



February 2018

The HARC Spark

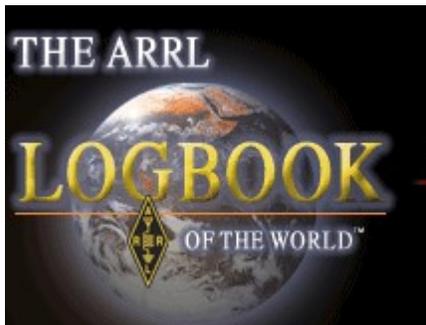
The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3RJC 444.9 Mhz Repeater
K3FI - CLUB CALLS - WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Electronic Logging February 15

HARC MEETING Electronic Logging and QSLing

Electronic logging and qsling continue to grow as traditional paper qsling costs continue to rise. However the terminology can be a bit confusing. LOTW, TSQ, ADIF, EQSL are just some of the terms that are mentioned. At this month's meeting, Bob, WA3PZO, will help demystify some of the more popular electronic qsl sites; Logbook of the World, EQSL, and QRZ.com



ARRL Board to Review "Code of Conduct,"

By Dan, KB6NU

Many of us have been waiting for the minutes of the latest board meeting to be released, but apparently the board is changing the procedure on this. One of the latest news stories to appear on the ARRL website, ARRL Board of Directors Agrees to Review of Conduct Code for Directors, notes that, "In other action, the Board approved a motion requiring that minutes of Board meetings be published only after being formally approved by the Board."

That's fine, as long they publish news stories about the goings-on at the board meetings—and the official minutes don't deviate from the published news stories. The biggest news is that all of your emails and letters to your directors seems to have done the trick. The news story reports that the board has voted to "review the entire code of conduct for Board members, known officially as the *ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors*. ARRL Officers, Directors, and Vice Directors will review the code of conduct and complete a final draft version 60 days ahead of the Board's July 2018 meeting."

It goes on to say, "In the same motion, the Board deleted and suspended sections that were considered ambiguous and in conflict with the intent of the code of conduct requiring Board members to act in the best interest of the League's membership. Also, the Board suspended Section 8 of the code, 'Support of Board Decisions,' until after the complete review is acted upon. Both actions are effective immediately."

Furthermore, the report said, "It was decided that if these or any additional changes are proposed, they will be made available to the membership and will be accompanied by explanatory 'white papers' before the Board considers action on them." Again, thanks for speaking out on this. Now, we need to keep our directors feet to the fire when they do make the changes available to the membership.

HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Saul Brody, W3WHK

Secretary - Steve Miller, KC3AZT

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

Sol Volen, N3UBY

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

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 – February 15

Charter Day – March 11

HARC Meeting – March 15

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)

Stamps, Stamps, and More Stamps for SFTW

2016 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. While the numbers were down last year we had a record number of people contribute to the program and a number of repeat contributors. Thanks to all. 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.

Interested in Going Digital?

Mark, KC3JV, has an offer for anyone who owns an Icom rig and is interested in trying PSK31 or RTTY.

If you have any of the following ICOM RIGS: 703, 703 Plus, All versions of the 706 , 718,7000, 7200 , 73000 and the 9100 and wants to try PSK 31 or RTTY, Mark has the cable, stand alone Modem, Mini Keyboard and external power (Wall wart or Battery) and memory card for recording QSOs. and INSTRUCTIONS. NO COMPUTER is necessary Modem has its own display. It is compact enough to use from a beach chair. Just supply any of the above rigs and it's yours to try. It is available to all club members to try. Contact Mark, KC3JV.

Fly Signal Fly

If you are interested in operating on the satellites here is a group project for those interested. Mark, KC3JV, has an inexpensive antenna that will let you make a contact via the various amateur radio satellites.

Mark indicates that we can work in teams to build the antenna. We will need one team to make up the RG 58U cable with ring terminals. Another team will use the clothes hangers and cut the 2M elements the other will cut the 440 elements

Another team will bag all the screws and bolts.and compass. Finally, the last team will drill the boom.

Mark will take care of marking up the boom. I will cut it to length and use my router to make the handle end. The biggest expense is the 8 ft of good quality RG-58U and the proper SMA or BNC connector. It will run about \$4 by itself.

Each member who buys a kit will be sent home with all the parts and predrilled boom. for final assembly at home.

This could be a building project and then get together in the field to aim for the sky. We'll talk about it at the Club meeting. For more information on the antenna go to:

http://www.amateurradio.bz/4_dollar_satellite_antenna.html

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.

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Charter Day – March 11

On March 11, HARC will celebrate Pennsylvania's 337th birthday by participating in Charter Day events. Charter Day is the day King Charles of England granted William Penn a charter for land in the New World to make up for a large debt that the king owed to Penn's father. William Penn had initially decided to name the land "Sylvania," which in Latin means woods. King Charles II added the prefix Penn to the name in honor of William Penn's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, who had served England as a rear admiral. Pennsylvania state museums are open for free on Charter Day and it's the one day each year that the Charter is put on display at the state museum in Harrisburg. WM3PEN (William 3 Penn) will be on the air from 1500Z - 2300Z as band conditions permit. A special QSL card will be offered featuring William Penn. Interested in being part of the special event contact WA3PZO. When you work WM3PEN send an SASE or Green Stamp (\$1) with your QSL to WM3PEN. You can also QSL via the bureau. SWLs may send a confirmation of reception to request a QSL card.

Simply indicate the stations making contact with WM3PEN, time, frequency, and your receiving equipment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6th - Warminster Hamfest
May 19th – Centennial Celebration of the Nation's 1st Regularly Scheduled Airmail Delivery
June 3 – Pennypack History Day
June 23 -24 – Field Day
July 1 – 7 - 13 Colonies Special Event

Unusual Space Junk

If you thought Starman driving the Tesla was bizarre, take a look at SuitSat tumbling in orbit around Earth. It didn't end well. SpaceX takes top prize for strange satellites with the Tesla Roadster flying across space,



but another unusual sight was an old space suit tossed off the International Space Station by Russian astronauts in 2006. The idea was to make it into a useful satellite by equipping a radio transmitter inside along with sensors to measure temperature and battery power.



It worked and HAM radio operators could tune in and hear an automated data recording as SuitSat passed overhead.

The Tesla Roadster's Interplanetary spaceflight goes beyond low Earth orbit and is expected to last a billion years. In contrast, the empty spacesuit only lasted seven months in low Earth orbit before it burned up careening into the planets atmosphere.

Drag helps keep low Earth orbit clear of debris. Space junk and natural objects experience friction as they skim through the outskirts of our atmosphere creating drag.

Eventually space junk or the random "spacesuit" loses speed falling back to Earth.

Radio ham finds signal from 'dead' NASA satellite

Scott Tilley VE7TIL / VA7LF discovered a signal from the IMAGE satellite that NASA lost contact with in 2005

Arstechnica reports earlier this week, an amateur radio astronomer named Scott Tilley decided to have a look for the presence of secret military satellites.

It's something he apparently does semi-regularly, and in this case his search was inspired by the Zuma satellite, a secret US government payload that was reportedly lost on its way to space.

Most accounts have suggested that Zuma failed to make it to orbit, but the secrecy of the mission (we've got no clear idea what Zuma even was) means that everything about its fate is unclear. Tilley could either find a hint that Zuma is up there—or stumble across some other hardware put into space by other countries.

Instead, he found an undead NASA mission.

Given the clear indication of a radio signal, Tilley matched its orbit to a NASA satellite called IMAGE

Nominations now open for the CQ Amateur Radio, Contest and DX Halls of Fame

The **CQ DX Hall of Fame** and the **CQ Contest Hall of Fame** recognize those amateurs who have made major contributions to DXing and contesting, respectively.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame recognizes those who have made major contributions to amateur radio as a whole, and radio amateurs who have made major contributions to society at large. The activities and accomplishments that qualify one for membership in these elite groups involve considerable personal sacrifice and can usually be described by the phrase "above and beyond the call of duty."

Nominations to any of the halls of fame may be made by individuals, clubs or national organizations, and must be submitted by March 1 of each year to be considered. A maximum of two (2) people may be inducted into the Contest and DX halls of fame each year. There is no set maximum for inductees into the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

Nominations may be e-mailed to hall-of-fame@cq-amateur-radio.com (preferred) or mailed to CQ (Amateur Radio, DX or Contest) Hall of Fame, c/o CQ magazine, 17 West John Street, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA. Be sure to specify for which hall of fame the nomination is made. Again, the deadline for receiving e-mailed nominations is March 1, 2018.

Mailed nominations must be postmarked by March 1, 2018

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

February 15 - Club meeting

Electronic Logs



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2018 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 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) _____