

January 2003

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



PREZ SAYS!

Well it's the middle of January 2003 already and time to reflect on last year's events but get ready to do them and more this year. Were starting with our first meeting this year on the 23rd of January.

Our first event is only 6 weeks away but don't worry you won't have to go outside this time of year. It's our 3^{rd} annual uhf/vhf contest and you can do it from the comfort of your shack. Details in this newsletter.

I'll be looking forward to hearing lots of you on the radio and seeing some of you at events and hamfests this year.

Happy New Year and I wish you all health and happiness. 73 for now. Mike N3LXN

IN THIS ISSUE!

- ✓ Next Meeting January 24
- ✓ Dues are Due!
- ✓ Election of Officers
- ✓ Autopatch becomes SK
- ✓ Delaware Valley Simplex Contest
- ✓ Foxhunting News
- ✓ Upcoming Meetings
- ✓ New Ham Classes

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING 8PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 23 8TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION RED LION RD

Hot topics for January and February.

HARC's January 23rd meeting will attempt to put you in a warm climate as we will have videotapes of The Timor Lorosae Expedition and a visit to Fernando de Noronha Island, PV0F.

On February 27th we'll be having an antenna building party. Pete, KB3EBG, will teach us how to build 2-Meter beam antennas made out of PVC and metal tape measures. These antennas are flexible enough to use by hand, in the field, or while sitting around the picnic table or on the beach.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It's that time of year again to nominate officers for the next year. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Member-at-Large. All current officers have expressed interested in continuing in their current positions. They are N3LXN, N3ZZN, WA3PZO, W3KZA, and KB3SM. Anyone interested in running for office should contact the club secretary WA3PZO. Nominations will close on February 13th. A Ballot will appear in the February newsletter with elections being held at the February meeting. The new term of office will start March 1.

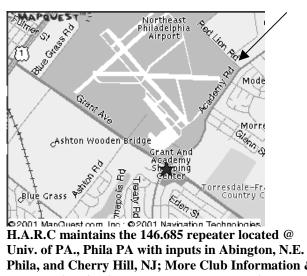
> DUES ARE NOW DUE! Membership Form - Page 5

H.A.R.C. Board Of Directors 2002 President : N3LXN : Mike Wurgley Vice Pres: N3ZZN: Frank Flanagan Treasurer : W3KZA : Sid Kalos Secretary : WA3PZO : Bob Josuweit Trustee : KB3SM : Bob Brocklehurst Trustee : KB3EBG : Peter Santiago Trustee : K3CJ : Charlye Johnson Tech Committee : K3RJC : Ron Cardullo Newsletter Editor : WA3PZO: Bob Josuweit C. Maintains a Web Page @www.barcnet.org

H.A.R.C. Maintains a Web Page @www.harcnet.org All members online can be emailed via their callsign @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 1ST of month to be included in the next edition! Send info to 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 Thursday @ 8:00 PM. General meetings are held the 3rd Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA EXCEPT AS ANNOUNCED

> (ARRL) Amateur Radio emergency communications training update: As of January 10, 569 students had completed the Level I ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications online course (EC-001) training under the Corporation for National and

Community Service (CNCS) federal grant. The nearly \$182,000 grant, announced last July, will subsidize training for up to 1700 amateur licensees during its first year. The CNCS grant permits students successfully completing the Level I program to be reimbursed for the cost of tuition. ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, reports another 200 students registered to begin classes this month. "Interest in the on-line classes remains high," Miller said. "Registration for this month's classes filled within the first few hours, leaving many potential students frustrated." Miller says the good news is that there's still plenty of room in future classes to allow interested amateurs to take advantage of the program. Senior hams are encouraged to enroll in these classes. Sign up for e-mail registration reminders for all C-CE courses by sending a request to prereg@arrl.org. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page and the C-CE Links found there. Address any questions to Dan Miller, K3UFG.



Phila, and Cherry Hill, NJ; More Club Information & Member Applications can be had by contacting any of the Directors via E-mail. <u>Info@harcnet.org</u>, the web page<u>http://www.harcnet.org</u> or writing to HARC PO Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136.



HARC is an ARRL Special Service Club.

HARC's WA3PZO contributed to the course content and highly recommends it to those interested in emergency communications. The normal cost of the course is \$45 for ARRL members. The course takes about 20-25 hours to complete. As with any on-line course the time can vary.

Repeater Autopatch Goes QRT

The 146.685 autopatch has seen little or no use in the past few years. With the use of cell phones becoming common place, the autopatch went unused and was not seen as a member benefit any more. With the Board needing to cut expenses, the elimination of the autopatch was seen as a savings of over \$200 per year.

Other Repeater Changes

Other changes coming to the repeater will be the change of the repeater callsign to WM3PEN and the addition of PL tones as required by (ARCC) the local frequency coordinating body. While many Board members spoke against the ARCC ruling for all repeaters to have mandatory PL, the ARCC decision was not reversed. ARCC members are assisting HARC with the conversion.

2003 DELAWARE VALLEY FM SIMPLEX CONTEST ANNOUNCED! NEW DATE! - MORE FREQUENCIES!

(Philadelphia, PA) The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club of Philadelphia is pleased to announce the third annual Delaware Valley FM Simplex Contest to be held March 8, 2003. This year the Contest will include the 440 MHz FM band. With so many people having dual band radios this was a natural progression for the contest. The change in date avoids a conflict with the Delaware QSO Party.

Winners of the 2002 Contest in the Club category: Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Society, NJ2BB (High Power): Delaware Valley Radio Association, W2ZQ (Low Power). Individual winners Mary Von Lintig, KV2M (High Power) and Rick Stoneking, W2RDS (Low Power). The Rover award went to Richard Von Lintig, KV2R. Congratulations to all! For a complete list of the results from last year's contest contact WM3PEN@harcnet.org.



The contest is open to all radio amateurs. Stations within a 60 mile radius of Philadelphia's City Hall will exchange their zip code and contact number. Stations outside of the 60 mile radius will exchange their state and contact number. Stations from New York to Maryland will be able to participate in this evening event.

According to HARC President Mike Wurgley, N3LXN, the contest is designed for hams

to have fun over a 4 hour period from 7-11 PM local time on a Saturday night. The contest allows hams to meet their neighbors on the air as well as give many the opportunity to experience something else besides repeater contacts. The 60 mile radius reaches just about all of the county boundaries surrounding Philadelphia. This also opens up an opportunity for approximately 60 clubs to participate in the event. When choosing City Hall as the center of the contest, Wurgley noted the statue of William Penn on top of City Hall. "What better center point for the contest and the sponsoring organization whose club call is WM3PEN."

The contest gives individuals as well as clubs to participate in the event. Bonus points are being allowed for contacting club stations/callsigns. "We realize that everyone will not be able to contact WM3PEN so we're giving clubs a chance to put their club callsign on the air." This could be from a club station or an individual's home. "We don't know what the weather will be in March, but this gives everyone the chance to operate from home." There is no advanced registration for Club callsigns with the sponsoring group. This will allow many clubs to make a last minute decision to make their voice heard in the area.

Contacts can be made on any 2 meter or 440 MHz FM voice frequency provided there is no interference to repeater, digital, satellite, or other activities taking place in the two meter or 440 band. Contacts on 146.52 will not be permitted.

Awards will be issued to individual top scores in a high and low power category. Club station awards will also be issued in the high and low power category. There is also an opportunity for Clubs to sponsor awards for their members in a high and low power categories. An award will also be issued for the highest mobile score.

For further information contact WM3PEN@harcnet.org

SAMPLE CONTACT EXCHANGE

- 1. If you live in the 60 mile radius of William Penn (Philadelphia City Hall)
- KB3AKK de WM3PEN Pse copy Nr.1 zip 19136 2. If you live outside of the 60 mile radius
- 2. If you live outside of the 60 mile radius WM3PEN de W1AW Pse copy Nr. 1 PA.
- 3. If you work any club call exchange your information and make a note of the Club name. ALL club calls will be worth 2 points. All other contacts count as 1 point. Final score will be the number of contact points X the number of zip codes or states in high (10W or more) and low power (less than 10W) categories. A state is counted in place of a zip code - not in addition to it. For example if 2 contacts are made: N3LXN 19001 and W3XYZ in PA (more than 60 miles away) the score is 2. Individual, club station, and mobile awards will be issued. Clubs can issue their own membership awards.

A list of zip codes up to 60 miles from Philadelphia's City Hall is available.

ENTRY DEADLINE: All logs, either paper or electronic should be received by April 8, 2003. Logs may be sent to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136 or emailed to WM3PEN@harcnet.org.

Triband HT to be raffled off

HARC will be working on filling that candy jar. Starting this month we will be selling chances on an Icom T-90 Triband HT. Tickets will be \$5 each and the drawing will be in March 2003. The proceeds will go towards supporting the Club's Technical Fund. Tickets will be available from Board members and via the mail. If you would like to help sell some tickets contact any board member.

Sightless ham tells story about ham radio in area!

(This is the 15th - and last- of a series of articles by T. A. Benham W3DD, who lives in suburban Philadelphia. The articles are from the Handi-Hams email newsletter.)

By T. A. Benham, W3DD

Experiment with crossed dipoles

At my new house I had a 20 foot tower mounted on our flat roof and put a 20 meter dipole atop it. It worked like a charm, but since we were in a hollow and the sun spots were not favorable, I had problems working DX. I often wanted to work on 40 meters, so I needed a dipole for that band. I thought perhaps I could make a dipole at a right angle to the 20 meter dipole. I cut two lengths of flexible wire 33 feet long, put a large battery clip on one end of each, fastened a weight to the other ends, clamped them either side of the center of the 20 meter dipole and draped the wires over the edge of the roof.

This dipole is at a right angle to the 20 meter antenna. My idea was that the center of the 20 meter dipole is low impedance while that of the 40 meter dipole is high at 20 meters. The reverse is true at 40 meters. Therefore, they would not bother each other. It worked great! It required very little adjustment of the tuner on switching bands. Perhaps this is "old hat", but I had not heard of it. Beginning about this time, 1987, I contacted an amateur, a woman in Lakeland Florida, Esther Frost, KA1IFF. Esther and I have a chat almost every morning between 8 and 8:30, week days. Of course, there are lapses when one of us is away or fails to get up on time or has other engagements. When she and her husband, Elmer, often go on long trips in their RV, she has a portable setup so she can keep in touch with her Ham friends. She learned the code as a naval operator during WW2 but did not get her Ham ticket until 1979.

The side swiper

In about 1975 I contacted W3IM, Jay Gaul, from nearby Ardmore, PA, on 40 meter CW. We had a short QSO in which he indicated we had contacted before. After signing off, I got my Braille log out and sure enough, he was there on November 15, 1931. I found his call several times during the next couple of years but then no more until 1975, when his fist sounded quite different, very steady with excellent dot-dash characters. It sounded mechanic. The next time I contacted him I asked what key he was using.

"Why, it's a side-swiper. You move the knob back and forth as with a bug. The contact is held longer for a dash and a very short time for a dot. To send W3IM the motion would be short left, long right, long left, short right, short left, short right, long left, long right, etc. This can be done very rapidly, as you can hear." "Wow," I exclaimed. "It must take forever to get up to your speed!" He replied, "I've been at it for 50 years or so and now it's the only way I can send."

We chatted many times during the next ten years. I used a speed of 25 words per minute most of the time and replied at the same speed. One day, to see what would happen, right in the middle of a transmission I used my other bug, which was set for 30 words per minute. He came back to me at 30 words per minute with the same perfect fist. It was wonderful to hear and copy.

One day he appeared at my shack saying, "I've made you a side-swiper just like mine. I want you to learn how to use it. You'll have fun with it."

We connected it to my rig, he gave me a demonstration and I played with it for a few minutes without much success. "Don't be discouraged," he said. "It will take time but you'll get it."

The next time we had a OSO I tried to use it, but made only a few characters correctly. A year later I was able to send about 15 words per minute, but it was a struggle. He seemed pleased with my progress, but I felt so inferior to his performance that I was tempted to give up. However, I stuck at it until my 15 words per minute was acceptable. This experience prompted me to start gathering samples of all the methods of sending CW signals that I could find. This resulted in many cassette recordings with samples of side-swiper, Vibroplex (bug), straight key, keyboard, Bencher, Morse code with sounder and CW, and even ICW, which sounds beautiful but is illegal because it's a spectrum hog. There is one sample I have not been able to get: the sound of a spark transmission. I heard it back in my early days but had no way to record it. Hams have sent me imitations, but they don't sound like the real thing. Even after 70 years of Ham operation I still find new challenges and interests to keep me going. The end.

NEW HAM CLASSES BEGIN IN MARCH

HARC will be teaching new ham (technician class) classes at Nonprofit Technology Resources, 1524 Brandywine Street, Philadelphia PA 19130. NTR is near Broad and Spring Garden Sts. While details are still being worked out the class is expected to start in mid-March and run for about 10 weeks. Teaching the course will be Frank, N3ZZN. NTR approached WA3PZO at last year's NBC10 Techfest and had a meeting with Bob in December. For further info contact N3ZZN or WA3PZO.

Dues cover January 1, 2003 until December 31, 2003. All members in good standing are eligible to vote and hold a board office. Dues are \$20.00/year. Family membership is \$5.00 for other hams living in the same house. Please update your information for our records.	
NAME	CALL
OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:	
ADDRESS	
City, State, Zip	
Telephone # May we list telephone number in the directory? YES NO	
Are you willing to receive your HARC newsletter via email? YES NO	
E-mailMay we list your email address in the directory? YES NO May we list your email address on the club web page? YES NO Would you like an alias email of yourcall@harcnet.org? Are you an ARRL member? YES NO Membership Expires (mm/yy)	
FOXHUNTING NEWSHARC Foxhunters continue to make their way through the streets of Philadelphia. Cold weather is not stopping the group. The next fox hunt should be Sunday morning, February 2, weather permitting. For more information on the HARC foxhunts contact Bob, KB3SM.At the February meeting Pete, KB3EBG, will be leading a club antenna building project. The 2 meter antenna will be built out of pvc pipe and parts of a metal tape measure. Pete will offer some modifications to the original design that makes the antenna more versatile for a variety of applications.Come out to the February and build the tape measure antenna. Here 	Batteries In searching for Lithium batteries for my GPS I found some interesting sites with all sorts of info on alk., lithium, other dry cells, gel cells, etc. File for future reference: http://www.energizer.com/ Including the history of the Energizer Bunny http://www.Batteries.com Info includes charge/discharge and recharge stat's http://www.Batteriesdirect.com Info includes charge/discharge and recharge stat's http://www.BatteryMart.com http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Shopping_and_Services/Consumer_Ele ctronics/Accessories_and_Supplies/Batteries/Makers/ Yahoo! search for "battery makers" Tnx - Dave, N4QPM Ham Radio News in EPA If you are a regular QST reader, you know that the Section news is no longer in the back of the magazine. Each ARRL section has a web page that can be found off of the main ARRL page. The page is updated several times a month. The EPA page can be found at: http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=EPA



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

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING JANUARY 23 MEETING: 8TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2003

<u>TIME:</u> 8:00 PM

LOCATION: 8TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION



The HARC Spark E-xtra

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Editor: WA3PZO

NOVEMBER 2002

KM1CC MARCONI WIRELESS CENTENNIAL January 11-19, 2003

Celebrating The 100th Anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's First Wireless transmission between the United States and Europe on January 11 – 19, 2003. From atop high, sandy cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, Marconi transmitted a simple, 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to Great Britain's King Edward VII. Within hours, the King acknowledged receiving the message, and the spark of global communications was lit.

The Marconi Radio Club, W1AA, and the Marconi Cape Cod Memorial Radio Club, KM1CC, working in partnership with the National Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore, will operate a Special Event station from January 11-19 at the former Coast Guard station at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts, from near the site of the original Marconi 1903 Station. For Details See:

http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa

www.bumpermorgan.com/airchecks/spectrummarconi.mp3

January 18, 2003 will mark the centennial of Marconi's groundbreaking transatlantic wireless transmission with a reenactment of this historic scientific achievement, rivaling the Wright Brother's first flight at

Achievement, rivaling the Wright Brother's first flight at Kitty Hawk.

Marconi's daughter Princess Elettra Marconi is scheduled to attend the event.

KM1CC will transmit a PRESIDENTIAL

Commemorative message from President George W. Bush on January 18, 2003.

NASA International Space Station Link – Selected Students from three Cape Cod High Schools (Cape Cod Vocational Technical High School-Harwich, Provincetown High School- Nauset Regional High School) will communicate with astronauts aboard the orbiting International Space Station.

KM1CC on ARRL web page:

http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/12/23/1/?nc=1 For a complete events calendar, go to

www.nps.gov/caco and click on "In Depth," then "News."

The event culminates tonight with the worldwide transmission of a message from President Bush. Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra Marconi, will be on the Cape, while her son, also named Guglielmo Marconi, will be at the family's ancestral home in Bologna, Italy, to receive the message from his mother.

SATURDAY NIGHT EVENT

Marconi, who was 28 at the time of the breakthrough, ``had everybody against him," says the princess, who is in her early 70s and gained her title by marrying an Italian nobleman. ``He was so young and all the big scientists, like Edison, were saying it wasn't possible. He had the intuition. He knew he could succeed. And he succeeded."

Today, the site is under water because of erosion. At very low tides, a few remnants of its concrete foundations are visible beneath the surface. The events of Jan. 18, 1903, are commemorated with a small monument high on the sandy bluff.

Marconi's station was at the easternmost point of the cape. Its four 210-foot wooden towers rose from the dunes and beach grass. He built a similar station in Cornwall, at England's southernmost tip, and one on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.

Using Morse code, Marconi tapped out Roosevelt's message, which was relayed through Nova Scotia and on to Cornwall via radio waves.

The invention was crude by contemporary standards; no actual voice was transmitted. But up to then, telecommunication consisted of telegraph transmissions that required a cable.

Marconi had conducted similar experiments over shorter distances. And in 1901, he made his first successful trans-Atlantic radio transmission, broadcasting the letter ``S" in Morse code from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Cornwall.

HIGH SPEED MULTIMEDIA HAMMING COULD BE THE NEXT BIG THING (ARRL Letter)

High-speed multimedia hamming via the "Hinternet" could be the next big thing for Amateur Radio. That's the hope of the ARRL High Speed Multimedia (HSMM) Working Group, which is adapting the highly popular IEEE 802.11b Part 15 wireless Internet protocol to Part 97 amateur operating.

"We expect it to be nothing less than revolutionary!" says John Champa, K8OCL, who chairs the ARRL HSMM Working Group--a subset of the League's Technology Task Force. The Working Group's new "High-Speed Digital Networks and Multimedia" page <http://www.arrl.org/hsmm/> recently premiered on the ARRL Web site.

Champa's team is calling the specific techniques, software and hardware involved "the ARRL 802.11b protocol" to distinguish it from the unlicensed, commercial protocol. Systems employ direct-sequence spread spectrum techniques and operate in the 2.4 GHz range. The term "Hinternet" (ham + Internet), Champa says, is a user-friendly way to refer to the development of high-speed Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs) capable of simultaneously carrying audio, video and data signals.

"The development of the ARRL 802.11b protocol will significantly enhance Amateur Radio, especially with respect to emergency communication and support of public service activities," Champa predicted. He and his HSMM Working Group colleagues also expect that it will attract many technically oriented users of the Internet and wireless LANs to get their amateur tickets.

In addition to emergency communication, Hinternet applications could include two-way streaming video, fullduplex streaming audio. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) applications such as eQSO, EchoLink, iLink and IRLP, and digital voice. As on the wired Internet, communication can be point-to-point, point-to-multipoint and multicast at high bandwidth.

"An emergency volunteer equipped with a laptop or a wireless PDA (personal digital assistant) with a microphone and a small video camera now has the tools to be a mobile set of eyes and ears in the midst of a communications emergency," says Working Group member Kris Mraz, N5KM.

In Michigan, the Livingston County HSMM Experimenters Team already has three HSMM access points--called "APs" in the commercial world--and about a dozen stations on the air centered on 2437 MHz. Another group of Amateur Radio 802.11b enthusiasts has recently organized in the San Antonio, Texas, area.

appropriate for Hinternet operation, the use of 2.4 GHz was an easy choice, since Part 15 WiFi (wireless fidelity) devices already operate in that part of the spectrum, and inexpensive commercial equipment is widely available. Acting on an ARRL petition, the FCC has proposed elevating amateurs to primary at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

The ARRL publications catalog now includes the book 802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=802.11 by Matthew S. Gast. The book covers the topics of creating and administering wireless networks.

Champa says that taken in a nationwide context, the meaning of the term Hinternet goes deeper than just an amalgamation of words. "In nautical terms the word hinterland is 'the land beyond the coast," he said. "And so it is with us. 'The Hinternet' is the radio net beyond the Internet."

FCC LAUNCHES "CONSUMER-FRIENDLY" ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM

The FCC has launched "ECFS Express," an updated electronic system that the Commission says will make it easier for at least some members of the public to file comments on FCC proceedings. ECFS Express is a simplified version of the popular Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), but it is not available for all FCC proceedings.

ECFS Express is accessible from the FCC home page <http://www.fcc.gov>.

Users just click on the "File Comments" logo--which is on the left-hand side of the page about one-third of the way down under the words "Filing Public Comments." To comment, users click on a topic, fill in their personal information, write their comments and hit "SEND."

"ECFS Express will highlight the proceedings most likely to generate consumer interest," the FCC said this week in a Public Notice. "The topics will change periodically as new issues emerge."

The downside is that if the particular issue you want to comment upon is not listed among the ECFS Express topics, you'll have to use the "expert version" of ECFS to comment, the FCC said. At the moment, the EFCS Express list includes no Amateur Radio-related petitions. The FCC says the original Electronic Comment Filing System--which includes all docketed FCC proceedings--will remain accessible on its Web site

<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

Although other amateur allocations also would be