



THE HARC SPARK



Editors: K3UJ

January,
2022

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>

Prez Sez!

As we start a new year, we can only hope that we'll be able to meet in person at some point, whenever that may be. Meeting on Zoom, though, has afforded us the opportunity to bring in interesting speakers from afar, and for members who do not live near NE Philadelphia to attend virtually. Once live meetings begin, we intend to make them hybrid, providing Zoom access as well.

Now for the good news: Thanks to AJ3DI, our former VP and an Abington Township resident, we were able to reserve our regular Field Day site at Alverthorpe Park in Jenkintown for June 25-26. This year, we'll need a lot more preparation ... we'll have to remember where all our gear is being stored, since it will have been two years since we've accessed it!

As K3CJ always reminds us, the annual ARRL Field Day is "a test, not a contest". True, it's both a test of emergency capability (for us, powered by gasoline generator), and a bit of a contest to make more contacts than other clubs. More importantly, perhaps, it provides a chance for our newer members who may not yet be on the air to get a taste of what it's like to set up a station, to operate on various bands and modes, and to see how much fun we have.

Speaking of newer members...

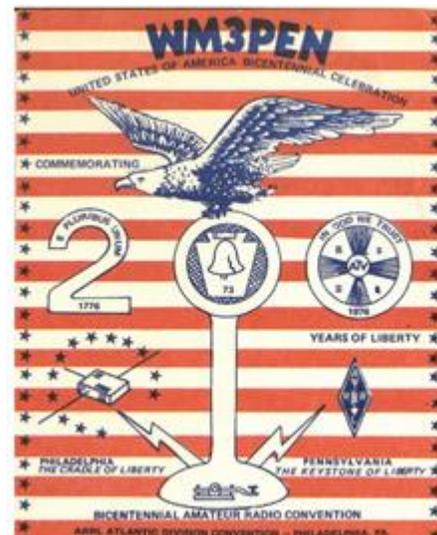
Please save the club meeting date, Feb. 17th, for a talk by K8ZT on "Technicians, Life Beyond Repeaters". When I got my Novice license in the 1950s, Novice and Technician hams had very limited frequency band privileges. Nowadays, however, Techs have options for HF(high-frequency) operation, and are not stuck with VHF/UHF only. K8ZT will tell you all about that and more.

73,
Saul - W3WHK

January Trivia Question?

Where would you tune for a signal that has the same numeric value of frequency in MHz and wavelength in meters?

HARC – A Special Event Club



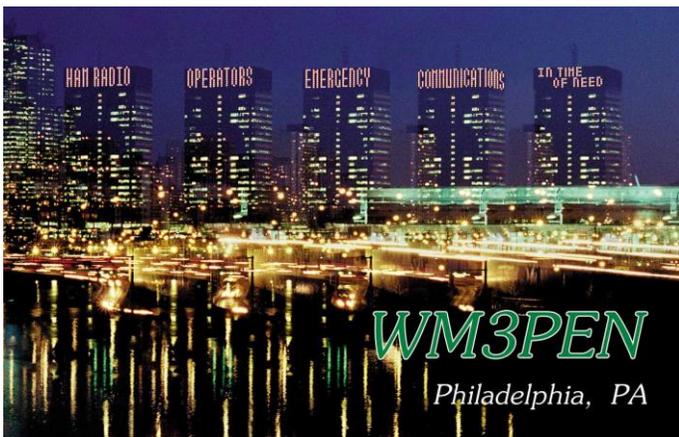
Since the early days of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club members have been involved with promoting the hobby by being on the air for Special Events. In fact WM3PEN was used in 1976 as a special event call to promote the 1976 ARRL Atlantic Division Convention that was held in Philadelphia. Former Club President WA3IAO was instrumental in getting the call when special event call signs were not being routinely issued.

WA3PZO served as public relations chairman for the convention. This was 2 years before the Club was formed in 1978.

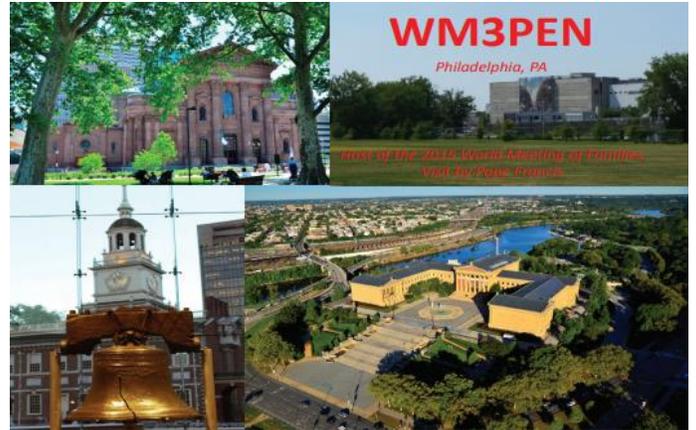
In October, 1982, as Philadelphia was celebrating Century IV, or the beginning the 4th Century since Philadelphia was founded, HARC borrowed the call W3WP from its owner in Maryland. Club members operated from the Port of History Museum on Penn's Landing.



In 1999 the FCC made vanity call signs available. WA3PZO immediately applied for WM3PEN. In 2006 WM3PEN was on the air as a special station to celebrate 100 years of voice over radio as part of the ARRL 'Hello' campaign.



In 2015 WM3PEN joined 5 other stations in the United States as the Pope visited Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. The qsl card showed several locations that the Pope visited in Philadelphia.



Since 2011 WM3PEN has participated in the 13 Colonies Special Event in early July. Each year a different qsl card is issued by WM3PEN. This makes the card a collectible. A complete set of the WM3PEN 13 Colonies qsl cards can be seen on the Club webpage – www.harcnet.org under the Original 13 Colonies Special Event page.

Winter Olympics

It's all about the Flame....

It's time again for the Winter Olympics. Did you know that HARC and one of it's members participated in the 1980 Winter Olympic Torch Relay? Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, was a member of the Torch Relay team that greeted the Olympic Flame when it landed at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia and carried it to the Opening Ceremonies in Lake Placid, NY.

In 1980 there were no cell phones, at least not as we think of them today. Amateur Radio was chosen to provide local, mid-range, and long distance communication along the route. There were several vehicles travelling with the Olympic Flame. These included transporting the runners representing each of the 50 states, DC and Lake Placid, the torch arming vehicle which kept all of the fuel to keep the torches lit, and command and control vehicles. There were other vehicles out ahead of Olympic Flame travelling to schools and community groups speaking about the Olympics, and finally communication to Lake Placid. All had to know what was going on, was the runner on time to get to a particular ceremony, and was the Olympics going to start on time. There were about 20 hams on the event. Each with a particular skill set. Many knew the repeaters or clubs in a particular area, others knew the route, some had skills in working with the news media and the public, and others had experience coordinating major runs such as the NYC Marathon. There were two hams from Pennsylvania WA3PZO and WA3HWZ.

WA3PZO knew Delaware County and Philadelphia. WA3HWZ knew Bucks County. The route would follow Rt 13 from Delaware through Chester towards the University of PA., down Chestnut Street to Independence Hall, over to the Art Museum, towards Roosevelt Blvd, and eventually Frankford Ave to Street Road and pass the Buck Hotel on its way to Washington Crossings to an overnight stop at Princeton University. The Pennsylvania portion of the route was on a weekend so crowds were huge. It was cold and sunny. WA3PZO ran with the torchbearer down Chestnut Street to Independence Hall. WA3HWZ did the Rocky thing and ran up the Art Museum's steps.

HARC members were staged at various locations along the route and available to interface with the Torch Relay Team if needed and provide updates to various locations where welcoming ceremonies were taking place.

The Lake Placid Olympic Committee Director of Communication described the Torch Run as the most difficult communication task of the entire Olympic Games. The sporting events took place on the same hill or area while the Torch Run involved a 1000 mile run, interface with local, state, and federal law enforcement and community groups.

WA3PZO described the 10 day run as a thrill of a lifetime. He did not play sports and yet here he was supporting an international sporting event. For his efforts he was awarded an Olympic Participation Medal. This is the same as a Bronze medal except it was not won in competition. His efforts were recognized as he provided input to the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics Torch Relay which was more than 1000 miles in length.



(As a personal note, I was not involved with amateur radio at that time, but my wife and I did go down to Roosevelt Blvd to see the torch go by. It was cold but exciting. Rich-K3UJ)

Homebuilt

Do you like building antennas or try to figure out how they work? Roy Lewallen, W7EL, the creator of the EZNEC antenna modeling software has retired on Jan 1st 2022. In a contribution to the amateur radio community, he is offering his software for free. It can be downloaded from ezec.com. This is a very useful tool for anyone building their own antenna or trying to see the performance of what you are currently using.

We should thank Roy for his generous gift.

<https://www.eznec.com/>

On The Air

J68HZ Team will be active from Saint Lucia Island, IOTA NA - 108, 1 - 7 March 2022.
https://dxnews.com/j68hz_stlucia_dxnews/

Peter Baker, G4HSO will be active as FS/G4HSO from Saint Martin Island, IOTA NA - 105, during January 2022.
<https://dxnews.com/forum/forum/dxing/40450-fs-g4hso-saint-martin>

K3Y Straight Key Month Special Event. All of January.
<https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y.php>

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)

SFTW Stamps For The Wounded

We are still collecting and sending packages of stamps in support of this very worthwhile program. Save what you can, especially those foreign QSL mailings, cut off the corner of the envelope, leaving at least a ¼" around, and bring them to the meeting or mail to:

Rich Shivers
9029 Eastview Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19152

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. Net control, Austin – KA3ATT.

The Elmer Net

The "The Elmer Net" has now become part of the HARC weekly club net.
Are you a new ham, or an old hand with questions? Log into the HARC net and ask away!

Groups.io: WM3PEN/Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club

Facebook: Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club

HARC Weekly Net Report

Austin - KA3TTT

In October, I became the main net control after Charlye, K3CJ, retired.

Cliff, KC3PGT, serves as my backup. I appreciate everyone checking in and supporting the net. We have had an average of 6.5 checkins per net. We continue to provide a place for people to bring their questions, special announcements, and general chat. We can always find things to talk about. The net generally runs around forty-five minutes, though a few times we have gone for over an hour. Stop by Wednesday nights at 08:00 PM and say hi.

Recent highlights:

We Helped Johanna pick out an HT.

Steve, K3FZT, explained inductance.

E.J., KB3UWJ, checked in and sounded good after his stroke.

We discussed stealth end-feds and dipoles.
We gave Cliff, KC3PGT, some ideas about the Philly ARES go bag.

Frank, WB2BXO, told us some neat stories about operating as a rover in the VHF contest and using aircraft scatter.

We have already started talking about Field Day in the summer. We will have the park, and can meet in person. We all feel excited. Watch out for wild boar!

Associations

HARC just joined the SKCC – Straight Key Century Club #24642 under both WM3PEN and K3FI.

We are also members of;
Ten-Ten International #71057
PODXS 070 Club #1493 (PSK activity)
ARRL Special Services Club

Meetings

Club meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19111. Time is 8PM.

Currently club meetings will be conducted online using Zoom.

Upcoming Topics

Feb 17, 2022

Anthony - K8ZT "Technicians, Life Beyond Repeaters"

Mar. 17, 2022

K9LA on "Get Ready for Worldwide Propagation on 15m, 12m, & 10m"

Membership

We would like to welcome recent new members of HARC:

Peg Daly - N3PEG
Chris Clements - KC3RGL
Joe Arncuskas - K3BLA

PHILA ARES INFORMATION

All amateurs interested in participating in ARES should check into the Phila ARES Net, Sunday's at 9:00 PM, local time, 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 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.

HARC member, Cliff – KC3PGT, is the Philadelphia Emergency Coordinator, Section 1, EPA Region.

We look forward to hearing everyone on Sunday nights @ 9:00 pm. See web site for more information.
- Visit the Philadelphia ARES web site
<http://www.phlares.org/>

Your Contributions

Please tell us what you are doing. Have you received any awards, upgraded your license, done any activations, (SOTA, IOTA, etc), built something special. Or if you would like to write an article. We would be happy to receive all material. Email Rich AB3EO@comcast.net

HARC Board of Directors

President – Saul Broudy, W3WHK
Vice President – Steve Miller, W3AZT
Treasurer – Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Secretary – Saul Broudy, W3WHK
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
Member-at-Large – Rich Shivers, K3UJ
Greg Malone, WA3GM
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

Trivia Question Answer.

17.320508 MHz = 17.320508 meters