



February 2017

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>



General Class Tune-up

HARC Meeting – February 16

Components, Circuits, & Test Equipment

Are you studying for your General test? Did you get your General years ago and need to brush up on some theory? This month Rich, K3UJ will talk about active components, practical circuits, & basic test equipment. This is the second of a series to review some areas of the General Class Exam to help those who want to upgrade.



HARC Dues Due

HARC's 2017 dues are due May 1. Dues are \$20 per year. That's less than 40 cents a week to support the most active club in Philadelphia. Membership form on page 6. Think of joining ARRL? If this is your first time joining ARRL we have a bonus. Be one of the first 3 to join and you will receive a repeater directory and \$15 of your ARRL dues will help support HARC.

ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License

An Entry Level License Committee was established by the ARRL Board of Directors and appointed in September 2016. As part of its ongoing work, the committee is gathering member input and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC.

The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF.

The committee has created an [online member survey](#). Please complete and submit the survey no later than April 7, 2017. Survey results will be published

The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer experience with most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF, using all modes.

What are the problems we're trying to solve?

- The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.
- A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.
- Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.
- The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.
- A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

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Webmaster - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

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
HARC Meeting – February 16
Charter Day – March 12
HARC Meeting – March 16

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, Monthly, Last Mon. 7:00 pm at the Wilson Senior Community Center 580 Delmont Avenue Warminster, PA 18974.

George Brechmann (215) 443-5656.

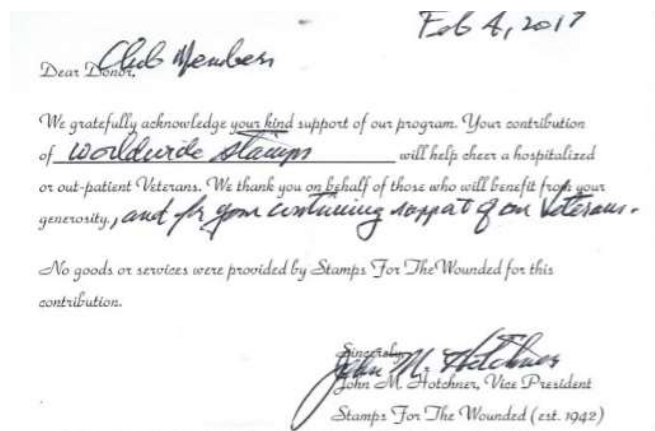
Mid-Atlantic ARC provides VE Test Sessions quarterly on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 0900 and hosted by the Lower Providence Township Building. The VE Test Sessions are coordinated by Dick Stewart K3ITH.

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)

Stamps, Stamps, and More Stamps for SFTW

Last year turned out to be a banner year for HARC's participation in the Stamps for the Wounded Program. Over 31 pounds of stamps were collected and shipped to the SFTW program. So far 2017 is off to a flying start with 11 people, including one ham from England, sending stamps to the Club for SFTW. The collected stamps are distributed to various centers around the country to help with physical and occupational therapy programs for our wounded vets. Here is the latest thank you from SFTW.



WM3PEN Receives NPOTA Certificate

For the ARRL National Parks on the Air event, WM3PEN was active from Independence National Historical Park (HP16)

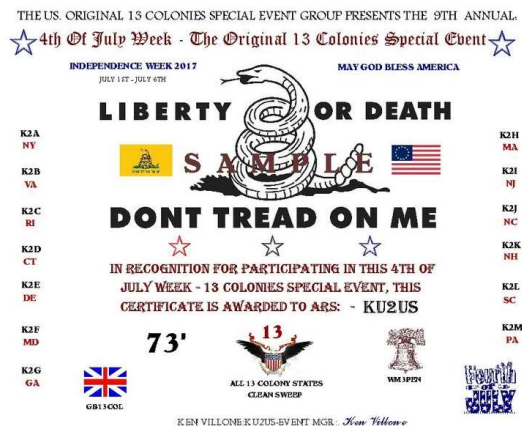
Valley Forge National Historical Park (HP46)

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail (TR23)



13 Colonies Special Event July 1 – 6, 2017

With the theme of this year's 13 Colonies Special Event being Liberty or Death, WM3PEN's QSL card will feature the Liberty Bell. The inscription on the bell is "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof" Interested in participating contact WA3PZO.



Pennsylvania Charter Day March 12, 2017

On March 12, HARC will celebrate Pennsylvania's 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 from 1300Z - 2300Z as band conditions permit. A special QSL card will be offered featuring William Penn. Interested in being part of the special event contact WA3PZO. When you work WM3PEN send an SASE or Green Stamp (\$1) with your QSL to WM3PEN. You can also QSL via the bureau. SWLs may send a confirmation of reception to request a QSL card. Simply indicate the stations making contact with WM3PEN, time, frequency, and your receiving equipment.

Special April 20 HARC Meeting Radio Astronomy

We're honored to have Rob Welsh, N3RW, an associate astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV. Rob will briefly discuss extra-terrestrial radio 'signals', then discuss the equipment used & finally, discuss some current work being done. Additionally, he will mention his opportunity to use QRP in the National Radio Quiet Zone & the concept of that zone and much more.

FCC: Spectrum Fees for Government Agencies

(via Southgate Amateur Radio News)

On Feb 8, 2017 FCC Commissioner **Mike O'Rielly** wrote to the Chair of the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

The Subcommittee is exploring ways to expedite the repurposing of spectrum allocated for Federal Government functions to commercial use. Mike O'Rielly is urging them to enact Agency Spectrum Fees (ASF).

In September 2015 Mike O'Rielly wrote "*Overall the ASF is fairly simple. By establishing an annual cost to government agencies based on their allocated frequencies, which would impact their annual budgets, an agency would have a deeply-rooted interest in minimizing its individual spectrum holding.*"

US radio amateurs currently have access to hundreds of MHz of spectrum at UHF and Microwaves but all bands between 148 MHz and 24 GHz are shared. It is inevitable that when Government Agencies are forced to use their spectrum efficiently and surplus frequencies are sold, those currently sharing with them will be squeezed. The remaining Government spectrum will be used far more intensively which may result in higher interference levels for secondary band users.

Mike O'Rielly letter Feb 8, 2017

https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/

[db0209/DOC-343434A1.pdf](#)

Sep 2015 Spectrum Fees for Government Users
<https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/blog/2015/09/08/enacting-more-sticks-spectrum-fees-government-users>

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.



Congratulations for
making a confirmed contact with
amateur radio operators in:

**Pennsylvania
67 Challenge**



Presented by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, WM3PEN,
Philadelphia, PA

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.

Area Hamfests

EPA Section Convention – Warminster Hamfest

This year's EPA Section Convention will be held at the Warminster Amateur Radio Club Hamfest on Sunday May 7, 2017.

The Hamfest will be held at a new location this year at the **Bucks County Community College – lower Bucks campus, 1304 Veteran Highway (RT 413), Bristol, PA.** and has inside vendor spaces with electricity available at all tables in addition to paved parking and tailgate area. This is a new location for the Hamfest this year with convenient access to I95 – Bristol exit.

Kimberton Hamfest

On Saturday, July 8 from 7:00 AM until 12 NOON, The Mid-Atlantic Radio Club will hold its annual HAMFEST at Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds, Route 113 (Pike Springs Rd.) & Firehouse Lane • Kimberton / Phoenixville, PA 19460. Admission is \$6.00 with free admission for unlicensed spouse and children of licensed ham.

For information on reserving your table or tailgate space, please contact Brian Kelly at 240-498-1964 or AA3BK@marc-radio.org. More details can be found at <http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest2.htm>.

Services offered: VE testing, free QSL card checking while you wait, door prizes, food vendor. Talk in: 145.130/- and 147.060/- CTCSS 131.8.

Amateur Radio A Contact Sport

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.



SWLFEST

**Doubletree Guest Suites Philadelphia West
Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania
March 2-4, 2017**

The Winter SWL Fest is a conference of radio hobbyists of all stripes, from DC to daylight. Every year scores of hobbyists descend on the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania suburbs for a weekend of camaraderie. The Fest is sponsored by NASWA, the North American Shortwave Association, but it covers much more than just shortwave; mediumwave (AM), scanning, satellite TV, and pirate broadcasting are among the other topics that the Fest covers. Whether you've been to every Fest or this year's will be your first, you're sure to find a welcome from your fellow hobbyists.

For 2017, the 30th Annual (!!) Winter SWL Fest will have three days of sessions where you can learn about the latest developments in the radio listening hobbies, but there's so much more going on. There's a silent auction that takes place, where you're bound to find something of interest. There's the Hospitality Suite, where attendees partake of tuning oil and other treats and engage in spirited conversations. There is the closing Banquet, with after-dinner remarks by a luminary from the field, often one of the many broadcasters who attend the Fest, followed by the raffle, where you could win one or more of the dozens of prizes, ranging from pens from stations up to top-notch communications receivers. And of course, the infamous midnight ride of Pancho Villa that closes things out every year.

School Club Round-up Starts Monday Winter/Spring Term: February 13-17, 2017

Objective: To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate.

Sponsored by the ARRL, its Hudson Division Education Task Force and the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) to foster contacts with and among school radio clubs.

All amateur bands except 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters are permitted.

Repeaters are not to be used. Only recognized simplex frequencies may be used. U. S. A. examples include 144.90-145.00; 146.49, .55, 58; and 147.42, .45, .48, .51, .54 and .57 MHz. The national calling frequency, 146.52 MHz, may not be used. Similar restrictions apply in other countries.

Suggested HF Frequencies:

Phone (MHz): 1.855-1.865; 3.850-3.880; 7.225-7.255; 14.250-14.280; 21.300-21.330; 28.440-28.460

CW (MHz): 1.800-1.810; 3.530-3.540; 7.030-7.040; 14.030-14.040; 21.130-21.140; 28.130-28.140

Exchange: Your call sign; RS (T); class (“Individual”, “Club” or “School”); U. S. A. State, Canadian Province/Territory or DXCC country/entity. (Multi-operator group stations must choose one call sign to use for the whole operating period.)

<http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

Use Twitter hashtag #arrlscr and look for schools on the spotting networks!

Hope to hear you on the air next week!

A Commemorative Amateur Radio Special Event



Vimy Ridge, a WWI battle site, is an escarpment 7 km in length and rising 60 m. above the adjacent Douai Plains in the north of France. This was part of the “Western Front”, the main theater of battle in WWI which stretched from the North Sea to the Swiss border at the south end. Vimy Ridge, despite its small size, was of huge strategic importance. It commanded a great field of fire and blocked advances up the adjacent broad valleys towards important mining and industrial sites visible from the ridge. Occupied by German forces after 1914, attempts by the French and British forces to take the Ridge had repeatedly failed with casualties numbering in the hundreds of thousands.

In April of 1917, four Canadian Divisions, fighting as a unified force, using new tactics derived from the recent Battle of the Somme, captured the main part of the Ridge on the first day of combat and completely occupied the entire ground in four days. Vimy Ridge remained in Allied hands for the rest of the war and served as the base for the wireless operations of the Canadian Corps of Signals. The Vimy success was welcome news to war-weary Canada and it stirred a new sense of nationhood that some historians describe as the “moment when Canada leapt in spirit from colony to nation”



In 1922 France ceded to Canada 100 hectares at the summit of Vimy Ridge to be used as a park for the monument pictured. Every year, thousands of Canadians make an emotional journey past huge shell holes, preserved trenches and tunnels to stand in front of the monument, known as “Mother Canada”. Inscribed around the base are the names of the Canadian soldiers who were lost or missing and who have no known graves. The centenary of the Battle will be marked in April, 2017 by formal ceremonies to be held at the base of the monument which will be attended by Heads of State. The centenary of the Battle will be marked in April, 2017 by formal ceremonies to be held at the base of the monument which will be attended by Heads of State.

Approximately 2 km away, but still at summit level, a commemorative amateur radio station with the call sign TM100VIMY, will operate from April 1 to April 9, 2017. There will be two stations and appropriate antennas working on a 24 hour basis.

VE100VIMY Portable Operations

The VE100VIMY portable operations are intended to extend the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge April 9, 1917 to as many Canadian Operators as possible prior to the VE100VIMY operations from the Canadian monument park at Vimy Ridge April 1 through April 9, 2017. Portable operations will

start January 1, 2017 (UTC) and end March 30, 2017 (UTC) and provide one week of operation for every Province and Territory in Canada. (see <http://ve100vimy.ca/portable-operations/>)

Certificates are available for working VE100VIMY in 3 or more provinces or territories. Complete details at <http://ve100vimy.ca/ve100vimyportable-certificates/>

Welcome – New Member

Jim Fisher, AJ3DI

Promote Stamps for the Wounded on Your QRZ.com Page.

The idea came from K3LU, the 3rd Call Area QSL sorter for the letter “P”. He sent us some stamps for the program and said he would put some info on his qrz.com page. WA3PZO has added it to his page and you can to.

Got Extra Used Stamps? Don't trash them! Send those old used DX postage stamps to The Lions International Stamp Club, **Stamps For The Wounded** Program which sends them to veterans’ hospitals and convalescent centers around the country. More details about this excellent program can be found on **WM3PEN's QRZ page.**

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

February 16 Club meeting

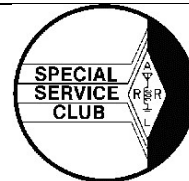
Components, Circuits, & Test Equipment



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2017 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. Membership year begins May 1.

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) _____