



January 2014

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>



National Traffic System

Joe Ames, W3JY
January 16th, 2014

January HARC Meeting



Joe Ames, W3JY, will talk about the National Traffic System (NTS) and share his thoughts on why and how NTS remains very much relevant in today's Amateur Radio environment. Joe has a wealth of experience in amateur radio message handling. He currently serves as a net control station for the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic Net on 75 meters and is a member of the NTS Eastern Area staff which coordinates the movement of messages between the various eastern U.S. ARRL sections and the NTS Central and Western Area NTS nets. Joe is also active with message handling using digital means.

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE							
RADIOGRAM							
VIA AMATEUR RADIO							
NUMBER	PRIORITY	TO	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
		TO		THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY			
		TO (FIELD ADDRESS)		AMATEUR STATION			
				NAME			
				STREET			
				CITY STATE ZIP			
		FROM		DATE			
		TIME		DATE			

More on W3JY.....

Joseph Ames is the training and training officer for ARES/RACES of Delaware County, Pa. and is active with the Chester County ARES/RACES. He is registered as an Official Emergency Station, an Official Relay Station, a Volunteer Instructor for ARECC and as a Volunteer Examiner with the ARRL. He is an active member of the National Traffic System and serves as Sunday NCS on the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone & Traffic Net on 3917kHz and as the 3RN MBO station for NTS-D, scanning HF Factor 24/7.

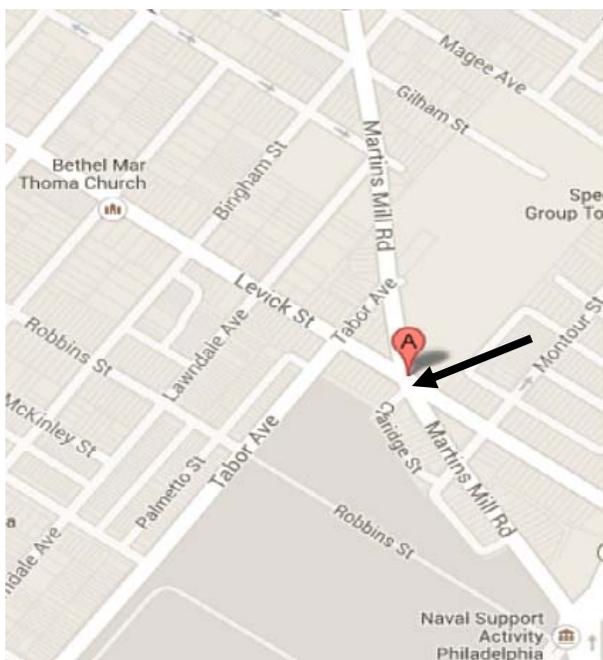
An avid outdoorsman, his primary interest is emergency, mobile and field-portable communications. Favorite operating modes include CW, sent on a vintage Vibroplex "Lightning Bug" through a 1970's vintage Yaesu FT-101 and FT-221 equipment. For reasons unknown, Joe installed a 16' Shakespeare m120 military HF whip with NVIS adapter on his 1978 VW Westfalia Campmobile which works FB. His home shack features an 650' horizontal transmitting loop in NVIS configuration at 30' above ground.

A direct descendant of the Mayflower's William and Mary Brewster and a native of Philadelphia, Joe is a financial management consultant by profession and is a popular instructor and public speaker. He is an alumnus of the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Villanova University.

HARC Board of Directors

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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.

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

Upcoming Events
National Traffic System: Jan 16
Next Meeting: Feb20

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

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)

Amateur Radio Population Grows!

(via ARRL)

The Amateur Radio population in the US has continued to show steady growth. As of the end of 2013, the FCC database showed 717,201 [licenses](#) in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)). That's the greatest number of US hams ever and up from 709,575 in December 2012. The [volume](#) of Amateur Radio applications slowed somewhat to 141,943 from its zenith of 176,826 in 2007, the year the FCC dropped the Morse code requirement.

“The three current license classes also peaked at the end of 2013,” notes ARRL [VEC](#) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. “FCC-issued club station licenses are also at an all-time high in the FCC database at 11,363. The number of new licensees has increased by 7 percent over last year (28,886 in 2013 and 27,082 in 2012).” Somma said that a significant number of Technician licensees were earned through large emergency communication and Community Emergency Response Team ([CERT](#)) classes.

The breakdown by license class shows Technicians as the largest group, at 349,163 licensees, followed by General licensees at 167,257, Amateur Extra licensees at 133,391, and Advanced licensees at 54,293. There are still slightly more than 13,000 Novice licensees on record too. The FCC no longer issues the Novice or Advanced class license. Technician numbers have grown by 8.2 percent over the past decade, with an impressive comeback since 2007 after the population had plummeted from a peak of 338,334 in March 2000. The General class population has risen by slightly more than 18 percent over the past 10 years. But the Amateur Extra class has shown the most remarkable growth over the past decade, climbing by slightly more than 27 percent, with no dramatic spike after the Morse requirement went away.

While Amateur Radio application volume slipped somewhat overall, that was not the case at the ARRL VEC. “ARRL VEC served 34,896 exam applicants in 2013, up slightly from 32,866 in 2012,” Somma said. “July will mark 30 years that

ARRL VEC has been certified by the FCC to administer Amateur Radio exams. We're delighted to celebrate our important milestone in the same year as the ARRL's [Centennial](#) celebration and look forward to the promise of another record year.”

It's a mixed picture in the other countries, according to [statistics](#) compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A. In Australia, there were 15,626 Amateur Radio licensees in 2010, the last year for which he has numbers from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). That was up by 1.3 percent over the previous year. Overall, Australia's ham population has showed steady but slow growth.

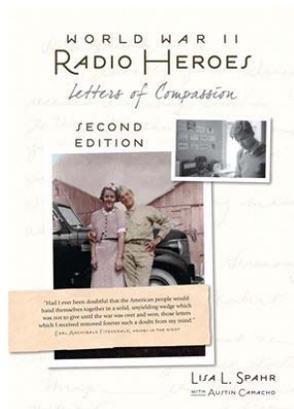
In Japan, the statistics are a little stale, but in 2009, the last year for which numbers are available on Speroni's website, the number of ham radio *operators* of all license classes stood at just under 3.3 million, with growth of approximately 1 percent over each of the previous three years. But there's an important caveat here. The figures from the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT) are cumulative — ie, they indicate the total number of licenses *ever* issued. Also, as Speroni points out, the MPT “double counts” operator numbers.

“Operators upgrading to higher class licenses retain all previous licenses, so the statistics ‘double count’ amateurs, overstating the total number of licensees.” Operator licenses in Japan are good for life.

Japan also issues a station license with a 5 year term. The number of station licenses in Japan declined from its high of approximately 1.4 million during the heyday of the late 1980s and early 1990s to approximately 489,250 as of March 2009, the last month and year for which statistics are available. Perhaps more telling, the net number of new operator license applications was largely down in the period from 1999 to 2009, with occasional growth spurts.

In the United Kingdom, 76,362 licensees were on record as of March 2012 — up by 3.9 percent over 2011 — and growth was consistent. Spain had

30,468 ham radio licensees in 2012, up by nearly 1.4 percent over 2011, when the population dipped by 3.3 percent over the previous year.



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

The FCC has authorized the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW to also use the call sign **W1ØØAW** during 2014, the ARRL's centennial year.



Contacts made from the **Maxim Memorial Station** in Newington, from regional Centennial conventions, and during the **IARU HF Championship** will use W1ØØAW, with portable designators as appropriate. The "W1AW WAS" operations throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states will use W1AW, *not* W1ØØAW.

Bulletins and code practice transmissions during 2014 also will still use W1AW. Contacts with W1ØØAW will be worth 100 points in the **ARRL Centennial QSO Party**.

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world. W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only **W1AW portable operations**. This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can

during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory. This is an on-the-air event like no other.

Complete rules available at <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>

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.

ON THE AIR!

HARC Special Events:

Charter Day: March 9

WM3PEN will be on the air Sunday March 9 to celebrate Charter Day, the day William Penn was given the Charter to Pennsylvania by the King of England. The event runs 0000Z to 2359Z, March 9. We can start Saturday night local time.

Interested in helping to put WM3PEN on the air? Contact WA3PZO.

WM3PEN
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania





William Penn

- In partial repayment for debt, Charles II of England granted William Penn a charter for Pennsylvania "Penns Woods" March 4, 1681
- Founded City of Philadelphia October 27, 1682
- The democratic principles that he set forth served as an inspiration for the United States Constitution.

13 Colonies Special Event: July 1 -6

WM3PEN will again be on the air for this week long special event. Several radio clubs will be helping us keep WM3PEN on the air. Interest in helping contact WA3PZO.

★ **4TH OF JULY WEEK - 13 ORIGINAL COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT** ★
The 6th Annual!
Presented By The Original 13 Colonies Special Event Group - Independence week - 2014

K2A - NEW YORK

K2B - VIRGINIA

K2C - RHODE ISLAND

K2D - CONNECTICUT

K2E - DELAWARE

CONTACTS

CLEAN SWEEP



REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA COLONIAL CURRENCY

W3PT

WM3PEN

K2J - NEW JERSEY

K2J - N. CAROLINA

K2J - N. HAMPSHIRE

K2J - S. CAROLINA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT **WM3PEN** HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS 4TH OF JULY WEEK SPECIAL EVENT, HONORING THE "13" ORIGINAL COLONY STATES AND OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1776. GOD BLESS AMERICA

KEN VILLONE - K1L2S: EVENT MANAGER *Ken Villone 73*

K2F - MARYLAND

K2G - GEORGIA

K2H - MASSACHUSETTS

K2M - PENN.

Field Day: June 28 -29 This annual event at Avelthorpe Park in Jenkintown is part of a national operating event. More details to follow.

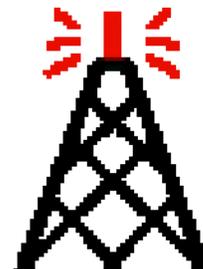


W3WHK is back on HF thanks to help from Carl, N3ZZK.



WA3PZO has made the CQ WPX SSB Award Honor Roll for working and confirming contacts with 600 different prefixes. To date less than 120 hams around the world have made the honor roll.

WM3PEN Repeater now on Echolink. Ron, K3RJC has the link on the repeater. It's still in a testing phase. More details to follow.



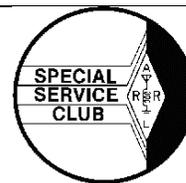
HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

January 16 Meeting – NTS – Details inside



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2014 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? ____

E-mail _____

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