



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>
WM3PEN@aol.com



Editor: K3UJ

May, 2022

Prez Sez!

It looks like the Philadelphia Protestant Home, where we met prior to Covid, will not be open to us in the near future, so we are looking for a new meeting place. The problem is that most venues will want to charge us for the use of their facilities. While HARC is certainly not broke, neither are we a rich club like the ones with large memberships. We have several leads on venues, but please let me know if you have any suggestions in this regard.

We had a fine time at the Warminster Amateur Radio Club's hamfest on May 1st, and we even made a few bucks selling items from our tables. Some present took the opportunity to join the club or pay their dues for 2022-23. If you haven't paid your annual dues (due in May), please see WA3PZO's recent IO group post on how to pay via PayPal without incurring fees, or contact him or me for instructions or for the postal address.

The word is that our member Jay WA2UAR will be retiring to Spain soon. We will miss his talents and company, wish him all the best, and hope to work him sometime as DX with an EA callsign! In other member news, Mark KC3JV broke his hip/leg a while back, and after quite a while in rehab, we are glad to hear he is making progress getting around at home.

Charlye K3CJ, as some of you may know, had a major heart problem, which led to kidney problems which require dialysis. I just talked to him at his sister's house, and he said "Can't complain" (I told him he could). Since leaving rehab on April 27, he is getting his strength back, and has progressed from a walker to a cane. He hopes to go home to his radios sometime in June.

I'm happy to contribute to the club's "Helping Hams" effort (clever name, Rich!). My expertise comprises

CW (Morse Code) and contest operation. Please call on me if you need help or advice with these. Though I may not have time to give actual CW lessons, I can give you some hints and refer you to courses and resources. Also, I spend a lot of time reading the QRZ.com Swaplist (I can dream, can't I?), so I may be able to give you some advice on HF radios and accessories.

As you probably realize, our May 19 and June 16 Zoom meetings will deal with preparation for both Field Day (June 25-26) and the 13 Colonies special event (July 1-7). If you would like to be one of us operators using the WM3PEN club call for 13 Colonies, at which we are the Philadelphia bonus station, please let WA3PZO know that you're interested. Newly-licensed ops are welcome; you need only a Technician license or higher; activity includes operation on 6 meters, satellites, DSTAR, as well as HF. You can put in as much or as little time as you want, and you can choose time periods at the last minute.

We will hold our election of officers at the May 19 meeting, so as not to be outdone by the state, federal, and local elections on May 17. **Please come with nominations** for President, VP, Secretary, and one Board member-at-large.

I'm a little anxious about Field Day this year, our first since Covid started. I hope we are not too short-handed, what with stalwart K3CJ's illness and other problems. If you can help to operate, or more important perhaps to set up on that Saturday morning, we'd sure appreciate your letting us know. If not, we nevertheless hope you'll visit the FD site in Alverthorpe Park (Jenkintown, Abington Township...specific directions necessary) to learn about what we do and to enjoy our delightful company!

73,
Saul W3WHK

March Trivia Question?

What character was added to International Morse Code in 2004?

HARC Membership Dues

If you have not renewed yet, please do so.

Club membership begins on May 1st.

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@arrrl.net

and put the information in the note box.

When sending in dues via Paypal using the web interface the procedures changed for submitting dues as a friend.

On \$20 there is a \$1.07 service fee. If you use the Donate button there is a 2.89% of the transaction plus a .49 fixed fee. Currently out of the \$20 that you submit the Club gets \$18.93.

By using the attached guidelines there will be no service fees.

Paypal has changed the way that money is sent to a Friend without Service fees.

On \$20 there is a \$1.07 service fee. If you use the Donate button there is a 2.89% of the transaction plus a .49 fixed fee. Currently out of the \$20 that you submit the Club gets \$18.93.

DO NOT CLICK SEND AND RECEIVE DONATIONS or SEND A DIGITAL GIFT CARD

Send a digital gift card
Choose from over 300 gift card brands and personalize it with a message.

Send and receive donations
Find support and help others now.

At the top click Send and Request.

Dashboard Finances **Send and Request** Deals Wallet

Type WM3PEN @ARRL.NET in the Send Money Box:

Send money

Home, @yourcompany, arrrl or mobile
Wm3pen@arrrl.net

Next

Click NEXT

ARRL makes Grants available

Recently the ARRL announced that grants would be available to ham radio clubs. The grants are:

- Looking to fund projects that create significant impact beyond the applying club: transformative impact on Amateur Radio; create public awareness and support for Amateur Radio; educational and training impact

- Examples of projects include, but are not limited to: get on the air projects; ham training and skills development through mentoring; STEM and STEAM learning through Amateur Radio; station resources for use by the ham community; emergency communications and public service projects that emphasize training; club revitalization projects.

Club president W3WHK and Club treasurer WA3PZO attended a briefing on the grants. The grants range from \$2000 to \$25000. Complete info can be found at: <http://www.arrrl.org/club-grant-program> The presentation can be found on the ARRL YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lx42qAFknOw>

Given the current COVID limitations on meeting rooms one idea that came up was to submit a grant that would enable us to have quality hybrid meetings. This would include in person as well as via Zoom. We don't know what type of room we will be meeting in so we want to be prepared. We're also giving thought to ways to promote the club.

Are there other things we could do? Sure but we have to be able to plan and carry out whatever we say we want to do in the grant proposal.

So here is where you come in. This is your club. What ideas do you have? What do you think we should put in the grant proposal? Contact Saul or Bob with your ideas. Post your ideas on the groups.io reflector.

In other news....

Club files for IRS 501c3 status. – Thanks to 2 generous donations of \$100 each and money earned at the hamfest, Bob, WA3PZO, filed the necessary application for the Club to be considered a charitable organization under the IRS rules 501c3. Total cost was \$275. The review process will take at least 4 weeks- possibly 6 months. While not a requirement for the ARRL grant it was listed as a plus.

W3WHK and WA3PZO also met with Fred, AB1OC, President of the Nashua Area Radio Society, N1FD (NH). N1FD is considered a premier club and has been recognized as the (Dayton) Hamvention 2019 Club of the Year. We learned some of the things they are doing and ideas that worked and didn't work for them. AB1OC is on the ARRL Club grants committee. He is also the NH state coordinator for the 13 Colonies Special Event.

WW0WWV reaches out to WA3PZO for advice on doing a special event.

In the past few years WW0WWV has been doing a special event to recognize the anniversary of WWV – the National Institute of Standards time radio station in Ft. Collins, CO. As they plan this year's event in the fall they wanted to learn from our experience with the 13 Colonies event if there were things they could do to make their event more successful. We discussed scheduling operators, qsl card design and techniques, certificates, operating modes, logging, etc.

On The Air

Museum Ships Weekend

0000Z June 4, 2022 to 2359Z June 5, 2022

Sponsored by
The Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio
Station
NJ2BB

This annual event puts museum ships from all over the world on the air. A museum ship is retired from active use and has been put on display for public visits, like the battleship New Jersey over in Camden and the Olympia and Becuna here at Penn's Landing.

This is not a contest, there is no scoring involved, but an opportunity to receive some exciting QSL cards. Most of the stations operate from the radio rooms of the actual ship. Generally these are WWII naval vessels, there are others from the Viet Nam era and other wars. Also some commercial ships.

The bulk of the operating will be in the General portion of the HF bands, SSB and digital.

For more information and a list of the ships that will be on the air visit: <https://nj2bb.org/museum/>

For a few years I assisted the N3SUB club and put the Becuna on the air. It was a lot of fun operating from her radio room and answering questions from the tours. They were surprised to see a live body and radios in operation. The last time we tried we were getting very high noise from an arcade that had been erected in the parking lot. That ended operations from the boat. (And yes, a submarine is a boat, not a ship.)

Announcement from WX4NHC Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center, Miami Florida

WX4NHC will be On-The-Air for the Annual Communications Test Saturday May 28th, 2022 from 9AM – 5 PM EDT (1300z-2100z)

This is our 42nd year of public service at NHC.

The purpose of this event is to test WX4NHC Amateur Radio Equipment and Antennas at NHC as well as Operator's home equipment, antennas and computers prior to this year's Hurricane Season, which starts June 1st and runs through November 30th. This event is good practice for Ham Radio Operators world-wide to practice Amateur Radio communications available during times of severe weather.

We will be making brief contacts on many frequencies and modes, exchanging signal reports and basic weather data exchange (Sunny, Rain, Temperature, etc.) with any station in any location.

WX4NHC will be On-The-Air on HF, VHF, UHF, 2 & 30 meter APRS and WinLink
wx4nhc@winlink.org subject must contain //WL2K.

We will try to stay on the Hurricane Watch Net frequency 14.325 MHz most of the time. Also 7.268 MHz depending on propagation. However, we will be operating different frequencies depending on QRM.

We will also be on VoIP Hurricane Net 4pm-5pm EDT (2000-2100z) (IRLP node 9219 / EchoLink WX-TALK Conference node 7203). <http://www.voipwx.net/>

WX4NHC will also make a few contacts on local VHF and UHF repeaters as well as Florida Statewide SARNET system to test our station equipment.

QSL Cards are available via WD4R. Please send your card with a S.A.S.E. Please do NOT send QSLs directly to the Hurricane Center address, as it will get delayed.

For more information about WX4NHC, please visit our website www.wx4nhc.org

73, Julio – WX4NHC/WD4R

13 Colonies

It's getting close. This event is held during the first week on July as a seven day Special Event in celebration of the founding of our country. This is big. Last year there were over **250,000** contacts. A 25% increase over 2020.

2022 is the 14th running. It started in 2009 and HARC became involved in 2011 when we asked if they would like the birthplace of independence included. Our WM3PEN callsign was just a bonus. That first year four operators made 1200 contacts. The bulk being SSB on 20, 40, and 80. There was some PSK31.

Over the years our operation has evolved, adding more bands and modes with the contact count growing. Now we employ 20 plus operators and just about all the modes, including satellite. We are looking at trying SSTV this year.

For the history of our efforts visit the Original 13 Colony Special Event page on the HARC website. There are pictures of our past QSL cards, as well as information on what we did. In 2016 we even had operations from Independence National Park (Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell) and Valley Forge. You can't get more 13 Colonies than that.

Contact Bob – WA3PZO@aol.com if you wish to be an operator. You will receive a set of instructions and the address of the online schedule sheet. You do not have to commit to any specific amount of time, work what you

are able. And just because you are an operator does not mean you can't join in the fun and try and get those other 13 Col stations. In 2021 we had over 10,000 contacts so the more participation we have the better we do.

One of the outgrowths from this was our involvement in the Stamps for the Wounded Program. We were getting a lot of QSL requests and it seemed a shame to let those stamps go to waste. Though the bulk of the confirmations are LOTW and EQSL, we still received close to 800 cards in the mail in 2021.

Note, we did hear back from the GB13COL crew and HARC has agreed to be the NA QSL manager. Hams will be directed to send their requests to K3UJ – Rich, and he will process them. Because most of the QSL's are from the US we arranged for the printing of the cards here by Randy - KB3IFH, who also prints our cards. GB13COL provided the artwork. The bulk of the cards were retained with a shipment going to England for the UK QSL requests

Bob, WA3PZO

Homebuilt

Do you like building antennas or try to figure out how they work? Roy Lewallen, W7EL, the creator of the EZNEC antenna modeling software has retired on Jan 1st 2022. In a contribution to the amateur radio community, he is offering his software for free. It can be downloaded from eznec.com. This is a very useful tool for anyone building their own antenna or trying to see the performance of what you are currently using.

We should thank Roy for his generous gift.

<https://www.eznec.com/>

Want to see where other hams are close to you. Here's a fun little tool from KT1F:

<https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map>

Events

Warminster Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
May 3, 2022

This was an enjoyable event. I was good to see members of the club again. Turnout was down from times in the past, but still there was a lot of activity. With tables inside and quite a bit of tailgate activity.

There were four seminars offered:

Bud Trench AA3B on "Improving Your Contest Score"

ARRL Hudson Division Director Ria Jairam N2RJ discussing "Station RF Measurement and the New FCC Guidelines for RF Exposure"

ARRL Atlantic Division Update by Division Director Tom Abernathy W3TOM & Vice-Director Bob Famiglio K3RF

ARRL EPA Section Update by Section Manager George Miller W3GWM

HARC had a table with a display on the 13 Colony event. Manning the table were Mike-N3LXN, Steve-K3FZT, Saul-W3WHK, Carl-N3ZZK, and Rich-K3UJ. Many members of the club visited. Some memberships were renewed and our Hamfest special added one new member. Offered items sold well and donated goods added to the club coffers.

Looking forward to next year's hamfest. Mark your calendar for the first Sunday in May. It's easy to get to, parking is close and there are no muddy fields to walk in.

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 – KA3ATT.

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

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

May 19, 2022

Officer Elections

Field Day & 13 Colony planning.

June 16, 2022

Field Day & 13 Colony planning.

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)

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

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

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

Antenna instillation
Carl – N3ZZK Carl9521@aol.com
Dave – KB3AKK kb3akk@hotmail.com

2M/440 Digital modes
Jim – AJ3DI aj3di@jedijf.com

CW & Contest operation
Saul – W3WHK saulbro@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

HARC Board of Directors

President – Saul Broudy, W3WHK
Vice President – Steve Miller, W3AZT
Treasurer – Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Secretary – Saul Broudy, W3WHK
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
Member-at-Large – Rich Shivers, K3UJ
Greg Malone, WA3GM
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

Trivia Question Answer.

The "@" symbol, combining A and C into one character. • — • — •