



March 2010

# 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>



## ***HARC REPEATER UPDATE 2010 DUES ARE DUE NEXT HARC MEETING MARCH 25TH***

### ***FM Sprint***

The VHF and UHF simplex frequencies became very active for a few hours last month thanks to the HARC FM Sprint Contest. Hams from Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties represented the Pennsylvania side of the river. Hams from NJ were on as well. Rich, AB3EO, was the only rover as he drove from zip code to zip code making contacts with hams operating from home on 2 meters and 440 FM. Mike, N3LXN, operated the Club call, WM3PEN.

Bob, WA3PZO, found that having a log sheet that was properly set up for the contest made logging much easier, particularly when working a rover on multiple bands in many zip codes.

The Sprint contest is being recognized around the country. The Allen County, Indiana ARES used some of HARC's Sprint material written by AB3EO. Plans are being made for a bigger and better contest next year. Stay tuned for further details. A big thanks to Rich for organizing the event.

FM Sprints are gaining popularity around the country. In Eastern Pennsylvania there are at least 3 (Wilkes Barre, Allentown, and Philadelphia areas.) In Western Pennsylvania there are at least 2 – one in the Pittsburg area.

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### **Club Meeting – March 25**

TOPIC: Limited Space Antenna  
Tak-tenna

Results – FM Sprint

### ***REPEATER UPDATE***

Northeast Input Installed

Ron, K3RJC, and Rich, AB3EO, installed the Northeast Philadelphia repeater input last month. The input will make it easier for repeater users in the Northeast to make the repeater with an HT or low power.

Ron and Mike, N3LXN, made a trip to the main repeater site to install the amplifier and check on a high SWR at the site. Upon arrival at the site they found the door to the elevator penthouse on the roof was locked and building staff on duty didn't know what key to use on the lock.

Ron is working on obtaining the proper key. In the meantime the amplifier is not connected to the repeater. The SWR problem appears to be either a jumper cable going to the antenna or the antenna itself.

As mentioned in the January newsletter, repeater repairs and insurance bills have made a dent in the club treasury. The Club will be selling some equipment it owns as well as looking for donations. You can see the equipment list inside the newsletter or if you would like to make a donation bring it to the Club meeting or send it to: HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136.

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### **DUES ARE DUE**

It's that time of year to renew your membership in the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. Just \$20 helps support your amateur radio club. New activities being planned. Field Day, picnic, net, bulletins, newsletter, meetings, contests, etc.

Use the renewal form on the last page of the newsletter.

## HARC Board of Directors

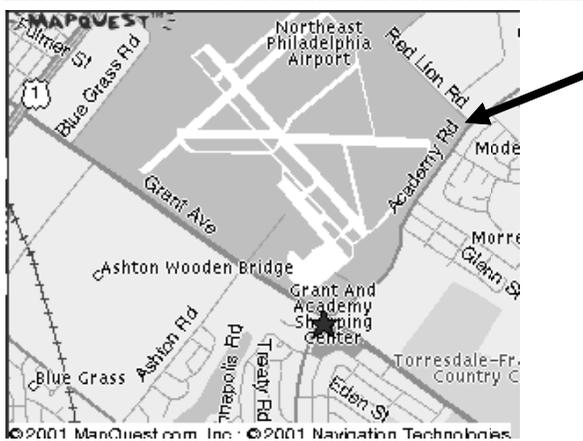
President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN  
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO  
Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ  
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC  
Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY  
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO  
UPARC Rep - Mike Feeley, KB3NDC  
Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO  
WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

WM3PEN Trustee: WA3PZO

K3FI Trustee - K3CJ

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months).

General meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup>. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA.  
No meeting 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](mailto:WM3PEN@arrl.org), the web page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

## Your article could be here!

Interested in writing a story for the HARC Spark? We're looking for stories of your involvement with electronics or ham radio. Maybe you got a new piece of equipment, new software, antenna. Did you participate in a special event, contest, or other radio related event? Story ideas can be submitted to [wm3pen@aol.com](mailto:wm3pen@aol.com) or to the Club address.

## 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

Newsline and the ARRL Audio News are available locally by dialing (215) 624-0672 and follow the prompts.

## 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](mailto:rjlees@aol.com)

**Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website [www.HARCNET.org](http://www.HARCNET.org)**

## Upcoming Events

*Next Club Meeting: March 25th*

## IN OTHER CLUB NEWS

### ARRL Special Service Club Status Renewed

In addition to regular affiliated-clubs, the ARRL has a special program to recognize those groups who do more than the usual for their communities and for Amateur Radio. These well-rounded groups are the Special Service Clubs (SSCs). SSCs are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities. They are the ones with the active programs and members. According to the ARRL SSCs are well-rounded ambitious clubs who scorn the word "complacent."

### HARC Member 10-10 International Net

The Ten-Ten International Net, Inc. was formed back in 1962 as the Ten-Ten Net of Southern California. Its purpose was to promote activity and good operating practice on the ten meter amateur band. During the first few years the organization grew slowly, but by 1975 there were 10,000 members, and the word "International" had crept into the name. There have now been over 75,000 10-10 numbers issued world wide. There are opportunities for 10 meter nets and the possibility of sponsoring awards or certificates. A ham gets a 10-10 number by working 10 stations that have a 10-10 number. The number is good for life. WM3PEN's 10-10 number is: 71057. If you are interested in 10 meter activity contact Bob, WA3PZO.

### WM3PEN Starts E-QSLing

This year WM3PEN signed up for E-Qsling. You exchange QSL cards electronically instead of using the traditional QSL card. We have already gotten e-qsls the same day as the contact. The Eqsl.net website was launched in 1998. Within a few months, a die-hard group of early adopters had already begun spreading the word, and we registered our first thousand members. On New Year's Eve 2007/2008 there were more than 122,000 members and over 92 million eQSLs in the database. eQSL.cc is still growing exponentially, currently adding about 50 new members every day and 2,500 new eQSLs every HOUR. In January 2008 there were over 6 Gigabytes of eQSL graphics, and over 33 Gigabytes of log data in the online database.

### HF Awards Manager

HARC is working with ARRL on having an HF Awards manager in the Club. This person will be able to check QSL cards without them being sent to ARRL HQ. Stay tune for further details.

## PA Cell Phones Law

By Eric Olena, WB3FPL, ARRL EPA Section Manager

For the past several years the Eastern Pennsylvania Section has seen a lot of activity in a number of areas. The most notable of these efforts were in the legislative field. The first effort resulted in Pennsylvania's Amateur Radio Tower Legislation, Act 88 of 2008 which became effective in December, 2008. Credit for initiating this effort goes to George Brechmann, N3HBT, of Warminster, PA. George contacted PA State Senator Stewart Greenleaf. The effort put forth by Senator Greenleaf's office and hams in all of PA are a major reason for the success of this effort. Individuals who made a major contribution to this effort are: George Brechmann, N3HBT, Senator Greenleaf, Eric Pauley from Senator Greenleaf's staff, Dave Eckman, WA3YVR, and all the Amateurs in Eastern Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania who made contact with their state legislators.

Comments from Senator Greenleaf's office were that they and others in the state legislature were amazed at the speed with which the Hams spread the information and responded to it. This can be credited directly to the use of the Section wide e-mail capability available to the Section Managers.

The second and current project in the legislature is connected with what is commonly called a "Cell Phone Law". The actual legislations involved are HB67 and HB2070. Both of these proposed bills deal with "Interactive Wireless Communications Devices". House bill HB67, prohibits juvenile drivers from using interactive wireless communications devices, but specifically exempts Amateur Radio and CB radio. House bill HB2070 prohibits all drivers from using interactive wireless communications devices but it has NO exemptions. Here again the SM's Section wide e-mail capability was put to use and feed back from state Senators appears to indicate that HB2070 will be amended to include the same exemptions that HB67 includes. As of February 23, 2010 HB2070 is still in the Senate's Transportation Committee and the final result of both pieces of legislation has yet to be determined.

It should be noted here that responses to the Section wide e-mail sent out in EPA in regard to HB2070 resulted in about 50% of the responses indicated that the individuals were NOT in favor of ANY exemptions to HB2070.

Editors Note: There are currently local cell phone laws that apply to amateur radio in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Allentown.

## D-STAR Grant to Philadelphia area

*“ The ARRL EPA section is starting to develop a wide based D-star infrastructure in two of the larger districts, namely district 1 in the Philadelphia and surrounding counties, and also north of there in District 2 covering another heavily populated area.*

*There are currently two D-star repeaters in Lehigh County, and one each in Philadelphia, Chester, Northampton and Carbon counties. And, thanks to a lot of work from the District 1 DEC in securing federal funding, there are now five additional D-star repeaters already installed at each of the five county EOC's in that district, just awaiting the counties to install the antennas. Each site was researched ahead of time to make sure of direct 1.2 GHz coverage among the five counties without relying on any Internet connectivity in order to provide EmComm communications*

As D-star has grown there is now a weekly mid-Atlantic D-star net that interconnects D-star repeaters in SNJ, NNJ, NYC, EPA and WNY. And, since even 2 meter and 440 D-star protocol allows simultaneous voice and data there are additional nets practicing sending text data and graphics images. We are now able to even use the D-star data to send and receive messages to Winlink email accounts.” – **Bob Wiseman, WB3W, ARRL S.E.C. E.P.A.**

In District 1, which includes the 5 county Philadelphia area *“our major accomplishment is the approval of and receipt of equipment resulting from our first major equipment grant from the Southeast Pennsylvania Anti-Terrorism Task Force Communications Committee. In summary, as a district we received approximately \$167,000 of grant money to purchase twelve (12) high performance field communications kits which cover 160 meters all the way up to and including 1296 MHz with the exception of 222 MHz. Each kit has a Pactor III modem, a laptop computer, portable power, narrowband and wideband data capability along with the usual analog FM and single side band on all bands except 1296. On 1296 MHz, analog and digital voice and wideband data is provided. Antennas, numerous accessories and peripherals including battery powered field printers were included.*

*The second phase of the grant has also been delivered. This funding includes three (3) D-Star*

*repeaters for each county in my district. The systems are all identical but are comprised of a D-Star repeater for 450 MHz, and two (2) D-Star repeaters for 1296 - one voice and one wideband data. A duplexer, a triplexer, antennas, coax jumpers and connectors as well as the ICOM controller and other peripherals and filters were also included. Almost all of the counties have advanced their plans to have them installed either by time or very shortly thereafter. Frequencies have been issued except for Bucks County and Philadelphia County. One challenge has been obtaining local funding and cooperation to install all of this equipment. We have been successful in most of the counties in that regard and I am working on those remaining.*

*As DEC, I view my biggest challenge in this upcoming year to further develop the interoperability between each of the district counties, and most importantly develop the Philadelphia ARES team. We will also continue to focus on district wide training, which has also been a challenge in the past for a variety of reasons we have discussed. However, now with a common thread of common equipment, and particularly with the new D-Star build-out in which all the counties will be linked together, I hope to develop a sense of esprit de corps, which should go far in fostering cooperation between the different ARES groups.” - **Robert B. Famiglio K3RF, E. Pa. ARES 1st District EC***

In Philadelphia, ARES Emergency Coordinator **Rich, AB3EO**, reminds everyone that ARES is looking for interested amateurs. Check out the ARES website which can be found from the Club's website at [www.harcnet.org](http://www.harcnet.org) and check into the ARES Net, Sunday night at 9:00 PM on 147.030 - Phil-Mont's repeater.

## Field Day 2010 – June 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Alverthorpe Park

The Amateur Service has as one of its Part 97.1 purposes “the continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.” We are more than casual observers or bystanders on this global stage – we are participants in that magical playground. And I am proud to say:  
**I'm a Ham – My Playground Is The World!**

At times, the focus of the Amateur Radio community is rightfully on how we can work with our towns and communities by providing Public Service and Emergency Communications. However, deep

down anyone who has picked up a microphone, tapped out a call sign on a brass key, or descrambled a digital Baudot or PSK-31, understands there is fun here. That fun knows no borders. The thrill of the chase of adding new states, countries or grid squares to our WAS / DXCC / VUCC totals underscores that when we play "radio" (as some friends of mine used to say) we are there in large part to enjoy our hobby. That is just one of the messages we find in ARRL Field Day.

Each year tens of thousands of participants bring an element of fun with them as they combine the public service aspects of the Amateur Service with the experimental nature of our hobby. As they build relationships with served agencies and local officials at Field Day sites across the US and Canada – and beyond – they learn new skills as they make or renew friendships both on and off the air.

As you prepare for what many consider the best "total Amateur Radio" experience of the year, keep in mind the old adage – "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Let your "inner child" out as you embrace ARRL Field Day 2010. Do something new this year... Build a different antenna... Try one of the newer digital modes... Operate on a band that you rarely utilize... Serve as a GOTA coach for your club... Show some neighbors what this "radio" thing is all about... Organize a Scout or Youth Group visit to your club's set-up... The borders of your mind only limit the list. But then again – is there a limit? After all – OUR Playground Is The World! See you on the air June 26th and 27th. 73!

**Dan , N1ND, ARRL Field Day Manager**

## Items for Sale

**YAESU FT840 – HF 160-10 Meters with Astron Power Supply - \$450.** Contact: Bob, WM3PEN at aol.com.

The compact **Yaesu FT-840** has two direct digital synthesizers and rotary encoder that provide silky-smooth tuning. The excellent general coverage receiver tunes .1-30 MHz in 10 Hz steps. A 12 dB attenuator may be inserted for clear copy of very strong signals. The FT-840 uses a die-cast RF power amp with thermally switched fan to ensure full power output (up to 100 watts). The digitally synthesized local signals ensure clean, low-noise transmitter output on all HF amateur bands. Other features include: backlit 10 Hz LCDIF shift, reverse CW, dual VFOs, 100 memories, attenuator, noise blanker, meter, scan modes and speech processor. The rear panel features various I/O jacks. Only 9.5 x 3.7 x 7 inches.

**MFJ 986 – Antenna Tuner \$200** Contact Bob, WM3PEN at aol.com

The **MFJ-986** 3 KW roller inductor tuner lets you get your SWR down to absolute minimum for maximum power out -- something a tapped inductor tuner just can't do. Plus you get a peak reading SWR/Wattmeter, six position antenna switch, balun for balanced lines and full 1.8 - 30 MHz coverage including 160 Meters, MARS and all the WARC bands. A 3-digit turns counter plus a spinner knob gives you precise inductance control -- so you can quickly retune to your frequency. You get a peak and average reading cross-needle meter that shows you SWR, forward and reflected power at a glance! A directional coupler gives you even more accurate readings over a wider frequency range. You get a 6-position antenna switch that lets you select two coax lines and/or random wires (direct or through tuner), balanced line and external dummy load. A new current balun for balanced lines minimizes feedline radiation that causes field pattern distortion, TVI and RF in your shack. Ceramic feed thru insulators for balanced lines withstand high voltages and temperatures.

**Kenwood R2000 SW Receiver \$200** Contact Bob, WM3PEN at aol.com

The **Kenwood R-2000** was the first modestly priced communications receiver to offer a host of advanced capabilities; succeeding the R-600 and R-1000. The R-2000 tunes from 100 to 29999.9 kHz in five modes (AM, FM, USB, LSB, and CW). The R-2000 presents the listener with three different tuning rates (and a frequency lock) plus convenient 1 MHz UP/DOWN buttons. A noise blanker, four position attenuator, AGC and all mode squelch are also included. The ten channel memory stores frequency and mode. The band-scan mode permits the R-2000 to scan between two user selected frequencies (at three rates!). The built-in seven digit fluorescent tube digital display indicates frequency to the nearest 100 Hz. With dimmer switch. The dual 24 hour quartz digital clock-timer can be used to activate the radio and an auxiliary device (recorder, etc.) for absentee DXing. The large front mounted speaker insures good fidelity. The rear panel has input for coaxial or hi-Z wire antennas. 120 VAC. UL listed.

Sunspots + Spring =  
Better HF conditions.  
Get on the air and be  
Radio Active!



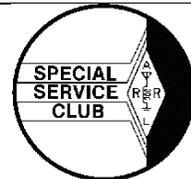
HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136  
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

**NEXT MEETING MARCH 25**



## HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 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.

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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) \_\_\_\_\_