



March 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>

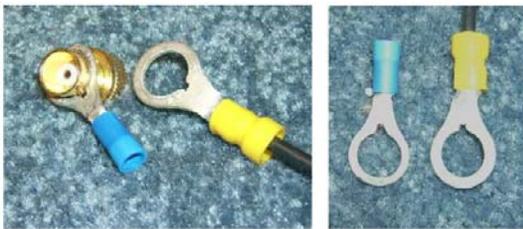


Improve Your HT Performance With a Tiger Tail Mark, KC3JV March 20, 2014

March 20 HARC Meeting

Easy HT Improvements

We all know that HT rubber duck antennas are not the best. You could go out and buy another antenna or you could improve the antenna's counterpoise. Mark, KC3JV, will show us how a "Tiger-Tail", will improve your signal. The Tail is a 1/4 wave+5 percent counterpoise wire hung from the HT antenna connector creating a mock 1/2 wave dipole. The trick in making an affective Tail is to insure a good tight fit to the HT connector.



Mark will demonstrate the effectiveness of the Tiger-tail and lead the Club in building a tiger-tail that you can put on your ht and take it home with you. A \$1 donation towards the parts will be appreciated. We'll also make some extra to sell at future fundraisers. Bring your ht to make sure there is a good fit and if you have a soldering gun bring that along. See you on the 20th.



Amateur Radio Played Role in Missing Airliner Response

Following the mysterious disappearance on March 8 of the Malaysian Airline Boeing 777-200ER jetliner with 239 passengers aboard, the airline's Emergency Management Centre (EMC) at Kuala Lumpur Airport provided hotel accommodations for passengers' next of kin. Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters' Society ([MARTS](#)) President Mohd Aris Bernawi, 9M2IR, said his organization was asked to provide a link between the airport and the hotel. MARTS set up a station, led by Zanirul Akhmal Zanirun, 9M2PRO, with Azizi Samsuri, 9W2ZZE, as the airline's team leader. The Negeri Sembilan Amateur Radio Club ([NESRAC](#)) provided volunteers for the station at the EMC. MARTS set up a cross-band VHF/UHF link to avoid any unnecessary interference to and from public service communications, and later added an HF link.

During the callout, 11 Amateur Radio volunteers were at the EMC, and 23 volunteers were at the hotel. 9M2IR, who oversaw the entire process, said MARTS -- an IARU member-society -- was pleased to be able provide the communication link as the search for flight MH370 continues. -- *Thanks to Jim Linton, VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee via ARRL Letter.*

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.

PHILA ARES INFORMATION

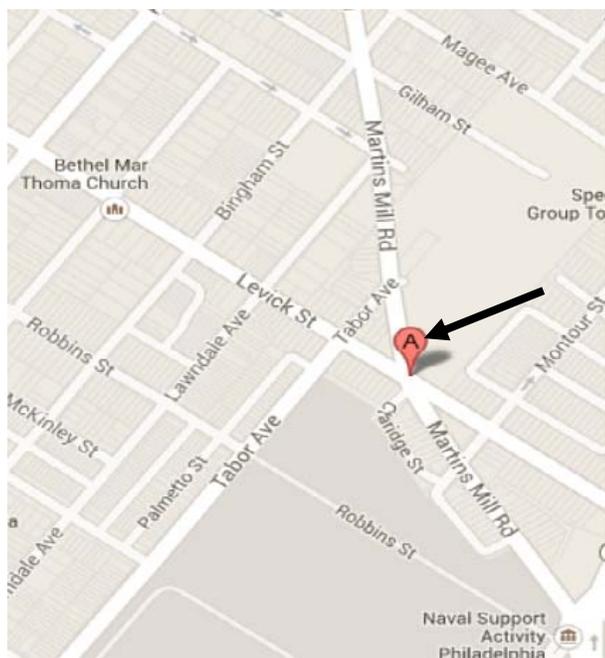
All amateurs interested in participating should check into the Phila ARES Net, Sunday's at 9:00 PM, hosted on the Phil-Mont Repeater System; 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL) ;444.80 MHz (+offset 186.2 PL) When control operators are available, Echolink node 29742, WU3I-L, is on the repeater. Backup link 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>



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.



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)

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

Upcoming Events

Tigertails: March 20

Amateur Radio History: April 17

Shortwave Listening in the 21st Century:

Sept. 18th

'Your Gateway to Wireless Communication' is World Amateur Radio Day 2014 Theme:

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU <http://www.iaru.org>) Administrative Council has designated "Amateur Radio: Your Gateway to Wireless Communication" as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2014. World Amateur Radio Day is celebrated each year on April 18 to recognize the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in Paris in 1925. ARRL Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, who had proposed the idea the year before, became its first president. The primary purpose of World Amateur Radio Day is to focus a public spotlight on Amateur Radio and its benefits to countries and communities. This year the IARU and its member-societies around the world will celebrate the organization's 89th anniversary.

Each year the IARU Administrative Council selects a World Amateur Radio Day theme that is consistent with the role and purpose of Amateur Radio and that represents a commendable activity that would cast IARU and Amateur Radio in a favorable light. When the Administrative Council met <http://www.iaru.org/news--events.html> last September in Mexico, attendees discussed various possible topics and themes, before adopting "Amateur Radio: Your Gateway to Wireless Communication."

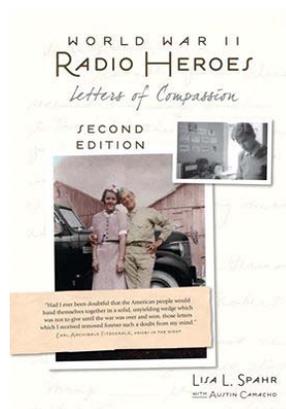
As the IARU's history <http://www.iaru.org/history.html> recounts, in the early 1920s it was generally assumed that the lower the frequency and the longer the wavelength, the better, and "very large antennas and very high power were the rule." Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the short wave spectrum, far from being a wasteland, could support worldwide propagation. As the rush to shorter wavelengths ensued, however, Amateur Radio, which had proved the value of this spectrum in the first place, "were in grave danger of being pushed aside," the IARU's history notes.

Adopting the philosophy of strength in numbers, Amateur Radio pioneers met in Paris in 1925 and created the International Amateur Radio Union to

support Amateur Radio worldwide. Just 2 years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained the allocations still recognized today -- 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. >From fewer than 30,000 licensees in 1927, Amateur Radio's numbers have grown to 3 million. From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include 150 member-societies.

Today IARU is organized into three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio.

Several IARU member-societies and associated clubs are expected to field special event stations to mark the occasion. This year, April 18 is a Friday. When the anniversary falls on a weekday, public relations activities and operating events marking World Amateur Radio Day take place during the weekend following April 18. -- Thanks to Geoff Atkinson, VK3TL, IARU R3 Director, IARU website (ARRL Letter)



**World War II Radio
Heroes Letters of
Compassion** Second
Edition Lisa Spahr
List: 19.95

HARC members or at
HARC Meetings:
\$15.00 Contact:
WM3PEN@AOL.com
or Bob, WA3PZO

Have you been working W1AW portable? 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**. WM3PEN has worked W1AW in 13 states including Hawaii. A contact with W1AW/KG4 in Guantanamo Bay has also been confirmed. Complete info on this special event can be found at: <http://www.arrrl.org/centennial-qso-party>

Coming in April!

The early history of ARRL and amateur radio is interesting. Mark, KC3JV, will present a program on this early period of history to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ARRL. April's meeting date is: April 17th.

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.

New energy-efficient lights can wipe out radio

As we conserve energy by the use of compact fluorescents or LED (light emitting diodes), occasionally things go wrong, with these devices also radiating radio interference.

The old pear-shaped incandescent bulbs were very inefficient. However, some of their replacements do not meet emission standards and are the source of electromagnetic interference.

In the USA fluorescent lights in a Los Angeles office are causing problems for Verizon's Long-Term Evolution or LTE network.

Among the other cases being investigated by the Federal Communications Commission is one we told you of several months back, that of the lights in a Texas hair salon getting into the mobile phone network.

In Australia, complaints about TV reception have come to Australian Communications and Media Authority which has traced the problem to some LED lights. In England and elsewhere too there have TV interference complaints, even spreading to set-top boxes and cable TV.

However don't blame the technology, but rather the design used in cheap products. If lights are the problem return them to the place of purchase.

Jim Linton VK3PC, WIA

ON THE AIR!

HARC Special Events:

Charter Day: March 9

WM3PEN was 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. There was limited operation due to operator availability.

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



REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA COLONIAL CURRENCY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT **WA3PZO** 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 VILLORE - KJLUS: EVENT MANAGER *Ken Villore 73*

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



Members on the air:

Unusual call: WA3PZO confirmed a contact with LM1814 in Norway. It's unusual since there are no letters after the number. The call was used in connection with the bicentennial celebration of Norway's constitution 1814-2014, by the Gardermoen Group of NRRL (Norwegian Radio Relay League). The constitution was written in Eidsvoll in the spring of 1814.



Multi-mode: WA3GM was recently spotted on SSTV. Greg is active on cw, ssb, and psk31.

Chasing DX: W3WHK spent time on 10 meter cw working DX.

Warminster Hamfest May 4, 2014

HARC will have a table at the Warminster Hamfest in Wrightstown, PA on Sunday, May 4.

We'll be promoting the Club and the 13 Colonies Special Event. If you have something you want to sell, but don't want to get a table by yourself, then you can put your item on the table. Either donate some time to staff the table or if we sell the item, the Club will get 10% of the sale value.

For further information contact Bob, WA3PZO

Ham Radio will play role in simulated Mars mission

The ARRL reports when Ron Williams, N9UIK, and his team of 'astronauts' head to 'Mars' this spring, they'll be taking Amateur Radio along, just as NASA space travelers have done

Williams is part of Mission 2 (of four) in the Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation — HI-SEAS, in which participants will simulate living and working within a Martian outpost — actually a solar-powered dome at a remote site some 8000 feet up on the slopes of Mauna Loa. Conducted by the University of Hawaii and Cornell University, the project has partial funding from NASA.

"I am confident that when we eventually go to Mars, there will be some type of involvement with the Amateur Radio community," Williams said, noting Amateur Radio's long-standing role in space missions, including the International Space Station. "We would like to simulate this on this mission." Part of that will mean integrating a 20 minute signal delay into all communications, whether via Amateur Radio or the Internet.

"This will simulate the distance, when greatest, between Earth and Mars," explained Williams, a clinical neuropsychologist from Indiana. At 60, he's the oldest member of the team; the youngest is 26. Williams, is one of two hams on this crew increment. The other is Ross Lockwood, VA6RLW, of Alberta.

"Our proposed outreach simulation to the Amateur Radio community will also involve this signal delay," Williams continued. "To the best of our knowledge, this will be unique to any Amateur Radio special event ever conducted." HI-SEAS also was able to obtain the special event call sign **K6B** for the project for nearly the entire length of the mission, instead of the typical 15 days.

Second Use for Stamps

(via the Marple Newtown ARC eDipole)

Michael Pilotti, KF3CD, has offered a suggestion for those who "chase DX." Any members who depend upon the world's mail system to validate their QSOs now have an opportunity to find a home for the cancelled postage stamps from those foreign QSL envelopes.

In his suggestion Mike volunteered, "If you chase DX and DX QSL cards, have you ever wondered what to do with the cancelled postage stamps you receive on foreign QSL card envelopes? Consider sending them to *Stamps For The Wounded*."

Mike, an avid DXer whose mode of operation often embraces bicycle mobile operation also added, "Sponsored by The Lions International Stamp Club and now in its 72nd year of operation, *Stamps For The Wounded* accepts donations of US and foreign stamps as well as stamp collecting supplies and tools. This program helps thousands of patients through clubs and occupational therapy programs in veterans' hospitals and convalescent centers nationwide."

Stamps for the Wounded accepts any U.S. or foreign stamps that are not torn or damaged. They have also requested each stamp should have at least a quarter-inch margin around the stamp. Do not try to either to peel or steam the stamp off the original envelope.

Collect enough to fill a large envelope or box and ask the Post Office clerk to put stamps on the shipment.

Mike Pilotti provided some history associated with *Stamps for the Wounded*. This meaning organization was founded in 1942 by Ernie Kehr; he is both a collector and author. The inspiration

behind this creation began with the request from a friend. It was spawned at a Staten Island, N.Y., veterans' hospital effort as a therapeutic activity for the veterans.

Kehr response began when he took stamps from his collections as a start. To aid in the growth of this effort Kehr enlisted the support of President Franklin D. Roosevelt who was also a collector since childhood.

Donations should be sent to ***Stamps for the Wounded***, Box 1125, Falls Church, Va., 22041. Contributions are tax deductible and receipts will be granted upon request.

Remember to ask the postal clerk to use stamps, not a postage meter strip, for the mailing and also get a receipt for an additional tax deduction.

Stamps – A HARC Service Project?

Many of us get qsl cards from DX stations or letters from friends overseas. We all get mail. Here's an opportunity for HARC members to collect their stamps, bring them to a meeting and then they could be mailed to the ***Stamps for the Wounded*** program. It even gives the Club the opportunity to partner with other organizations, family, and friends.

Stamps for the Wounded serves thousands of in- and outpatients through clubs and occupational therapy programs in veterans hospitals and convalescent centers nationwide.

John Hotchner, vice president for Stamps for the Wounded has received letters over the years from veterans and hospital officials attesting to the therapeutic impact of the hobby on wounded veterans.

"Stamps help veterans occupy their time productively," he said, "and help to develop goals that keep up interest in the hobby and in life itself."

Would you be interested in supporting this project or even coordinating HARC participation?
Contact Bob, WA3PZO.

Technology: KickSat CubeSat to Deploy Smallest Earth-Orbiting Satellites

When the third SpaceX ISS resupply mission launches on March 16 from Cape Canaveral, it will carry the 3U KickSat CubeSat into orbit. NASA TV is scheduled to broadcast the launch live. If all goes according to plan, KickSat, in turn, will release 200 "Sprite" satellites -- each about the size of a small cracker -- into Earth orbit. Zac Manchester, KD2BHC -- a Cornell University PhD student in aerospace engineering -- is heading up the project, which was funded via Kickstarter.

The tiny Sprite spacecraft will be single-function, short-lifespan units operating on 437 MHz. Each is essentially a double-sided printed circuit board measuring 3.5 cm × 3.5 cm, incorporating a microcontroller or two, radio, and solar cells. Each can carry single-chip sensors, such as thermometers, magnetometers, gyroscopes, and accelerometers. All Sprites operate on the same frequency -- 437.240 MHz -- and use Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA). Transmitters run 10 mW output.

When KickSat reaches its appropriate attitude and orbit, a command signal from the ground will trigger deployment, and the Sprites will be released as free-flying spacecraft. The Cornell ground station in Ithaca, New York, will monitor telemetry and sensor measurements from the individual Sprites, with assistance from several other Amateur Radio ground stations around the world.

Due to their low orbit, the Sprites can remain in orbit for as long as 6 weeks in a best-case scenario, depending on atmospheric conditions.

KickSat is being planned as a technology demonstration mission for the Sprite spacecraft. It's being launched through NASA's Educational Launch of Nanosatellite (ELaNa) program

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

March 20 Meeting – 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) _____