



THE HARC SPARK



Editor: 1L3R

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The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3RJC 444.9 Mhz Repeater
K3FI – Club Calls – WM3PEN
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Pez Sez!

It's that time again where we look at the past and ponder what the future has brought to us. All of us who enjoy this hobby of green eggs and ham know that in our hearts and livers there are exciting possibilities on the event horizon. What new modes befall us, and what spectrum will be available. Rumor has it that the FCC will soon offer us a slice of the sub-light band.

Many things are afoot (or afeet) as we work the bands and log those contacts. Field Day is a coming, and we all anticipate being out in the field with all its pleasures like pollen, insects, and thunderstorms. Ah, the great outdoors.

And don't forget the Warminster Radio Club Hammas fest. Time to empty your closets, dust off all the electronic junk you've been saving and sell it to someone else who will stash it away in a basement just like you did. Traditions must live on.



April Trivia Question?

What does the abbreviation HAMS mean?

Product Review

Dr. Loof Lirpa, of renowned audio component fame has turned his attention to the wide world of communications. The newest offering out of Lirpa Labs LTD is aimed for the ham radio market. The AF-0401 radio transceiver.

This is the definitive radio for emergency communications. From the self-contained steam powered 13,200 VAC power supply all the way to the automatically deploying 175' integrated tower, holding the 53 element log periodic beam array. If you want to communicate in the field, and really you have to as there are few buildings that will accommodate the eight wheel drive main chassis comfortably, this radio is the way to go.

Let's take a brief tour of this new offering. After climbing the #2 access ladder you will see the brightly lit central catwalk. Halfway down is hatch #8A and the main operator's position. Settling into this plush contoured seat is quite easy thanks to the well placed hand-holds, but be sure to buckle up. The foot stirrups are quite small, and it is 12' down to the main boiler fueling platform.

Get comfy, put on your dual microphone quadrophonic headset, with the virtual display eyepiece, and sound canceling headphones, and look around. There is a lot to see within this two meter titanium sphere.

On the right bookshelf is the fifteen volume operations/maintenance/emergency procedures manual, nicely finished in burgundy colored real Corinthian leather with the owners name embossed in gold on the front cover. The Old English script is very pretty but

combined with actually using the Olde English in the text this does make the reading interesting. (Other languages are available, including; Spanish, High German, Latin, Klingon, and Yiddish.) However for the most part it is not really needed. All the controls are neatly labeled with glow in the dark radium paint. In your lap is the full 156 key reverse QWERTY keyboard. On the left are the band changing shift levers and interlocking controls all nicely engraved with the appropriate runes. The pleather covered hand-wheel for the RF power output valves is alongside of your right knee, very convenient, although the ejection lever is a tad close.

Transmit frequency coverage is complete, full legal limit operating power on the amateur bands, from 160M through 23CM. There is also the ability to cover most of proposed bands for when they are approved. Currently supported are: 50,000M, 600M, 25M, 11M, 50CM, the hydrogen line, 3 Angstrom, and negative 20M.

On the receive side it is full DC to daylight plus or minus seven minutes. Thought you miss copied that last call, just kick in the negative temporal shift function and go back and listen again, it's that easy. By using positive temporal shift you can listen ahead, this makes working those tough ones a piece of cake. You don't have to make the call until after you hear the confirmation. What could be simpler.

At the heart of the system is the liquid helium cooled pentagram-core processor. This five sided black nanocarbon monolith is an operating systems ~~nightmare~~ dream platform. It is configured with 3 zettabytes of RAM and a 64KB Tandy hard drive. It supports Siri voice command, well they are more like incantations actually, but it works. Just start a slow droning chant "eighty meter DX, eighty meter DX" and the spectral display will start forming in the mists above the finals. It's a little eerie and it does take some getting used to. Of course these spiritual aberrations place you in the multi-op contest category, no matter, the majority of them are friendly, and the residual presence upon shutdown is minor.

Look for it soon at your nearest amateur radio supplier, awaiting only FCC, EPA, and NRC approval. The expected book price will be just under 10 mill, with a street price down in the 8.5 M range. But watch out for the options, they can easily push you up to nine digits. Now this may be a trifle high for the average ham but no problem for a well subsidized EOC.

Strengths:

The most flexible digital device I have ever used. Doubles as a Cray I supercomputer.

Weaknesses:

Improper programming may split time and matter. The boiler must be kept on hot standby, which means you need to shovel in coal every four hours.

Similar Products Used:

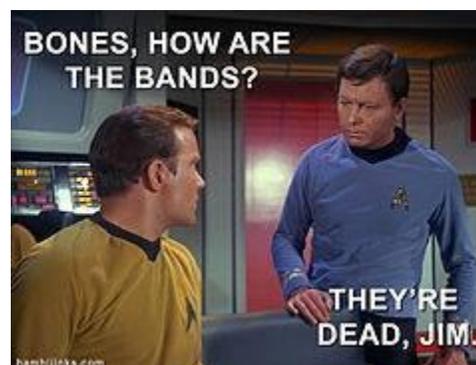
Benton Harbor Lunch Box, TARDIS.

How's DX

The Littrow Crater Mining Camp has just finished repowering the Apollo 17 lunar rover and will be using it for an upcoming DXpedition to Mare Serenitatis. They expect to be on the air around April of 2027. They will be using 2M and 440 FM mostly.

For you SW buffs, Voyager 1 is still transmitting on 2.3 and 8.4 GHz.

Break out your 10M dishes, and point it towards the constellation Ophiuchus, this should be an easy catch. Not real time due to propagation, Voyager 1 is about one lightday away. QSL's via JPL



On The Air

Working All States

Why is it so hard to confirm North Dakota?

Look at any map of the U.S. and up there near the Canadian border is a state by the name of North Dakota. It's a nice state, not too big, neatly fills the gap between Montana and Minnesota, and without it South Dakota would have a very strange name. But have you ever meet anyone from North Dakota, or known someone who's been there. You haven't, have you? And do you know why? North Dakota does not exist. At least not where you expect it to be. Let me explain.

During WWII the U.S. was planning the invasion of Japan. This was a tremendous undertaking and as part of the logistics requirements for this, there was a need for a large number of airfields to support the massive air effort. There would be bombers, the accompanying fighters and finally troop and supply transport. But there were not enough islands in the Pacific with airfields and sufficient ground to accommodate this considerable operation. Besides multiple runways, they needed taxiways, aircraft parking for hundreds of planes. Also space was required for maintenance hangers, warehouses, fuel depots, barracks, plus the harbors to supply these extensive operations. Also needed were miles of road to connect everything together. Where would they get the needed space?

The military came up with a plan. They would dissemble North Dakota and use the parts to create the temporary islands that were needed. It was the least used state and few would miss it. Work was started, and piece by piece, bit by bit, the entire state was taken apart, and shipped out. But before the plan could be fully implemented, the war was over. What to do with all these parts. Reluctant to spend a lot of additional money to put it back together again, they decided to leave it as it was in its dissembled condition and store it for future use.

And now seventy some years later, North Dakota is still sitting, packed away in various crates, boxes, barrels and tote bags. It's in the dusty back corner of a very large secret warehouse located somewhere near the Rocky Mountains.

Beginners Corner

For those just getting started, the phonetic alphabet can be confusing. This will get you started.

A	are	N	Hguyen
B	bdellium	O	owe
C	cue	P	ptomaine
D	double-u	Q	queue
E	eye	R	arrgh
F	filly	S	sea
G	gnat	T	tsunami
H	hors d'oevres	U	urn
I	irrupt	V	viaduct
J	junta	W	why
K	knot	X	xylophone
L	llama	Y	you
M	mnemonic	Z	zwieback

Membership

We would like to welcome recent new members of HARC:

L.Ferrari – WA2MKI
M. Brando – FO5GJ
J. Croce – WN3OQW

PHILA ARIES INFORMATION

March 21 – April 19

Strengths: Courageous, determined, confident, enthusiastic, optimistic, honest, passionate

Weaknesses: Impatient, moody, short-tempered, impulsive, aggressive

Aries likes: Comfortable clothes, taking on leadership roles, physical challenges, individual sports

Aries dislikes: Inactivity, delays, work that does not use one's talents

All amateurs whose birthday fits should check into the Phila ARIES Net.

All others amateurs are welcomed to listen in. There is always a different topic of interest to the amateur Aires community.

HARC Board of Directors

2M Director – 35.6”

6M Director – 99.9”

10M Director - 183”

20M Director – 363”

440 Director – 11.7”

Trivia Question Answer.

Homebrew Amateurs Making Signals