



May 2007

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater PL 146.2
{K3FI} CLUB CALLS {WM3PEN}



Celebrating Over 30 years of Serving the Philadelphia Area
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org> WM3PEN@ARRL.NET

Next Meeting
Thursday, May 24 8 PM
8th District Police Station
Red Lion & Academy Rds
Antennas

Antenna Accommodation Law To Be Introduced

There is a fresh PRB-1 Proposal in the works for Pennsylvania. At this point, the measure has not been introduced. Radio amateurs are hoping their proposal may be integrated into an update of municipal codes now under way in the General Assembly. This will be offered as a stand alone piece of legislation. The original proposal did not include Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Those two cities represent about 12% of the ham radio population in Pennsylvania.

Bucks County resident George Brechmann, N3HBT is working with PA Senator Stewart Greenleaf. Information will be distributed once the bill is introduced. EPA ARRL Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, says "Once we receive this information everyone should at that time contact their state legislators urging their support for the proposal." Presently the PA Senate version of this legislation has received six co sponsors in addition to Stewart J. Greenleaf. The PA House version is moving a bit slower.

Since HARC works with House Speaker Dennis O'Brian on the Northeast Youth Walk, Bob, WA3PZO, has offered to contact the Speaker's office if requested.

PROPOSAL

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 603 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, reenacted and amended December 21, 1988 (P.L.1329, No.170), is amended by adding a subsection to read: Section 603. Ordinance Provisions.--* * *

(m) A municipality shall not adopt an ordinance, regulation or plan or take any other action that precludes amateur service communications or that in any other manner does not comply with the limited preemption of the Federal Communications Commission Amateur Radio Preemption order, published at 101 F.C.C. 2d 952 (1985), or any regulation related to amateur radio service adopted under 47

CFR Part 97. Any ordinance or regulation adopted by a municipality involving the placement, screening, or height of an amateur radio antenna based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations must reasonably accommodate amateur communications, and represent the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the municipality's legitimate purpose. The provisions of this subsection do not prohibit a municipality from taking action to protect or preserve a historic, a historical, or an architectural district that is established by the municipality or pursuant to state or federal law.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

Senator Greenleaf contacted other Senators asking for cosponsors for the proposed legislation. His letter said in part.

The FCC forbids state and local regulations from precluding amateur radio communications. It adopted this rule because the FCC believes that the public has a strong interest in protecting amateur radio service. This legislation adopts the FCC regulation, and forces any local regulation to reasonably accommodate amateur service communications. The FCC is also careful to recognize that there are certain general state and local interests which may legitimately affect amateur radio facilities. Under the legislation, any ordinance or regulation adopted by a municipality involving the placement, screening, or height of an amateur radio antenna based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations must reasonably accommodate amateur communications and represent the minimum practicable regulation in achieving the legitimate interest. The bill does not prohibit a municipality from taking action to protect or preserve a historic, a historical, or an architectural district that is established by the municipality or pursuant to state or federal law.

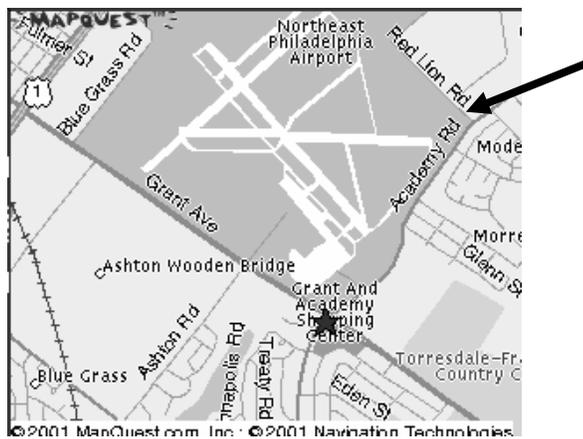
Codifying this regulation in Pennsylvania will make it easier for amateur radio broadcasters to obtain relief if a local ordinance regulating their antenna structures is unreasonable. According to information obtained from the website of The American Radio Relay League, a national membership association for Amateur Radio operators, 19 states have adopted amateur antenna laws which codify the FCC rule.

Welcome to HARC

Melvin, KC2AZR
Ernest, N3BBS

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
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM. General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA



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 PO Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

New Postage Rates 1 ounce - First Class

Stateside: 41 cents
VE & XE: 69 cents
All others: 90 cents
IRCs: \$2.00

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 moved it's testing from Northeast High School to Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month.

Exams are given at Ambler Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA. Registration begins at 7pm. Warminster - last Wednesday of each month. Contact Tom Michaud (WA3TQJ) at (215) 343-3494 (7-9PM) Bryn Mawr - quarterly on a Saturday. Contact Bob Lees, W3ZQN, rjlees@aol.com Bellmawr, NJ - 3rd Thursday of the month. Contact Dianne Nafis at 856-227-6281

Trip to Ft. Delaware

Last month we had a presentation on Civil War communications and life at Ft. Delaware. There may be a possibility in the future to put a special event station on the air from the Fort. Is there any interest in visiting the Ft. on Saturday, May 26th? If so contact Bob, WA3PZO, or drop an email to WM3PEN@AOL.COM

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS



Field Day

June 23-24, 2007
At Alverthorpe Park
Come one - Come all
Talk-in on the repeater 146.685 -
600 131.8 . Call us through the
repeater, or simplex on the output.

Women's Triathlon - July 8. 10 ops needed to cover the cycling part of the event along the River Drives on both sides of the Schuylkill River. Contact Rich, AB3EO at AB3EO @ ARRL.NET

Northeast Philadelphia 5 Mile Run

Sunday, October 14th, 2007 (Date pending)
We will be providing communications support for the Forth Annual Northeast Philly 5 Mile Run
This run is in support of The Northeast Philadelphia Youth Alliance It is being held at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport We are meeting at start/finish area by the parking lot to the right of the main entrance . Talk-in on the repeater output frequency - simplex 146.685 Working frequency will be provided at check-in.

Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade

Sunday, November 18th, 2007
We will be providing communications support for the 32th annual Mayfair/Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade. We are meeting at Wachovia Bank parking lot SE corner of Rhawn St. and Frankford Ave. The parade starts at 1:00 PM

HF/VHF Awards Manager Sought

Two of the more popular ARRL operating awards are the Worked All States (WAS) award and the VHF-UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards. To earn the WAS award you have to make contacts and get QSLs for working all 50 states. Various endorsements are available for OSCAR Satellite, SSTV, 144 MHz, 432 MHz, 222 MHz, 50 MHz, 160 meters and 5 Band WAS. The Digital award, issued for working any digital mode (PSK31, AMTOR, PacTOR, RTTY, G-TOR, etc), is also available.

The VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) is awarded for contact with a minimum number of Maidenhead 2 degrees by 1 degree grid locators per band. Grid locators are designated by a combination of two letters and two numbers. As an ARRL Special Service Club, HARC may nominate a person to be an HF or VHF Award Manager. Appointments are made by the ARRL Membership Services Department (MSD). You must be an ARRL member to be considered for the appointment.

INFO: Flag Day Parade has been postponed by the event organizers.

Ham Radio Operators Demonstrate Modern Emergency Capabilities

For 75 years, Amateur Radio operators across the country have been providing emergency communications when other systems failed or overloaded in a crisis. Each year they take their equipment into unusual locations to test and make sure Ham Radio will always be there to get the message through. This year, is the 75th "Field Day" as thousands of Ham Radio operators will be showing off their emergency capabilities this weekend.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies world-wide. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio – often called "Ham radio" - was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer "hams" traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 23-24, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with these ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country. Their slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't!" is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. "The communications networks that ham radio people can quickly create have saved many lives in the past months when other systems failed or were overloaded."

Field Day will be discussed at the May
HARC meeting.

Come out and operate and meet some of your
fellow club members.

We'll be on site Saturday 8:30 AM until
Sunday at 2 PM. Additional time to take
down equipment.

Reward Offered!

(Author unknown)

A reward of 500 Microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of Hop-A-Long Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milly Henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving D.C. Motor over the Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the band pass.

If encountered, he may offer series of resistance. The Electromotive Force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit. He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current who was playing a harmonic and singing ohm on the range.

Chicken Wire Antenna Promotes Amateur Radio

(Springfield,MO) May 26-28, 2007, over the entire Memorial Day weekend the Strange Antenna Challenge Special Event Station, K0S, will employ "strange antennas" to promote amateur radio. And you and your club are invited to participate as a "satellite" station.

Just add "slash K0S" behind your call sign and do NOT use wire or pipe as your antenna! Full details may be found at <http://www.n0ew.org/k0s/> including a few simple rules, blank logs, and highlights of past events. Since 2002 using such strange antennas as folding chairs, painting easels, ladders, tape measures, dog kennels, load locks, fences, cots, and yes, chicken wire, we have communicated with other amateur radio stations as far away as Asia (www.n0ew.org/StrangeAntennas/tape.html) and Africa (Cape Verde www.n0ew.org/StrangeAntennas/chairs.html), and commonly speak with stations all across North and South American and into Europe. All while experiencing the bottom of the solar cycle.

Why should you consider joining us? To begin with, this is tons of fun! Do not underestimate the power of purely fun activities because they help grow your club. People are attracted to others enjoying themselves. And to be honest, this is somewhat unusual. If you send your local media a short news release a few days before your event (and they have a slow news day) they will come out to see what you are doing. This is also a very good opportunity for more experienced hams to share their trouble-shooting and home-brew skills with new hams, as well as show strangers the wonder and magic that is ham radio! But the most practical reason is as emergency training. How often have you

seen some ham bemoaning their inability to help pass vital traffic from an area affected by severe natural storms? I've seen it, and I've also seen plenty of "scraps" in the background that could easily be turned into serviceable antennas. Perhaps a "strange" antenna, but you don't honestly think the person being picked up off their roof really cares the message wasn't passed with a "real" antenna, or that the signal was a weak 3x4, do you? They only care they have been rescued from the flood!

This special event has it all! Fun, theory (antenna, transmission line, and impedance matching), application of skills, emergency preparedness, an interesting activity around which to build an annual Spring club event, and an eye-opening "hook" to reel-in some media attention for ham radio in general and your club in particular. "More people share in the fun each year," said Erik Weaver, one of the founders of the Strange Antenna Challenge, "I hope you give me a call this year with your very own strange antenna. Now let's play radio!"

Ham Radio Instrumental In Pacific Maritime Rescue

Amateur Radio played a critical role May 4 and 5 in rescuing two people from a foundering sailboat that had been en route to Colombia. Members of the Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) and Intercontinental Net on 14.300 MHz were involved in getting the man and woman aboard the 35-foot s/v Sailabout to safety after they ran into trouble some 700 nautical miles southwest of the Galapagos Islands in the South Pacific.

The couple, identified as Gunnar Hansen and Grethe Haraldsen, both Norwegian nationals and neither an amateur licensee, put out a Mayday call on the Intercon/MMSN 14.300 MHz frequency the morning of May 4 after Sailabout sustained damage to its bow -- possibly as a result of losing a forestay, which helps to keep the mast upright -- and started taking on water. Thanks to its efficient pumps, the sailboat remained afloat.

The main concern was for the mast, which supported the antenna for the vessel's HF radio. Fortunately, it remained standing. The conversation on the MMSN reportedly was widely monitored by others in the sailing and cruising communities. The Sailabout had only recently been equipped with an HF SSB transceiver.

According to an account Assistant MMSN Manager Tom Job, VE3II, posted on the net's Web site <http://www.mmsn.org/events/sailabout.html>, handling the incident involved multiple stations and relays to contend with problematic propagation. Sonny Sides, N5OTB, on s/v Valentina, and Doug Reinthal, W7DUG, relayed the Sailabout's Mayday on 14.300 MHz to Intercon Net Control Station Wes Mullenax, KI0A, in Texas. Because of poor propagation, however, KI0A had rough copy on the vessel's signal, so he turned the frequency over to Fletcher Henderson, KA4BPR, in Alabama. Another report credits

Ernie Polack, 6Y5RP, in Jamaica with intercepting the Mayday and assisting via intermittent radio contacts and relays during the first few hours of the event to get information to the Coast Guard. Compounding the urgency of the situation were six to eight-foot seas and winds of 16 to 18 knots.

Amateur Radio relays alerted the US Coast Guard at Alameda, California, to the Sailabout's predicament. At the Coast Guard's request, relayed via ham radio, Hansen set off the vessel's Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). Job says Henderson -- assisted by several other stations -- passed critical information to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard contacted and attempted to divert two vessels to the Sailabout's assistance, although only one, m/v Belnor -- a Norwegian freighter -- eventually reached the distressed vessel.

Another boat, s/v Damarri, reported some 50 miles distant, learned of the situation. MMSN says Sailabout was able to get under way and changed its course toward Damarri, which was sailing into the weather in an effort to rendezvous with Sailabout. Once on scene, the Damarri's crew kept watch through the night from a safe distance to avoid collision in the rough seas but did not attempt to take Hansen and Haraldsen aboard. At the time, the distressed vessel was contending with 14-foot seas and 25-knot winds. When outside radio contact essentially became impossible, the MMSN secured for the night.

The m/v Belnor arrived the next morning and took the couple aboard, while Damarri's crew confirmed the rescue via radio. The couple was reported to be in good health and spirits but had to abandon their vessel. The Belnor was believed headed for Panama.

Throughout the ordeal, various Amateur Radio stations -- some of which simply stood by if needed -- made themselves available to update the Coast Guard, which never had direct contact with Sailabout.

SOURCES: MMSN/Intercon Net; Jack Richards, W4QVA; SailboatOwners.com, Aftenposten, S/V Sailabout Web site (The ARRL Letter/American Radio Relay League.)

New Hams Looking for Equipment

Soon there will be 3 new boy scout/ham radio operators thanks to the work of Rich, AB3EO.

The scouts will be looking for used radio equipment in good working order. Do you have any VHF/UHF or HF gear laying around that would make a good starter radio? Maybe you have extra antennas or other items that would be good in a ham shack.

If you would be interested in selling or donating equipment to the scouts contact AB3EO @ARRL.Net

HAMFESTS

In the area

1 Jul 2007 Wilkes Barre Hamfest & Computerfest
Murgas ARC Luzerne County Fairgrounds
<http://www.qsl.net/k3ytl>
Talk-In: 146.61 (PL 82.5)
Lake Lehman, PA

4 Jul 2007 Fire Cracker HamFest
Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club Bressler, PA
<http://hrac.tripod.com/>
Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 100)

15 Jul 2007 Valley Forge Hamfest & Computer Fair
Mid Atlantic ARC Kimberton, PA
<http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.html>
Talk-In: 145.130/- and 147.060/+ ctcss 131.8

30 Sep 2007 Hamarama
Mt. Airy VHF Club Wrightstown, PA
<http://members.ij.net/packrats/Hamarama/hamarama.html>
Talk-In: 146.52 simplex

21 Oct 2007 Annual Hamfest
RF Hill Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Sellersville, PA
www.rfhill.ampr.org
Talk-In: 145.31 (-), pl 131.8

HARC MAIL

Rcvd letter from ham who suffered a stroke and can't see well enough to operate equipment. If interested contact Robert, WB3HRC 215-745-8620

Icom 2AT - 2mtr/case, speaker mic, charger, 5/8 antenna - \$80

Ringo Ranger 2 meter \$20

10-160 vehicle antenna Triplex antenna \$65

Midland SWR and PWR meter \$15

MTR 101 digital 24 hour clock \$8.00

Kenwood 2K linear #TL922 (10-15-20-40-80-160) 800.00

Drake Antenna Tuner Model MN2700 -175.00

Both for \$900

Kenwood TR7400 2 Meter xcvr \$80

Henry Electronic #530 30 watt linear 2 meter \$40

Drake 2 meter xcvr + mike (12 crystals, 10 rprr/2 simplex)
\$25 Both for 55.00

Larson Mag Mount 2 Meter NLS 150 \$15.

Navy Key timer box \$15

Kenwood phone patch \$20

Kenwood MC 50 desk mic \$35

Kenwood Speaker SP 520 - \$15



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

Next Meeting: Thursday May 24th, 2007.
8PM @ 8th District - Red Lion & Academy Rds.



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

HARC, PO BOX 6253, 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 PO BOX 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

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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) _____