



October 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, October 25 8 PM
8th District Police Station
Red Lion & Academy Rds

HARC Provides Communication for Northeast Philadelphia 5 Mile Run

HARC members provided communications support for the Forth Annual Northeast Philly 5 Mile Run. This run supports The Northeast Philadelphia Youth Alliance, which is made up of 7 youth sport clubs in the Northeast.

Assisting with the event were Sol, N3UBY, Charlye, K3CJ, Tom, KB3PNM, Rick, KA3JWK, Carl, N3ZZK, Jon, NY3Z, Rich, AB3EO, Bob, WA3PZO, and Beth Johnson. A combination of 2 Meter simplex and FRS radios were used.

The group provided parking and logistical communications for the event which featured about 100 runners and walkers on a 5 mile course. The run started at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport, continued along Grant Ave to Academy Rd. IT made a turn onto Red Lion and weaved it's way towards the soccer fields before making a u-turn for the return trip.

House Speaker Dennis O'Brien, who's idea it was to have the run, was very appreciative of the work of HARC members. Each time he acknowledged the volunteers supporting the event, he made a special mention of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. Also race organizers expressed their appreciation to the Club.

As always we could have used more help. This is an easy event and a good one to get your feet wet for helping to provide public service communications.

NEXT EVENT

Mayfair/Holmesburg
Thanksgiving Parade
Sunday, November 18th, 2007
11:30 AM

Proposed cellphone band could impact ham radio mobile operation

If a proposal becomes law in Pennsylvania, motorists will be prohibited from using handheld mobile telephones while operating a vehicle. The Bill (House Bill No. 1827) amends Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. The Bill states that "No driver shall operate any moving vehicle on a highway of this Commonwealth, which shall include Federal, State and municipal highways, while using a handheld mobile telephone."

The term "handheld mobile telephone" is defined by the bill as: "A mobile telephone other than a hands-free mobile telephone with which a user engages in a call using at least one hand." It also defines hands-free mobile telephone as follows: "A mobile telephone that has an internal feature or function, or that is equipped with an attachment or addition, whether or not permanently part of such mobile telephone, by which a user engages in a call without the use of either hand, whether or not the use of either hand is necessary to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of such telephone."

The proposed law does not apply, however to the following, when on duty and acting in their official capacities:

- Law Enforcement Officers
 - Operators of Emergency Vehicles
- The bill also mentions that defensible actions for the use of a handheld mobile telephone will be:
- The driver had reason to fear for the driver's safety
 - Reporting a traffic accident
 - Making a "911" emergency call

A person who is found to be in violation of this section commits a summary offense and upon conviction, will be sentenced to pay a \$50 fine.

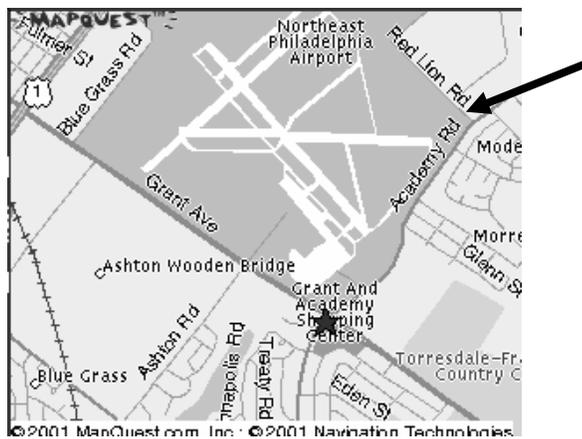
Possible effect on ham radio.

Some law enforcement might interpret the proposal to include talking on a microphone connected to a ham radio as being in violation of the law. Many states, including New Jersey, have specifically excluded amateur radio from similar legislation.

(Continued on pg. 3)

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. 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.

FCC RULES Reference

Check out the ARRL Web site

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

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



(Continued from pg. 1)

Efforts are in place to contact several state representatives to help craft bill wording so as not to affect amateur radio.

Bob, WA3PZO, has been in contact with Rep. O'Brien's office on the issue. Certainly having the House Speaker acknowledge the Club publicly on several occasions during the run didn't hurt. Thanks to all who participated.

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.

MEMBER NEWS

Condolences to Charley, K3CJ on the recent passing of his mother.

Congratulations to Sol, N3UBY, on being selected by the Philadelphia Eagles as one of the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians.

Congratulations to Bob, WA3PZO, on his recent engagement.

Local SSTV Net Tuesday Evenings (From the Bucks County ARES reflector)

I wanted to let everybody know that I will be hosting a SSTV NET on Tuesday evenings in November & December between 8:00 & 9:00 PM. The NET will be on 442.900+ (pl 123.0). I have permission to run SSTV thru the repeater, however, I will most likely be sending pictures on 145.700 simplex, a popular 2 meter SSTV hangout. You can do SSTV on any band where phone is allowed, but always check the bandplan first.

To receive SSTV, you will need a laptop or a PC, MMSSTV shareware or SSTV software equivalent, and a rig speaker output to PC soundcard input connection. This connection may (or may not) cut off the audio from the rig but, in most cases you should hear the rigs audio come through your PC speakers.

To transmit a good SSTV picture, you will need to connect your PC sound-card output to your rigs mic(or data) input. Your rig may already have an accessory jack for this purpose so check your manual if you are not sure. The RASCAL GLX is an inexpensive plug n' play alternative but of course there are other options ie: Rig Blaster or homebrew connections. Always start with low power and refrain from using high power. Be prepared to make a few software adjustments. You may have to calibrate your sound-card too. You will also need to load a picture(s) into the software. You can drag n' drop or import pictures very easily with MMSSTV software.

FYI: You can send pictures by simply holding your mic up to the PC speaker while the software "plays" the SSTV signal. Holding the mic up to the speaker will suffice in an emergency but there are better ways to do SSTV. This method is however, usually fine for casual FM use.

Your questions, thoughts, and comments are all welcome on the SSTV NET. I will be experimenting on Tuesday evenings effective immediately so tune in if you would like.

SSTV takes a little practice but it can be a lot of fun. It's also a very useful tool. You could use it to help identify a lost child, identify somebody at a checkpoint, the possibilities are endless. Please check into the NET if you want to give it a try.

Please feel free to ask about Fast Scan "Live TV". I will be happy to help there too.

73,

Mark Morris / N3NJ

Two Hams Included Among the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians.

The Philadelphia Eagles recently announced their list of the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians as part of their 75th Anniversary.

Among those included were 2 ham radio operators including HARC's own Sol Volen, N3UBY, a longtime community volunteer with the American Red Cross Disaster Services, USO, VA Hospital and Veterans Home. Also selected was Thomas Riethof, W3CQC, a longtime volunteer and instructor with the American Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

On October 11, the Philadelphia Eagles and Dunkin' Donuts welcomed individuals who were honored as one of the "75 Greatest Living Philadelphians" to a special reception at Lincoln Financial Field. Emcee Vai Sikehema, of NBC 10, introduced Mark Donovan, Eagles Senior Vice President of Business Operations, who welcomed guests and praised Dunkin' Donuts for the creativity they bring to their corporate partnership with the Eagles. The contest was held as part of the year-long celebration of the Eagles 75th Season in Philadelphia.

ATV Transmitter for sale

Cleaning out the closet and came across my rack mounted ATV transmitter. 400 MHz, I built it in 1985

I believe it's output is 50 watts. Stainless steel panel with pull handles mounted on the front. A very nice looking piece of equipment All inputs and outputs are marked. I live in the Foxchase area. Free to good home.

Ed
N3JTZ

Contact via e-mail et760 AT aol.com
Replace AT with @

Here is some interesting history:

A short distributed by Metro Goldwyn Meyer in 1939. (?)

It's about 10 minutes long.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGldf0VjQ4>

Meet the Enemy

Allen G Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media & PR Manager

During the month of September 2007, there were many positive articles in the media about Amateur Radio. But, there were also a few which did major damage to the public perception of our Service.

Unfortunately they were in large metropolitan newspapers and, by the time an ARRL PIO learned about them, it was too late to change things. These articles were proclaiming the "death of Amateur Radio", that it was antique and an anachronism to the 21st century, full of ancient grumpy men and that the hams themselves were not friendly nor welcoming. The real tragedy of this is that the reporters were quoting their community's own local hams!

None of the articles had numbers or empirical data to show the true trends underlying the present state of amateur radio. None looked beyond the personal opinions voiced by their local club or they might see the recent gains following February 2007. None of them saw the larger picture around the country or the work being done in schools, scouting, ARISS, digital work, ARES and other EmComm actions. But they had their quotes, and that was enough to hurt us.

While not all areas of the country are motivated by the same approaches, there really is a lot of new growth in important areas. In some places, emergency operations and EmComm is indeed a BIG deal. We are gaining many new hams entering the field because they want to be part of a response operation. That is part of this year's PR push on EmComm. In other areas, it may not be EmComm that is the big draw. It could be the hobby side of the Service. For them, the "Hello!" materials are still available and timely. If that fits your area, then use them there. In some other places or situations, it will be the technical side of Amateur Radio that is of interest. The ARRL is working on a coordinated program for that to come out in 2008. It will be the hardest of the three to create, but plans are already well along.

These three, Hobby, EmComm and Technical activities are the motivational keystones of the Service. No one thing is going to attract "the general population." We encourage you to look at your own local situation. Which type of motivator works best in your area? Use that one. In the meantime, our importance in EmComm is a motivator in antenna issues, spectrum defense and other political situations.

Are we "dying" out? Not really. Amateur Radio never was, nor will be, a "mainstream" activity. But recent numbers are up and, just as important, the percentage of hams who actually get on the air or go on to higher class licenses is up. With the 10 year license-lag, most who are dropping out seem never to have been active to begin with. We also see trends which follow the solar cycles -- currently at a low.

To quote Pogo, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Over the past two months the national PR Committee has

seen far too many articles quoting their local hams saying we are all dying out! With attitudes like that, is it any wonder the reporters print it? It's a self-fulfilling prophecy. This is why we need informed, active PIOs and hams need to defer media responses to them. Anytime you or a ham in your area is contacted by the media, steer them to your local

PIO. If you don't have one nearby, steer them to your section's PIC. These professionals are trained in showing the best that amateur radio has to offer to the public and to prospective licensees. Fifteen minutes of individual fame is not worth the damage your personal opinions could cause to us all. (via ARRL Club News)

ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications:

If you are an ARRL member did you know that the ARRL offers more newsletters than just "The ARRL Letter"? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the "ARRL Contest Rate Sheet" (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the "ARES E-Letter" (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the "ARRL Club News" (monthly club news), the "ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter" and the "IARU E-Letter." You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire. Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site. (via The ARRL Letter)

Anything that's worth doing, is worth doing Poorly"Anything that's worth doing, is worth doing Poorly" Yes you read the title right and I'm not out of my mind. I really said "anything that's worth doing is worth doing poorly". The more you think about this the more you'll realize that our lives were built around this quote. Just take your mind back to when you first started to learn to drive. That very first time, you pressed your foot down on the accelerator and the engine screamed. You lifted your left foot off the clutch and you hurled forward with such velocity, you would have beaten any kangaroo.

Can you drive now? So, "Anything that's worth doing is worth doing poorly."

What is all this about? Well, reminding ourselves that; whenever we do something we haven't done before, or whenever we make an effort to break old habits and whenever we are going to do something that is worth doing. The odds are that we are going to make a hash of it. Don't give in. Don't listen to that critical voice inside your head that says, "It's too hard, I can't do it and I will never, ever try". Just remember. Anything that's worth doing is worth doing poorly," then laugh and get going.

So, whether our aim is to give up smoking, to diet, learn the NTS traffic handling procedures and protocols, Winlink 2000 and Packet, become a Net Control Station, learn CW or take the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses (ARECC), accept that you are going to do it poorly at first. Then gradually with practice we will get better and better. It takes effort to improve ourselves and if we want to improve, there is only one way to start and that is to overcome our need to be right first time and keep practicing. So whatever we want to do, it all starts with doing it poorly. So you might as well get on with it and remember:

Anything that's worth doing is worth doing poorly.

To be USEFUL, you MUST be READY.
To be READY, you MUST be TRAINED.
To be TRAINED, you MUST plan AHEAD.

Instant Messaging (IM) During Significant Weather and Hydrologic Events

Many offices in the National Weather Service (NWS) are using Instant Messaging (IM) on an experimental basis as a tool for enhanced communication with core partners.

The real-time exchange of warning-related information via IM between the NWS, the media, and the hazards community is essential to fulfilling the NWS's mission of saving lives and property. IM provides media and emergency response partners with the ability to communicate significant event reports back to NWS operational personnel, who in turn utilize the information to make effective warning decisions.

The agency's partners also use IM as an efficient means of seeking clarifications and enhancements to the communication stream originating from the NWS during a fast-paced significant weather or hydrologic event. Because of its real-time nature and ease of use, IM lends itself extremely well to the sharing of significant weather reports and information on both natural and man-made disasters between many NWS offices and local, state and federal partners.

Participation in IM chats is limited to NWS offices, news media representatives, and emergency response officials. This is done to facilitate communications between core warning partners during critical situations.

According to the National Weather Service the target audience for this experimental service at this time is aimed at broadcast media partners, emergency managers and other members of the hazards response community, and Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) Skywarn Net Ham Operators. These constituents play a critical role in helping the NWS achieve its core mission of protecting life and property.



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

Next Meeting: Thursday October 25, 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) _____