



# THE HARC SPARK

The Official Newsletter of the  
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club  
501(C)(3) Charitable Organization  
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater  
K3RJC 444.9 Mhz Repeater  
K3FI – Club Calls – WM3PEN  
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>  
[WM3PEN@aol.com](mailto:WM3PEN@aol.com)



Editor: K3UJ

February,  
2023

## Prez Sez!

It's not been a good month for HARC. First, our potential new meeting place fell through, which was a great disappointment. We will continue the search; meanwhile we can continue enjoying the interesting talks by distant speakers via Zoom.

Then there was the loss of our beloved fellow member Sol Volen N3UBY, who died on Feb. 16th at the age of 96. Wasn't Sol something? When I was visiting once, he said he'd walk me out, since it was his habit to pick up the supermarket flyers and local papers off the sidewalks and put them into his neighbors' mailboxes. Sol never hesitated to offer a ride somewhere when you needed one; he often drove to South Philly after our meetings to take one or more of our non-driving member's home. He took on the task of providing coffee and donuts for our meetings, and insisted on carrying the coffee machine/paraphernalia back out to his car afterwards, despite offers of help. He sustained us well as cook at our Field Day, and volunteered his time to provide communications assistance at fund-raising events like the MS150 Bike Ride. We'll surely miss his kind and independent spirit, and his valuable contributions to our amateur radio community.

On a lighter note, the sun (dare I say "Old Sol"?) is coming back with a vengeance. It looks like sunspot Cycle 25 might provide even better radio propagation than expected, so we look forward to its maximum in 2025. Meanwhile, if we could just get rid of the background noise level many of us experience in our urban environment!

Saul W3WHK

## November Trivia Question?

What city contains three separate sovereign capitals?

## With Remembrance

It is with deep sadness to report that Solomon Volen, N3UBY, became a silent key on February 16, 2023. He was 96. As a longtime member of Holmesburg he supported many club activities both as a participant and making sure that other members were well nourished and able to do things that they enjoyed doing.

Sol grew up in Strawberry Mansion and was a WWII veteran in the Army from 1943-1947. He served in the Philippines. He owned a bar on Spring Garden Street for many years and later started a full line vending machine business and branched out into office coffee services.

He never stopped his life of service and spent his retirement volunteering at various organizations such as Red Cross Disaster Services, the USO, the Reading Terminal, JRA, etc. At the time he was helping to rebuild computers for disadvantaged children and working at a food bank. He was one of 10 national finalists for Applebee's® America's 'Real Hero'.

Sol was a member of 3 war veterans groups, 3 ham radio clubs and 5 coin clubs. He was well read, very knowledgeable and had various collections. His

daughter, Meryl, told us his library had over 300 books just about Philadelphia.

Sol passed from a sudden onset of leukemia. He was still driving (even at night) and active up until this past December. He always had a smile on his face and his motto was, "Be nice and nice things will happen to you."

Sol you will be missed.



There's that smile.

## **HARC Holiday Dinner**

On a cold and very rainy night in December, five of us braved the weather and came to the holiday dinner: Rich K3UJ, Tony WO3I, Sol N3UBY (sporting a new beard), myself (W3WHK) and my wife Coleen. A fine time was had by all. Rich told us about the joys of operating PSK mode, we pondered a bit on the club's future, and, with so few of us, got to know each other better. The pizza and cheesesteaks were great, the restaurant staff hospitable and friendly, and the ambience cheerful.

Since the place was not full, we just had a long table set up for ourselves instead of using the back room we had reserved. We missed the rest of you, but there's always next year. Happy holidays to all! - Saul

## **Meeting Location**

We have been in touch with the Philadelphia Protestant Home looking to resume our in-person meetings. Because of their concern for their inhabitants they are being very cautious.

Board members are investigating other possible locations. We have approached a few organizations to use their locations but they have not worked out. We will

keep trying and hope to resume real meetings sometime this year.

## **Rules of the Big Left Toe \*** **by Eric Nichols KL7AJ**

1) 10:1 throw-out rule. If you have two resistors in parallel, and one of them is 10X or greater the value of the other one, simply ignore the higher value resistor.

2) A yard is a meter. If you're measuring out antenna wire, just remember the 40 meter band is about 40 yards, and if you include the end effect of a dipole, the difference is even less. (I like to add 10%)

3) Pi is 3. from a practical standpoint, in most electronics work, except for instrumentation, 3 is a fair substitute for Pi.

4) One RC time constant is a 2/3 drop in voltage. Officially, it's 63% of the initial voltage, but for building 555 timers and such, just use the 2/3 drop rule. (or 1/3 remainder)

5) Half power is 3dB.....very close. 3/4 power is 2 dB down. Not quite as close, but close enough

6) Radio travels one foot per nanosecond. Semi close

7) Radio takes six microseconds to travel a nautical mile....Much much closer.

8) Sound travels 1100 feet per second. Semi close.

9) Peak-to-peak voltage to RMS voltage.....about 3:1.

10) Incandescent lamp: 10X the resistance at full brilliance than at room temperature. Remember this when building dummy loads!

11) Velocity factor of average coax.....about 66% YMMV

12) Euler's number: about 2.7

13) Degrees per radian.....about 57

14) Square root of 2 = 1.4.....close enough for government work.

15) A US bill is 6" long

\*Just in case you did not get this, think "Rule of thumb".

## 13 Colonies Special Event

Summer is fast approaching and that means it's time to gear up and make plans for the annual 13 Colonies Special Event, July 1 -7.

This will be the 15th year for the event. This year's theme will be signers of the Declaration of Independence. Each special event station from the 13 Colonies will feature a person from their state. Our friends in England and France will feature a key person related to that period of history. The WM3PEN QSL card will feature Benjamin Franklin.

Last year WM3PEN made over 12000 contacts during the week long event and we are looking to beat that. This is a fun and exciting challenge. Interested in participating as a WM3PEN operator? Contact WA3PZO@aol.com

## PA 67 Challenge

HARC sponsors the PA 67 Challenge Award.

It's a "Get On The Air" award. Stations can earn the award by working 20, 40, 60, or 67 Pennsylvania Counties. Up until recently the award was given to stations who lived in the U.S. Well we just had the first DX application. Ervino, IV3GOW in Italy submitted an application for working 60 counties.

Club member Jim, WA3ERQ, supplied the contact for Philadelphia.

For complete award details check out the [HARC webpage](#). Hint – the PA QSO Party in October is a great time for collecting PA counties.

## 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 – KA3TTT.

### **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

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## 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

March 16th  
Regular meeting

## HARC Membership Dues

Club membership begins on May 1st . You can renew by mail or via Paypal.

Full member (licensed ham) @ \$20 Family member (licensed ham, after first member pays full dues) @ \$5 (Name, Call) Associate member (unlicensed person) @ \$5

Make checks payable to H.A.R.C and mail to: 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136  
Please add a note with your: Name Call Address Phone Number E-Mail address Note if you are an ARRL member

As alternative use PayPal: [Wm3pen@arrl.net](mailto:Wm3pen@arrl.net) and put the information in the note box. Send the dues as a FRIEND. If you use the Donate button Paypal charges a \$1.07 service fee.

## 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/>

## **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](http://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 1/4" around, and bring them to the meeting or mail to:

Rich Shivers  
9029 Eastview Rd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19152

All of the 13 Colony QSL request (WM3PEN & GB13COL) replies received an insert describing the program. This has produced a number of contributions.

## **Associations**

SKCC – Straight Key Century Club #24642 under both WM3PEN and K3FI.  
Ten-Ten International #71057  
PODXS 070 Club #1493 (PSK activity)  
ARRL Special Services Club

## **Helping Hams**

Would you like to assist your fellow club members? Do you have an expertise in any particular area and would like to make that available to other hams? If so, let me know and I will add you to our list here.  
eMail Rich – K3UJ [ab3eo@comcast.net](mailto:ab3eo@comcast.net)

Kit building. - I will offer assistance, finish something started or do a complete build for you.  
Rich – K3UJ [ab3eo@comcast.net](mailto:ab3eo@comcast.net)

Antenna installation  
Carl – N3ZZK [Carl9521@aol.com](mailto:Carl9521@aol.com)  
Dave – KB3AKK [kb3akk@hotmail.com](mailto:kb3akk@hotmail.com)

2M/440 Digital modes  
Jim – AJ3DI [aj3di@jedijf.com](mailto:aj3di@jedijf.com)

CW & Contest operation  
Saul – W3WHK [saubro@aol.com](mailto:saubro@aol.com)

ARRL Awards, QSL Buro, QSLing  
Bob – WA3PZO [wa3pzo@aol.com](mailto:wa3pzo@aol.com)

## **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](mailto:AB3EO@comcast.net)

## **HARC Board of Directors**

President – Saul Broudy, W3WHK  
Vice President – Steve Miller, W3AZT  
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Austin Seraphin, KA3TTT  
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

**WM3PEN @ AOL.COM**

## **Trivia Question Answer.**

Rome – The capital of Italy, Vatican City (HV), and The Sovereign Military Order of Malta. (1A) The last two are separate DXCC entities.