



October 2017

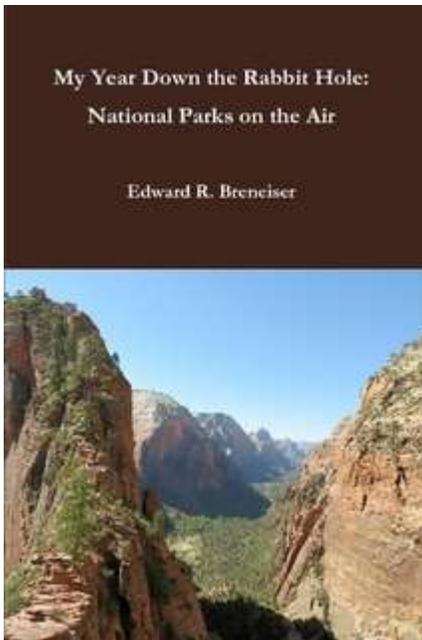
The HARC Spark

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>



KB3SBC – NPOTA Activator HARC Meeting – October 19

Join us on October 19 as HARC welcomes National Parks on the Air activator Walt Skavinsky, KB3SBC. Walt will share his experience of travelling around the United States operating from 71 national parks during the ARRL NPOTA event. His adventures along with WA3WSJ, are documented in the book- My Year Down the Rabbit Hole written by WA3WSJ. Both are members of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club.



NPOTA was an ARRL operating event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.



From Walt, KB3SBC's, qrz.com page. I have been interested in ham radio most of my life, but did not get licensed till 2008. I enjoy collecting and operating military radios. The portability, ruggedness, and the challenge of operating QRP are the best part. There is nothing like the look you get when you go to setup in a local park and pull out 25 pounds of painted green aluminum and hang an antenna. Most people are curious the rest want to call 911. I have a collection of the Clansman family of PRC radios that were used by the British military from the 1970 thru 1990. I also have several US issued gear and several German Military radios including the SEM-52A and SEM-52S. My primary commercial rig is the Elecraft KX3.. My primary Military HF Rig is the PRC-47. I also enjoy D-Star, Fusion, DMR, P-25 and IDAS and look forward to the growth of Amateur digital radio.

Most recently I have been using my QRP rig to participate in the Parks on the Air WWFF POTA and Summits on the Air SOTA, mainly on 20 & 40 meters. I have also been devoting my time to participation in a non-profit organization called the Education Alliance for Amateur Radio (EAAR) our call sign is KE3AAR. The purpose of our groups is to provide support to local ham clubs and assist with the use of amateur radio as a vehicle for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education for youth.

HARC Board of Directors

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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 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
HARC Meeting – October 19
HARC Meeting – November 16

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

Phil-Mont 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, Monthly, Last Mon. 7:00 pm at the Wilson Senior Community Center 580 Delmont Avenue Warminster, PA 18974.

George Brechmann (215) 443-5656.

Mid-Atlantic ARC provides VE Test Sessions quarterly on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 0900 and hosted by the Lower Providence Township Building. The VE Test Sessions are coordinated by Dick Stewart K3ITH.

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)

Radio amateurs should keep up with modern times

Radio amateurs made their mark in history when they discovered worldwide HF communications while using radiotelegraphy, which is the correct term for CW. Ten years later they discovered VHF propagation beyond the line-of-sight to the surprise of the radio experts.

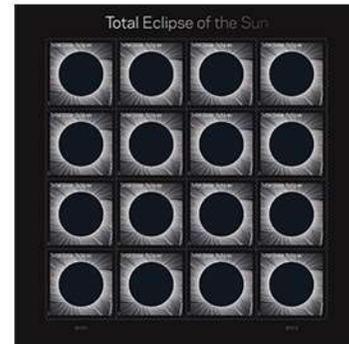
Our early radio amateurs were true experimenters, researchers and pioneers and they advanced amateur radio technology in their time. Today many of our modern breed of radio amateurs are no longer interested in experimenting but only having fun with a radio hobby.

Many shortwave broadcasting stations have closed and commercial stations relocated to the satellite frequencies on SHF where DSTV is well established. This includes the maritime mobile service that used many HF bands and radiotelegraphy on their sea lanes, until they also moved to satellite and now communicates via voice and digital. It is the VHF, UHF and SHF spectrum that is now in great demand by the commercial radio world.

All the above does not mean that radio amateurs should abandon HF or CW, but they should rather try and keep up with radio developments and increase their knowledge of the VHF spectrum and the frequencies above, where the future of radio lies including the digital communications. The IARU is already concerned about the lack of interest in amateur radio by the younger generations and if it stops growing then its survival is doubtful. The younger generations are very computer literate and their interests are a lot different than the old-timers of yesteryear and the RAE should reflect it.

Amateur radio service needs a Renaissance, the first step is to break away from this hobby attitude and to realize that it is an amateur radio science with which to experiment, research and pioneer. Secondly, the amateur radio service should broaden its field and include radio astronomy for future space communications, which currently can cover a communication distance of more than 21 billion kilometres from Earth.

A wider radio field enhanced by the latest radio technology will be more exciting, attractive and have a far greater appeal to the new generations with their open and inquiring minds. They will become fully exposed to the new era of space travel within the next decade and this could extend the lifespan of amateur radio service for another 100 years. (South African Radio League via Southgate Amateur Radio News.



Stamps, Stamps, and More Stamps for SFTW

Last year turned out to be a banner year for HARC's participation in the Stamps for the Wounded Program. Over 31 pounds of stamps were collected and shipped to the SFTW program. So far 2017 is off to a flying start with 26 people, including one ham from England, sending stamps to the Club for SFTW. We have had many inquiries about SFTW from the 13 Colonies event. The collected stamps are distributed to various centers around the country to help with physical and occupational therapy programs for our wounded vets.

HARC About to Turn 40!

HARC will celebrate its 40th birthday in 2018. How would you like to celebrate it? We have archives of information and photos of the club. Should we have a party? Should we do something special? Let any of the Board members know your thoughts.

NE Phila Youth Run Sunday, October 15

NE Philadelphia Airport

It's that time of year for HARC to support northeast Philadelphia Youth by helping provide route and safety communications in the area of the Northeast Philadelphia Airport. This will be HARC's 13th year to support the 5 mile run and 2 mile walk. The walk starts at 8:15 and the run at 9:00 am. HARC members need to be on site by 7 AM. Our work is finished between 10:30 and 11. The event organizers are very appreciative of our efforts. Each year HARC is mentioned in the program booklet and receives several plugs by the public address announcer. To help out contact Rich, K3UJ or Bob, WA3PZO.



PA QSO Party October 14-15

The Pennsylvania QSO Party will take place on October 14-15. Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many other amateurs in Pennsylvania, the United States, Canada and the world. Pennsylvania Amateurs receive multipliers for each Pennsylvania county, US and Canadian section, and one multiplier for DX entities. Non-Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many Pennsylvania Amateurs as possible. Non-Pennsylvania Amateurs receive a multiplier for each Pennsylvania County with a QSO. Complete info can be found at: <http://www.nittany-arc.net/pqppdf/paqso17rules.pdf>

ARRL CEO visits Conshohocken October 26

The Montgomery County ARES/RACES group and The Philadelphia Digital Repeater Association announce a joint meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2017 from 1900-2100 hours at the Montgomery County Fire Academy, 1175 Conshohocken Road in Conshohocken, PA. Mr. Tom Gallagher NY2RF, ARRL CEO, will be the featured speaker for this meeting. Mr. Gallagher will present on the Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative, the direction the ARRL board of directors is taking, and the future of amateur radio and our founding organization. He will also discuss potential collaboration between amateur radio and the maker movement that is becoming prevalent throughout the county. All amateurs in the local area are invited to attend this special meeting. Further information about the venue can be found at <http://www.montcopa.org/136/Fire-Academy>

ARISS Moves One Step Closer to Flying New Amateur Radio Equipment to the ISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, announced this week that the program has submitted its Interoperable Radio System (IORS) flight-safety data package to NASA for review. ARISS has been developing the IORS to replace most of the Amateur Radio hardware now on the space station. It is called "interoperable" because it's designed to operate anywhere on the ISS. A NASA flight-safety review in about a month is the next step. Bauer said he was highlighting the accomplishment, because all work on the safety data submission was developed exclusively by ARISS volunteers, rather than NASA or other contractors, as had been done in the past. It also meant a substantial saving to ARISS, which has become more reliant on donations in recent years.

"This is a very major IORS milestone," Bauer said. "We cannot get [the new equipment] to orbit without successfully completing the safety review

process and getting our hardware certified for flight."

Bauer said having the work done by volunteers will shorten the timeline involved in getting the new Amateur Radio hardware to the ISS.



A key development: The ARISS multi-voltage power supply.

He explained that the material turned in for NASA Human Spaceflight Safety Certification

covers the first three phases of a four-phase process. The initial steps in the process are aimed at ensuring that NASA understands the design, demonstrating that ARISS understands the potential hazards that the new hardware systems could introduce, and how it has mitigated or prevented them. The final phase will be complete when ARISS has finished all testing and NASA deems the hardware flight worthy. ARISS is

hoping that will happen next spring.

"We will remove the 3 W Ericsson handheld radio system



Astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT (left), and Cosmonaut Yury Lonchakov with the current Kenwood radio, which will be replaced. [NASA photo]

, initially certified for flight in 1999, and the packet module -- both of which have recently had issues," Bauer said, and install a brand-new,

specially modified 25 W JVC Kenwood TM-D710GA radio to enable a multitude of new or improved capabilities on the ISS, including voice repeater and better APRS operations."

A key development, Bauer explained, is the multi-voltage power supply (MVPS), which interfaces with multiple electrical outlet connector types on the station and provides a range of power-output capabilities for current and future ARISS operations and Amateur Radio experiments.

More info from the ARRL Letter can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/ariss-moves-one-step-closer-to-flying-new-ham-equipment-to-iss>

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.



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. For further info check out www.harcnet.org.

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

October 19 - Club meeting

NPOTA

	<p align="center">HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136 http://www.harcnet.org WM3PEN/K3FI</p>	
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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) _____