



May 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>



## VOIP Ham Radio Programs

### HARC Meeting – May 18

#### Hamsphere, RCForbs, CQ100

Steve Miller, KC3AZT, will speak on three separate VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) programs. He will start with HamSphere 4.0 by describing the concept of this virtual realistic radio including a small demonstration on how to build up the radio with plug ins. The second program will most likely be RCForbs. This is a popular program that has been growing with worldwide interest from Hams. Finally Steve will cover CQ100 which has been around for at least some 20 years now. A Q&A session will follow.

#### Field Day Location Change

Field Day is June 24 and 25. Unfortunately Avelthorpe Park is not available this year. Thanks to the efforts of Greg, WA3GM, we will be operating from Koehler Park, Horsham Rd, Horsham, PA. The area has a pavilion, grill, and restrooms.



More details to follow.

#### HARC ELECTIONS

The following positions are up for election. President, Vice President, Secretary, and 2 member at large positions. The Treasurer and Technical Chairman remain in their position.

In recent years fewer members have stepped forward to help with Club administration. This has lead to much of the work being done by a few individuals. Here's your chance to help lead the Club.

Some of the committees that have ongoing work include newsletter, membership, technical, website, programs, classes, ve testing, special events, and public service. If you are interested in serving or leading one of these committees contact WA3PZO.

Nominations will be accepted up to the beginning of the May meeting. Elections will take place once nominations are closed.

**GET !  
INVOLVED!**

## HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

Secretary - Saul Brody, W3WHK

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY  
Mike Wurgley, N3LXN

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](mailto: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](http://www.HARCNET.org)  
**Upcoming Events**  
**HARC Meeting – May 18**  
**History Day – June 4**  
**HARC Meeting – June 22**  
**Field Day – June 24-25**  
**13 Colonies – July 1-6**

## 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

Phil-Mont 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.

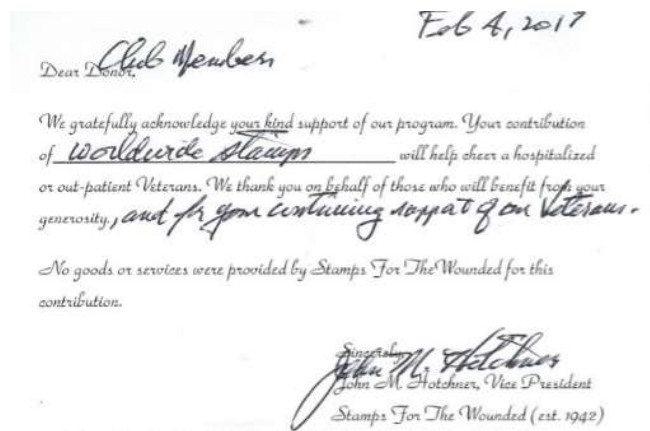
Mid-Atlantic ARC provides VE Test Sessions quarterly on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 0900 and hosted by the Lower Providence Township Building. The VE Test Sessions are coordinated by Dick Stewart [K3ITH](mailto:K3ITH).

## 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](http://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.

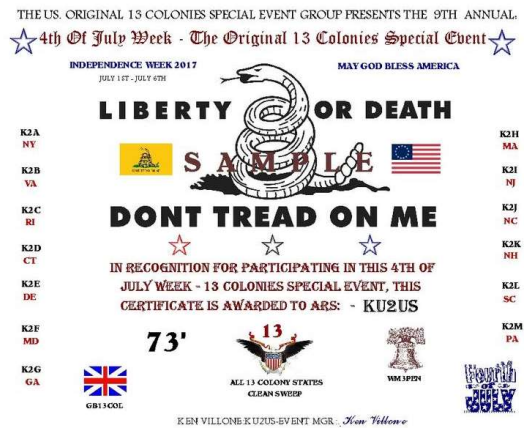


### HARC Dues Due

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](mailto:WM3PEN@ARRL.NET).

### Area Hamfests

#### **EPA Section Convention – Warminster Hamfest**

Thanks to WA3PZO, N3LXN, N3UBY, K3CJ, and KU3H for staffing the HARC table at the Hamfest.



(photo via k3dn.org)

#### **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](mailto: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.

#### **Krewstown Road Festival Sunday – June 4**

A Celebration of History and Nature: Pennypack Creek and the Evolution of Northeast Philadelphia 8 AM to 6 PM

HARC will have a table at the festival. We're planning on having a HF station on the air and we'll issue an award to anyone who sends their first name in Morse code.

We need members to staff the table. This will be a great way of introducing ham radio and the club to the general public.

Saul, W3WHK, is coordinating the event. Krewstown Road will be closed for the event. You either need to get to the parking lot before 10 am or walk in. You would not be able to move your car until after 4 pm.

**Amateur  
Radio  
A  
Contact Sport**

#### **FCC Personal Radio Service Revisions Will Affect GMRS, FRS, CB, Other Part 95 Devices**

*ARRL Letter - 04/28/2017*

In a lengthy *Report and Order (R&O)* in a proceeding (WT Docket No. 10-119) dating back 7 years, the FCC has announced rule changes affecting the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), the Family Radio Service (FRS), the Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS or "CB"), as well as other applications that fall under the FCC's Part 95 Personal Radio Services (PRS) rules and regulations. Part 95 devices typically are low-power units that communicate over shared spectrum and, with some exceptions, do not

require an individual user license from the FCC. As the *R&O* explains, common examples of PRS devices include “walkie-talkies;” radio-control cars, boats, and planes; hearing assistance devices; CB radios; medical implant devices; and Personal Locator Beacons.

“This draft *Report and Order* completes a thorough review of the PRS rules in order to modernize them, remove outdated requirements, and reorganize them to make it easier to find information,” the FCC said in a summary attached to the *R&O*. “As a result of this effort, the rules will become consistent, clear, and concise.”

GMRS and FRS devices are used for personal communication over several miles; compact FRS handhelds, often sold in pairs, are widely available. While GMRS and FRS share spectrum, GMRS provides for greater communications range and requires an FCC license; FRS does not.

“The rules will increase the number of communications channels for both GMRS and FRS, expand digital capabilities to GMRS (currently allowed for FRS), and increase the power/range for certain FRS channels to meet consumer demands for longer range communications (while maintaining higher power capabilities for licensed GMRS),” the FCC explained.

The amended rules eventually will eliminate combination FRS/GMRS radios for the most part, but allow up to 2 W PEP output for FRS transceivers. “[M]any current users of GMRS/FRS combination radios do not obtain licenses to operate over the GMRS frequencies in those radios,” the FCC said. “Much of this problem likely arises as a result of the mass consumer marketing of combination devices for sale to the public in large quantities to users who do not know about or do not understand the licensing requirements attached to such radios and obligations associated with operating in the GMRS.”

The FCC said it no longer will certify FRS devices that incorporate GMRS capabilities or capabilities of other services. Existing GMRS/FRS combination radios that operate at power levels of less than 2 W ERP will be reclassified as FRS devices; existing GMRS/FRS radios that operate above that power level will be

reclassified as GMRS devices, requiring an individual license. Radios that can transmit on GMRS repeater input channels will continue to be licensed individually and not by rule.

“We believe the 2 W limit for FRS is appropriate, because many of the existing combination GMRS/FRS radios already operate under that level with no significant complaints about interference or other problems, and it provides a reasonable balance between the desire for increased range over the prior FRS power levels and battery life,” the FCC said.

The FCC said changes to the decades-old Citizens Band (CB) rules will remove outdated requirements, including certain labeling requirements. DXing on Citizens Band will become legal too. Once the new rules are effective, CBers will be allowed to contact stations outside of the FCC-imposed — but widely disregarded — 155.3-mile distance limit. The revised CB rules further clarify how hands-free devices can be used with CB radios and will allow the use of wireless microphones with CB radios. “We find the record persuasive regarding the consumer demand for this feature, and it will promote safety on the highways by reducing driver distraction for those using CB [radios],” the FCC said. The FCC left in place the current power limits for the CB Radio Service.

The rule changes will phase out the use of voice-scrambling or “obscuring” features in all Part 95 devices, and it will ultimately prohibit manufacture, importation, or sale of any devices incorporating such features, “regardless of whether the Commission has previously certified that radio.”

Overall, the FCC said, its action “achieves a thorough review of Part 95 rules and creates a new rule structure where common administrative rules are consolidated to reduce duplication, and individual subparts are structured with a common numbering scheme.” The FCC said the changes remove “outdated and unnecessary rules, while clarifying others.”

Most of the new Part 95 rules will become effective 30 days after their publication in *The Federal Register*.

## **HARC minutes, Board meeting 13 April 2017**

WA3PZO called the meeting to order at 1930. Attending: WA3PZO, N3LXN, N3UBY, , K3CJ, W3WHK; By telephone: KC3ILD, WA3GM

**Treasurer's report was given.**

### **Evan KC3ILD's report from UPenn:**

The club now has officers, needs to recruit undergrads in order to get University funding next year. 10-20 guys are interested.

Evan will apply for VE, waiting for autumn to run session. They need official University recognition to erect antennas. Has \$3000.

In the autumn, he'll look into access to our repeater, and plans to have Penn member assist with repeater chores.

### **Operating activities:**

-Field Day June 24-25; KC3JV's generator will be used as spare

-13 Colonies: participating will be Pottstown, Phil-Mont, PDRA(Fusion, D-Star, All-Star), WA3PZO will do VHF/UHF Simplex; eQSL total 2219 for last year.

### **Krewstown Road Street Festival, June 4:**

W3WHK reports that we are invited to participate. He will transmit our questions and concerns to the coordinator(Fred Moore), and we will ask for volunteers at next week's general meeting.

### **Upcoming meetings:**

April—N3RW from the National Radio Astronomy Laboratory in Green Bank, WV will speak; some astronomers may attend. Officer nominations will be solicited.

May—KC3AZT on computer-generated QSOs/election of officers: we will discuss whether President and Treasurer should be separated.

June—Field Day prep/13 Colonies briefing

July—?

Aug. 27 —picnic or luncheon? Still undecided, though leaning towards luncheon

### **Warminster Hamfest/EPA section meeting, May 7**

-we have tables #26-27 inside of South Hall; no electricity. One table will display 13C/awards/membership info, the other table will be for sales(club takes 10%).

The meeting broke up at about 2030. The next board meeting is planned for the first Thursday in September unless needed sooner. Thanks to N3UBY for his hospitality.

SUBMITTED BY:

Saul Broudy W3WHK  
Club Secretary

## **NERD WAGON AT INDEPENDENCE HALL**

If you are interested in reading more about how WM3PEN was on the air from Independence Hall last year take a look at the article written by Pete Kobak, K0BAK. From Pete -

The Nerd Wagon is in the June QST magazine. A lot was cut from my original submission, so let me recognize again those who operated from the Wagon and otherwise helped:

Walt KB3SBC, from Independence and Poe  
Rob W2HYW, setup at the first Independence deployment

Ed WA3WSJ, from Edgar Allan Poe  
Emily KB3VVE, from Ben Franklin Memorial  
Keith KC3FVN, from Franklin

Joe N2CX, from Franklin (but using his loop)  
Larry K5RK, who named it when I posted testing pictures to this group

You can find a copy of the article at:

<http://k0bak.com/portable/QST%20article%20June%202017.pdf>

## The CW axe Frequency TV show

Hollywood Reporter says The CW has axed the amateur radio based TV show **Frequency** starring Peyton List as radio ham Raimy Sullivan

Frequency was a combination of two of the season's most popular trends: time travel and movie reboots and averaged 1.5 million viewers.

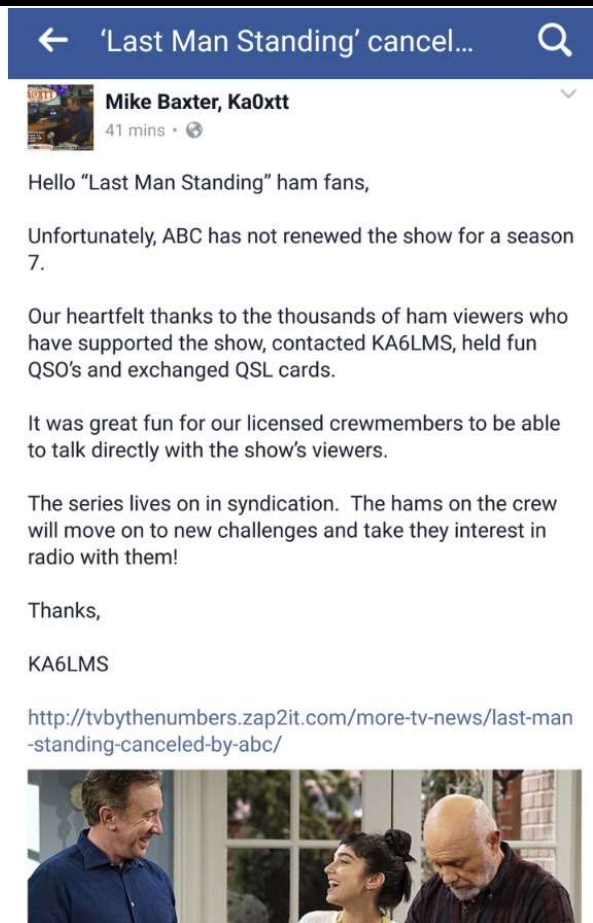
In the show a ham radio enthusiast discovers she can use her radio to communicate with her estranged father, Frank Sullivan, played by Riley Smith. The twist, of course, is that her father - also a detective - died in 1996, and their communication somehow spans the gulf of time.



Peyton List as Raimy Sullivan - credit Bettina Strauss/The CW

### 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](http://www.harcnet.org) and via the HARC Spark.



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

The idea came from K3LU, the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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"

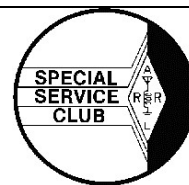
**May 18 Club meeting**

VOIP Ham Radio Programs



**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) \_\_\_\_\_