



September 2007

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater PL 146.2
{K3FI} CLUB CALLS {WM3PEN}

Celebrating Over 30 years of Serving the Philadelphia Area
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org> WM3PEN@ARRL.NET



Next Meeting
Thursday, September 27 8 PM
8th District Police Station
Red Lion & Academy Rds
Knot Tying

Northeast Philadelphia 5 Mile Run
NE PHIL Airport
Sunday, October 14th, 2007

We will be providing communications support for the Forth Annual Northeast Philly 5 Mile Run This run is in support of The Northeast Philadelphia Youth Alliance It is being held at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport We are meeting at start/finish area by the parking lot to the right of the main entrance . Talk-in on the repeater output frequency - simplex 146.685 Working frequency will be provided.

This is a easy morning event that we really need your support on. This year is very important to support the run as we ask State Senator and House Speaker Dennis O'Brien, who's idea it was to have the run, to support important PRB-1 legislation in the State House.

Details will be at the meeting. You can also drop an email to wm3pen at arrl.net.

WELCOME
New Member

Tom, KB3PNM

Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade
Sunday, November 18th, 2007

We will be providing communications support for the 32th annual Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade. We are meeting at Wachovia Bank parking lot SE corner of Rhawn St. and Frankford Ave. The parade starts at 1:00 PM

Parade organizer Gary Cousins told Bob, WA3PZO, "Please thank the club for all they do on parade day. Many ask what the "radio guys"? do. I just tell them that you guys make the parade a managed community event. We got to know what the whole parade is doing at any given time. I knew within seconds where Santa was and how much longer the parade would be. "

The parade takes a lot of work getting everyone lined up and relaying the many changes to the end of the parade so that the marching groups can be announced in the correct order.

HARC members also assist with monitoring the crowd and getting medical help if needed. Over the years there have been injuries on the parade route and HARC members were able to call for assistance.

One of the main floats is named after Kim MacNamara-Josuweit, KB3COV (SK) , a HARC member. The float recognizes community involvement.

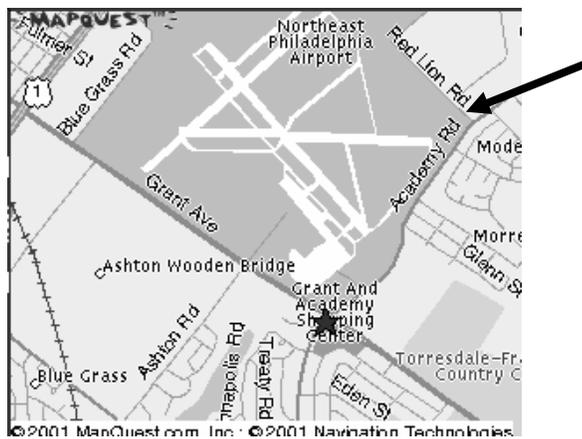
The parade is a great way to start off the holiday season and a fun family event as well. Invite your family to watch the parade.



HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ
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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. General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA



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 PO Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

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.

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 moved it's testing from Northeast High School to Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month.

Exams are given at Ambler Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA. Registration begins at 7pm. Warminster - last Wednesday of each month. Contact Tom Michaud (WA3TQJ) at (215) 343-3494 (7-9PM) Bryn Mawr - quarterly on a Saturday. Contact Bob Lees, W3ZQN, rjlees@aol.com

FCC RULES

Reference

Check out the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>

Mentoring Activity Is Active Mentoring

Amateur Radio has always been an activity of exploration and discovery as well as personal growth and social interaction. The people who often receive the most satisfaction from Amateur Radio are those who have spent time developing skills. They have made a commitment to increase their knowledge of the subject and who have become a part of the fabric of the amateur community. Obtaining a license and purchasing a radio does not make you a radio amateur any more than purchasing a tennis racket makes you a tennis player. If I may carry this analogy a step further, mentoring in ham radio is like coaching in sports; it is ineffective unless there is an effort from the participant.

"Without involvement, there is no commitment. Mark it down, asterisk it, circle it, underline it. No involvement, no commitment." --
Stephen Covey

Too often time and energy is wasted by well-meaning amateurs who want to help people discover Amateur Radio. Fueled by their good intentions, these disciples of Amateur Radio try to spoon-feed information to apathetic newcomers who somehow meandered through the door to ham radio or have found themselves handcuffed to ham radio either through school, career or family involvement. License mills that systematically churn out call signs and don't offer any follow up training are not the least bit beneficial to the Amateur Radio Service. One new ham who gets involved in a local club and is active on the air will have far more impact on Amateur Radio than a hundred call signs who may never even purchase a radio let alone get on the air. Unfortunately the dormant call signs will clutter the census of Amateur Radio for up to ten years, misleading the actual number of active hams. New hams should already have that wide-eyed zeal of any person who has willingly embarked on a new hobby or venture. The enthusiasm of new hams is often contagious and this can have a positive effect on a club by invoking renewed excitement to the group.

A recent example of this wide-eyed enthusiasm happened at our club's Field Day event when I met a newcomer to Amateur Radio who had only been licensed about six weeks at the time. I could instantly see in the eager but curious way that he immersed himself in the weekend's activities that this person had the potential to be an asset to our club and to Amateur Radio. Soon after Field Day, the novice operator had a General class license manual in his hand but, more importantly, he was in my shack experiencing DX, SSB, digital and CW operating. Soon after that, I had him in the chair participating in the IARU contest. Immediately after his inoculation of on-the-air operation, my new protégé was planning his first wire antenna and the layout of his shack. He even

designed a QSL card to confirm future contacts with other radio amateurs. By the time this newsletter is released I am certain that he will probably have upgraded to General and started logging contacts from his own station.

Amateur Radio has a wide variety of things to offer but the fact remains that in this post 911 and post-Katrina world, many people have been attracted to Amateur Radio through the emergency communications feature of the service. It is wonderful that these new people are using the EmComm portal to come into the exciting world of Amateur Radio however, if the intention is to get an entry level license, buy a hand-held radio and keep it in a box only to be used for emergencies. All of the spoon feeding in the world is not going to enable these people to become good operators and effective communicators.

Active radio operators are effective communicators and are essential to "maintaining a reservoir of trained communicators," as stated in FCC Part 97 as the basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service. Not only do active hams make good communicators, active hams "enhance international goodwill" which is also part of the FCC's basis and purpose of the service.

Effective mentoring in ham radio requires coaching, teaching and above all, encouragement. The mentor who is a cheerleader and promotes activity on and off the air gives new hams a purpose and lets them learn by doing. Activity introduces new hams to other operators and offers opportunities for new friendships and resources that can help develop communication skills.

Contests and awards are not just for collecting certificates and other wallpaper. Operating events are fun and they can be used as mentoring tools to encourage new operators to set goals and get involved. More time spent on-the-air with other hams not only increases an operator's ability to be able to pass information, but it cultivates good listening skills, creates a familiarity and comfort level in using the equipment, and it helps to understand complex topics like propagation.

Proficiency comes by doing, and as one becomes more proficient at something, the more enjoyment there is to be derived from it. People who enjoy what they are doing are more likely to share their avocation with others who show an interest. Mentors who promote activity kick start the machine that generates momentum in a club. Active hams are enthusiastic hams, and enthusiastic hams create commotion that others want to be a part of. As the passion for ham radio activity grows, soon the students become the teachers who mentor a new group of excited wide-eyed novices.

Radio amateurs have many opportunities to be recognized for their operating achievements and mentors ought to be using these programs as training aids. ARRL sponsors or supports many events and awards programs that are designed to get hams on the air. In fact, the very first tab on the ARRL Web page < www.arrl.org > is "Operating Activities." Along with contests and awards, there are many special event operating activities. On any given weekend there are operating events that hams can participate in. Besides the structured events and activities mentioned we can always sit down with a new ham and call CQ. Effective mentoring comes not from spoon feeding, but by setting a buffet table full of activity and inviting new hams to join in the feast.

Resources:

Special Event listings:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

ARRL Contest Calendar:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

Contest Corral (Non ARRL Contests):

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/jul.html>

(The ARRL CLUB NEWS and The American Radio Relay League)

High Definition DX

If you have an HD Radio receiver, September 14th became the day that AM stations could leave their HD carriers on overnight. HD Radio 300M DX is now a reality. Up til then then they could only transmit HD from sunrise to sunset. There aren't many AM HD Radio Stations on the air, so they should be easy to pick up. There are 25 stations broadcasting 40 HD radio channels in Philadelphia. The FM stations can have 2nd, 3rd, or even 4th programs that listeners can only pick up with an HD Radio. For more information on HD Radio: www.ibiquity.com/

HAMFESTS

In the area

30 Sep 2007 Hamarama

Mt. Airy VHF Club Wrightstown, PA

<http://members.ij.net/packrats/Hamarama/hamarama.html>

Talk-In: 146.52 simplex

21 Oct 2007 Annual Hamfest

RF Hill Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Sellersville, PA

www.rfhill.ampr.org

Talk-In: 145.31 (-), pl 131.8

"I Can't Afford to Join the ARRL."

By Sherri Brower, W4STB

Southern Florida Section Manager
Chairman, ARRL Public Relations Committee

Most of us manage to afford things that last a lot less time than a year's membership to an important organization. Basic membership in the ARRL is \$39.00 per year. It's about twice the amount of one year's dues for a local radio club. It's about average for other national organizations. It's less than one cup of coffee per week for a year, less than a month of cable television service, and less than most monthly cell phone bills.

It's not the "afford" that we should be concerned about. Rather it's the value for that \$39.00.

What do you get for the dues? You get a full year's membership, a monthly magazine, e-mail newsletters delivered straight to your inbox, a package of services that you can personally use, a cadre of volunteers in your local area to assist you with a variety of amateur radio matters and activities, a voice in Congress, specialists at Headquarters, and much more.

When you pay the yearly dues you can often choose a gift of a publication or you can pay through your local club. Did know that the local affiliated club can retain a portion of the dues to use in your local area? The club can keep \$15.00 for a new member and \$2.00 for each renewal application.

The ARRL is an association of amateur radio enthusiasts joined together by a common interest and a voice -- a voice that protects our frequencies and provides the insurance for us to remain active on the radio. Other organizations-- labor, farmers, merchants, hobbyists, companies - - join together to increase their effectiveness. Why not hams?

ARRL -- a great value. Join TODAY.

Are you running Windows Vista for your ham radio software? A yahoo group has been set up to discuss issues you might be having. You can find more information here:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vista-ham/>

Canceling a License

Unfortunately, the FCC doesn't "remove" call signs from their database. They do not purge the FCC database of terminated, expired or cancelled licenses; these licenses remain in the database indefinitely. FCC does this for the simple reason of needing to retain a history on each license, especially since the inception of vanity call sign program.

To cancel a license of a deceased holder, FCC requires that they receive a signed written request indicating that the current licensee is now deceased (include the deceased licensee's name and call sign in the letter). Also, FCC requires that some type of evidence of death accompany the request--something that verifies that the licensee is deceased--such as a newspaper obituary, a death certificate or social-security/death-benefits documentation.

Supply this information to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245; or fax the information to FCC at (717) 338-2696. Allow FCC one to two weeks to cancel the license. Verify the FCC has canceled the license by looking up the FCC license call sign data at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>. If the license has been canceled, FCC will show the license STATUS as "CANCELED". Again, these SK licenses will not be removed from the system, the status will simply change from "Active" to "Canceled".

ARRL PR Award Presented

Delaware County Emergency Coordinator Dan McMonigle, N3IXQ, was presented with the 2007 ARRL Phil McGan Public Relations Award for helping to promote ham radio

President's Call to Service Award Presented

Dan Amoroso, W3DI, was awarded the President's Call to Service Award, sponsored by the USA Freedom Corps and the Points of Light Foundation. Dan was recognized for his lifetime contribution to the Amateur Radio Service and for his support of Amateur emergency communications in Delaware County. Representing the USA Freedom Corps, Joe Ames, W3JY presented Dan with a handsome certificate and letter on White House stationery signed by President George W. Bush.

FCC Lowers Vanity Call Sign Fees

The FCC reduced the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting September 17. In a *Report & Order (R&O)* released August 6, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission will cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$171,990 in fees from the program.

from New York to Virginia.

Making the presentation were Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, EPA Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, and Public Relations Committee member Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO. Dan is the third person to receive the McGan award with Delaware County ties.

September facts

September is the ninth month of the year and the seventh month on the Roman calendar, which is where the month gets its name.

Temperatures are still hot at the beginning of the month, but, by months end, fall will definitely be felt.

Weather starts shifting from the summer to autumn pattern and back again. Storms resemble the August pattern, but, the Bermuda High starts shifting southward and begins weakening, which will weaken the blocking effect which it has had in preventing fronts from invading from the northwest.

September is the peak of the hurricane season, the actual peak being on September 10. This peak coincides with the time of "syzygy", (my favorite Scrabble word), when the combination of the sun and moon's gravity and autumnal equinox combine to provide the highest astronomical tides of the year. Add a hurricane's storm surge on top of this and you can have incredibly destructive flooding.

Fall begins at Autumnal Equinox on September 23, 2007 at 4:51 A.M. CDT.



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

Next Meeting: Thursday September 27, 2007.
8PM @ 8th District - Red Lion & Academy Rds.



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

HARC, PO BOX 6253, 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 PO BOX 6253, 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) _____