



October 2006

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 25 years of Serving the Philadelphia Area
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



REMINDER !
General Meeting
Thursday October 26th.
8PM @ 8th District
Academy & Red Lion Roads

Upcoming Events

VHF/UHF CONTEST
(Details Inside)

THE PREZ SEZ

Hello, hope everyone is well. Summer is over, time to charge those batteries and get ready to use that ht at one or better yet all of the many events coming up. A meeting, uhf/vhf contest, parade and all in the next 5 weeks. So come on out and join in on the fun. More information in this newsletter.

Mike N3LXN 73

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

John, K3ZV, President of the Frankford Radio Club will present a program on "low profile contesting." John used to live in the Parkwood section of the city so he's familiar with our neighborhoods. The presentation will be about contesting (and DXing) from a typical Philly row house environment and the challenges and success you can have from such a location.

Hope to see you at the HARC meetings.

73s

Bob, WA3PZO

CLUB HELP

There are several openings on the HARC Board of Directors. If you are interested in helping your club and would like to serve on the Board contact Club President Mike, N3LXN. Bob, WA3PZO, has already announced that he is not planning to serve on the Board next year because of increased demands at the state, national, and international level.

MAYFAIR/HOLMEBURG THANKSGIVING PARADE

Sunday, November 19th, 2006

We will be providing communications support for the 31th 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, HARC members are needed at 11:00 AM for pre-parade briefing, and to assist with getting the units lined up. The parade will be finished about 4:00 PM.

If you plan to attend, please contact Mike N3LXN, Bob WA3PZO, or Dave KB3AKK so we know who will be there

RAFFLE

Starting at the Picnic HARC will be raffling off a tri-band ICOM T-90A HT. Drawing will be in December. It will make a great gift for the holidays. We'll need help selling tickets. This is one of HARC's yearly fundraisers.

According to Icom this palm-size wonder takes amateur radio operators back to the day when radios were simple to operate and designed to last for many years. Constructed in a die-cast aluminum chassis with oversized buttons, the T90A is perfect for hams who want a small radio that doesn't sacrifice operating performance, comfort and functionality.

In the quest to provide more in a smaller package, Icom did not compromise performance, as the T90A offers plenty of talk power! A full 5 watts on 6m, 2m, and 70cm is possible from NEW MOSFET technology along with the 7.4 V Li-Ion Battery pack. "Our in-field tests have seen 5-6 hours of operation from the 1300 mAh battery pack" reports Ray Novak, KC7JPA, National Sales Manager for Icom America's Amateur division.

If you ever get tired of chatting on local repeaters, the T90A also includes a Wide Band Receiver covering .495-999.990 MHz (cellular blocked). Choose from either AM, FM or WFM operation for hours of additional enjoyment. Whether you are camping, hiking, or just taking a break from the job, don't miss your favorite television shows or late breaking news with pre-programmed TV stations!

For those needing emergency communications, the IC-T90A is capable of multiple signaling with DTCS and CTCSS. Along with encode and decode operation, the T90A can identify what is being used with the tone scan function.

The T90A gives you the ultimate in memory scanning management with Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS). Icom's exclusive DMS allows you to pick and choose any of the 450 memory channels you want to scan! Soft partition memory provides the DMS with a maximum of 18 banks or 100 channels per bank. No other multi-band hand held offers so much in scanning flexibility as the Icom IC-T90A.

For the active ham, the IC-T90A makes the perfect weather radio! With Icom's weather alert, the T90A checks the active weather station for NWS alert activity; even while monitoring local repeater communications! When an emergency occurs, the IC-T90A will automatically switch from an active channel to the weather channel and an audible signal will indicate that an emergency signal has been received.

The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club of Philadelphia is pleased to announce the Delaware Valley VHF FM Simplex Sprint Contest to be held on Saturday, October 21st, 2006.

Purpose:

- To promote FM Simplex operation.
- To provide a local fun, fast contest with equipment most hams already possess.
- To encourage youth participation in amateur radio.

When:

Saturday, October 21st, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST
This is during Scouting's JOTA weekend. (Jamboree on the Air)

Find a Scout troop near you and offer to set-up a temporary station at their location.

Cradle of Liberty Council Boy Scouts of America
JOTA Information Jamboree on the Air

Also ask your children/grandchildren to join you, and bring their friends.

The contest is open to all radio amateurs.

According to HARC President Mike Wurgley, N3LXN, the contest is designed for hams to have fun over a 4 hour period from 10 AM - 2 PM EST and as a way to introduce youth to amateur radio. The contest was moved from the evening to during the day, to encourage the youth element. The contest allows hams to meet their neighbors on the air as well as give many the opportunity to experience something else besides repeater contacts.

The contest gives individuals as well as clubs to participate in the event. Bonus points are being allowed for contacting club stations/callsigns. "We realize that everyone will not be able to contact WM3PEN so we're giving clubs a chance to put their club callsign on the air." This could be from a club station or an individual's home. There is no advanced registration for Club callsigns with the sponsoring group. This will allow many clubs to make a last

minute decision to make their voice heard in the area.

FCC Releases Long-Awaited "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 11, 2006 -- Ending a protracted waiting period, the FCC's <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf>Report and Order in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10, 2006. In it, the FCC adopted nearly all of the proposed changes in the <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/04/15/102>>Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released back in 2004. The FCC has:

expanded the phone subbands in the 75 and 40 meter bands; permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band; permitted the use of spread spectrum on 222-225 MHz; permitted amateurs to retransmit communications from the International Space Station; permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam; prohibited an applicant from filing more than one application for a specific vanity call sign; eliminated certain restrictions on equipment manufacturers permitted Amateur Radio stations in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications; clarified that "amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions"; deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for RACES stations; and deleted the requirement for public announcement of test locations and times.

In addition, the FCC took several other miscellaneous actions.

In "refarming" the frequencies currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus licensees, the Commission increased the voice segments for General, Advanced and Amateur Extra licensees.

On 75 meters, Generals will be able to use voice from 3800-4000 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz. Advanced class licensees will be able to use voice from 3700-4000, an increase of 75 kHz, and Amateur Extras will be able to use voice from 3600 to 4000 kHz, a generous increase of 150 kHz.

On 40 meters, Advanced and Extra Class licensees will be able to use voice from 7125-7300 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz. General class licensees will be able to use voice on 7175-7300 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz.

On 15 meters, General class operators will have phone privileges on 21275-21450 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, expressed the ARRL's gratitude to the FCC Commissioners in a letter dated October 11: "On behalf of the ARRL and the Commission's licensees in the Amateur Radio Service I want to express appreciation for your release yesterday of the Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) amending Part 97 of the Commission's Rules. The Commission's action in clearing this pending proceeding will assist the Amateur Radio Service in meeting its objectives, particularly with regard to providing emergency and public service communications."

The changes will go into effect 30 days after the R&O is published in the Federal Register.

(Tnx ARRL Web)

PHILA ARES INFORMATION

Additional Philadelphia resident Amateur Radio Operators are sought to be signed up members of Philadelphia ARES. As Philadelphia ARES continues to grow, we are seeking more hams to sign up and register.

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>



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

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