

January 2012

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>



Repeater Update! 2012 Speakers! Special Events! And Much More

Repeater Update!

Upgrades and repairs continue to be made on HARC's repeater. As mentioned previously, a Diamond X-200 antenna has been installed at the main site for the winter. A permanent folded dipole antenna will be installed in the Spring. At the same time the repeater amplifier was repaired. It's now putting out about 150 watts. Repairs are needed on the Abington and Northeast remote sites.

Backup site:

We're working closely with Temple University Hospital to install the backup repeater at the hospital. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is currently under review by the Temple University Legal Department. Once the MOU is approved an additional remote receiver for the main site as well as the backup repeater will be able to be installed at the Hospital.

Total cost for the project will run close to \$3000.

Help needed:

While the Club has some funds available, it's not enough to take care of all of the upgrades. We are looking for donations to help pay for the upgrades. This is your repeater system. Contributions can be made payable to HARC and sent to HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136. So far almost \$500 has been donated in cash and equipment towards the repeater. More donations are expected, but your help is needed. If you have any questions contact Mike, N3LXN, Bob, WA3PZO, or Ron, K3RJC.

**HARC Speaker
January 26 8 PM
Software Defined Radio
Phil Theis, K3TUF
8th District Police Station
Academy & Red Lion Rds**

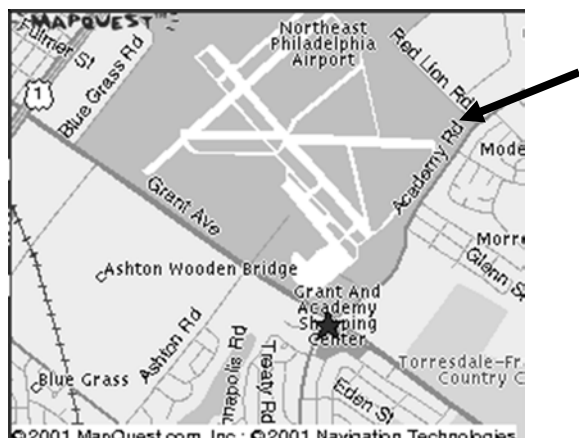
According to Wikipedia.com a **software-defined radio** system, or **SDR**, is a radio communication system where components that have been typically implemented in hardware (e.g. mixers, filters, amplifiers, detectors, modulators, demodulators, etc.) are instead implemented by means of software on a personal computer or embedded computing devices. While the concept of SDR is not new, the rapidly evolving capabilities of digital electronics render practical many processes which used to be only theoretically possible.



K3TUF, originally from Northeast Philadelphia and a student at Lincoln High School, pioneered the use of voted repeater inputs around Philadelphia (1968). He was a charter member of the Philadelphia Area Repeater Association and also served as president of the Germantown Radio Club. Phil moved to Lancaster, PA to work for Ed Clegg as Radio Sales Manager. He is a past president of the Mount Airy VHF Society (Packrats) and a member of the Frankford Radio Club. Phil currently lives in Ephrata, PA. Check out his web page at www.k3tuf.com.

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO
UPARC Rep - Mike Feeley, KB3NDC
Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
WM3PEN @ AOL.COM
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in August.



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.

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)

HARC Bulletin Schedule

Bulletin Station K3CJ

Wed 2000L Amateur Radio News Line
ARRL Audio News
The RAIN Report
Contests / Special Events / Hamfests
Sun 1000L This Week In Amateur Radio
Gate Way 160
Handy Hams
Contests / Special Events / Hamfests

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

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events

**Next Club Meeting: January 26
Software Defined Radio**



EPA Section Manager Election in Progress

Ballots are being mailed in January to ARRL members in Eastern Pennsylvania to elect the next Section Manager. Eric Olena, WB3FPL, is not running for another term. Ballots have to be returned to ARRL by February 17th. The winner should be announced

on or about February 21st.

The Section Manager is accountable for carrying out the duties of the office in accordance with ARRL policies established by the Board of Directors and shall act in the best interests of Amateur Radio. In discharging these responsibilities, the Section Manager:

Recruits, appoints, and supervises section-level staff to administer the Field Organization's principal areas of responsibility in the section. These areas are emergency communications, message traffic relay, technical activity / problem solving, volunteer monitoring, government relations, public relations in the general community, information services for amateurs, and cooperation with affiliated clubs.

Keeps well informed concerning matters of ARRL policy so as to administer the Field Organization in accordance with current policy and to provide correct information in response to members' inquiries.

Maintains liaison with the Division Director; makes periodic reports to the Director regarding the status of Section activities and serves on the Division Cabinet and renders advice as requested by the Director.



EPA Section of ARRL.

ARES Districts 1 and 4 are indicated on the map.

Running for EPA Section Manager are:



Bob Flamiglio, K3RF, Media, PA – Current ARES District Emergency Coordinator for District 1 (Philadelphia area).

<http://www.hams4epa.org/>



Andy Shektor, N3OMA, Berwick, PA – Current ARES District Emergency Coordinator for District 4 (north central PA area).

<http://www.n3oma.mynetworksolutions.com/>



Phil Theis, K3TUF, Ephrata, PA. - Active in HAM Radio for 49 years - HF/VHF/UHF Contesting, Club Officer, Weekly Nets, Multiple towers at home.

<http://www.k3tuf.com/SectionManager.html>

Who should you vote for?

HARC isn't making a recommendation. Bob has been helpful in putting us in contact with Temple Hospital and provided guidance over the years in his ARRL position of volunteer counsel. Bob has spoken at a HARC meeting on ARES in the area.

Phil will be speaking at the January meeting. According to Andy's website, he is also running for U.S. President in 2012.

Read over the candidate information and look at their websites. Most important – VOTE!

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.

HARC Award Manager Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO said there was a need to have a County Challenge in Pennsylvania that was within the reach of most hams in Pennsylvania. When other state awards lost their sponsorship it was an opportunity for the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club to fill the void.

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

2012 Meeting Topics

January – Software Defined Radio

February – NVIS Antennas

March – Looking for speaker

April – Dxpedition – T32C Christmas Island

May – Field Day/13 Colonies Special Event

June – TBD (after Field Day)

HARC Theme Nights



The idea of theme nights has taken off and we have topics for many of our meetings. So far we have technical, antennas, dxpeditions, contests, and special events.

Here are some other possible themes: Net Protocols and Methods, QRP Rigs and Operation, Emergency Communications, Digital Modes, Foxhunting, Morse Night, Lightning Protection, Mobile Operation, VHF / UHF Systems,.....How Stuff Works, New Toy Demos.

Hopefully you get the idea. Feel free to suggest themes or, better yet, **volunteer** to lead a theme. Remember that this does NOT commit you to creating a viewgraph presentation, it's ok to just stand up and talk, demo something or whatever you want to do. Have an idea for March or June let us know.

Mr. January



Bob, WA3PZO, won't be quitting his day job, but CQ magazine recognized Bob as an active ham and feature him and 11 other hams in the CQ 2012 calendar.

HARC Celebrates Pennsylvania's 331st Birthday

On March 10 and 11, HARC will celebrate Pennsylvania's 331st birthday by participating in Charter Day events. Charter Day is the day King Charles of England granted William Penn a charter for land in the New World to make up for a large debt that the king owed to Penn's father. William Penn had initially decided to name the land "Sylvania," which in Latin means 'woods.' King Charles II added the prefix 'Penn' to the name in honor of William Penn's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, who had served England as a rear admiral. Pennsylvania state museums are open for free on Charter Day and it's the one day each year that the Charter is put on display at the state museum in Harrisburg.



WM3PEN
(William 3 Penn)
will be on the air
both days from
1300Z – 2359Z as
band conditions
permit. A special
QSL card will be
offered. This is a
good opportunity to
get ready for the 13
colonies special

event June 30 – July 5th.

If you are interested in operating during the special event contact WA3PZO.

Aim High in the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

VHF operators will be on the bands in force the weekend of January 21-23 as the [ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes](#) hits the airwaves. This contest gives the VHFer in all of us a chance to do some contesting during the winter months.

January may not seem like the ideal time to hold a VHF+ contest, but long distances are possible even with a modest station setup. Bob, WA3PZO, worked stations in Massachusetts on 432 SSB

using a dual band vertical antenna mounted on the roof. Stations in California have reported working Japan on 2 Meter FM. Because of the advent of [WSJT software](#), making QSOs via meteor scatter in the wee hours of the morning on 6 and 2 meters has never been easier. There are plenty of opportunities to make long-haul QSOs on the VHF+ bands in January."

Technician class licensees have permission to use all amateur bands above 50 MHz and the antennas for VHF frequencies are smaller than their HF counterparts. A dipole for 6 meters is less than 10 feet long and most modern transceivers come with 50 MHz built-in. So why not string up a dipole for 6 meters and see what you can work?

While most contest QSOs will be made using SSB and CW, ARRL Contest manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, advises amateurs to remember FM simplex: "Numerous stations enjoy 2 meter FM simplex QSOs, especially if you live near a large population center. Just be sure to keep the national 2 meter calling frequency of 146.52 MHz clear of contest activity. Don't neglect the higher bands, since 222 MHz, 432 MHz and 1.2 GHz and up will also see activity."

The [2012 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes](#) runs from 1900 UTC Saturday, January 21 through 0359 UTC Monday, January 23. Participants can submit their Cabrillo-formatted logs via [e-mail](#). Paper logs may be sent to ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All logs must be postmarked no later than 0359 UTC February 22, 2011.

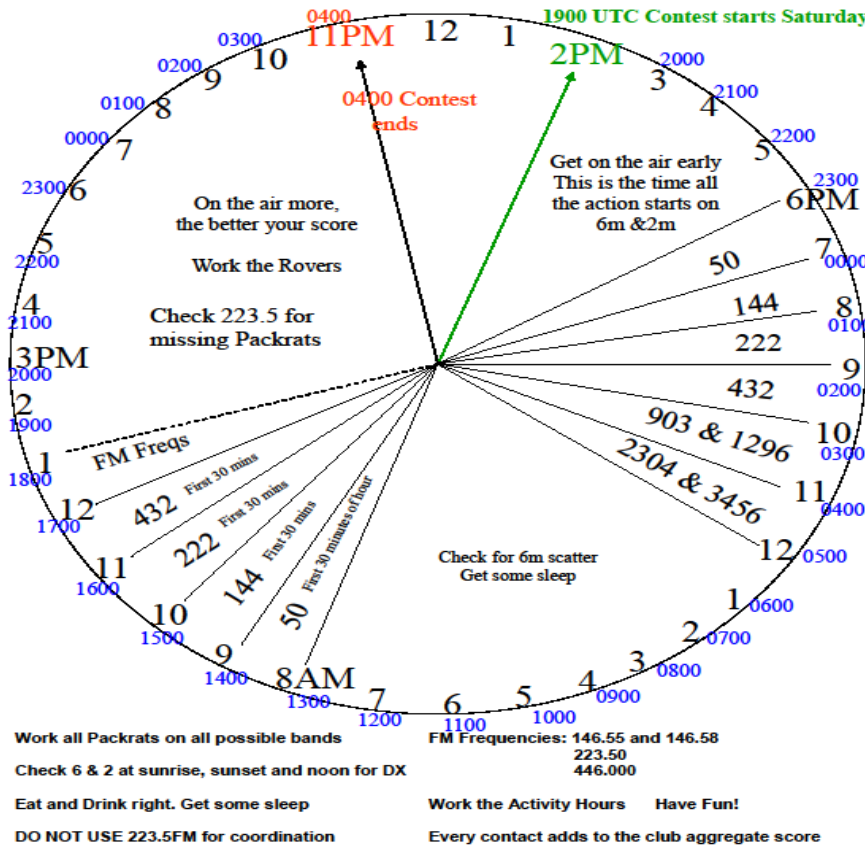


The ORIGINAL
"Social Network"

Ham Radio!

www.Hello-Radio.org

January Contest Clock Activity Hours



The January Contest Clock shows the time and band that members of the Mt. Airy VHF Society (Packrats) will be on the air. If you have limited operating time this might help you plan your day.

How do you find your grid square?

The easiest way is to look up your call on www.qrz.com.

Latitude	40.043369 (40° 2' 36" N)
Longitude	-75.024193 (75° 1' 27" W)
Grid Square	FN20Ib
US State	Pennsylvania
US County	Philadelphia

Northeast Philadelphia is on the border of the grid square. Your grid may be different.

When you submit your log, indicate your Club affiliation with the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club.



Dxpedition – January 21 – February 6. HK0NA

Malpelo Island (Spanish: *Isla de Malpelo*) is an island located 235 miles (378 km) from Colombia's Pacific coast, and approximately 225 miles (362 km) from Panama's coast. It has a land area of 0.35 square kilometres (86 acres). It is uninhabited except for a small military post manned by the Colombian Army, which was established in 1986. Visitors need a written permit from the Colombian Ministry of Ecology. The island is part of Cauca Department. The island consists of a sheer and barren rock with three high peaks, the highest being *Cerro de la Mona* with a height of 300 metres (980 ft). The island is surrounded by a number of offshore rocks. Off the northeast corner are the *Tres Mosqueteros*. Off the southwest corner are *Salomon*, *Saul*, *La Gringa*, and *Escuba*. **Malpelo Nature Reserve**, a plant and wildlife sanctuary, is defined as a circular area of radius 9.656 kilometres (6.000 mi) centered at 03°58'30"N 81°34'48"W / 3.975°N 81.58°W / 3.975; -81.58. (continued pg 7)



Recently three US members (K4UEE, N4GRN and W6IZT) of the Malpelo 2012 DXpedition flew to Cartagena, Colombia and met with six of their Colombian counterparts. The purpose of the two day meeting was to make some critical decisions about the upcoming DXpedition to Malpelo Island. Also, checklists and inventories were finalized and all team members' responsibilities were assigned. Since it is highly unlikely that the various Colombian authorities will permit another DXpedition to Malpelo anytime soon; a decision was made to extend the DXpedition to 16-17 days from the previous 12-14 day plan. The approximate dates of operations will be January 21, 2012 through February 5/6, 2012.

Four team members will travel with all equipment, radios, antennas and infrastructure to Malpelo in early January. They will be transported by the Colombian Navy. They will arrive about two weeks prior to the rest of the Team and will set up camp, the two operating sites, radios and antennas. They will spend about 30 days on the island. This will allow the rest of the team to begin radio operations immediately upon arrival by chartered vessel. As mentioned there will be two operating sites, each with a complete complement of antennas and radios with amplifiers. The first operating site will be co-located with the Colombian marine's camp on the east side of the island. It is clear to East Coast USA, EU and Africa. In order to have a clear shot at JA/Asia, the Pacific region and W6/W7; the second operating site will be located near the top of the highest mountain peak on the island. However, to lessen the physical risks to the team members, the operating site will be located on platforms situated below the actual peak. Still, it will be a 45 minute uphill climb to reach the platforms. The antennas for that site will be on the top of the mountain peak. At times, there will be as many as nine stations QRV with the capability of dual mode operations on all bands. Safety of the team is

paramount. We will be installing a winch system to hoist team members and all of our equipment from our chartered ship's Zodiac onto the island. From there, manpower will carry the equipment the 300 meters straight uphill to the marine camp. The trail to the elevated operating site is extremely dangerous. We will utilize harnesses and safety ropes to minimize the risks. This is going to be a difficult and expensive DXpedition. Every effort will be made to maximize QSOs while protecting the safety of the team members. It is a delicate balance. More information at: www.hk0na.com

Ham Radio Plays Role in TV Show

Tim Allen -- star of [*Home Improvement*](#), [*Toy Story*](#), [*The Santa Clause*](#) and [*Galaxy Quest*](#), just to name a few -- stars in [*Last Man Standing*](#), an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of *Last Man Standing* -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio."



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
 "Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

Club Meeting – January 26 – Software Defined Radio



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136
<http://www.harcnet.org>
 WM3PEN/K3FI



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.

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone # _____ Would you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? ____
 E-mail _____

Are you an ARRL member? YES NO Membership Expires (mm/yy) _____