

August 2015

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 Picnic – August 30th 13 Colonies Recap Getting Ready for the Pope

**Sunday, August 30
HARC Picnic in the Park
Pennypack Park
Rhawn Street Entrance just west of
Rolland Ave.**

There will be no August general meeting. Instead we will gather for a cookout with friends and family in Pennypack Park. Time will be 11 AM until ? Please RSVP to WM3PEN@AOL.COM.

FIELD DAY A WASH OUT

For the first time in many years HARC's Field Day from Alverthorpe Park was rained out. With heavy rain in the forecast and minimum tent coverings it was decided to cancel our participation in Field Day to protect the equipment and those participating. Next year we plan on being back on the air. We will have to either get better protection from the weather or have longer lengths of coax to reach the pavilions. Your thoughts or ideas are welcome. As always we can use your help.

HARC was not the only club that cancelled Field Day plans. The Warminster ARC also cancelled their operation. The Philmont ARC reached out and invited both clubs to their Field Day operations.

Philadelphia area Ham Radio operators celebrated July 4th holiday with 13 Colonies Special Event

Amateur radio stations operating from the 13 original U.S. colonies were joined by members of several Philadelphia area amateur radio clubs to celebrate Independence Day from the city where independence was declared, Philadelphia, PA.

The six day event allowed amateur radio operators around the world to learn about the original 13 colonies and the city where independence began. This was the fifth year members of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (HARC) participated. Also participating were members of the Philmont Mobile, Drexel University, and Mt. Airy (Packrats) VHF Clubs along with the Philadelphia Digital Radio Association.

The theme for the 2015 event was Founders and Patriots of the Republic. Each of the original 13 colonies were represented by a special event amateur radio station, K2A-K2M. The Philadelphia group, used WM3PEN, and offered a special QSL card featuring John Trumbull's painting of the Declaration of the Independence. In addition, GB13COL, was on from England. In all you could collect 15 QSL cards during the 6 day event and earn a nice certificate.

Many qsl cards have comments that they enjoyed operating the event. For some it was their first event. Others reminisced about their time in Philadelphia. In some cases family members worked all of the 13 Colonies stations.

Plans are already in progress for next year's event. Interested in participating? Contact WA3PZO.

HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

Secretary - Saul Brody, W3WHK

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY

Mike Wurgley, N3LXN

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO

Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 3rd. Thursday @ 8:00 PM. Pathway Bldg, Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road at Tabor Rd . Phila PA. Picnic in August. Holiday Dinner in December.



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.

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

www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events

August 30 - HARC Picnic

Sept 17 - Stories behind those QSLs

October 15 - ARES

October 18 - NE Phila Youth Run

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

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)

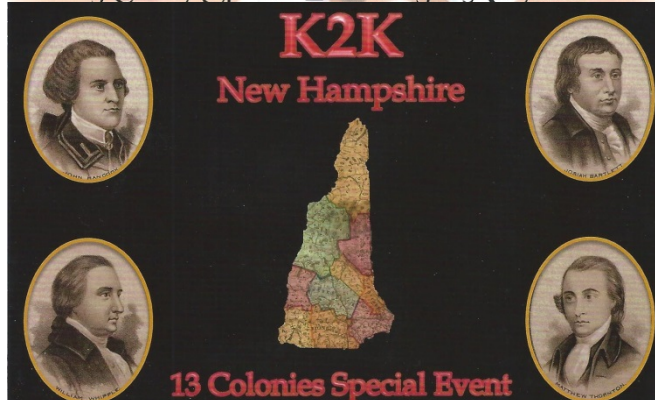


13 Colony Events Stats
 Total QSOs – 126, 296 (+17, 438- 2014)
 Total WM3PEN QSOs 5541 (+1040 – 2014)
 Worked 50 States
 49 countries. 6 continents, 17 CQ Zones. 1109 Counties.
 629 Prefixes.
 As of July 25, 2015 the following
 confirmations have been received
 488+ QSL cards - 1475 EQSLs – 1975 LOTW
 2015 Participants – HF Ops included WA3GM, WA3PZO,
 WU3I, W3WHK, AB3EO, N3ZZK, K3CJ, KB3WLN,
 WK2G, K0BAK. DSTAR ops were WA3BXH, WA3QVU,
 NS3K, KC3BRA.

Some of the other 13 Colonies QSL cards



13 Colony Special Event 2015 - Maryland



13 Colonies Special Event

Stamps For the Wounded



HARC members are collecting postage stamps for the Stamps For the Wounded program. *Stamps for the Wounded* accepts any U.S. or foreign stamps that are not torn or damaged. They have also requested each stamp

should have at least a quarter-inch margin around the stamp. Do not try to either to peel or steam the stamp off the original envelope.

So save the stamps from your qsl cards or other mail. They do not need the common Flag Forever stamp. Bring the stamps to a club meeting and give them to Rich, AB3EO, who will mail them.

Many stations, including DX, included extra stamps with their qsl cards for WM3PEN that we are able to pass onto the SFTW program.



13 Colonies – 2016

The 2016 – 13 Colonies Special Event will honor colonial soldiers of the Revolution. The event will run July 1 – 6. 2015 saw an increase in cw operations, partially because of poor band conditions. We'll be looking at increasing our cw activity.

Getting Ready for the Pope

We're still wrapping up activities from the 13 Colonies event and in less than 2 months the much anticipated World Meeting of Families and the visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia and the Holmesburg section of the city will be upon us. The World Meeting of Families takes place September 22 -25 and the Pope will be here September 26-27. One of the Pope's stops will be at the prison in the Holmesburg section of the City.

Several special event stations will be on the air while the Pope is in the U.S. visiting Washington, D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia.

The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) and the Frankford Radio Club (FRC) plan on having stations on the air for the entire week. The FRC will have W3FRC/WMF during their operation. Some FRC members will be using K2P or N2P. PVRC plan to use K3P, N3P, and W4P in celebration of the Pope's visit. They are planning on having at least 2 QSL cards. A certificate will be issued acknowledging the stations you worked..

In Philadelphia

WM3PEN will be on the air beginning Thursday night Sept 24 (0000 GMT Sept 25) until Sunday night Sept 27 (2359 GMT). A special qsl card will be available. WM3PEN will be on the certificate mentioned above. We are looking for operators.

Also W3P has been reserved by KA3LKM in South Philadelphia. Details of his operation can be found by looking at W3P on qrz.com.

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.

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



Some of the QSLs that came in following the 13 Colonies event. Below the stamps were removed, sorted and prepared to be sent to the SFTW program.



Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference

The Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference will be held on the weekend of October 2-4, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Bensalem / Philadelphia 3327 Street Road, Bensalem, PA.

Registration now open on-line and by mail. Go to the Packrat Website PACKRATVHF.COM and click on the VHF Conference link for all information. Make hotel reservations at 215-639-9100 for Special VHF Conference rate \$79+tax/nite til Sept 4, OR USE: http://dataandwireless.com/packrat/2015_vhf_registration.php

Early Bird Conference registration \$40 (til Sept 20)

Early Bird Banquet \$40 (til Sept 20)

Fri eve: Hospitality and table-top indoor selling

Saturday: Conference 8a-5p registration includes pizza lunch and snacks and proceedings disc

Saturday: 10a-4p Technical test bench with Greg Bonaguide of Rohde & Schwarz

Saturday eve: Banquet, speaker, door-prizes*

Sunday AM: limited outdoor flea-market free to all.

*You must be registered and paid for conference and banquet to be eligible for door prizes

ADDITIONAL PAPERS STILL SOLICITED FOR PROCEEDINGS

Contact Rick, K1DS at 215-284-5517 or rick1ds@hotmail.com

Tentative Speakers and topics:

Joe Taylor K1JT New VHF & Up Features of WSJT-X

Roger Rehr W3SZ Open HPSDR for VHF/UHF/uW Operating

Phil Theis K3TUF Radio Server for VHF/UHF/uW Contesting

Chris Wilson N0CSW Yaesu Fusion System Innovations

Rob Renaud K3RWR SDR and Noise Reduction

John Jaminet W3HMS Roving in the Pennsylvania Boondocks

Mario Filippi N2HUN uWave Satellites

Al Katz K2UYH Devilish Doppler

Joe Horanzy AA3JH Talking to the Astronauts

Michael Davis KB1JEY Painful Tower Lessons

Al Waller K3TKJ Six Meter Magnificence

George Heron N2APB Scalar Network Analyzer

Gary Hitchner WA2OMY New Packrat Beacons (Can You Hear Me Now?)

Steve Simons W1SMS RF Safety for Radio Amateurs

HARC in the Park? A National Park?

At the January ARRL Board Meeting, Board Members okayed a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial. While details of the event are not known yet, early postings indicate it will be a year long event similar to the recently concluded ARRL Centennial where

W1AW was operated from every state and most territories. There are many National Park Service sites in the Philadelphia area. Will we want to operate portable from a site? We will have to wait for more details from ARRL. Stay tuned!

Stay Connected!

The HARC Club net meets every Wednesday night at 8 PM on the Club repeater. Check in and see what's going on.



HARC has a Facebook page. Sign up today.

Follow HARC on the web at www.harcnet.org and via the HARC Spark.

Upcoming HARC Events

Trying to plan out your calendar for a few months? Here's a list of upcoming HARC events.

August 30 – HARC Picnic – Pennypack Park – Rhawn St. Entrance 11 am-?

September 17 – Stories behind those qsl cards. Tom, AF4NC, was an airline pilot and got to meet many of the operators he got qsl cards from. He has some interesting stories to tell. Tom is also the ARRL EPA Assistant Section Manager.

September 24-27 – WM3PEN will be on the air during the Pope's visit to Philadelphia.

October 15 – Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). EPA Section Emergency Coordinator, W.T. Jones, WN3LIF, and EPA District 1 District Emergency Coordinator Dick Stewart, K3ITH, will present an update on ARES activities.

October 18 – NE Phila Youth Walk & Run @ the Northeast Airport. 7 am to 11 am.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015: Politicians Do Listen, ARRL President Says

Credit: *The ARRL Letter* & The American Radio Relay League

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said in the July [ARRL Legislative Update Newsletter](#) that Washington politicians *are* paying attention to League members who have contacted lawmakers to urge their cosponsorship of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. Essentially identical bills have been introduced in both the US House ([H.R. 1301](#)) and Senate ([S. 1685](#)). Both measures would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions.



ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN.

members around the country have talked with your elected officials in their home-district offices and town hall meetings. This is a full-team advocacy effort." To date, H.R. 1301 has attracted 86 cosponsors; the just-introduced Senate bill, S. 1685, has one original cosponsor.

President Craigie said The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is aimed at helping to ensure the future of Amateur Radio, as more and more neighborhoods impose deed restrictions that prohibit Amateur Radio antennas and keep today's youngsters from becoming active radio amateurs.

"Many visits have been made to the offices of Senators and Congressmen on behalf of H.R. 1301 and S. 1685 by members of the ARRL Board and ARRL Headquarters staff," President Craigie said. "ARRL Section Managers have encouraged members to speak out. ARRL

"What if their parents have bought houses in neighborhoods with deed restrictions prohibiting antennas?" she speculated. "Those kids' interest in ham radio gained from school, Scouts, or family friends will have no way to blossom into the life-changing experience of being radio amateurs."

ARRL members, she continued, "are working together so that both today's amateurs and the kids who will be amateurs in the future have the chance to operate from their homes." Letters from members urging support of the bills are what make the difference between being ignored and being heard on Capitol Hill.

"Earlier this year, I visited a North Carolina Congressman's office and got a friendly reception -- but no cosponsorship," President Craigie recounted. "More recently, another ARRL person followed up at the same office, with the same staff member, but with about 40 letters in hand. The Congressman became a cosponsor."

The newsletter suggested several ways ARRL members can get involved in the Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots effort. One idea is to have a "letter party" at your next club meeting.

Take pre-addressed copies of letters to all three of your lawmakers -- one in the House, two in the Senate -- and have club members add their names, addresses, and signatures to letters for each Member of Congress. Have enough copies, so that each individual can sign his or her own letter. In some cases, club members in a given area may reside in more than one Congressional district.



[Names and addresses](#) of US House and Senate members are available on the ARRL website. Mail the collected letters to the ARRL (c/o The Amateur Radio Parity Act, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111), which will collate them for hand delivery on Capitol Hill.

Members also may e-mail their lawmakers, post comments on their US House or Senate member's website, or call their lawmakers on the telephone. Be courteous, make your points, and be brief. In all cases, thank lawmakers for considering your point of view.

"Grassroots politics is about you -- the individual -- making your voice heard," the July *Legislative Update* pointed out. "It requires a good deal of preparation and effort to achieve the end results."

The League now has a [combined web page](#) to accommodate activities on behalf of both the House and Senate bills. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is [H.R. 1301](#) in the US House of Representatives and [S. 1685](#) in the US Senate. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page provides a clearing house for all information on these identical pieces of legislation.

FCC Announces Enforcement Bureau Field Office Reorganization Plans

Credit: *The ARRL Letter* & The American Radio Relay League

Forced under political pressure to take a few steps back from its initial proposal to eliminate two-thirds of its Enforcement Bureau field offices, the FCC has announced its final, scaled-down plan to reorganize its field resources. In an [Order](#) released July 16, the Commission said it would close 11 of its 24 field offices, including Philadelphia, and relocate three others to nearby FCC-owned sites. In slimming down its field resources and upgrading those that remain, the FCC said it was acting in the name of efficiency and economy as well as to modernize a system model adopted 2 decades ago.

"Since then, technological changes and increasingly limited resources have created the need to take a fresh look at the [Enforcement]

Bureau's field operations," the FCC *Order* said. The FCC said it has completed "a full review" of the field organization and concluded that it needs to concentrate its field resources "in urban areas, where the need for them is greatest."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, addressed the topic of the FCC's planned field office closures in his "It Seems to Us" editorial in the August edition of *QST*. "The challenges the FCC faces in policing the radio spectrum are greater than ever and increasing every day," Sumner wrote. "Now is hardly the time to reduce its enforcement resources."

Sumner allowed, however, that the success of the FCC's enforcement efforts is not measured in the number of field offices but in the program's effectiveness in deterring bad on-the-air behavior and resolving interference complaints from such sources as power lines and "grow lamp" ballasts.

In a news release, the FCC said its field reorganization plan "aligns the field's structure, operations, expenses, and equipment with the agency's priorities," such as RF interference. "It also prepares the field [organization] to address future enforcement needs in an ever more complex spectrum environment, and aligns field operations to support this mission," the statement continued. "Through this plan, the Commission is maintaining a commitment to respond in a timely manner to interference issues anywhere in the nation...within one day."

The Philadelphia office was originally in the Federal Building in Center City. In the late 1970s it moved its office to Oxford Valley. Many hams who got their license before the volunteer examination program can remember showing up at the FCC office, entering a room, and taking the test.



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

No Club meeting in August

August 30th – HARC Picnic

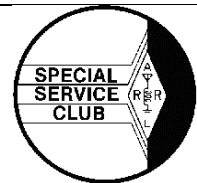


**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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. Membership year begins May 1.

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) _____