



THE HARC SPARK

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>
WM3PEN@aol.com



Editor: K3UJ

November,
2022

Prez Sez!

My wife, Coleen Boyd, was visiting friends in Connecticut recently, and she told me that they were taking her to the Big E, apparently the largest agricultural fair in New England. I just happened to read in the weekly ARRL Letter for Sept. 15 that there would be a ham radio exhibit there, so I suggested she check it out.

Sure enough, she found the hams, who were from the Meriden ARC (W1NRG), and enthusiastically announced that she is the XYL of W3WHK, the president of the Holmesburg ARC. She found out that one of the ops was primarily CW, and the other two SSB. They were all looking forward to hosting Boy Scouts the next day, when they would make contact with the International Space Station (see "Announcements" in the Sept. 22 ARRL Letter).

Before leaving, Coleen, a loyal member of our club's Ladies' Auxiliary, asked if anyone had a talk he could present remotely to our local club. When she said "Be sure to keep the art of CW alive", she received a big hug in return.

How proud can a husband be?! Earlier on she could never even remember my call letters. If this keeps up, she may even let me bring an HF station up from the basement to the first floor.



73, and have a joyous holiday season.

Saul W3WHK

A little DX

We heard from Jay WA2UAR, now EA7/WA2UAR living in Spain. This is a picture of Jay, his wife, and 4 year-old grandson at the beach, only a half mile from their house. Jay's antennas will go up by early December, so we'll look forward to a QSO!



November Trivia Question?

What was Heathkit's first offered product?

HARC Repeater

We had reports that the HARC repeater was having some issues. After returning from Alaska Ron, K3RJC, had an opportunity to visit the main site. He provided a report during our last club meeting, but since not everyone has a chance to attend, here is his recap.

On Sunday, November 13th, Mike, N3LXN, and I went down there. We had Charlie, K3CJ and my son KC2ISV in the field. Both were a great help. We had an adjustment on the receiver input frequency, repeater is putting out 118 watts out of the 3 duplexers. We learned a few things.

- 1) Cherry Hill link is operating. I had put the receiver in there months ago and forgot it was on. It is working. Audio was a little low but we adjusted it up a bit
- 2) NE input sounds fine. We got Rich, K3UJ, on and he was good on an HT low power showing this input was good.
- 3) Main site audio is a little on the hot side. It needs to be turned down a bit.
- 4) My Son was in NJ and we got him to toggle between the three sites. The voter needs adjustment because it should have been in one site and was staying in the more noisy site. It also needs general tune-up adjustments. I'll get the book out and read up on it and I will go down in December to adjust it.
- 5) The Antenna looks ok, but we really need to get on the roof. It was way too windy that day.
- 6) Everything else looked pretty good.

Here is our repeater antenna (picture from 2012)



Meeting Location

We have been in touch with the Philadelphia Protestant Home looking to resume our in-person meetings. Because of their concern for their inhabitants they are being very cautious. Board members are investigating other possible locations.

We expect to have answers shortly and hope to resume real meeting early next year.

Morse Plus

International Morse is more than just ABC, 123. Let's take a look at some Morse characters that are possible but seldom used.

This one was added in 2004, the "@" symbol, combining

A and C into one character. • — — • — •

Colon — — — • •

Semi Colon — • — • — •

Hyphen — • • • • —

Double Hyphen (equal) — • • • • —

Fraction Bar (forward slant) — • • — •

Quotation Mark • — • • — •

Ampersand (&) • — • • •

Plus (+) • — • — •

Dollar sign (\$) • • — • • —

As well as accented characters;

À • — — • —

Ĉ — • — • •

É • • — • •

Ö — — — •

Û • • — —

There are many more including Cyrillic, Arabic, Greek, Korean and Japanese. The Korean and Japanese are not really letter translations, they are more vocal pieces or sounds. It's way more involved than a brief mention here can do.

On the Air

ARRL Phone Sweepstakes

November 19-21

Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

CQ World Wide CW DX Contest

November 26-27

Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday

Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday

<https://www.cqww.com/index.htm>

A lot more can be found here:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

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 – **KA3TTT**.

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

December 15th

Holiday Dinner

January 19, 2023

Pete Kobak, K0BAK

The Many Ways to Operate Portable

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

Don't forget to save the stamps from your holiday greeting cards. This is a fine opportunity to amass some colorful and interesting stamps for the program.

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 installation

Carl – N3ZZK Carl9521@aol.com

Dave – KB3AKK kb3akk@hotmail.com

2M/440 Digital modes

Jim – AJ3DI aj3di@jedijf.com

CW & Contest operation

Saul – W3WHK saubro@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

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WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

Trivia Question Answer.

An airplane kit. Edward Heath died during a test flight in 1931.