

April 2005

# The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the  
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 6253 Philadelphia, PA 19136  
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater PL 131.8  
{K3FI} CLUB CALLS {WM3PEN}

Celebrating Over 25 years of Serving the Philadelphia Area  
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Editor: KB3AKK

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*General Meeting*  
*Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>.*  
*8PM @ 8<sup>th</sup> District*  
*Academy & Red Lion Roads*

The Northeast Philadelphia Walk America is on Sunday, May 1 at the Polonia Bank Flyers Skate Zone, 10990 Decatur Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19154. Time is 8 am. We're waiting for details of this event, but we can use 10 people to help provide safety and logistical communications along the route. Contact Bob (WA3PZO) or Mike (N3LXN) if you can assist.

## THE PREZ SEZ

Spring has sprung and so shall we, into our first event this year that is the March of Dimes walk a thon is may 1st, more info in the newsletter.

The guest speakers this month are knowledgeable on APRS and will share their information with us Thursday evening at our April meeting, you don't want to miss this. Hope to see everyone there.

Stay tuned for more changes to our repeater in the near future.

Hope everyone is well and survived the winter ok. Time to plant the seeds in the garden and in the club too. An idea has to take root and grow so plant your ideas for the club now and let them grow into the future.

Till next time. 73

Mike N3LXN

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

This Month - Rich, N3XKU and Jason, N3RAY, will give an introductory presentation on APRS and the Tiny Trak 3

May 26th - Dennis, K3DS will demonstrate the earth-bound *Mars Rover*, a semi-autonomous vehicle with a 2M packet digital data telemetry and control system and a 3/4M ATV transmitter. The *Mars Rover* was an undergraduate senior design project in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Temple University in 2003-2004. The *Mars Rover* was featured in November 2004 QST.

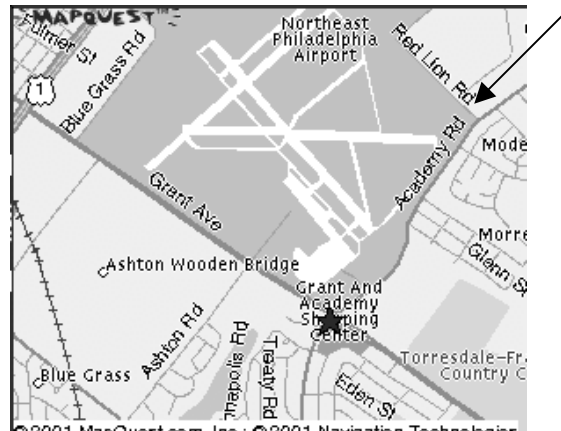
June-Field Day

## ELECTIONS

There are still a few vacancies to be filled on the HARC board of directors for the 2005 year. If you are interested, contact Mike (N3LXN) for more details.

**H.A.R.C. Board Of Directors 2004**  
**President : N3LXN : Mike Wurgley**  
**Vice Pres: WA3PZO : Bob Josuweit**  
**Treasurer : W3KZA : Sid Kalos**  
**Secretary : N3ZZN: Frank Flanagan**  
**Trustee : N3UBY: Sol Volen**  
**Trustee : KB3AKK : Dave Hogan**  
**Trustee : K3CJ : Charlye Johnson**  
**Tech Committee : K3RJC : Ron Cardullo**  
**Newsletter Editor : KB3AKK: Dave Hogan**

**H.A.R.C. Maintains a Web Page @[www.harcnet.org](http://www.harcnet.org)**  
**All members online can be emailed via their callsign @[harcnet.org](mailto: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](mailto: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**  
**Weekly 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 4<sup>th</sup>. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila., PA EXCEPT AS ANNOUNCED**



**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](mailto: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.**

### Attention DX Hunters!

To celebrate the election of the new Pope Benedict XVI Amateur Radio operator IK0FVC, Francesco, will be active from the Vatican as HV0A during this week. Activity is expected starting this afternoon (Vatican time – at any moment). No bands or modes were mentioned. QSL via IK0FVC.

### ARRL SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2005 MCGAN MEMORIAL SILVER ANTENNA AWARD

Nominations are due May 20 for the 2005 ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/mcgan/2005/mcgan-nom-2005.html>>. This annual League award recognizes and honors achieved success in public relations on behalf of Amateur Radio at the local, state or national level. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, encourages and invites nominations for this year's McGan Award of candidates who reflect the high standard of achievement the award's namesake epitomized.

"Throughout the year ARRL Public Information

coordinators, Public Information Officers and other public relations volunteers strive to keep Amateur Radio visible in their communities by publicizing special events, writing press releases and maintaining good relations with local media--among many other valuable activities," Pitts says. "Their efforts benefit us all."

The award's namesake, journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MBQ (SK), served as the first chairman of the ARRL's Public Relations Committee, which helped reinvigorate the League's commitment to public relations. Unfortunately McGan never got to see the fruits of his efforts, but the award bearing his name was established as a lasting tribute to his important contributions.

"The 2005 McGan award will go to a ham who has demonstrated success in Amateur Radio public relations and who best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of Phil McG an," Pitts said.

The McGan award is given only to an individual, and a candidate must be a full ARRL member in good standing at the time of nomination. The nominee may not be compensated for any public relations work involving Amateur Radio--including payment for articles--and may not be a current officer, director, vice director, paid staff member or member of the current selection committee.

Pitts notes that some confusion persists between what constitutes public relations as opposed to public service. "Public relations activities for which the McGan Award is

given include efforts specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the public's attention in a positive light, typically via the news media--TV, radio or print publications," Pitts explains. "This may include traditional methods like news releases or less-traditional methods that could include such activities as hosting a radio show or being an active public speaker."

Pitts points out that public service contributions such as emergency communications, net leadership and other activities--while valuable--don't fit the definition of public relations.

Anyone may make a nomination. Nominations must be on an official entry form, available from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/mcgan/2005/Nom-form-05.pdf>> or via mail from League Headquarters from Allen Pitts, W1AGP, [apitts@arrl.org](mailto:apitts@arrl.org); 860-594-0328.

A committee of PR-savvy Amateur Radio operators will screen eligible nominations and forward its recommendation to the Volunteer Resources Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors. The Board makes a final determination at its July meeting.

Send the completed entry form and supporting materials to: Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, c/o Allen Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Nominations must be received at ARRL HQ in Newington by 5 PM on Friday, May 20, 2005. Nominations arriving after the deadline or without an entry form cannot be considered.

==>WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY 2005 IS  
MONDAY, APRIL 18

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and its member-societies representing more than 150 countries around the globe celebrate World Amateur Radio Day each year on April 18 to mark the anniversary of the IARU's founding in 1925. The theme for this year's 80th anniversary celebration is "Expanding the World of Wireless Communications."

Amateur Radio operators have been the leaders in developing many of today's electronic and communication marvels. The pioneering work in radio and electronic technologies early amateurs first explored provided the groundwork for the nearly ubiquitous "wireless" devices and digital technology we often take for granted. Many leading electrical engineers have drawn from their practical experience as Amateur Radio operators in contributing to the development of modern radio and television technology, two-way radios, adaptive antennas and many other innovations.

That trend continues as today's radio amateurs explore new frontiers. Amateur Radio experimenters are finding new ways to use frequencies at the fringes of the radio spectrum, to merge radio and Internet technology and to experiment with ultra-high-speed digital communication. Although they're not compensated, ham radio operators are "amateurs" in name only, because their skills and contributions to the world have been--and continue to be--of the highest order.

Since its inception, the IARU has been instrumental in coordinating and representing Amateur Radio activities around the world. Learn more by visiting the IARU Web site <<http://www.iaru.org>>.

\* ARES-RACES teams activate in wake of flooding: ARES-RACES teams in Pennsylvania and New York were among those activating after torrential rainfall over the April 2-3 weekend caused rivers to overflow their banks. In the Matamoras, Pennsylvania, area the Delaware River crested at nearly 4.5 feet above flood stage, reports Pike County Emergency Coordinator Tom Olver, W2TAO who lives just across the river in New York. He said nearly 200 houses were damaged, deemed uninhabitable or destroyed altogether. The flooding also closed roads and even washed out some of them. ARES members provided communication support at Red Cross shelters in Pike County, Pennsylvania, and Orange County, New York. Not far away in Port Jervis and Goshen, New York, Pike County ARES members assisted at emergency operation centers. One radio amateur not affiliated with ARES who set up to provide communication from a Red Cross shelter in Port Jervis earned praise from a shelter worker for helping to keep the evacuees informed. Upward of two dozen radio amateurs volunteered, reports Orange County EC Steve Fleckenstein, N2UBP. In Columbia County in Central Pennsylvania, EC and RACES Radio Officer Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV, reports an ARES-RACES net was activated when the Susquehanna and other rivers flooded. ARES provided Red Cross shelter communications and reported river levels and road closures to state and local emergency management agencies. "This was a truly great effort by everyone," Kishbaugh said. He reported 20 net check-ins during nine hours of operation. Members of the Endless Mountains Amateur Radio Club in Wyoming County got some complimentary ink in the Wyoming County Press Examiner after county Emergency Management Director Gene Dziak commended the radio amateurs for helping to facilitate communication among various agencies responding to the flooding.

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD016  
ARLD016 DX news

ZCZC AE16  
QST de W1AW  
DX Bulletin 16 ARLD016  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT April 21, 2005  
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD016  
ARLD016 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, The Daily DX, 425DXnews, DXNL, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

MONGOLIA, JT. Nicola, I0SNY, is expected to be active again as JT1Y until May 10. He also expects to operate as JT1Y/4 from the Gobi Desert. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the bureau.

SEYCHELLES, S79. Frederic, HB9CQK, will be active as S79QK from April 27 to May 8. His activity will include the activation of Denis Island (AF-024) and Alphonse Island (AF-033). Operations will be on the 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meter SSB on the IOTA frequencies. The log will be uploaded to LoTW. QSL via HB9CQK, direct or by the bureau.

DODECANESE, SV5. Tomas, LY1DF, will be active as SV5/LY1DF from April 28 to May 4. Activity will be on 80, 30, 20 and 17 meters. QSL via LY1DF, by the bureau or direct.

CRETE, SV9. DL3KWR and DL3KWF will be active as SV9/DL3KWR and SV9/DL3KWF, respectively, through April 29. Activity will be mostly on the newer bands, 80 meters and on CW during their evenings. QSL via home call signs.

CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7. Rick, AI5P, is now active as ZL7/AI5P until April 26. Activity will be mainly on CW on 40 to 10 meters. Activity over the past week has been on 30 and 20 meters CW. There has been some 17 meters CW and 20 meters SSB. QSL via AI5P.

VATICAN, HV. Francesco, IK0FVC, is QRV as HV0A in celebration of the election of the new Pope and has been active on 20 meter SSB.

BAHAMAS, C6. Dave, G4WFQ, will sign C6AWF from Treasure Cay, Abaco Island (NA-080) until April 29. He plans to work mainly in CW and RTTY, but also SSB, on 80 through 10 meters, including the newer bands. QSL via G3SWH.

MAURITIUS, 3B8. DL6UAA will be QRV again as 3B8MM until May 10. QSL via home call, buro ok.

FIJI, 3D2. Look for JK1FNL to be active as 3D2NA from Mana Island (OC-121), April 24 to 28. Activity will be on 40 through 6 meters CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the bureau.

TAIWAN, BX3. Juergen, DJ3KR, is now active as BX3/DJ3KR until June 5. He was spotted this past week on 30 and 17 meter CW. Watch these bands between 1100 and 1700z. QSL via DJ3KR.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Look for Jaak, ES1FB, to be active as EX/ES1FB until 29. Also, look for Oleg, ES1RA, to be active as EX/ES1RA until May 17. QSL EX/ES1FB direct to: Jaak Meier, Box 2907, 13102, Tallinn, Estonia. QSL EX/ES1RA direct to: Oleg Mir, Box 806, 11702, Tallinn, Estonia.

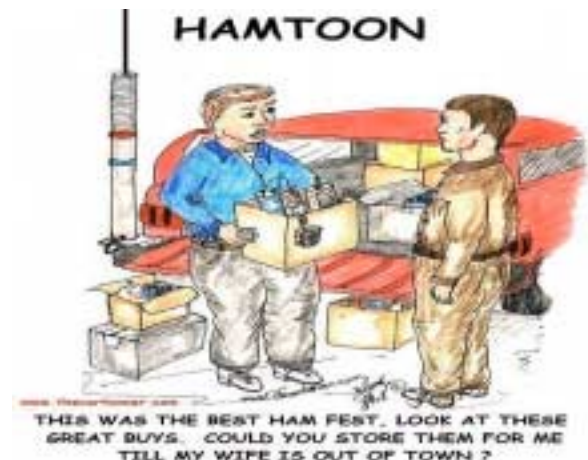
LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Look for IZ1DSH, IK1WEG and IZ1GDB to be active as HB0/home call, April 22 to 26. Activity will be on 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via their home call signs, direct or via the ARI bureau.

THAILAND, HS0. K4VUD will be active as HS0ZCW from April 28 to May 14.

SAUDI ARABIA, HZ. Thomas, HZ1EX, has been very active on 40 and 17 meters CW. Check 40 meters around 7002 kHz, between 2130 and 0200z and 17 meters around 18075 to 18085 kHz, between 1330 and 1730z. He will be here until June. QSL via SM0BYD.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Florida QSO Party, Nebraska QSO Party, Helvetia Contest, DX Columbia International Contest and the FISTS/EU CW QRS Contest are all on tap for this weekend. Please see April 2005 QST, page 100 for details.

NNNN  
/EX



## UPCOMING HAMFESTS

1 May 2005	+	Warminster ARC <a href="http://www.k3dn.org">http://www.k3dn.org</a> <b>Contact:</b> Heather Leabman, KB3JUY 2061 Durham Road New Hope, PA 18938 Phone: 215-794-1360 Email: <a href="mailto:hamfest2005@k3dn.org">hamfest2005@k3dn.org</a>	Wrightstown (Bucks County), PA <b>Div:</b> Atlantic <b>Sect:</b> Eastern Pennsylvania
------------------	---	---	--

10 Jul 2005	+	Mid-Atlantic ARC <a href="http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.html">http://www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.html</a> <b>Contact:</b> Steve Maslin, N3ORH 2408 Lomara Drive Pottstown, PA 19464 Phone: 610-327-8666 Email: <a href="mailto:reservations@marc-radio.org">reservations@marc-radio.org</a>	Kimberton, PA <b>Div:</b> Atlantic <b>Sect:</b> Eastern Pennsylvania
----------------	---	---	---

### April 13, 2005) EPA ARRL Again Represented at the East Coast Hobby Show

The East Coast Hobby Show was held at the Ft. Washington, PA. Expo. Center on April 8,9 & 10, 2005 and once again Amateur Radio was represented at this event. The booth was manned by members of the Warminster ARC, Penn-Wireless ARC and the Mt. Airy (Packrats) ARC. The booth carried the ARRL banner and the EPA Section Manager, WB3FPL, helped man the booth.

This year's effort was different in that we were able to procure a location that permitted us to have access to outside antenna locations. Several contacts were made on 20 meters and a large number of spectators were able to see Amateur Radio in operation.

Out of the crowd we had ten persons sign up to receive additional information on getting an Amateur license. One of the persons looking for additional information included a teacher from the Philadelphia area looking for information on how to get Amateur Radio into his classroom. One person from Baltimore signed up and one person from Maine also signed up. Contact information for these ten persons is being forwarded to Clubs near to the persons home address, or to the appropriate Section Manager. From the list of "interested persons" two names from both Saturday's and Sunday's list will be chosen to receive a free

copy of the ARRL publication "Now You're Talking" compliments of the EPA SM and the ARRL.

A very big "THANK YOU" goes out to Mark Hinkle, WA3QVU of the Warminster Club and Ben Johns, K3JHQ, of the Penn-Wireless Club for all of the extra work that they did to make this effort successful.  
de WB3FPL

### (March 31, 2005, Corrected copy) Chester County Hams Activated.

On March 28, 2005, a telephone outage made it impossible for people in part of Chester County to call 911 to report emergencies. The outage involved one telephone prefix area. Chester County ARES/RACES (CCAR) has been training for such emergencies. About two dozen members of the organization have been trained in basic 911 call-taking skills by the county's regular 911 trainer. This was our first 911 backup activation that was not a drill.

At 10:22 A.M., I received a page from John Haynes, 911 Center Director at the Chester County Department of Emergency Services (CCDES). He asked CCAR to send operators to two fire stations in the western part of the county where the telephone failure had occurred.

Joe Stratton W3JBS and Kay Craigie N3KN opened up ARES/RACES station W3EOC at the Government Services Center between 10:30-10:45, and started making a resources list of operators who could report for duty. Five operators volunteered, and made preparations to leave home to give relief later on if needed: Ray Paisley N3ESS, Vern Nelson KC3XL, Al Rabenau W3AHR, Ray Jefferis KB3IGL, and Joe Vilardo K3JV.

Operators were sent to Atglen Fire Station (FS #26) and to Cochranville Fire Station (FS #27) . Bill Taylor N3TR arrived at FS #27 and was ready to operate at 11:00; Carter Craigie N3AO was operational at 11:06 at FS #26. The fire chiefs at both stations had been alerted by the county that ham operators would show up, and they welcomed the hams.

Upon notice of the hams' arrival, CCDES notified the media and the Emergency Alert System that emergency radio operators were stationed at those two firehouses, ready to radio in calls for assistance.

At 12:20 P.M., the telephone service had been restored, and the hams were released 15 minutes later after confirmation from the 911 Center. No citizens came to the fire stations asking for help, but we were there and ready to radio their calls by radio.

Carter Craigie N3AO  
ARES EC, Chester County, PA



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

Next Meeting: Thursday April 28th.  
8PM @ 8<sup>th</sup> District - Red Lion & Academy Rds.