



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>



September 2015

Getting Ready for the Pope

***ARRL EPA Ass't SM talks about meeting the hams behind the QSLs
REMINDER: There may be hams visiting Phila during the WMF.
Keep an ear on the repeater to welcome them and provide assistance.***

County and Medical Units Put out Call for Ham Support in PA and NJ

During the Papal visit on September 26-27, amateur radio operators have been asked to assist medical and county officials in the counties surrounding Philadelphia. In Southern New Jersey SNJ ARES has been tasked with providing communications assistance to Cooper University Hospital and the Southern Region Medical Coordination Center. The emergency management agencies of the counties surrounding Philadelphia have asked for Amateur Radio support on the 26th and 27th to assist with insuring the safety of all the visitors that will be traveling through their counties on the way to visit Philadelphia during this momentous occasion. The expected duty would be monitoring traffic, rail stations, and other facilities.

According to EPA ARRL Section Manager Joe Ames, W3JY, the task will require more operators than the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Teams in those counties can field and for that reason the Eastern Pennsylvania Section is coming to all Amateur Radio Operators in Eastern Pennsylvania. The request is simple and if you can meet the following requirements the ARES Teams could use your help.

Additional info can be found at:
<http://www.epa-arrl.org/>

Pope Francis visits the United States September 22 – 27

Amateur Radio will be part of the celebration.

Throughout the 5 day event (September 23 0000Z – September 28 0000Z) 6 special event amateur radio stations will be on the air to commemorate the event. Call signs from the Washington, DC area will be K3P and N4P. From New York and New Jersey the call will be K2P. W3FRC/WMF will be on the air from southeastern Pennsylvania and W3P will be on the air in Philadelphia. **WM3PEN**, also of Philadelphia, will join in Thursday evening at 8 PM EST (Friday 0000 GMT). Four unique qsl cards will be available along with a certificate to mark this special and historic event. Additional information can be found at [Papal Visit Amateur Radio Special Event](#).

The Washington, DC operations are being coordinated by Jim Nitzberg, WX3B of the [Potomac Valley Radio Club](#). The southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey operations are under the direction of Ron Sigismonti, N3RS of the [Frankford Radio Club](#). The New York activity is being coordinated by John Melfi, W2HCB of the [Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club](#). W3P efforts on the air are being coordinated by [Joe Leone](#), [KA3LKM](#). WM3PEN operations are being coordinated by Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, and the [Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club](#).

(Continues pg 3)

HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

Secretary - Saul Brody, W3WHK

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY

Mike Wurgley, N3LXN

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO

Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 3rd. Thursday @ 8:00 PM. Pathway Bldg, Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road at Tabor Rd . Phila PA. Picnic in August. Holiday Dinner in December.



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.

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website

www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events

Sept 17 - Stories behind those QSLs

October 15 - ARES

October 18 - NE Phila Youth Run

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 testing in Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month. Exams , 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA.

Registration begins at 7pm.

Warminster Amateur Radio Club has testing the last Wednesday evening of each month except August and December. The sessions are at the Warminster Recreational and Educational Center on Little Lane, and start promptly at 7:00 PM (registration 6:45 PM).

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

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)

Pope Celebration Continued....

We are privileged to be able to represent our region of the USA via Amateur Radio. Every three years there is a World Meeting of Families. In 2012 amateur radio operators in Italy had the call II2POPE on the air. This year amateur radio operators in 5 states will be on the air to commemorate the event. This year with the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and the second time a Pope has visited Philadelphia, Ron Sigismonti, says having several special event stations on the air by members of a club that originated in Philadelphia, then expanded to encompass the entire region out to 175 miles of Philadelphia; another club whose members will be on the air in the same section of Philadelphia that the Pope is visiting; and another group of Philadelphia operators who are excited about the World Meeting of Families being held in the City will really make this a special event. Additionally, operations from the Greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, metropolitan New York City, and parts of New Jersey will encompass the entire region visited by Pope Francis in the United States. It will allow those who can't be in the various cities that he is visiting to participate in this event by talking to those who are. In essence this will be a world family meeting of amateur radio operators.

The Pope arrives at Joint Base Andrews on September 22 and begins his visit in Washington, D.C. with a meeting with President Obama on Wednesday, September 23. He delivers a speech to a joint session of Congress on Thursday, September 24. On Friday he attends a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and participates in a multi-religious service at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center. On Saturday he gives a speech at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and concludes his visit to the U.S. with an outdoor mass in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Sunday, September 27. Complete information and links can be found on the WM3PEN qrz.com page.

Looking for Ops

Interested in being part of the Special Event? HARC is looking for operators to help keep WM3PEN on the air during this special event. HF ops on phone, cw, or digital modes are needed from Thursday night through Sunday night local (9/24-9/27). That's Friday 0000z – Monday 0000z. Contact WA3PZO for more info or email WM3PEN at aol.com.

Stamps For the Wounded



HARC members are collecting postage stamps for the Stamps For the Wounded program. *Stamps for the Wounded* accepts any U.S. or foreign stamps that are not torn or damaged. They have

also requested each stamp should have at least a quarter-inch margin around the stamp. Do not try to either to peel or steam the stamp off the original envelope.

So save the stamps from your qsl cards or other mail. They do not need the common Flag Forever stamp. Bring the stamps to a club meeting and give them to Rich, AB3EO, who will mail them.

Many stations, including DX, included extra stamps with their qsl cards for WM3PEN that we are able to pass onto the SFTW program. We had 4 stamp albums donated and several mailings once stations received an insert with SFTW information in their qsl card. We even had inquiries from 2 clubs interested in starting their own program.

13 Colonies – 2016

The 2016 – 13 Colonies Special Event will honor colonial soldiers of the Revolution. The event will run July 1 – 6. 2015 saw an increase in cw operations, partially because of poor band conditions. We'll be looking at increasing our cw activity.

Pennsylvania "67" Challenge Award

Amateur Radio operators around the world have the opportunity to participate in the Pennsylvania "67" Challenge. The Challenge, sponsored by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, is to make contact with all 67 Pennsylvania Counties. The Challenge is open to all amateur radio operators regardless of individual station capabilities. All contacts must be 2-way communications made in real time. These contacts may be on any Amateur Radio band/mode.

Contacts made using repeating devices such as FM repeaters, Amateur satellites, moon-bounce, and keyboard-to-keyboard contacts through digipeaters/nodes are valid, because these QSOs are made in real or near-real time. Contacts using IRLP, Echolink, or D-Star are valid as long as a radio is being used by both operators. All contacts must be made from the same county.

As an incentive Pennsylvania "67" Challenge certificates may be earned by working stations in 20, 40, 60, or all 67 Counties. Paper or electronic QSLs are acceptable. The contacts can be verified by a local club officer or mailed to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club.

Complete rules are posted on the HARC website. Questions on the Award can be directed to HARC at WM3PEN@ARRL.NET.

Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference

The Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference will be held on the weekend of October 2-4, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Bensalem / Philadelphia 3327 Street Road, Bensalem, PA.

Registration now open on-line and by mail. Go to the Packrat Website PACKRATVHF.COM and click on the VHF Conference link for all information. Make hotel reservations at 215-639-9100 for Special VHF Conference rate \$79+tax/nite til Sept 4, OR USE:

http://dataandwireless.com/packrat/2015_vhf_registration.php

Early Bird Conference registration \$40 (til Sept 20)

Early Bird Banquet \$40 (til Sept 20)

Fri eve: Hospitality and table-top indoor selling

Saturday: Conference 8a-5p registration includes pizza lunch and snacks and proceedings disc

Saturday: 10a-4p Technical test bench with Greg Bonaguide of Rohde & Schwarz

Saturday eve: Banquet, speaker, door-prizes*

Sunday AM: limited outdoor flea-market free to all.

*You must be registered and paid for conference and banquet to be eligible for door prizes

ADDITIONAL PAPERS STILL SOLICITED FOR PROCEEDINGS

Contact Rick, K1DS at 215-284-5517 or

rick1ds@hotmail.com

Tentative Speakers and topics:

Joe Taylor K1JT New VHF & Up Features of WSJT-X

Roger Rehr W3SZ Open HPSDR for VHF/UHF/uW Operating

Phil Theis K3TUF Radio Server for VHF/UHF/uW Contesting

Chris Wilson N0CSW Yaesu Fusion System Innovations

Rob Renaud K3RWR SDR and Noise Reduction

John Jaminet W3HMS Roving in the Pennsylvania Boondocks

Mario Filippi N2HUN uWave Satellites

Al Katz K2UYH Devilish Doppler

Joe Horanzy AA3JH Talking to the Astronauts

Michael Davis KB1JEY Painful Tower Lessons

Al Waller K3TKJ Six Meter Magnificence

George Heron N2APB Scalar Network Analyzer

Gary Hitchner WA2OMY New Packrat Beacons (Can You Hear Me Now?)

Steve Simons W1SMS RF Safety for Radio Amateurs

HARC in the Park? A National Park?

At the January ARRL Board Meeting, Board Members okayed a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial. While details of the event are not known yet, early postings indicate it will be a year long event similar to the recently concluded ARRL Centennial where WIAW was operated from every state and most territories. There are many National Park Service sites in the Philadelphia area. Will we want to operate portable from a site? We will have to wait for more details from ARRL. Stay tuned!

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. HARC has a Facebook page. Sign up today. Follow HARC on the web at www.harcnet.org and via the HARC Spark.



Upcoming HARC Events

Trying to plan out your calendar for a few months? Here's a list of upcoming HARC events.

September 17 – Stories behind those qsl cards. Tom, AF4NC, was an airline pilot and got to meet many of the operators he got qsl cards from. He has some interesting stories to tell. Tom is also the ARRL EPA Assistant Section Manager.

September 24-27 – WM3PEN will be on the air during the Pope's visit to Philadelphia.

October 15 – Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). EPA Section Emergency Coordinator, W.T. Jones, WN3LIF, and EPA District 1 District Emergency Coordinator Dick Stewart, K3ITH, will present an update on ARES activities.

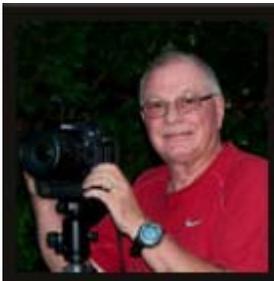
October 18 – NE Phila Youth Walk & Run @ the Northeast Airport. 7 am to 11 am.

November 19 – KC3JV presents the design of a compact loop antenna with a easy to make differential tuning capacitor. Suitable for apartment living or vacations.

December 17 – Holiday Dinner

Stories behind the QSL Card

HARC's September guest speaker is Tom Mills, AF4NC. Tom is the EPA ARRL Section Manager. Tom will share some of his stories about meeting many of the hams he has contacted around the world. Tom is a pilot and has flown around the world giving him the opportunity to meet many people.



He is an active cw operator and traffic handler. His second hobby is wildlife photography.

A recent article in QNI NTS Newsletter describes an opportunity for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to work with the National Traffic System (NTS).

In May FEMA's Deputy Director of Disaster and Emergency Communications contacted Joe Ames, W3JY, Chairman of the NTS Eastern Area Staff and Section Manager of Eastern Pennsylvania.

FEMA was looking for a high frequency messaging layer that could play a supplemental role in a "grid down" scenario. NTS was viewed as a possible supplemental resource.

According to the article FEMA was particularly impressed with the modernized digital NTS program and the survivable interoperability options afforded by multiple network layers, which facilitate interoperable message flow to the "last mile" via commonly available (and survivable) modes such as voice and CW networks.

FEMA is excited about developing a working relationship with NTS starting with the inclusion of NTS in a federal exercise.

The complete article can be found at: <http://www.epa-arrl.org/update-nts-and-fema/>

Solar Storm Anniversary

This month marks the anniversary of an historic solar storm, the Carrington Event. On Sept. 2nd, a billion-ton coronal mass ejection (CME) slammed into Earth's magnetic field. Campers in the Rocky Mountains woke up in the middle of the night, thinking that the glow they saw was sunrise. No, it was the Northern Lights. People in Cuba read their morning paper by the red illumination of aurora borealis. Earth was peppered by particles so energetic, they altered the chemistry of polar ice.

As the day unfolded, the gathering storm electrified telegraph lines, shocking technicians and setting their telegraph papers on fire. The

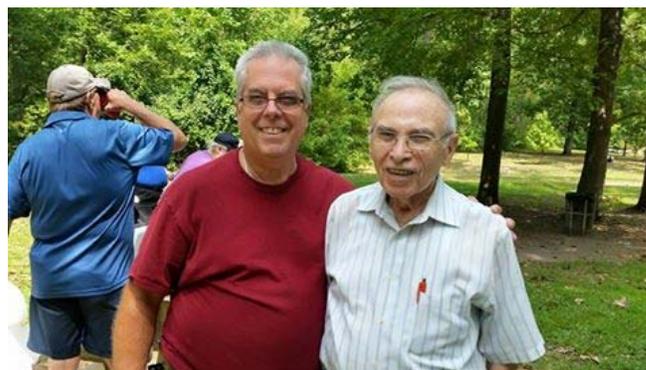
"Victorian Internet" was knocked offline. Magnetometers around the world recorded strong disturbances in the planetary magnetic field for more than a week.

The cause of all this was an [extraordinary solar flare](#) witnessed the day before by British astronomer Richard Carrington. His sighting marked the discovery of solar flares and foreshadowed a new field of study: space weather. According to the National Academy of Sciences, if a similar storm occurred today, it would cause [a trillion dollars in damage](#) to society's high-tech infrastructure and require four to ten years for complete recovery.

In fact, a similar flare *did* occur just a few years ago. On July 23, 2012, a CME of rare power rocketed away from the sun. The storm was in all respects at least as strong as the 1859 Carrington event. The only difference is, [it missed](#). no harm done. The July 2012 event serves as a reminder, however, that extreme space weather is not a thing of the past.



K3CJ and W3WHK



WA3GM and WA3IFY

Picnic In The Park

Club members gathered in Pennypack Park to enjoy the annual summer event. Club members and family brought food and were treated to hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill prepared by Chef Mike, N3LXN. (photos by N3ZZK)



WM3PEN to Travel Out of this World

WM3PEN has its boarding pass to fly on the InSight mission to MARS scheduled to launch March 4, 2016. This will be WM3PEN's second trip to Mars. In November 2011 WM3PEN made its first trip to Mars aboard the NASA rover Curiosity.



The InSight mission will place a lander on Mars designed to drill beneath the surface and investigate the planet's deep interior to better understand Mars' evolution as a rocky planet. As part of its investigation, InSight will use a seismometer and a heat-flow probe to study the interior structure of the Red Planet.

LOL in the age of the telegraph

From “lol” to “brb,” the internet and text messaging gave rise to a unique form of short form language – “textspeak” – in which almost all of us are well-versed. But long before the internet revolutionized communication, humans experienced a different sort of technological innovation: the telegraph.

In 1837, the first commercial telegraphs were released by Samuel Morse, William Fothergill Cooke and Charles Wheatstone, and this machine – as journalist Tom Standage argues in his book [The Victorian Internet](#) – mirrored the impact that the internet has had in modern times. The result was an entirely new way to wield language – one that, in a number of ways, resembles today’s textspeak.

Communicating at speeds unheard of

Using electricity, the telegraph could communicate quickly over long distances – at speeds unheard of. Soon it was developed for both government and commercial use. And because we were suddenly able to transmit interactions over large distances, new types of language were created to fit the medium.

There were several ways to communicate over these distances, including moving bars up and down or connecting one wire to each letter of the alphabet.

One of the forms of communication developed for the telegraph that’s still familiar today is Morse code, which used sequences of dots and dashes (or dits and dahs) to represent letters and numbers. More than just a cipher, Morse code had its own short forms and abbreviations to make messages as concise as possible; in this way, it’s an early predecessor to today’s textspeak.

Message and data rates may apply

Telegrams were written communications in Morse code sent over a wire (or, later, radio

waves) across great distances, which were then translated into written English for the recipients.

But if you wanted to send a telegram, companies like the [Electric Telegraph Company](#) and Western Union charged by the word, with messages of 10 words costing as much as 10 cents (or US\$2 in today’s money) – significantly more than current standard texting rates!

So as you can imagine – just like with modern character-constrained mediums like Twitter – people developed short forms to get their message across in as little space (and, consequently, for as little money) as possible. [Numerous guides](#) to the telegraphic codes were published.

Many of these shortenings look familiar even to us today. Take [one account](#) from an 1890 New York Times article, which was uncovered by the blog [Sunday Magazine](#).

The article details telegrams sent between two telegraph operators who had never met each other, but had developed their own lingo for their personal messages.

You can see a short form “Hw r u ts mng?” which can be parsed as “How are you this morning?” It looks a little bit like a long text message today, or a heavily truncated tweet from one person to another.

Some codes from this era remain with us today, including the distress call SOS, which was first introduced in 1905 as part of German government radio regulations.

Throughout its history, Morse code has undergone its own evolution as different people started to use it for different purposes. In a [2008 talk](#), historian Jason Scott describes this evolution from the telegraph to amateur radio, a modern hobby that involves using radios to communicate with people around the world. As Morse code was adapted

to be used in these new formats, there were considerable innovations in communication.

Referring to it as the “first social network,” Scott describes how amateur radio (sometimes called ham radio) operators sent each other messages and updates using codes. They also used this technology to send each other images over the radio using sequences of characters and codes that were intended to be decoded and printed out.

These images, sent by slow-scan television methods (which stemmed from similar technology used [to send images from space exploration](#), often included the call signs of their sender and other jargon, and might be an early analog to online avatars or user profile images.

Thus, as people immersed themselves in technological innovations, they adapted their language to new forms and uses.

HI HI: LOL of the 19th century?

Indeed, many of these patterns developed by amateur radio users are familiar to those who use textspeak or online lingo. Shortly after writing my article on [the history of LOL](#), I received an email from [Ralph Wallio](#), an amateur radio enthusiast.

He shared with me the existence of abbreviations in Morse code, specifically one for laughter. The sequence HI HI,, is a short form for laughter and is a favorite among amateur radio communicators. It could even be seen as [an early predecessor to LOL](#).

[Some sources](#) speculate that this particular sequence originated as an attempt to imitate the sound of a person chuckling. HI HI is quite similar to traditional text representations of laughter hehe and haha, which have been in use [since the time of Chaucer and Shakespeare](#). Wallio suggested that using HA HA in Morse code would be read as--, which would be more time-

consuming to transmit, hence the use of HI HI instead.

It turns out that Morse code today has [quite a few of these short forms](#), and some of them will be familiar to those who chat online or send text messages today – not the forms, necessarily, but the things that are being abbreviated.

“Thank you,” which is often reduced to “ty” in text messaging and other online communication, appears as “TU” in Morse code. “Please” appears as “PLS” in Morse Code, and “plz” in many forms of communication online. The phonetic reductions of “you” to “u” and “are” to “r” are represented in Morse Code as well.

Short forms have existed throughout human history of using different mediums to communicate, and the short forms themselves are representative of the possibilities that the medium affords.

Some of these have withstood the test of time, and some haven't; nonetheless, it goes to show how adaptable language is, and how communication technology almost always breeds new forms of writing. ([Lauren Collister](#) Electronics Publications Associate at University of Pittsburgh <http://theconversation.com/lol-in-the-age-of-the-telegraph-42578>)

ON THE AIR

Anyone who has been on HF the past few weeks will tell you that band conditions have been terrible. Still there has been some activity.

N3ZZK and WA3PZO participated in the Hurricane Katrina 10th Anniversary Special Event. 'PZO made contact with 7 of the SES along the Gulf Coast to earn a certificate. WA3PZO also added PY0F/PP1CZ, Fernando de Noronha to his DXCC list.

What Do You Think?

Every once in a while it is a good time to assess where we are as a Club and what the membership thinks. So here are a few questions. You can answer the questions via email to WM3PEN@aol.com. You can print this page and send to the address listed on the membership application on the next page. The choice is yours, but we want to hear from you.

So lets get going.

- 1) How is the meeting location?
- 2) How is the day/time of meeting?
- 3) Do you find the programs of interest?
- 4) What topics would you like to have a speaker on?
- 5) Is the right amount of time spent on business and program? If not what should change?
- 6) What type of programs are you interested in?
- 7) Would you like to see a beginner's segment? This would be a short presentation geared towards a newly licensed ham.
- 8) WM3PEN has become internationally known through on the air events such as the 13 Colonies, Charter Day, and the Pope's visit. In 2016 the National Park

Service will celebrate its 100 anniversary and there will be an amateur radio special event at national parks around the country. There are many national parks in the area. Should HARC participate in the event?

- 9) Do you check into the Wednesday night net?

- 10) If not is it the day/time?

- 11) If not is it the type of net?

- 12) What kind of nets do you enjoy?

Currently HARC has 2 social events each year in August and December.

- 13) Do you attend the August picnic?

- 14) Is August a good month for the picnic? If not when?

- 15) Do you attend the December dinner?

- 16) Are there other social events you would like the Club to be involved with?

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

Next Club meeting is September 17

Topic: Hams around the World

	<p align="center">HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136 http://www.harcnet.org WM3PEN/K3FI</p>	
<p>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. Membership year begins May 1.</p>		
<p>NAME _____ CALL _____</p>		
<p>ADDRESS _____</p>		
<p>City, State, Zip _____</p>		
<p>Telephone # _____ Would you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? ____ E-mail _____</p>		
<p>Are you an ARRL member? YES NO Membership Expires (mm/yy) _____</p>		