



November 2013

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>



NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 21st!

Speaker: Ron, K3RJC

Topic: Repeaters

ARRL School Club Round Up Top Honors

What is a repeater?

HARC's Technical Chairman, Ron Cardullo, K3RJC, will be talking about repeaters at the November 21st HARC meeting.

Inputs, outputs, satellite receivers, voters, cavities, controllers, are all parts of a repeater system. Ron will explain the workings of a repeater system and how it helps to extend the area you can talk to with your HT.



The WM3PEN Repeater antenna.

Amateur Radio Ops Assist with NE Philly 5 Mile Run

Members of the Holmesburg ARC and the Drexel University ARC provided communications for the annual NE Philly 5 Mile Run. Communications were provided along the route. Members also helped with traffic control along the airport driveway. This was a fairly easy event.

Communication support was provided by AB3EO, WA3PZO, N3LXN, N3ZZK, N3UBY, KB3UWJ, KB3WLN, KB3ZNU, KB3ZNI

Special Thank You to
Boy Scout Troop 155 / 461
 Great job running the water stop

Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
 Great job on the traffic control

PHILLY PRETZEL FACTORY
 of Parkwood

State Senator
MIKE STACK
 Representing the 5th Senatorial District
www.senatorstack.com

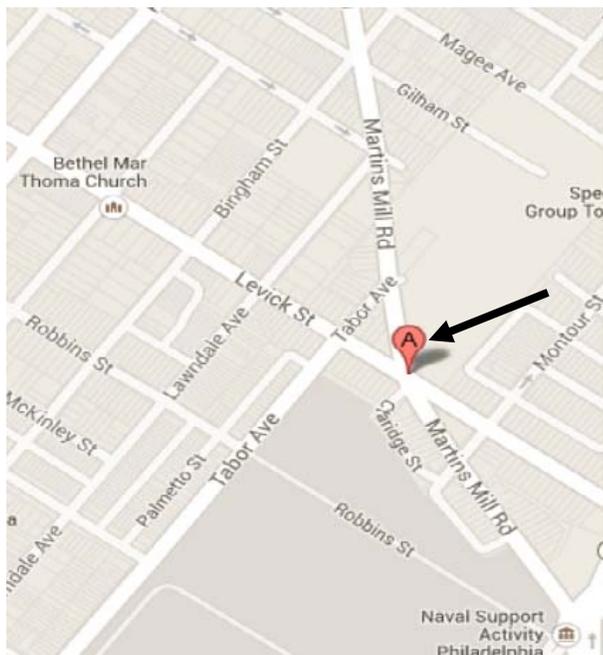
Muller Inc. Philadelphia PA

& Web Master Rich Shivers

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
V.P./Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
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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 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. No meeting in July. Picnic in August.



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.

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

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

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting: November 21
Holiday Dinner: December 19
National Traffic System: Jan 16

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)



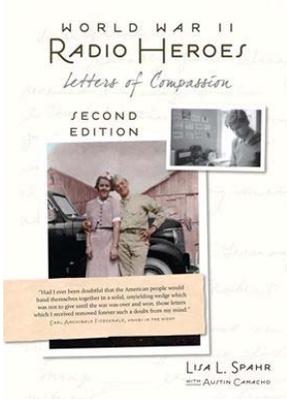
Does Katy Perry Know Morse Code?

May be not, but she stopped at nothing to promote the release of her

new album Prism. In an interview with Entertainment Tonight, Perry revealed that she commandeered the light atop the famous Capitol Records building in Hollywood to send out a personal message.

Pointing to the light on top of the spiral on the building Perry said, "See that little red light up there? One thing that people don't know is that it's been spelling out Capitol for the longest time, I believe, and we changed it months ago and we had it start blinking out, 'Katy Perry. Prism. October 22nd, 2013.'" "No one reads Morse code."

Well apparently Katy doesn't know code since the light on the rooftop spire of the Capitol Records building flashes "H-O-L-L-Y-W-O-O-D" in Morse code. The building is located near Hollywood and Vine. (image: Wikipedia)



World War II Radio Heroes Letters of Compassion Second Edition Lisa Spahr
List: 19.95

HARC members or at HARC Meetings:

\$15.00

Others: \$19.00

Shipping extra.

Contact:

WM3PEN@AOL.com or Bob, WA3PZO

Annual Dinner

December 19, 6:30 PM

The Four Seasons Restaurant
11801 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA
19116

Pay for own dinner.

RSVP attendance to WM3PEN@aol.com
Spouse and friends invited.

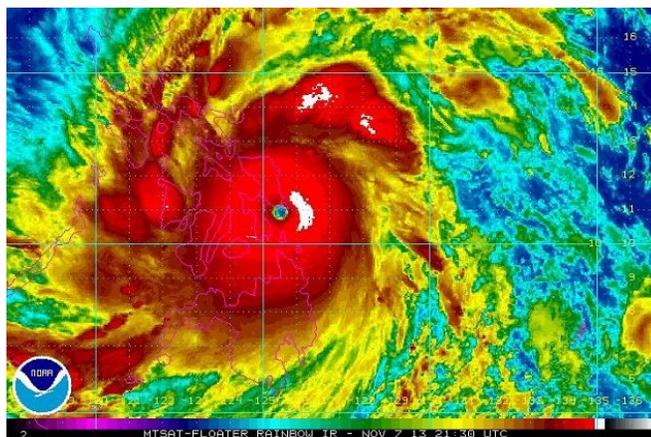
Ham Radio Operators Play Critical Role in Philippines Disaster

With the communication infrastructure in typhoon-ravaged regions of the Philippines largely in shambles, ham radio operators are playing a critical role in the rescue and recovery operation now underway. Officials estimate that the death toll in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan (called "Yolanda" in the Philippines) could go as high as 10,000. One storm chaser called the damage wrought by the category 5 hurricane and a resulting storm surge "unimaginable."

"No words to describe what my beloved Philippines is going through," Thelma Pascua, DU1IVT, posted to her Facebook page. Rescue operations continue, although authorities have been unable to reach some afflicted locations to assess the damage or human toll. Many houses and buildings have been destroyed, affecting millions of residents. Ramon Anquilan, DU1UGZ, of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association ([PARA](http://www.para.org.ph)), reports that its Ham Emergency Radio Operations (HERO) — PARA's ARES organization — continues to help authorities and residents by handling relief messages. PARA activated HERO in advance of the typhoon's landfall three days ago. Earlier, hams helped to track the hurricane, reporting on wind and rainfall, storm surges, damage and communication and power outages. The National Telecommunications Commission continues to monitor HERO operations on 7.095 MHz and 144.74 MHz. Anquilan said Nathan Eamiguel, DU5AOK, and other RADNET (District 5 Radio Amateur Network) members are on the air as DX5RAN in one of the worst-affected areas of Tacloban.

“They are acting as field liaisons to validate and secure requested information on the whereabouts and situation of Tacloban residents from relatives from all over the country,” Anquilan said. “Our National Traffic System (NTS) Co-Chairman Jojo Vicencio, DU1VHY, together with Max Santos, 4F1BYN, relocated to La Montana Estates in Antipolo, the QTH of Peter Schuemann, DU1DL, to better copy transmissions from Tacloban City.” The Tacloban station, running 100 W on 40 meters, is passing health-and-welfare traffic.

“The farthest that RADNET members have penetrated is Palo, which is the nearest municipality to Tacloban City,” Anquilan continued. “There are still no cellular phone services or electricity in the area.”



Among the other Ham Emergency Radio Operator activity is the Cebu Amateur Radio League’s DX7CA, which has deployed to Bantayan Islands with five operators. Bantayan Islands is one of the hardest-hit islands east of Cebu Province, according to Aquilan. “Another DX7CA team is stationed at the Cebu Capitol Building,” Aquilan added. The capitol team has four members.

“There has been no news emerging from the islands, as the initial national government focus has been on Tacloban City and its neighboring municipalities,” Aquilan said. “However the Governor Davide has already gone to the islands and convened a needs-assessment meeting with local officials.” The Philippines government has set up command centers in both the Eastern and Western Visayas, and may use the HERO network, to better coordinate the recovery effort.

Among the regions in the path of the typhoon was the island of Bohol, which was the epicenter of a 7.1 magnitude earthquake in October that killed more than 200 people and left some 5000 others now living in tents. Rescuers and relief supplies in the aftermath of the quake are only now reaching some remote areas for the first time.

“[E]ven without commercial power, an amateur club, DX7BC in Bohol, is with us on 7.095 MHz, ready to relay, in case propagation becomes poor between DU1 and DU5,” explained Pascua. Bohol is on the eastern side of Leyte.

Typhoon Haiyan has been described as a fast-moving storm with winds gusting greater than 230 MPH. It has affected 36 provinces in the Philippines. — *Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee*

The Saipan Tribune reports that the MDX Amateur Radio Club is calling on all ham radio operators on Saipan to help those who want to communicate with their families in the Visayas area, especially Leyte.

“As we all know, communication is still down up to now and the only means of communicating is by ham radio,” said Canedo, an MDX Board member.

He said that MDX was able to contact the Philippine Amateur Radio Association yesterday morning and they are now establishing stations in different parts of the province.

“We are calling all ham radio operators on Saipan and let us all join hands to help our fellow kababayans [compatriots] by means of communication.”

Typhoon kills many thousands as disaster unfolds

Estimates of those people who died when monster Typhoon Haiyan (also called Yolanda) hit the

central Philippines on Friday ranges up to 10,000, with many injured and nine million people affected.

The full damage and death toll of the fiercest typhoon ever recorded on land has overwhelmed emergency services, supported by the military and at least five major Ham Radio Emergency Operator network stations.

Ramon Anquilan DU1UGZ, of the Philippines Amateur Radio Association (PARA), reports that among the chaos HERO stations are helping authorities and residents.



In Tacloban the capital of Leyte which was smashed by winds, its streets filled by ocean surges and is now a swamp-like smelling mess.

Ramon DU1UGZ said that RADNET with Nathan Eamiguel DU5AOK, Vilma Eamiguel, DU5VIE, and the members of their local club are working hard.

"Their HF station is located on the second floor of the Tacloban City Hall, powered by a generator maintained by the local government unit. Two metre band communications is simplex because there is no electricity to power their repeater.

"The VHF members serve as field personnel who go on various errands – verification of requested information, liaison work, and bits and ends.

"The officers led by Nathan DU5AOK dispatch their members based on the priority traffic handled by the HF station."

He said the Tacloban HERO station has been used by the Red Cross to track a relief vehicle verifying the welfare of its volunteers who were stopped and ransacked by those impatient for aid to arrive.

Other requests for help came from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) regional

office in Tacloban that needed hand-held radio contacts.

In his report he talks of another local club ACCESS 5 attached to responding government agencies and relief organizations. A military HF station is linked with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Council (NDRRMC) which is located inside Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

"However ACCESS 5 is using VHF very effectively acting as guides for rescue and retrieval teams in the field, just like some RADNET volunteers," said Ramon DU1UGZ.

In Eastern Samar, Lester Price DV5PO (also ZL5PO) based in Borongan is providing valuable situation reports. Lester and his wife had a very lucky escape - they held on to the doors of their house for four hours until the surge waters receded, that claimed around 500 lives in the coastal barangay or village alone.

Another third HF station activated by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is using equipment from Nathan DU5AOK and his friend Dominique walked half a day to the government centre in Palo and the DOST Regional Office. Dominique, who is actually the office driver, and the Regional Director, Dr Eduardo Esparancilla alternate as operators.

In DU7 (Cebu, Bohol and Negros Oriental islands including the island province of Siquijor), the Cebu Amateur Radio League (CARL) has dispatched a team to the Municipality of Bantayan - located in the northern tip of Cebu.

This municipality is the hardest hit in Cebu with an estimated 90 per cent of structures levelled. The CARL team (previously reported on) is handling HF traffic. Another component is the Chocolate Hills Amateur Radio League (CHARL) based in Tagbilaran City in Bohol - an area struck by an intensity 7.2 earthquake recently.

The club station DU7BC along with its members Gerry Marmito DU7AU, Ador Lamoste

DU7AL are ready to monitor and relay messages between Tacloban and the principal receiving stations.

The third DU7 component is from Dumaguete City. Roy Alcantara DU7DDJ together with James DU7JGU (Island Province of Siquijor) are leading NORAD-7 with long range communications to the Dumaguete local government unit passing traffic from Tacloban to their area in Negros



island. NORAD-7 members also act as field operators and runners.

In DU6 (Panay, Negros Occidental and neighbouring islands) heard are Bobby Garcia DU6BG in Iloilo, Iver Astronomo DV6ILA and

Arnel DV6WAV in the Roxas Provincial Capitol as they are embedded with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Council (PDRRMC).

Scattered all over the archipelago of the Philippines are stations receiving outgoing traffic from Tacloban and the other affected areas.

Among them are Jojo DU1VHY, Thelma DU1IVT, Romy Isidro DV1SMQ and Max 4F1BYN - acting as the main receiving stations on a rotational basis since HERO activation began.

Other stations are also active in receiving outbound welfare traffic, mainly to inform family members and relatives of their conditions - Totie DV1TEE, Lito DU4DF, Atty. Albert DU4ABA, Bobby DU6BG, and Ramon DU1UGZ.

On standby as relays are Doc Piciong DV9DOC, Marlu DU8WX, Butch DU1RP (PARA SecGen on his mobile station in Davao City), and others.

Another facet of the operations is the use of Echolink by CARE-4 in Naga City (DU4) and COMPASS in Tondo, Manila (DU1).

Ramon DU1UGZ said, "Basically, the Tacloban and other stations in the disaster areas permit only outbound traffic as priority messages.

"This is a policy decision by NTS Co-Chair Jojo DU1VHY and as requested by RADNET. We can classify the messages as follows: We Survived Messages, institutions/government agencies to their central or partner offices in Manila, and urgent requests for specific form of assistance or relief items."

The relief and retrieval operations are moving slowly and the HERO operations are probably going to last a week or more from today.

He said that Telecoms companies are steadily restoring cellular mobile services and today there was intermittent limited coverage in Tacloban.

"As the primary telecoms services are restored, there will be less reliance on the amateur radio service in Tacloban.

"This will mean a more difficult period because the remote areas not reached yet by government and other agencies will now demand communication links.

"Our assets will be thinly spread resulting in gaps which only a robust service such those found in first world countries," said Ramon DU1UGZ.

Currently an average of one to two minutes is spent per message, and depending on band conditions, the rate of traffic per hour would be 40 to 60 messages.

A more in-depth analysis is not possible until all HERO stations are closed and submit their log details.

Ramon DU1UGZ notes that news media has started to notice ham radio, but don't understand that the HERO network is playing an important role in the disaster.

"Although there's some very brief TV exposure they are yet to adequately report on the voluntary service it provides, and the emergency communications to the agencies and community in times of disaster," he said.

- Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee.

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.

Fall School Club Roundup

New...Young...Voices on the air. That's the thrill of the biannual ARRL School Club Roundup sponsored by the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club.



WM3PEN participated in the ARRL School Club Roundup in October. Behind the mike was Bob, WA3PZO. WM3PEN made contact with more schools during this event than any of the past three roundups. We're hoping to make it 4 First Place finishes in the Club Category.

It was exciting working elementary age students and telling them about William Penn and his connection to Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. QSL cards were sent to all of the schools we contacted.

Middle Schools, Senior Highs, and Colleges were also represented. As we went to press, 10 non-club stations participated including clubs in England and Germany. No Philadelphia area schools were on the air for the event. WA3PZO emailed the local clubs and encouraged them to get on the air for the February School Club Roundup.

Here are some comments from some of the school participants.

We heard many new voices on the air. The development of the students on the radio is coming through loud and clear. Certainly there has been several station improvements since the

fall. There are many schools now easily heard with confident and competent students at the radio. Has a new school participation record will be achieved? The graying of amateur radio is slowing -- let's all keep up the great work that this event is doing for our hobby.

Because we are losing so many licensed and experienced 8th graders to the High School in the fall, we made a huge investment in 6th graders this go round. It takes a lot of time and energy to change those tiny whispers into confident voices. Voices heard outside the classroom. Although impressed with the quality of activity at the two locations I supported, School club KF5CRF and Club station KO5OK. One of our 6th graders was totally unexcited until she talked with the Falkland Island. When she learned that there are stations in Antarctica, Africa and we know the rest of the list; she became excited about amateur radio. Next year, as a 7th grader Mr. Harper will be able to get her to successfully earn a technician license. KF5CRF makes a huge investment in 6th graders to prime the great voices for the 7th and 8th grade.

Paul /KC5CYY mentor for KF5CRF and KO5OK

Highlights include making our first CW contact ever on Thursday with DN2AA. Students utilized the computer to translate the CW, while I used the keyer to make the contact. It is still hard for some students to comprehend this was the main mode of communication in early radio, but very effective. Later in the day we set up our dipole strung as a sloper off our gym pointing eastward (only direction available) to make our traditional QSO with K9SOU and also pick up a few more schools along the way.

Friday had us focused on digital operations as former student Jake, KC9OQN didn't have school in the morning and came by to help us out. He operated with students while I led discussion with my classes about the Russian Meteor event. We picked up a couple new countries, not as exotic as Antarctica, but St. Helena and Gibraltar were new ones for the school. We also worked LX9LTE (Luxembourg school) who we had talked to earlier

this school year and exchanged QSL cards. Pat, their op, shared that initial exchanged helped encourage their participation this February in SCR! Way Cool! Have a Great Day and 73's from the Flatlands of Illinois!

-Troy W9KVR
W9GRS Glenn Raymond School, IL

ON THE AIR

Island chasing: Several Club members were chasing 4 Dxpeditons that were taking place at the same time. Wake Island, K9W, Easter Island, XR0YY Banaba Island, T33A seemed to be the most difficult. 5J0R, San Andres Island, seemed to be the easiest with several club members reporting working them on multiple bands and modes.

Carl, N3ZZK, worked a rare prefix in Japan, 7J7ACT. According to info on QRZ.com this is the last 7J7 prefix active in Japan.

Did you do something interesting in ham radio, make an interesting contact, get a special qsl or certificate? Let us hear about your activity ON THE AIR! Send stories and photos to



"Last Man Standing" producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, reports that lead character Mike Baxter (Tim Allen) finally gets on the ham bands during the program's Thanksgiving episode, which was shot in mid-October and scheduled to air on November 22 on ABC.

According to John, Mike heads to his basement ham shack to escape a house full of guests waiting for Thanksgiving dinner to be served.

This is the second "Last Man Standing" episode to include ham radio as a story element, and the first in which Allen's character is seen operating his ham station. (CQ Newsroom)

FCC Turns Away Proposal for Technician 10 Meter Privileges

Newington, CT October 22nd, 2013 — The FCC has dismissed a Petition for Rule Making that sought to expand Technician privileges in the 10 meter band. The Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) had asked the Commission last June to expand the spectrum available to Technician licensees on 10 meters to include operating privileges in the FM portion of the band, from 29.520 to 29.700 MHz. Novice and Technician licensees now may operate on 10 meters from 28.000 to 28.500 MHz.

"We conclude that TMRA has not presented grounds for the Commission to revisit the question of operating privileges for Technician class licensees," the FCC said October 17 in denying the petition. The FCC said that Technicians may transmit through repeaters licensed to a General class or higher licensee that have an output channel in the 29.5 to 29.7 MHz segment, as long as the repeater has a 2 meter or 70 centimeter input.

Further, the FCC pointed out that the current licensing structure was developed "with the expressed desire of the amateur community to provide an incentive, ie, additional frequency privileges, to motivate Amateur Radio operators to advance their communication and technical skills." The FCC noted that it increased Technician privileges in 2006 to include Novice and Technician Plus privileges. "A Technician class licensee can upgrade to a General class operator license and receive significantly more frequency privileges (including those at issue here) by answering correctly a minimum of twenty-six questions on a thirty-five question written examination," the FCC said. TMRA, the Commission concluded, had submitted no evidence that the FCC should depart from its "long-standing policy of providing additional frequency privileges as an incentive" for license advancement. TMRA had asserted that amending §97.301(e) of Part 97 would extend Technician voice privileges on 10 meters to "coincide with today's technical advancement of the Amateur Radio Service." (ARRL Letter)



NEW RADIO MAGAZINE TO LAUNCH

A new electronic publication, The Spectrum Monitor, will follow the final issue of Monitoring Times, a paper and electronic publication covering amateur, shortwave and scanner-related topics, which ceases publication after a thirty-three year run following the retirement of its publisher, Bob Grove. Managing editor, Ken Reitz KS4ZR, made the announcement in the November issue of Monitoring Times. "As the accolades poured in, all readers, regardless of how long they had been subscribers, expressed sadness and dismay at the closure of the magazine. I came to believe that there might be enough interest to warrant continuing the publication in some other form. I took it upon myself to explore the possibility of a follow-on magazine, not connected with Monitoring Times or Grove Enterprises, it's publisher." The Spectrum Monitor will debut with the January 2014 issue, on December 15, 2013, and will carry virtually all of the current Monitoring Times columnists and feature writers. Reitz noted, "These are the experts in all facets of radio who have helped make MT the best, full-spectrum magazine available and we are all excited about continuing our work for the new publication." The Spectrum Monitor will be available only as an electronic publication in PDF format which may be read on any desktop, laptop, iPad™, Kindle Fire™ or any other device capable of opening a PDF file. Details on how to become a charter subscriber may be found at www.thespectrummonitor.com

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

Next Meeting: November 21 - Repeaters
Annual Dinner: December 19 – Details inside



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2013 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 April 1.

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone # _____ Would you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? ____

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Are you an ARRL member? YES NO Membership Expires (mm/yy) _____