

May 2015

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>



Contesting on the Autotrain Election of Officers May 21, 2015

Contesting on the Autotrain

This month Greg, WA3GM, talks about operating the ARRL DX SSB contest on the Amtrak Autotrain while traveling back from Florida.

Rumor has it that he didn't have a mag mount antenna on the roof of the train or a long wire hanging out of the back of the train. So just how did he work the world?



Come to the May 21 Meeting and find out how he was getting 5-9 signal reports.



HARC Officer Elections

It's time for the HARC Elections. Those expressing interest in running for office are:

President – Bob, WA3PZO
Vice President – Greg, WA3GM
Secretary – Saul, W3WHK
Treasurer – Bob, WA3PZO
Member-at-Large - Mike, N3LXN
Member-at-Large – Sol, N3UBY

Vice-President WA3GM will be running the meeting since Bob, WA3PZO, will be speaking at the Packrats meeting on the 13 Colonies Event.

Reminder that you 2015 membership dues must be paid to vote.

There are plenty of things to be done for the club. Interested in helping out or maybe you would like to see the club do something that we are currently not doing? Contact Bob or Greg.



HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

Secretary - Charley Johnson, K3CJ

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY

Mike Wurgley, N3LXN

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO

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. The K3RJC 444.9 repeater is in Cherry Hill. 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

May 21 meeting – Contesting

June 18 meeting – Field Day & 13 Colonies

June 27-28 - Field Day

June 30-July 5 – 13 Colonies

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. 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

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 At Warminster Hamfest

The Holmesburg ARC had 2 tables at the Warminster Hamfest on Sunday May 3. There was a display of club activities and some good stuff to sell. Thanks to Rich, AB3EO, Mile, N3LXN, Bob, WA3PZO, Carl, N3ZZK, and Saul, W3WHK for helping to staff the table.

W3WHK Participates in the Shortwave Shindig

- While the amateur radio world is talking about the Dayton Hamvention, several HARC members attended the Winter SWL Fest held in Plymouth Meeting this past February. The SWL Fest is a gathering of over 100 shortwave listening enthusiasts from around the world. The topics included hf and medium wave DXing and even what you can hear on your scanner. For the past 2 years one of the highlights of the event is the Shortwave Shindig. According to the Shindig Facebook page, The Shortwave Shindig is a live listening event that features archival shortwave sound, live monitoring, and live performance of shortwave radio related arts and culture.



David Goren prepares musicians and voice talent as the Shortwave Shindig goes live on WRMI. W3WHK is on guitar. Photo is via The Spectrum Monitor and swling.com.

WRMI is a commercial shortwave broadcast station, with studios in Miami and transmitters in Okeechobee, FL. Frequency is 7570 khz.



In 2013 Saul Broudy, W3WHK, lead the faithful in: Turn Your Radio On. (photo from Shortwave Shindig Facebook page)

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.

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



Pennsylvania 67 Challenge

Congratulations to
Larry Campi, WA5TRX
For making a confirmed contact
with amateur radio operators in:
Special Endorsement: HF SSB

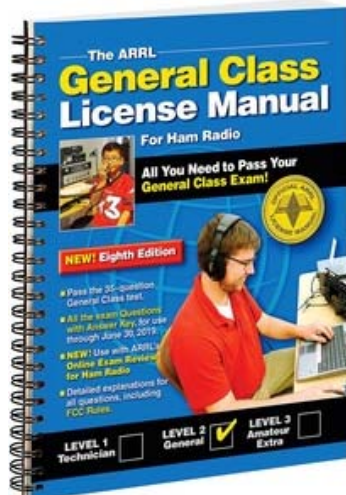


Presented by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, WM3PEN, January 24, 2012

New ARRL General Class License Manual Available as Softcover, Spiral Bound, or E-Book

The new *ARRL General Class License Manual* (8th edition) is now available in softcover, spiral-bound, and e-book versions. The optional academic-style [spiral-bound](#) edition (ARRL Item No 1904, retail \$32.95) lies flat, making it more convenient for both students and instructors. It includes everything you need to prepare for the 35-question General class Amateur Radio license exam, so you won't have any surprises on test day.

The exam questions and answer key are built from the latest General class question pool, which goes into effect on July 1, 2015. You can use the *General Class License Manual* in



conjunction with ARRL's online [Exam Review for Ham Radio](#). It includes detailed explanations for all test questions as well as FCC Amateur Service (Part 97) rules.

The *ARRL General Class License Manual* is also available in traditional [softcover](#) format (ARRL Item No 8119, retail \$29.95). Both spiral-bound and softcover editions are available from the [ARRL Store](#) or from your [ARRL Publications Dealer](#), or call 860-594-0355 or toll-free in the US 888-277-5289 to order.

In addition to the hard-copy manuals, ARRL has just released a [digital edition](#) of *The ARRL General Class License Manual* in Kindle format from [Amazon](#).

As the leading publisher of Amateur Radio licensing and training materials, ARRL is expanding beyond traditional printed books to meet the increasing demand from readers who prefer digital publications. The ARRL also offers Kindle editions of [The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#) and its question-and-answer study guides, [ARRL's Tech Q&A](#), [ARRL's General Q&A](#), and [ARRL's Extra Q&A](#). (via ARRL Letter)

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015: 55 Cosponsors – and Climbing

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- also known as [H.R.1301](#) -- has attracted 55 cosponsors as of May 14. The bill, introduced earlier this year in the US House by Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions printed and

The latest lawmakers to sign aboard H.R. 1301 include Representatives Pete Olson of Texas, Ed Perlmutter of Colorado, John



Shimkus of Illinois, Dr Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, and Roger Williams of Texas.

Henderson said the League is also working on securing an original sponsor and co-sponsor for a companion Amateur Radio Parity Act bill in the US Senate. He encouraged all to visit the ARRL's [H.R. 1301 page](#), where they can download a letter that can be personalized for your member of Congress.

"Once you have printed and signed the letter, send it to ARRL Grassroots Letter program, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111," Henderson said. "Once received, these will be sorted and sent to the ARRL DC team for hand delivery on Capitol Hill."

"We have gotten off to a good start on H.R. 1301, but we have a long way to go," Henderson said. "We need every ARRL member to get involved with this important fight." (ARRL Letter)

New Nepal Earthquake Keeps Amateur Radio Relief Effort Going

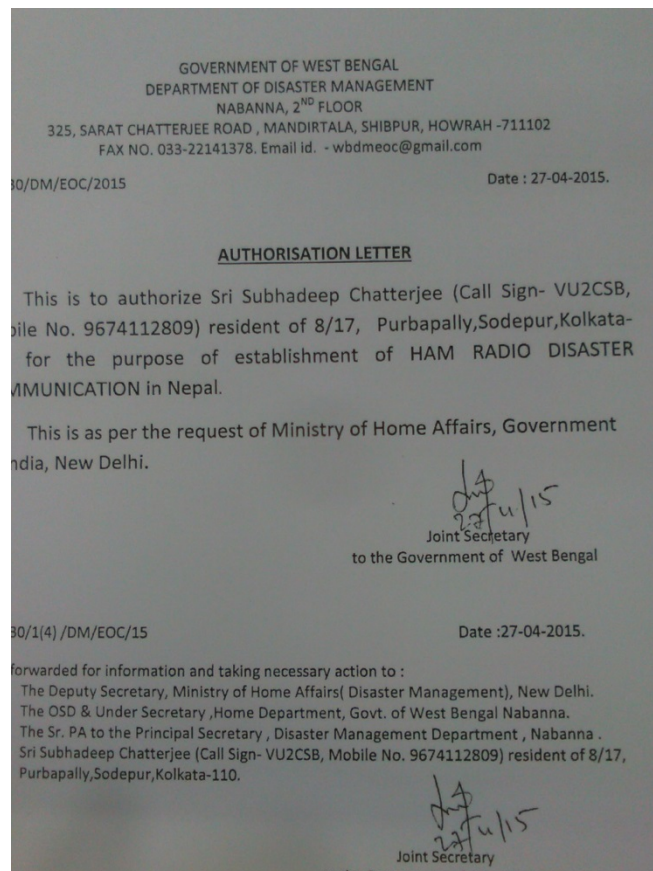
Amateur Radio relief activity in Nepal had begun to wind down before a magnitude 7.3 earthquake shook parts of the Himalayan nation on May 12, collapsing buildings and killing dozens in a region that's still trying to recover from the much stronger earthquake on April 25.

JH2ZYY	21054.3	JD1YAA	04:28 26 Apr		Minami Torishima
VE2IR	18100.0	UP120R	04:28 26 Apr	CQ PSK63 NOT BUSY TKS QSO	Kazakhstan
WA9RAY-@	14215.0	9N1EMERGENCY	04:28 26 Apr	Volunteer EMERGENCY net NEPAL	Nepal
KG5FQT	18135.0	EU7A	04:27 26 Apr		Belarus
E21EJC-@	28057.0	JE1BMJ	04:27 26 Apr	cq test	Japan

(Screen capture from DXSummit.fi announcing emergency communications taking place. Via WA3PZO)

The latest quake revived the ham radio effort. Centered some 50 miles east-northeast of the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu and near the border with Tibet, the temblor was felt in India and Bangladesh. The US Geological Survey considers the May 12 tremor as an aftershock of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake on April 25.

"Immediately after the first tremor, I turned on my station and gave a call on 14.210 MHz," said Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) National Disaster Communication Coordinator Jayu Bhide, VU2JAU. He subsequently made contact with Satish Kharel, 9N1AA, who reported that power as well as Internet and cell phone service were out, although text messaging was still possible. 9N1AA was operating from battery power at the time, but later got his power back. Other parts of Kathmandu are still without electricity, however.



(Foreign hams had to obtain permission to enter Nepal and had to be authorized by a government organization to travel to Nepal to assist with communications. Here Indian amateur radio operator VU2CSB is authorized to establish communications. via WA3PZO)

Bhide said he learned that some multi-story structures that had suffered cracks in the initial earthquake collapsed, killing several people. He said on May 14 that people were returning home from temporary shelters. He continues to receive

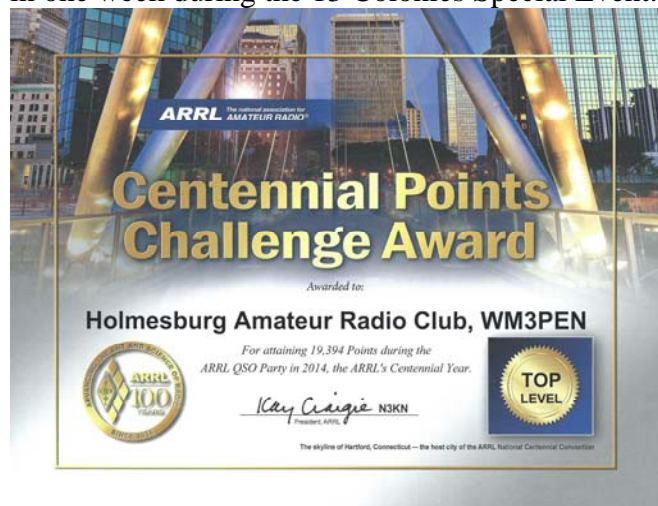
missing person inquiries from abroad. About 300 people are still missing in Langtang Valley.

Bhude said he would continue monitoring 14.210 MHz.

The Computer Association of Nepal-USA ([CAN-USA](#)) project "Radio Mala" reported that equipment it deployed in 2013 continues to function in the aftermath of the latest tremor. Radio Mala team member Rick Santina, W6IFA, said that Sanjeeb Panday, 9N1SP, had e-mailed the CAN-USA team that the HF station was still working. Panday has installed the antenna for the second CAN-USA UHF/VHF repeater, but the installation was not able to be completed before this week's aftershock. "We are still deploying ham radio equipment to Nepal in response to this humanitarian crisis," said CAN-USA Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman Suresh Ojha, W6KTM. (article via ARRL Letter)

ON THE AIR!

WM3PEN was on the air for the ARRL Centennial Challenge. During 2014 ARRL members and affiliated clubs gave out points for making a contact. The point value depended on level of participation in the ARRL Field Organization. All members were worth 1 point. ARRL President N3KN was worth 300 points. WM3PEN was worth 1 point as an affiliated club. The top level award (19,394 points) was achieved in one week during the 13 Colonies Special Event.



WM3PEN was on the air for the School Club Roundup in February 2014 and 2015. Certificates were recently emailed to the participants. In 2014 WM3PEN placed 3rd in the Club/Multi-op W/VE division. In February 2015, WM3PEN placed 6th. The next Roundup will occur October 19-23, 2015.

13 Colonies Special Event: June 30 - July 5

WM3PEN will again be on the air for this week long special event. Several radio clubs will be helping us keep WM3PEN on the air. Interest in helping contact WA3PZO.





Field Day: June 27 -28 This annual event at Avelthorpe Park in Jenkintown is part of a national operating event. The objective of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. More than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walkathons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities. But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has

been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

Stamps Being Collected for STFW

HARC’s participation the Stamps for the Wounded program continues to expand thanks to many donations from club members, friends, families, and other ham radio operators.

Stamps For The Wounded accepts donations of US and foreign stamps as well as stamp collecting supplies and tools. This program helps thousands of patients through clubs and occupational therapy programs in veterans’ hospitals and convalescent centers nationwide.”

Stamps for the Wounded accepts any U.S. or foreign stamps that are not torn or damaged. They have also requested each stamp should have at least a quarter-inch margin around the stamp. Do not try to either to peel or steam the stamp off the original envelope. The inspiration behind SFTW began with the request from a friend. It was spawned at a Staten Island, N.Y., veterans’ hospital effort as a therapeutic activity for the veterans.

Donations can be brought to any HARC meeting or contact Rich, AB3EO.

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.

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

May 21 – HF Contesting on the Autotrain



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2015 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 # _____ Are you be willing to receive the newsletter via email? ____

E-mail _____

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