

August 2008

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3FI CLUB CALLS WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



YOU'RE INVITED

HARC FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, August 24th 11:00 AM - ?

Pennypack Park

Rhawn Street entrance just west of Rowland Ave.

Bring your family. Hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks will be supplied.

Feel free to bring something for the group or your own special picnic special. No alcohol permitted in city parks. So we can be prepared please rsvp to WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

Field Day a Hit!

The end of June brought Club members, friends, and visitors out of their homes to participate in the HARC Field Day.

While the Club scores weren't available at press time, it was noted that more contacts were made this year than last.

Check out the Club website for more pics from the 2008 event. (pics via N3LXN)



Where's the Spark been?

You have probably noticed that a few things have been missing from the Club over the past few months. If you said the newsletter and the 2008 membership renewal you are right. HARC's newsletter editor and treasurer Bob, WA3PZO, got married in mid April and used the beginning of the year to get ready for the wedding. By mid-May, Bob had to put his reporter's hat back on to cover major international disasters. So we're back. See **Membership renewal form on the last page of the newsletter. DUES ARE DUE.**

Upcoming Events

August 24 - HARC Picnic - Pennypack Park
No August Meeting

September 25 - HARC Club Meeting

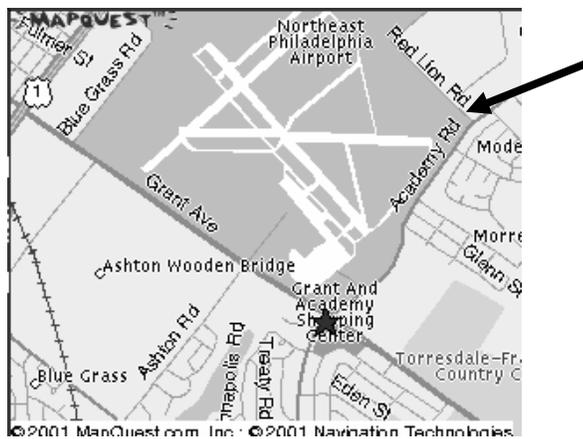
October 18 - Jamboree on the Air
October 19 - Northeast Philly 5 Mile Run
October 23 - HARC Club Meeting

November 23 - Mayfair Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade

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 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

Club Address Change

HARC has had a PO Box since the mid 70s, however the Board of Directors has decided to give up the PO Box. Last year the PO Box cost \$75 to rent for one year. With postal rates on the rise the Board felt the money could be better spent. The Club's new address is:

Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
3341 Sheffield Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19136
WM3PEN@ARRL.NET

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 - Contact Tom Michaud (WA3TQJ) at (215) 343-3494 (7-9PM)

Bryn Mawr - quarterly on a Saturday. Contact Bob Lees, W3ZQN, rjlees@aol.com

NO CLUB MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST

HARC PICNIC
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24th
PENNYPACK PARK
RHAWN STREET ENTRANCE
JUST WEST OF ROWLAND AVE.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Northeast Philadelphia 5 Mile Run

Sunday, October 19th, 2008

We will be providing communications support for the Fifth 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 23th, 2008

We will be providing communications support for the 33th 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

New Year's Day Delayed

By a leap second

(from timeanddate.com)

Leap seconds are added to keep the clocks synchronized with the Earth's rotation.

Basic details

The second is the base unit for modern time keeping. The second was previously defined based on the Earth's rotation, but because modern atomic clocks are more accurate than the Earth's rotation the definition was changed in 1967. A second is currently defined as being the duration of 9,192,631,770 periods/oscillations of radiation from a Cesium-133 atom at the ground state (near 0 Kelvin - coldest possible).

The Earth is rotating slower and slower over time, while the atomic clocks are not slowing down. On one average day the difference is around 0.002 seconds, which means around 1 second in 500 days. In order to synchronize the atomic clocks with the Earth's observed rotation, the atomic clocks are occasionally instructed to add an extra second – the leap second. Leap seconds are inserted so that the difference between the UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) and UT1 (mean solar time - observed Earth rotation) is kept below 0.9 seconds.

The leap second is added in the end of June or December. It is also possible to have a negative

leap second, where one second is removed, in a case where the Earth is rotating faster, but such a negative second has never been used, and is rather unlikely to be used in the future.

How are leap seconds declared?

The International Earth Rotation and Reference System Service (IERS) observes the Earth's rotation and nearly 6 months in advance (January and July) a "Bulletin C" message is sent out, which reports whether or not to add a leap second in the end of June and December.

How leap seconds are inserted

Leap seconds are inserted at the end of June or December as an additional second after 23:59:59 UTC (Universal Time Coordinated). The additional second is the 61st second of the last minute of the month, and it is written as 23:59:60 (or 11:59:60 PM in 12-hour format).

The second is inserted at the same time all over the world - the actual local time will therefore depend on the time zone. Only regions in the UTC time zone will add the second just before midnight, for time zones east of UTC, the second will be added the next day (first day in January or July), for time zones west of UTC, the second will be added earlier on the same day as for UTC.

Leap second on 2008-12-31 23:59:60 UTC

The next leap second will be inserted like this, in the UTC time scale, and corresponding times elsewhere in the world. (2008-12-31 means December 31, 2008, and 2009-01-01 means January 1, 2009).

Did you upgrade your station, build a kit, travel to a radio related spot?

Consider contributing an article to the HARC SPARK!

You don't have to be an English major. Just send us your story to wm3pen@arrl.net.

people to list emergency contact numbers in their mobile phone's directory in the form of "ICE father", for example, or "ICE doctor". However, this precludes people who do not use or recognize the Roman script from readily identifying what the term "ICE" represents. ITU members expressed the need to identify emergency contacts independent of language or script.

The new standard, which is a clause to ITU-T Recommendation E.123, internationalizes the ICE concept and recommends the use of Arabic numerals (0 to 9) to denote emergency contact numbers in a handset's directory. It exploits the fact that even though written scripts differ around the world these digits are universally recognized, making it usable by anyone regardless of language or script.

Malcolm Johnson, Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, said, "Emergency telecommunications is a top priority for ITU. This simple addition to a person's next-of-kin or nominated contact details has the potential to greatly reduce stress for overworked emergency workers around the world. Anything that can be done to reduce the workload of these remarkably brave people and assist in getting injured people the right care and attention is commendable. We will work tirelessly with ICE4SAFETY and other agencies to promote this concept."

"We have seen the tremendous benefit of the ICE concept to the emergency services community," said Mark Balduzzi, Developer of ICE4SAFETY. "ITU's initiative to internationalize ICE takes the concept one step further, and we wholeheartedly support this."

ITU-T Recommendation E.123, or the notation for national and international telephone numbers, defines a standard way of writing telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and web addresses. ICE4SAFETY has modified its symbol by incorporating the reference E.123.

PHILADELPHIA AREA HAMS NAIL ROGUE RADIO SIGNALS (from the ARRL Letter)

When residents of a Philadelphia suburb complained to an area television station about how their remote car door entry devices wouldn't work in the parking lot of a local department store, an investigative reporter for NBC-10 (WCAU) called everyone she could to help her discover why. No one knew anything -- until she called on some local ham radio operators.

"Many people lock and unlock a car by remote and don't even give it a second thought unless it doesn't work," said NBC10 reporter Lu Ann Cahn. "The mystery problem repeatedly occurs outside the Kohl's store in Royersford. When I went into Kohl's [to ask about this], they told me they had no idea [about this]."

Cahn said that shoppers told her that this has been going on for more than a year, and that some shoppers don't realize they might have to manually lock their doors: "One woman reported her laptop was stolen from her car after she thought she had locked it."

Shoppers theorized that it was the local power plant causing the interference, but Cahn said that officials at the plant said it wasn't them. Others thought that cellular telephone towers might be the culprit, but there are no cell towers in the area. "Police tell us that they can't figure it out either," Cahn said.

So after calling numerous places to help her out with this mystery, Cahn happened upon Reggie Leister, N3KAS, and Bob Rex, K3DBD, of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club; Rex is Vice President of the club and Leister is the club's Public Information Officer (PIO). And as hams do, they were quick to volunteer to help out.

Leister and Rex accompanied Cahn to the parking lot in question. Rex built an antenna out of aluminum tubing and hooked it up to a spectrum analyzer. "Somewhere in the vicinity of this parking lot," Leister said, "there is a big source of radiation, some sort of signal." When Leister aimed the antenna in the direction of the Kohl's store, he hit pay dirt. "There are actually two signals there. It looks like [they're] coming from the building," Rex said when he read the analyzer.

Three days after Leister and Rex located the source of the interference, remote car door lockers worked again. "Kohl's will only say that they're working on it," Cahn said. "The FCC says it does sound like something malfunctioned and they have had reports of similar incidents in New York City and Tampa, Florida."



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



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.

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) _____