



April 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>



Radio Astronomy

HARC Meeting – April 20

Special April 20 HARC Meeting Radio Astronomy

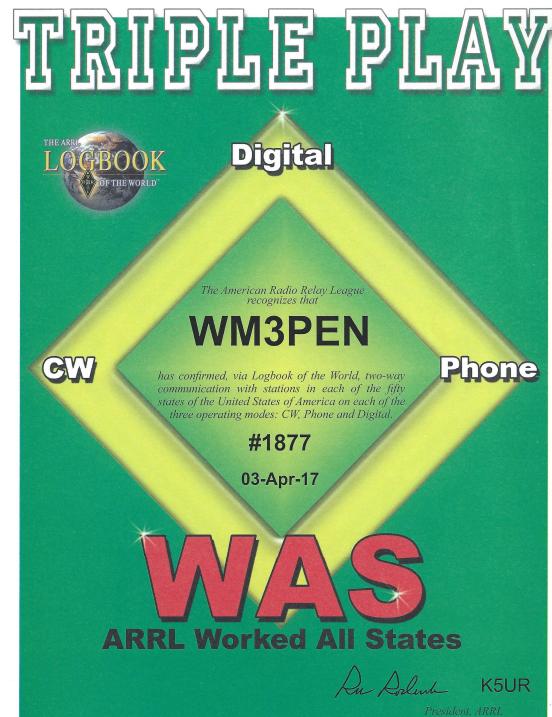
We're honored to have Rob Welsh, N3RW, an associate astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV. Rob will briefly discuss extra-terrestrial radio 'signals', then discuss the equipment used & finally, discuss some current work being done.



Additionally, he will mention his opportunity to use QRP in the National Radio Quiet Zone & the concept of that zone and much more. If interested in learning about radio astronomy, please look at N3RW's web page: <http://www.gb.nrao.edu/~glangsto/lessons/index.html>

Besides operating portable from several islands and parks in the western U.S., N3RW has also operated from England and Suriname as PZ5RW.

It's the start of baseball season and WM3PEN got a Triple Play in Logbook of the World. The Triple Play WAS (Worked All States) Award is available to all amateurs worldwide who must use Logbook of the World (LOTW) to confirm QSOs with each of the 50 states on voice, CW, and digital modes. The Triple Play WAS Award is a serial-numbered award starting with # 1. The award is for contacts made after January 1, 2009. Most of the WM3PEN contacts were made during the 13 Colonies week beginning in 2011. Congrats to all who helped make this happen.



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 – April 20

HARC Meeting – May 18

HARC Meeting – June 22

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.

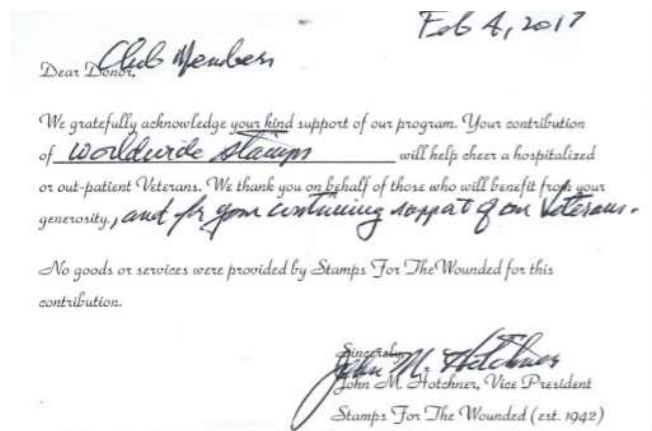
Mid-Atlantic ARC provides VE Test Sessions quarterly on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 0900 and hosted by the Lower Providence Township Building. The VE Test Sessions are coordinated by Dick Stewart K3ITH.

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.

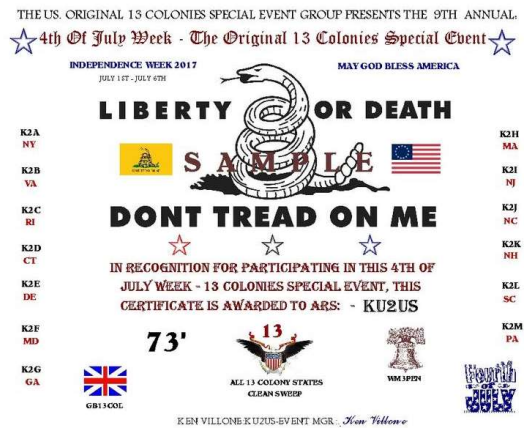


HARC Dues Due

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.

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 "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.



Pennsylvania 67 Challenge

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



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.

30th International Marconi Day Event Set for April 22

Dozens of official "award stations" have registered to take part in the 2017 International Marconi Day (IMD) event, this year being held on April 22, 0000-2359 UTC (starting on April 21 in US time zones). All contacts counting toward the Marconi Award must be made on HF with registered stations, but other participating stations do not need to be registered to claim awards. This year marks the 30th IMD, held each year to mark the anniversary of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi's birth on April 25, 1874. IMD is observed each year on a Saturday close to Marconi's birthday. Many special event stations - some operating from Marconi-related sites - will be on the air. Marconi Award certificates are available for both transmitting stations and shortwave listeners (SWLs).

The event is not a contest but an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communication techniques descended from those used by Marconi, and to earn an award certificate for working or hearing a requisite number of Marconi stations.

There are two categories. Transmitting amateurs attempt to complete contacts with 15 of the official award stations, while shortwave listeners attempt to log two-way communications made by 15 of the official award stations.

International Marconi Day special event station GB4IMD will be on the air from Cornwall, helmed by members of the Cornish Amateur Radio Club, which organizes the IMD event. Cornwall was home to some of Marconi's early work. A list of participating stations is on the Cornish Amateur Radio Club's website at, <http://gx4crc.com/imd-stations/>.

The Kerry Amateur Radio Group in Ireland will be taking part as an IMD award station. EI6YXQ will be set up on the site of the former Marconi Station at Ballybunion. The YXQ suffix

commemorates the call sign of the Marconi Station at Ballybunion.

In the US, special event station K2M will be on the air from Binghamton, New York, the site of the remaining Marconi tower, where the inventor demonstrated in 1913 that it was possible to communicate via radio with a fast-moving train.

Locally, WA3BAT will be on the air from the USS Olympia at Penn's Landing. On September 21, 1899, Marconi arrived in New York. The directors of the New York Herald hoped that commissioning Marconi's services would generate great public excitement for the upcoming America's Cup race. The event was upstaged by the return home from the Philippines of Admiral Dewey. Marconi quickly fitted his wireless to the flagship Olympic so that he could report the event. (www.qrz.com/db/wa3bat)

For the seventh year, radio amateurs in Norfolk, England, will be active from Caister Lifeboat as part of the IMD celebration. The Norfolk Amateur Radio Club (NARC) will be on the air from special event station GB0CMS at the Caister Lifeboat Visitor Centre to commemorate the village's original Marconi wireless station, established in 1900. The station's original purpose was to communicate with ships in the North Sea and the Cross Sands lightship.

Other IMD sites with historical links to the inventor's work include Cape Cod, Massachusetts (WA1WCC and KM1CC); Nantucket Island (W1AA/MS); Glace Bay, Nova Scotia (VE1IMD); Villa Griffone, Bologna, Italy (IY4FGM), and many others.

A Facebook page is also available at, www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=gb4imd. (via ARRL)

Amateur Radio A Contact Sport



HARC Members Take First Place in 2016 and 2017 Winter Phone QSO Party

WA3GM (2016) and WA3PZO (2017) took first place in the 3rd Call Area during the Ten-Ten International Net, Inc Winter Phone QSO Party. The object of the contest is to make as many contacts on 10 meters as possible. More points are earned for working active 10-10 members.

There are currently nine (9) QSO Parties held throughout the year. The Parties are: (2) Phone (SSB), (2) CW, (2) Digital, Open Season (Digital/PSK), Spirit of 76, and Sprint. The SSB, CW, Digital, and Open Season QSO Parties are 48-hour events. The Spirit of 76 Party is a week-long event centering around the 4th of July. The Sprint is a 24-hour event held on the 10th of October (10-10) each year. Please consult the schedule listed at: www.10-10.org > On Air Activity QSO Parties > Schedule for exact dates as they change slightly each year.

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.



Low sunspots provide an exciting challenge

The low sunspot count could provide exciting challenges on VHF and UHF

After World War I, radio amateurs discovered worldwide DX on the HF bands via F2 propagation. The experts claimed that the so-called Ultra High Frequencies above 30 MHz were only suitable for Line-of-sight communications.

Today we know differently that there are many other propagation modes present on VHF and UHF and we do not have to depend only on F2 propagation anymore. Many commercial and military stations have already relocated to Satellites for more reliable communications. Then we have worldwide amateur EME that is not affected by tropospheric or ionospheric conditions either.

Solar Cycle 24 is the weakest in a century and is now heading to the next Solar minimum. So instead of hanging up your amateur equipment like the proverbial saddle, start exploring the exciting VHF bands and learn more about the vagaries of VHF communications. It is worth a try. (Southgate ARC)

New Bands! FCC Issues Amateur Radio Service Rules for 630 Meters and 2,200 Meters

The Amateur Service will officially get two new bands in the near future. The FCC has adopted rules that will allow Amateur Radio access to the 630 and 2,200-meter bands, with minor conditions. A *Report and Order (R&O)* was released on March 29. The effective date of the new rules is hard to predict at this point; more below. (This corrects and updates information that appeared in *The ARRL Letter* edition that circulated to members.) The *R&O*, which also addresses several non-Amateur Radio issues, allocates the 472-479 kHz band (630 meters) to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and amends Part 97 to provide for Amateur Service use of that band as well as of the previously allocated 135.7-137.8 kHz band (2,200 meters). The *R&O* also amends Part 80 rules to authorize radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz band under a ship station license.

"It's a big win for the Amateur community and the ARRL," ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, said. "We are excited by the FCC's action to authorize Amateur Radio access for the first time on the MF and LF spectrum."



The FCC said the Amateur Radio service rules it has adopted for 630 meters and 2,200 meters allow "for co-existence with Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems that use these bands." Utilities have opposed Amateur Radio use of the MF and LF spectrum, fearing interference to unlicensed Part 15 PLC systems used to manage the power grid.

Amateurs operating on 472-479 kHz would be permitted a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of 5 W, except in parts of Alaska within 800 kilometers (approximately 496 miles) of Russia, where the maximum would be 1

W EIRP. Amateurs operating in the 135.7-137.8 kHz band could run up to 1 W EIRP.

The FCC is requiring a 1-kilometer separation distance between radio amateurs using the two new bands and electric power transmission lines with PLC systems on those bands. Amateur Radio operators will have to notify UTC of station location prior to commencing operations.

The FCC also placed a 60-meter (approximately 197 feet) above-ground-level (AGL) height limit on transmitting antennas used on 630 meters and 2,200 meters. The bands would be available to General class and higher licensees, and permissible modes would include CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image. Automatically controlled stations would be permitted to operate in the bands. More details soon, on the ARRL website.

Effective Date

The fact that the new rules contain a new information-collection requirement -- notification of operation to the UTC -- makes it difficult to guess at an effective date. The FCC *R&O* says the Office of Management and Budget (under the Paperwork Reduction Act) must first approve the information-collection requirements (in §97.303[g][2]). Then, the revised Part 97 rules sections will become effective after the FCC publishes a notice in *The Federal Register* "announcing such approval and the relevant effective date." (ARRL Letter)

13 Colonies Update

In the past few days there have been additional updates for the 13 Colonies Special Event.

- 1) Operational on DSTAR and Fusion has been confirmed. This effort is being lead by Jim, AD3JI.
- 2) QSL Cards have arrived
- 3) VHF operation planned
- 4) WA3PZO doing a presentation at Philmont and the Philadelphia Digital Radio Association in April and May.

LOTW WAS Update

For the ARRL Worked All States Award WM3PEN has either earned or is coming close to working all 50 states in particular modes or bands.

All 50 states – Mixed, Phone, CW, Digital, and 20 Meters and 20 Meter phone, Triple Play.

For those categories of 40 and above.
48 States on 40 Meters, 45 States on PSK31, 42 on RTTY, 45 on 40 Phone, 46 on 40 cw, 46 on 20 cw, 41 on 20 PSK31, 40 on 15 Phone, 212 towards the 5 – Band WAS. (need 250).

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”

April 20 Club meeting

Radio Astronomy

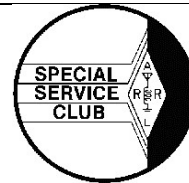


**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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) _____