



November 2001

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136
WA3AOP/R 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3FI CLUB CALLS WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Editor: WA3PZO

PREZ SAYS..

Earlier this month President Bush called for the creation of a volunteer civil defense service and told the American people that the specter of a long war against terrorism within the United States would force the country to confront "new responsibilities, both for the government and for our people."

If you have been in ham radio for sometime, you are probably aware that hams were very active in the days of civil defense. In many communities amateur radio public service communications continues to be important.

This week I received a phone call from the Temple University Health System. Temple has six hospitals in Northeast Philadelphia and one in Bristol. They are interested in establishing amateur radio as an emergency communications service. We'll be meeting with them in the near future to see what they have in mind.

It's almost the end of the year. Wow the past few months have gone by so fast. HARC is still on the move. Our programs continue to be top notch with representatives from the Battleship NJ and QST's Oldtime Radio Editor K2TQN. This month we have another national speaker, WT3P, talking about ARRL's Big Project. Looking ahead to January we'll have a presentation on amateur radio emergency communications when EPA ARRL Section Manager WB3FPL will be speaking.

We'll have more news about elections, a club raffle, and much, much more.

Until next time....73s Bob, WA3PZO

HARC HELPS BRING IN HOLIDAYS

The temperature might not have indicated that it was time for the holidays, but that didn't stop Northeast Philadelphia from ringing in the start of the holiday season. Mayor Street called the Mayfair-Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade the best in this city of neighborhoods.

Helping to get Santa down the street were HARC members and friends, KB3AAK, KB3AAJ, N3VOC, K3CJ, KB3CYE, N3UBY, N3ZZK, N3ZZN, KB3FJY, KE3MP, KB3EBG, N3LXN, KC2EFA, KB3COV, WA3PZO.

BIG PROJECT UNDERWAY!

(ARRL)-- Fostered through the vision of President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and Vice President Kay Craigie, WT3P, and adopted by the Board of Directors, The Big Project is ready to work directly with teachers who wish to enhance their classroom success through the use of Amateur Radio. The goal is to improve the quality of education by developing an educationally sound curriculum focused on wireless communications. The project emphasizes integration of technology, mathematics, science, geography, writing, speaking and social responsibility within a global society.

NOVEMBER 29TH MEETING ARRL BIG PROJECT ARRL VICE PRESIDENT WT3P

ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, WT3P, will talk about this educational project which has generated a lot of excitement around the country.

As a reminder HARC will be meeting at the 8th District Police Station at Red Lion and Academy Roads near the Northeast Philadelphia Airport. See the map on page 2.

Upcoming meetings:

HARC will be taking December off for the holidays, but we're already scheduling meetings for next year. On January 25th, ARRL EPA Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL will be our guest speaker. We have also invited ARES District 1 Emergency Coordinator Kevin Woolard, KD3KZ, (Ottsville, Pa), to make a presentation. Eric is a former Section Emergency Coordinator in EPA and has experience with the PA State Police and PA Emergency Management Agency.

ARRL test fee to remain at \$10

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Amateur Radio test fee will remain at \$10 for 2002.

H.A.R.C. Board Of Directors 2001
President : WA3PZO : Bob Josuweit
Vice Pres. : N3LXN : Mike Wurgley
Treasurer : W3KZA : Sid Kalos
Secretary : KB3AKK: Dave Hogan
Trustee : KB3SM : Bob Brocklehurst
Trustee : KB3EBG : Peter Santiago
Trustee : KB3AAJ : Ron Slattery
Tech Committee : WB3BDC : Ron Cardullo
Editor : WA3PZO: Bob Josuweit

H.A.R.C. Maintains a Web Page @www.harcnet.org
All members online can be emailed via theircallsign
@harcnet.org. Articles, pictures etc. submitted for the
newsletter should be in standard ASCII or MS Word,
.jpg or .gif formats and E-mailed to the Editor no later
than the 2nd Saturday of month to be included in the
next edition!
WA3PZO@Harcnet.org.

H.A.R.C. Nets meet on 146.685 weekly
The Chaverim Net: Tuesday @ 9:00 PM
CW Practice: Wednesday @ 7:30 PM
Members net: Wednesday @ 8:00 PM you can listen to
the Amateur Newsline & ARRL audio reports.
SSB Net on 28.450 +- mhz Sundays @ 9:00 AM

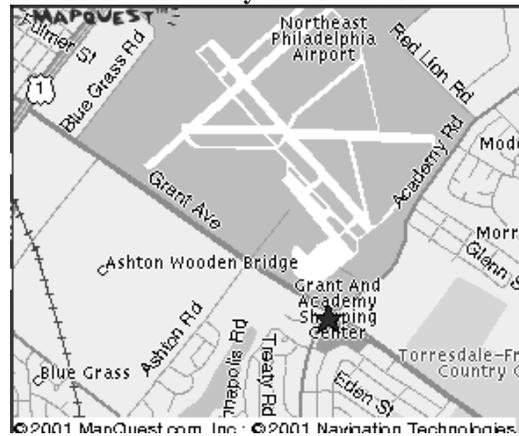
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors
meets on the 2nd Tues. @ 8:00 PM. General meetings
are held the last Thurs. @8:00 PM.

AMATEUR LICENSE INFORMATION

Renewing your Amateur Service FCC license, or changing your license address, call sign or name, or requesting a duplicate license. Amateurs have several options for renewals or filing changes. They include:
 * As a free service to ARRL Members, ARRL Members may complete and sign an NCVEC Form 605 (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/ncvec605-3.pdf>) and return it to ARRL HQ. ARRL HQ staff will in turn file the application data electronically with the FCC. The processing time will take only a few days or less once the application reaches ARRL HQ. Send such applications to:
 ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111 USA.

Non members are welcome to first sign up for membership and then use this service. For membership info, including an on-line membership application, see <http://www.arrl.org/join.html>. For NCVEC Form 605 see <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html>. If preferred, non members can mail a check (or the credit card charge info) for the applicable current membership rate for themselves in the same envelope with a completed NCVEC Form 605 and ARRL HQ will immediately process the membership request and shortly thereafter the NCVEC Form 605 FCC license renewal/update request. Vanity requests must still be handled separately by mail or on line directly with

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. Info@harcnet.org, the web
page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC PO
Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.



**HARC is an
 ARRL Special Service Club.**

the FCC (or via someone serving as a filing agent, such as the W5YI Group).

* All Amateurs can apply by mail with FCC. To place your request by mail obtain an "FCC" Form 605, complete it and then mail it to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325. This is a free FCC service. FCC Form 605 can be obtained via <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html> or <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/> or via fax to FCC's Fax-On-Demand system at 202-418-0177 (request form number 000605).

* All Amateurs can apply via the internet. The FCC accepts submissions electronically via their Universal Licensing Service (ULS) system. You may file requests via: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. To use the on-line ULS system, you must first be sure you are using a web browser which FCC indicates is fully functional for ULS use (FCC indicates that at present only recent versions of Netscape {vers. 4.7x work well} are fully tested and functional); you must then register in ULS, which involves supplying your Taxpayer ID Number (TIN) which is your Social Security Number to FCC.

Surviving September 11

HARC member Paul Rothman, K3RBO, is a survivor. Paul travels to New York every day and until September 11 worked in the World Trade Center. Paul does all of the database work for the Club and supplies the mailing labels for your newsletter. Paul was fortunate and was able to get out of the World Trade Center after an aircraft flew into his building some 10 floors above where he works.

Paul has provided the HARC SPARK with some insight as to what it was like to be at Ground Zero as it happened..

Like many other workers in a large office building Rothman got off the elevator and bumped into some coworkers. They wanted to know the status of a project. As he got off the elevator on the 74th floor he started his routine of getting his daily oatmeal and tea. Paul was already on the phone when he stood up to go to the fax machine to get some information being sent to him. It was 8:47 AM. "I stood up to go to the fax machine, and suddenly, there was a commotion," says Rothman. "I can't tell you precisely what the noise was, other than a distant, low rumbling, scraping sound that lasted for several seconds. Then there was the shudder. The building was shaking and swaying. I stood there trying to keep my balance, not sure if the building was going to stay upright. He said there were women's screams. As some tried to be reassuring by saying the building would take the impact and that it wouldn't fall, people ran to the windows to see black smoke above them.

SIGNS OF DANGER

There were no fire alarms or other indication of danger. However smoke was in the elevator lobby. Rothman said to himself "this is not good. It is time to get out of here." He quickly grabbed his cell phone and left with a few coworkers. "The lobby was filled with choking diesel-like fuel smoke," he said. "The entrance into the fire stairwell was somewhat of a relief." People who survived the 1993 bombing said it would take about one hour to go down 74 flights of stairs. The floors were counted off in groups of ten. "The smoke intensity varied by floor," he said. Fifteen minutes into their decent down the stairs someone heard on a portable tv that another plane had hit tower two. "It was all too clear to us now that this was not just an accident. We were under attack."

URGENCY

They continued down the steps with a greater sense of urgency and fear. It was an orderly walk down. At some point firemen start to head up the same steps they were coming down. They had all of their gear - helmets, jackets, air tanks, and pry bars. All Paul had was his cell phone. When he reached the 20th floor he turned on his phone and called his wife. "To say that she was happy to hear from me is an understatement," said Paul. "I told her that I was OK and that I would call her later when I was outside. I didn't think to tell her what floor I was on at the time. This would pose doubt and anxiety for her when the first tower (Tower 2) collapsed."

As he went down the steps they became damp from the condensation and slippery due to the jet fuel mist that had condensed and deposited on the wet steps. When they reached the mezzanine level there was water cascading

down the steps. The doorway was partially collapsed. Everyone had to squeeze up against one side to avoid wires and metal pieces hanging down. Security personnel lead them to the down escalator.

CARNAGE

On the way around the mezzanine level to the escalator, Paul and his coworkers saw the first signs of what this was all about- 'carnage'. "The floor-to-ceiling windows looking out at the plaza were blood splattered," said Rothman. "My first glimpse of bodies and body parts occurred as I stepped onto the escalator. I saw a torso, and what looked like a leg. There was a lot of debris out on the plaza. I surmised that this was debris from the plane that had crashed into the building." As they exited the building police were directing them away from the building. The police shout to keep moving and not to look up. "But we had to look up, to see the two buildings fully engulfed in smoke and flames," said Paul. "The flow of humanity away from the building was so much like the flow of refugees out of a war zone. Except they have their prized possessions. All I had was my cell phone."

Paul told the HARC SPARK that he looks forward to a time when the memories are not so painful, when we don't have to worry about dangers like the one we faced that day, and when the word peace becomes a reality.

A SURVIVOR

Paul was almost a casualty of war. He is a survivor. He asks us to remember those who were a casualty. The 81 passengers, nine flight attendants and two pilots aboard American Airlines Flight 11, the plane that was forced to crash into One World Trade Center, his building. The 56 passengers, seven flight attendants and two pilots aboard United Airlines Flight 175, the plane that was forced to fly into Two World Trade Center, the building next to his. The 58 passengers, four flight attendants, and two pilots aboard American Airlines Flight 77, the plane that was crashed into the Pentagon. The 38 passengers, five flight attendants, and two pilots aboard United Airlines Flight 93, the plane that crashed in western Pennsylvania. The estimated 4700 people who worked in the World Center and those who came to help, who have been missing and finally presumed to have been killed. His friend, Peter Chirchirillo, who was a travelling companion and whose friendship made the daily routine of the commute to the World Trade Center bearable. Peter worked on the 98th floor of One World Trade Center. Over 300 firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians and 57 policemen who were trying to help us survive lost their lives in that effort. Paul said, "I can only feel that I am here and alive because of the sacrifice of those brave men and women.

I want to relate my anguish at seeing firemen pass us in the fire stairs, heading up into the dangers of the burning building, and knowing that they were among the casualties. We must never forget these people. I ask myself why I survived. I believe it is because of three things. First, I had God on my side. Secondly, I had the sense and the luck to act fast and get to the fire stairs. Third, because I had the pull of those who love me willing me out of that building."

Sightless ham tells story about ham radio in the Philadelphia area!

(This is the forth of a series of articles by T. A. Benham W3DD, who lives in suburban Philadelphia. The articles are from the Handi-Hams email newsletter.)

Checkers by Ham Radio

In November of 1931, very near the beginning of my amateur radio career, I contacted W2FJ, a fellow named Francis Beard, who lived in New York state. We chatted many times over the ensuing months. Since I had learned to play checkers over the air, I thought it would be fun to start a series with him. When I asked him if he would be interested and did he have a checker board, he replied, "Yes, I'm a pretty good player but I don't have a board at present." I suggested he get one and we could play. "Well," he replied, "There's a bit of a problem. You see, I'm blind and don't know where to get a board that I could use on the air." That was the first I knew he was blind. I replied, "I'm blind too, so tell you what. Give me a week or two and I will make a pair of boards and suitable men." We discussed how I should go about it and formulated a design. I built a pair of boards that had square holes where the men would sit. Then I built two sets of men. Every man had a square bottom that would fit in the holes only one way. Half of them had round tops and the other half had square tops. The tops of the two sets of square men were marked with Braille A through L while the tops of the round men were labeled M through X. The holes were labeled with numbers: hole 1 was the upper left, 2 was the square to its right and so on to 4 in the upper right. Then, beginning in the second row, the left one was 5 and so on to the bottom right square which was hole I-9 to 13. Then he would make the move and I would make the same move on my board and repeat it in CW to verify. Then I would move my man and send him the code so he could make the move on his board. We played the game many times over the years. There came a

time in about 1940 that I didn't hear from him for quite a long time, so I wrote to his address asking how he was. The reply I received was that he had been killed in an automobile accident. That was sad news. When the board was set to start, holes 13 through 20 were empty. I sent one board and set of men to Fran W2FJ and kept the other. Now, suppose he chose to be round. He would put his round-topped men in holes 1 through 12 and the square-topped men in 21 through 32. If it was his move,

A messy experience

Sometime in the late Spring of 1933, just before graduating from Overbrook School for the Blind, I was invited to be a member of a local Amateur Radio club. The club was having meetings to study the by-laws and constitution. One Saturday a meeting was scheduled to be held at a member's house. We gathered and harangued over the documents for quite some time. About four o'clock, it was decided to have some refreshments so we all went to the dining room and sat down to the table. I felt carefully and found there was a plate in front of me, but I didn't know what was on it.

I had not learned how to proceed on my own in a strange environment, but I was about to get a good lesson. I listened carefully, and not hearing any utensils being used, I took hold of what was on the plate thinking it must be "finger food," like a sandwich. Well, it was gingerbread piled high with whipped cream. I was so chagrined I don't remember how I got out of the mess, but I do know that I didn't try that approach again. After a few years of maturing, I got to the point where I was not embarrassed to ask questions. To be continued.

Club Fund Raiser

In order to help pay for the amplifier repair HARC will be raffling off a ICOM Computer Controlled Receiver. (IC-PCR1000). Tickets (\$5) can be purchased from any board member or at the club meetings. Drawing will be at the March 2002 HARC General Meeting.



Radio Specs

USA Frequency Coverage (MHz):

- 0.010000 - 823.999999**
- 849.000001 - 868.999999
- 894.000001 - 1300.000
- **Specifications guaranteed 0.5 - 1300 MHz only. Cellular blocked (US versions); unblocked versions available to FCC approved users only.

Mode: WFM, FM, AM, SSB, CW Number of Memory Channels: 1000 channels per file (number of files created is up to the user) Antenna Connector: BNC (50 ohm)

Computer specs

- Intel® 486DX4 or later CPU (Pentium® 100 or later recommended)
- Microsoft® Windows® version 3.1 or 95
- Minimum 10 MB of free space on hard drive
- Minimum 16 MB of memory
- FD drive, serial interface
- Monitor with at least 640 x 480 pixel resolution

FOR SALE

Kenwood R1000 General coverage shortwave receiver (0-30 Mhz) AM, SSB, CW. Antenna input 50 or 300 ohm. \$125 - Contact Bob, WA3PZO, 215-624-6450

BATTLESHIP NJ ON THE AIR

Here's some updates from the NJ web site:

With four groups passing through the radio room on a steady basis since the ship's opening three weeks ago, work in Radio Central has slowed some what. Using a donated HAL ST-6 terminal controller and the R-390 receiver and loop supply in FACCON-1, the teleprinter is copying live weather reports off the air!

Below decks, Stan and Bob have been busy restoring the donated vintage transmitters back to life in Radio 2 (3rd Deck). Several members have signed up to help in this "off-Broadway" production. Other teams have been searching the ship for faulty 1MC speakers, and isolating noise on the 1MC system. Replacement alarm tone generator cards are now on order to enable the general, collision and chemical alarms.

Radio Central continues to be a popular point on the tour. With 15 members now authorized to run the radio shack, more contacts are being made, and guest operators will be brought in shortly. During October, 394 QSOs were made. We now have 49 states (need North Dakota) towards WAS and 70 countries towards DXCC. Although JOTA is over, Scouts continue to visit the radio room, and when possible, are permitted to make on-the-air contacts.

FOX HUNTS GROWING

Greetings Fellow HAMS...

This is to announce Fox Hunting is alive and well in the Delaware Valley. The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club of Phila. Pa. is promoting a Fox Hunt twice a month every other Sunday as weather and schedules allow. Talk in on the repeater. All are welcome to join in, make some new friends meet some of the gang get some fresh air and have fun. As of this printing we are using a new launch site which is Cottman Ave. and Roosevelt Blvd. in the corner parking lot of the Mall behind the gas station. The gathering is 10:00am and the Fox goes on the air plus/minus 5 minutes - 11:00am we are allowing 1.5 hours for the hunt... found or not it has been our experience that the Fox has been found in less than 1 hour... we allow another 30 minutes for 2nd and 3rd places to come in if they wish to. This is a novice Fox hunt for beginners and is relatively easy, there has been a member finding the FOX with just a bare HT, in fact he was a winner one week... so you need nothing special to try it out. Since it is a novice hunt the rules are simple for now. #1 You must start from the launch site and nowhere else. #2 You can not win back to back hunts. #3 1st place gets you a certificate for your collection, and 5 wins gets you a very nice engraved trophy or plaque to be available soon. You can only win 1 trophy per year! (There are some people using the best Doppler's, and other equipment out there to make it fair to all.) #4 First in with least odometer milage will be the winner to make it a little fair some people drive fast or traffic conditions etc... Some specifics not yet noted. The Fox is a 5 watt transmitter which will be on the air

continuously, it identifies in modulated CW every 4.50 minutes like this VVV DE K3FI/3 HARC FOX HUNT HI. The coverage of the transmitter in Phila. is such that it may at some times be unreadable. But we have yet to find that true. It has always been in a vehicle parked basically unhidden in plain view. And is usually a volunteer so we need to ask for someone to do the job once in awhile. An easy task to sit and read a book for an hour and a half at best. The important part of the HUNT is where we are searching... It is easy if you have a Phila map or an idea how to get around in Phila. The search area has boundaries that start east at the Delaware River, the southern most is Bridge St. and the river./ following a map Bridge Street out to the city limit West, then into the N.W. intersecting with 132 Street Road... going East on Street Road to the Delaware River again the END of the loop. One note here to clarify things, either side of these named streets are fair hiding places but must be in some way connected to the street Mall / Shopping parking areas etc, and must be public access. Also it came up once so I will note this back alleys / driveways in row homes are considered to be private and off limits!! The only thing you need to know is what frequency to listen on, and you will be told that when you arrive at the hunt. I hope we can bring out a few more Hams to join in, it is informal come as you are WE WANT YOU!! If you need more information... Email kb3sm@harcnet.org. Hope to see you there. 73 Bob (www.harcnet.org)

David Clark, KB6TAM, Completes Global Sail Local Ham Helps

NEWINGTON, CT, Nov 16, 2001--Ham radio's senior sailor David Clark, KB6TAM, this week officially completed his around-the-world sail--becoming the oldest person to do so. But Clark does not plan to celebrate his accomplishment until he returns to his starting point in December.

Clark, who's 77, arrived in Great Inagua, the Bahamas, earlier this week, technically completing the circumnavigation that began in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in December 1999. He had spent much of the Atlantic hurricane season in Trinidad. Clark is due back in Fort Lauderdale on December 7 for a gala celebration. Clark was scheduled to depart Great Inagua November 15 on his way to Nassau. Earlier in the month, he managed to avoid a confrontation with Hurricane Michelle, which raked Cuba and parts of the Bahamas.

Clark has been using ham radio while he's under way. He's kept in touch with Eric Mackie, 9Z4CP, whom he got to know in Trinidad. Clark's wife, Lynda, reports that Fred Moore, W3ZU, of Trevoise has been able to patch calls via ham radio to her a couple of times.

Clark has been checking into the Seafarer's Net on 14.313 MHz and the Intercontinental Net on 14.300 MHz. For more information on Clark's journey, visit these Web sites <http://www.dclark.com> and <http://www.captainclark.com>.



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

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING NOVEMBER 29TH
ARRL BIG PROJECT - VICE PRESIDENT WT3P
MEETING: 8TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION