



# THE HARC SPARK



Editor: K3UJ

The Official Newsletter of the  
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club  
501(C)(3) Charitable Organization  
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater  
K3RJC 444.9 Mhz Repeater  
K3FI – Club Calls – WM3PEN  
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>  
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August, 2022

## Prez Sez!

I marvel at the myriad of ham radio clubs, organizations, and special-interest groups that we can join to complement our on-air activities. In my case, the ARRL and HARC go without saying, but I enjoy other affiliations as well. My membership in the Frankford Radio Club(WA3GM is also a member) allows me to mix with the elite of the ham "contesting"(RadioSport) community, and to learn from them.

I am also a member of CWops(cwops.org), an international organization which has grown to more than 3000 members. It has promoted Morse Code operation for the better part of a decade, and runs the free online CW Academy for those who want to learn. I look forward to their three hour-long operating events every Wednesday.

So it was with much pleasure that I had lunch on July 8 with Jim Talens N3JT, one of CWop's founders, who was visiting Philly from northern Virginia. Jim and I both attended Central High School, though at different times, so we got to reminisce about our school's ham radio club, the 807 Society. Here we are at Joseph's on Oxford Ave. in Fox Chase, eating our cheesesteaks and hanging out with the chef:



73,  
Saul W3WHK

### August Trivia Question?

For you county hunters.  
How many states have a Washington county?

### ARRL makes Grants available

HARC has applied and we are eagerly awaiting to hear weather our proposal has been approved.  
More to come.

## In other news....

Club files for IRS 501c3 status.  
This has been approved and HARC is now a 501(C)(3)  
Charitable Organization

## Field Day 2022



At long last, we had a live, post-pandemic FD, and it was a hot one! For only 3 stations operating at a time, I think we did quite well, with 387 QSOs on CW, SSB, and FT-4. Our regulars came thru in style; thanks to N3LXN, KB3AKK, N3ZZK, KB3UWJ, W3AZT, and WB2BXO for their help setting up and/or operating. We missed past regulars K3CJ, K3RJC, K3UJ, N3UBY, KC3JV, and WA3PZO. If I've missed anyone, please correct me.

We had a few first-timers with us: newish member Joe K3BLA, Paul, KC3NYW, Bob N1BIV who is a local ham, and member and prospective ham Jeff Lewis. I was glad to have Jeff at my operating position to try to explain what I was doing and what the equipment does, and to translate the CW. I did give him a chance to tune around the 40m phone band for a while, and we even made a few phone QSOs.

Of course, the daytime temperatures were brutal, and at night the insects were large and plentiful as usual, but we all survived. On a personal note: At my age, and with some mobility problems, the heat caused me some dizziness and stumbling. Everyone took great care of me, not letting me do anything but operate. Thank you, good friends!

Till next year...Saul W3WHK



E.J. - KB3UWK ready to go.



Bug proof, maybe.

## 13 Colonies

Come and gone. 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.

Boy were we busy, HARC made 12220 QSO's 1864 more than last year.

We worked all 50 states, 92 countries, 6 Continents on 10M, 12M, 15M, 17M, 20M, 30M, 40M, 80M, 160M, 6M, 2M, 70cm (440) using SSB, CW, PSK31, FT8, FT4, DSTAR, Satellite (81), SSTV (3)

LOTW shows 5828 confirmed  
EQSL shows 3206 confirmed  
695 cards received

Congratulations to all the Operators, a job well done:  
AJ3DI, K3UJ, KB3RIJ, KC3SMW, N3ZZK, NF3R,  
NS3K, NY3A, W3AZT, W3FRB, W3WHK, WA3BXH,  
WA3GM, WA3PZO, WK2G  
KU2Y and the students at the Villanova University  
Amateur Radio Club - W3YP.

As QSL manager for GB13COL we processed 261 cards. Bit of a slow start, it seems that not everyone read their posted instructions as quite a few were set directly to them. We also received a few overseas cards. No problem. It's being counted as a success. We plan to continue this operation as many were pleased with the ease of getting their card.

We will be back next year and with the bands getting better maybe a new record. If you would like to participate, please let us know. We would love to have you join us.

Bob, WA3PZO

### History

How do you celebrate a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary? Dinner? Party? Vacation?

The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club in Philadelphia decided to send its' club call, WM3PEN, on a long vacation that would take 255 days to get there. That's right they teamed up with NASA's Mars Science Laboratory rover, Curiosity, to visit Bradbury Landing, Mars. The boarding pass was 'purchased' on April 25, 2011. Curiosity landed on MARS in early August, 2012.

Since the landing, Curiosity and WM3PEN have travelled nearly 18 miles searching for the perfect location for the dx-pedition.

The folks at WM3PEN thought it would be a good trip to team up with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (J-P-L) since it appeared to be a cw event. To help measure size and distance the JPL engineers carved out the dots and dashes of J-P-L in the tire treads. How could a ham argue with a cw buddy along for the ride?

During its visit to the red planet NASA reports that the rover has analyzed 41 rock and soil samples, relying on a suite of science instruments to learn what they reveal

about Earth's rocky sibling. And it's pushed a team of engineers to devise ways to minimize wear and tear and keep the rover rolling: In fact, Curiosity's mission was recently extended for another three years, allowing it to continue among NASA's fleet of important astrobiological missions.

When asked what's next for the WM3PEN team, callsign trustee Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, said that after just coming off Field Day and the 13 Colonies Special Event in June and July, it will be time to relax and plan the next adventure.



### 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

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## 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**

September 15

Michael Ritz, W7VO (ARRL's Northwestern Division Director) will be speaking to us on "The Storied History of the Ham Radio Callsign"

### **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](http://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](mailto:ab3eo@comcast.net)

Kit building. - I will offer assistance, finish something started or do a complete build for you.

Rich – K3UJ [ab3eo@comcast.net](mailto:ab3eo@comcast.net)

Antenna instillation

Carl – N3ZZK [Carl9521@aol.com](mailto:Carl9521@aol.com)

Dave – KB3AKK [kb3akk@hotmail.com](mailto:kb3akk@hotmail.com)

2M/440 Digital modes

Jim – AJ3DI [aj3di@jedijf.com](mailto:aj3di@jedijf.com)

CW & Contest operation

Saul – W3WHK [saubro@aol.com](mailto:saubro@aol.com)

