the ACE Award / Trophy which should be available for presentation at the next club meeting...
 73 de KB3SM Bob

PL ARRIVES AT HARC

PL - A subaudible tone intended to keep unwanted signals out of the repeater.

Last year the Area Repeater Coordinating Council created a policy that requires all repeaters to use a PL tone to control access to repeaters. While HARC opposed such a move since many members had older radios that were not capable of using PL, the Club must now comply with the new guidelines. The new PL for the HARC repeaters is 131.8. Tech Chairman Ron, K3RJC, has been busy converting all of the repeater receivers and remote inputs to the new PL.

PL NOW IN USE

131.8

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of Unprecedented Proportions," ARRL Tells FCC

By Rick Lindquist, N1RL
ARRL Senior News Editor
July 8, 2003

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 8, 2003--Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. The League has filed a 120-page response--including studies--in response to the FCC's BPL *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)* in ET Docket 03-104, published May 23. The *NOI* asking how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.

"ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gored with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once (1) cause widespread interference, and (2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception. "This interference potential, as a matter of both law and fact, disqualifies access BPL as a potential future competitive broadband delivery system."

So-called "access BPL" would use existing overhead medium-voltage power lines to distribute Internet and broadband services to homes and businesses. Another form of BPL, "in-house BPL," uses electrical wiring inside a building to distribute digital signals. The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels for such systems, however.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system." In announcing its BPL initiative earlier this year, members of the FCC could barely contain their enthusiasm for the technology. The League's comments point out, however, that the FCC had acceded to the utility industry by citing potential interference to and from unlicensed power company PLC power-grid control systems in turning down ARRL's petition for a 136 kHz allocation. ARRL had asked that hams be permitted to transmit on 136 kHz at less than 2 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP); the FCC had proposed 1 W EIRP.

"Yet, the same industry, together with BPL manufacturers, is apparently contending now that at HF and VHF, where the power lines are better antennas than they are at LF, that

BPL can co-exist with amateur stations using more than 10,000 watts EIRP," the League said. "Both arguments cannot be valid."

Studies appended to the League's comments suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 33.7 dB to 65.4 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated. Electric utility companies would operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL pointed out that some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams. "It is fair to say that power line interference to Amateur Radio has been a substantial regulatory burden to the Commission," the ARRL said. "It is a very substantial problem now for the Amateur Service, without the addition of BPL to the mix."

The ARRL concluded by urging the FCC to ensure that BPL "is not permitted to operate in or near any Amateur Radio allocations" and that any future changes in ham allocations would "trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities" to avoid amateur frequencies. In addition, the ARRL said, spurious emissions from BPL facilities must be substantially attenuated below current Part 15 requirements. ARRL's complete [filing in response](#) to the FCC's *NOI* is available on the ARRL Web site. The complete *NOI* is available on the FCC Web site.

Reply comments in this proceeding are due on or before August 6, 2003. Interested parties may submit electronically filed comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)). Under ECFS Main Links, click on "Submit a Filing." In the "Proceeding" field, enter "03-104" and complete the required field. Comments may be typed into a form or you may attach a file containing your comments. Comments also may be submitted via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund campaign to support activities to educate government officials on the potential threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure [BPL Web site](#).

**BROADBAND OVER POWER LINES
HAS COME TO PENNSYLVANIA.**

**JUST IMAGINE THE IMPACT THIS
WILL HAVE ON YOUR OPERATION
WHEN THE POWER LINES RUN
ALONG THE BACK OF MANY ROW
HOUSES IN PHILADELPHIA.**



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

NO JULY CLUB MEETING
PICNIC - AUGUST 24TH