

June 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>



Field Day/13 Colonies Prep

June 18, 2015

June 18 HARC Meeting

HARC's busiest time of the year is upon us. First Field Day at Avelthorpe Park is June 27 and 28. Just 2 days later on June 30, the 13 Colonies Special Event starts up running until July 5. We'll discuss both events. There are opportunities to operate on all bands.

Elections of Officers

New officers were elected at the May meeting. Thanks to Mike, N3LXN, for years of service as president.

President/Treasurer – Bob, WA3PZO
Vice President – Greg, WA3GM
Secretary – Saul, W3WHK
Member-at-large – Mike, N3LXN
Sol, N3UBY
Technical – Ron, K3RJC

The HARC 2015-16 Membership year began May 1. Dues are just \$20. Your support helps fund club activities, repeater expenses, and insurance. Use the membership form on pg. 10.

HARC FIELD DAY

June 28 - 29

Alverthorpe Park off of Jenkintown Rd.



Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

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. (cont. pg 3)

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, 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.

PHILA ARES INFORMATION

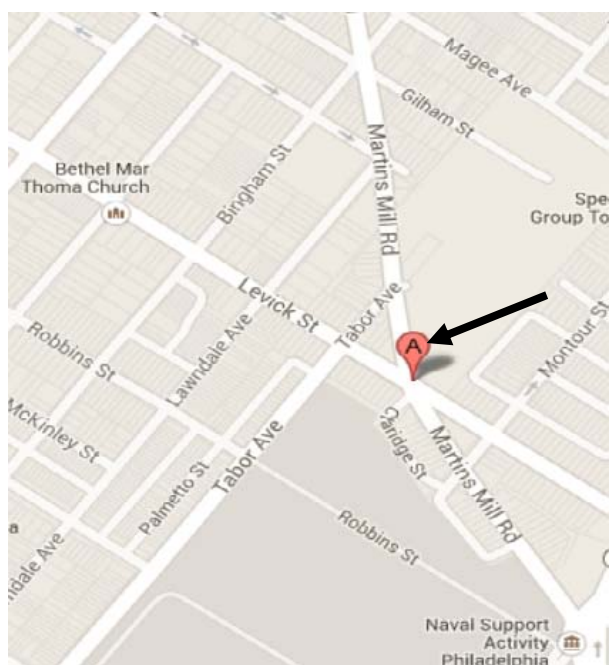
All amateurs interested in participating should check into the Phila ARES Net, Sunday's at 9:00 PM, hosted on the Phil-Mont Repeater System; 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL) ;444.80 MHz (+offset 186.2 PL) When control operators are available, Echolink node 29742, WU3I-L, is on the repeater. Backup link 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>



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.



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)

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website

www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events

13 Colonies/Field Day - June 18

13 Colonies QSL Party - July 16

HARC Picnic - August 30

Continued from pg 1. (Field Day)

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 walk-a-thons; 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. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

The theme for the 2015 event is Founders and Patriots of the Republic. Each of the original 13 colonies will be represented by a special event amateur radio station, K2A-K2M. The Philadelphia group, using the call WM3PEN, will offer a special QSL card featuring John Trunbull’s “Declaration of Independence.” Also this year GB13COL will be on from Durham, England. Banner. In all you can collect 15 QSL cards during the 6 day event and earn a nice certificate.

There will be several new aspects to this year’s event. QRP or low power stations will be operating from each of the 13 Colonies. Thanks to members of the Philadelphia Digital Radio Association, WM3PEN will be on D-STAR. They will be on the air from 7PM – 11PM EDT. In the Philadelphia area they will be on the K3PDR repeater. Those out of the area can connect to REF 063 B. Both operators must use a radio for the contact to be valid for the event. The Packrats are busy with the VHF contest at newsletter deadline but they plan on being on 6 meters and above.

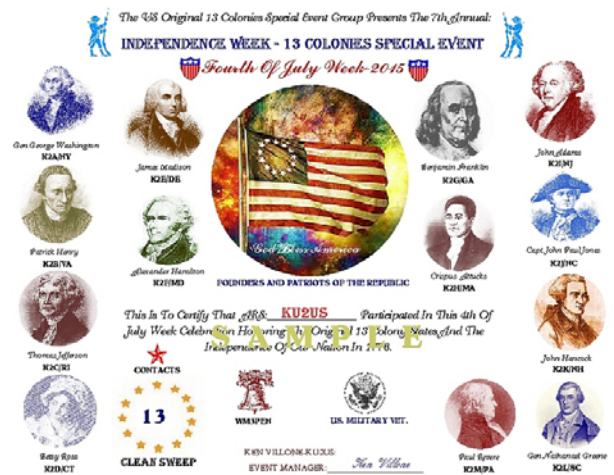
For more information on the event checkout the website, www.13colonies.info.



Philadelphia area Ham Radio operators celebrate July 4th holiday with 13 Colonies Special Event

Amateur radio stations operating from the 13 original U.S. colonies will be joined by members of several Philadelphia area amateur radio clubs to celebrate Independence Day from the city where independence was declared, Philadelphia, PA.

The six day event, June 30 – July 5, allows amateur radio operators around the world to learn about the original 13 colonies and the city where Independence began. This will be the fifth year members of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (HARC) will be participating. Also participating will be members of the Philmont Mobile, Drexel University, and University of Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Clubs, and the Philadelphia Digital Radio Association. Joining us for the first time will be members of the Mt. Airy VHF “Packrats” Radio Club.



**Governor Wolf Proclaims
Amateur Radio Week June 21 - 28**

THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

It is my pleasure to join with amateur radio operators across the commonwealth to support the week of June 21 through June 28 as Amateur Radio Week.

Amateur Radio Operators, or Hams, volunteer their time and energy to provide the commonwealth with vital supplemental communications in times of natural disaster, local emergencies, and public events. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania thrives when its citizens are willing to contribute their knowledge and skills to help their communities and the causes that are important to them. Hams exemplify the rich tradition of Pennsylvania as a commonwealth that believes in support and cooperation among its residents. I commend the men and women who work tirelessly to keep our citizens engaged and informed. I am honored to recognize the integral role that our amateur radio operators have during times that require the dissemination of up-to-date and accurate information.

As Governor, and on behalf of all citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am delighted to support June 21-28, 2015 as Amateur Radio Week. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor
June 21-28, 2015

**“Can’t Do It Without Antennas.”
H.R. 1301 Lets Get It Done!”**

Fellow EPA ARRL Members,

ARRL president Kay Craigie, a one-time resident of our section in Paoli, Pennsylvania asks us for our continued help with lobbying for H.R. 1301 the Amateur Radio Parity Act (vital antenna zoning relief for CCRs) which needs more Congressional cosponsors — and, as she notes, a Congressman will act only at the behest of his constituents.

In other words, we need to send letters, actual written letters using pen and ink — or a typewrite or computer printer — on paper! Kay is a wonderful writer so I’ve decided to copy her entire letter to us below. She gives us a URL to the ARRL’s “sample letter” and a physical address at HQ to send it where it can be (1) counted so they know the support we have and (2) hand-delivered to your Congressman’s office in Washington.

Will you do this? Will you do this today? Will you act now to ensure ham radio exists in the first years of the 22nd century? Without antennas, radios are nothing more than door stops.

Very best regards,

Joe Ames
SM/EPA

**A MESSAGE FROM ARRL PRESIDENT
KAY CRAIGIE N3KN ON H.R. 1301**

At the time I’m writing this, H.R. 1301 has 64 co-sponsors, with a few more expected by the end of the week. That’s excellent, but we need more. A lot more.

Some of you have done e-mail bulletins encouraging members to meet with and write to their members of Congress. Thank you! Please repeat the message periodically. Although we don’t want to spam members and irritate them, keeping the issue fresh in their minds is necessary. The ARRL’s national media do stories about the bill, but the message needs reinforcement from someone whom members know personally. They know you.

Please mention the bill when you speak at conventions and club meetings, too. Do you carry information about the bill when you visit these events?

We have been told quite bluntly by some Congressional offices that they want letters from constituents, that they will be interested in what the ARRL has to say only if they know that voters care about this issue. Why should the Congressman care, they ask, if the voters don’t? There are tens of thousands of ARRL members who have not written yet. You can do a lot to persuade them to write, because they know you.

The ideal way for members to contact their Congressmen is to write personalized, signed paper letters based on the sample letter on the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org/hr-1301 and send them c/o ARRL. The address is

ARRL
Attn HR 1301 grassroots campaign
225 Main St
Newington CT 06111

Why is this the best way? For one thing, we are able to keep track of how many communications are going to which Congressional districts. More importantly, when letters are hand-delivered to the Hill, there’s an opportunity to speak with Congressional office staff people. The stack of letters is proof that voters care about the bill. We have to convince the staff people, so they’ll advise the Representative to co-sponsor. That’s how it works on Capitol Hill.

One more thing. When you see that a member of Congress in your Section has become a co-sponsor, urge your members to call or e-mail a message of appreciation. Good manners, good strategy.

The list of co-sponsors is updated regularly at www.arrl.org/hr-1301 This is the URL that gives members the information they need in order to be effective advocates.

We are working on having a companion bill introduced in the Senate, but there is nothing to report on that yet. Members often ask about this.

Until we have a bill in the Senate, we do not need letters to members of that body.

I have a Twitter feed, @KayCraigieN3KN, which I use only for advocacy about this legislation with the hashtag #hr1301. I'm not doing this as an ego trip to develop a personal fan club but rather to get information, encouragement, and reminders out there rapidly. When there is an amateur radio news story that I can reasonably tie to the issue of antenna privileges, I tweet about it and use the phrase "Can't do it without antennas."

Please keep your Director well informed about your activities on behalf of the bill. This is a full-team effort.

Thanks for all you do.

73, Kay N3KN

President, ARRL



**Amateur Radio Newsline
Co-Founder, Editor Bill Pasternak,
WA6ITF (SK)**

A well-known voice in the Amateur Radio news media has gone silent. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, of Santa Clarita, California, died June 11 following a period of ill health. He was 73. Pasternak was co-founder (with Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP) of Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) (formerly The Westlink Report) ham radio news webcast and a frequent presence at Amateur Radio conventions. Pasternak served as Newsline's managing editor and occasional newscaster for the program. Even while hospitalized earlier this year, he kept his ear to the ground for news from the Amateur Radio community, so he could pass it along to those who had taken over Newsline during his illness - discovered after he broke two ribs in a fall. ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, got acquainted with Pasternak at the Albuquerque hamfest and in 1997 was named Newsline's "Young Ham of the Year" (YHOTY).

"An incredible man, ham, and one of Amateur Radio's too-few giants, who woke up every day to make the hobby better for everyone, especially its legacy - youth," Milesosky said. "I've enjoyed the energy he put into keeping hams informed via Newsline, and have been honored to give back to his Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award program, since being asked by him to sit on its judging panel well over a decade ago."

ARRL Public Relations Committee Chair Katie Allen, WY7YL, said Pasternak would be missed by those within and outside the Amateur Radio community. "He truly was one of the good ones," she remarked on Pasternak's Facebook page. "Thank you for sharing your light with us, Bill."

A Brooklyn, New York, native, Pasternak became a radio amateur in 1959 as WA2HVK and once was very active on 6 meters. "I love the hands-on approach to ham radio and built my very first transmitter using parts salvaged from an old Dumont television set," Pasternak recounted in an online biography. "It was a modification of a design by Bill Orr, W6SAI, published in his famous Novice and Technician Handbook. A crystal-controlled, low-power 6 meter AM transmitter that doubled in the final, was screen grid modulated, and put out almost no output power."

He eventually got into broadcasting and made his career in television engineering and production. He retired as a broadcast engineer with KTTV in Los Angeles in 2012 but continued as a broadcasting consultant.

Pasternak was the spark plug behind the all-volunteer Amateur Radio Newsline bulletin - which was relayed on repeaters around the US and elsewhere - as well as the creator and administrator of the annual YHOTY. He was the author of three books and served as a writer/producer on several educational films and videos, including the award-winning "Amateur Radio Today." In earlier years, he wrote the "Looking West" column for 73 Amateur Radio Today Magazine for 26 years and penned a "VHF, FM and Repeater" column for WorldRadio. He also contributed to broadcast trade publications as well as to CQ.

In addition to the ARRL, Pasternak belonged to the Radio Club of America and the Quarter Century Wireless Association. He also enjoyed flying, including stints getting on the air from thousands of feet up.

He was the only person ever chosen to receive the Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award (1981) and Radio Amateur of the Year Award (1989). In 1995, the League presented him with an ARRL National Certificate of Merit in recognition of his contributions to the "furtherance of the goals of the Amateur Radio Service."

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sharon, KD6EPW. (Story via ARRL Bulletin).

Stamps For the Wounded

HARC members will start collecting postage stamps for the Stamps For the Wounded program. *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.

So save the stamps from your qsl cards or other mail. They do not need the common Flag Forever stamp. Bring the stamps to a club meeting and give them to Rich, AB3EO, who will mail them.

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.

Kimberton Hamfest Saturday, July 11

The 2015 MARC Hamfest will be held on *Saturday* (note the change of day) July 11, 2015 at the Kimberton Fire Company grounds, Route 113 (742 Pike Springs Road) south of the intersection with Route 23 in Kimberton, PA. The 2015 MARC Hamfest announcement can be downloaded [here](#). The maps show that Kimberton is northwest of King of Prussia and just west of Phoenixville, PA. Talk-in is available on the MARC linked repeater systems with coverage to the north and west and near Kimberton provided by 145.13 MHz PL 131.8 repeater in Paoli PA and to the south and east by 147.06 MHz PL 131.8 repeater in Newtown Square PA.

Doors open for sellers at 0700 and for buyers at 0800. Admission is still only \$6 which it has been for decades and entitles you to a door prize ticket. Sellers have an outdoor tailgate space for \$6 (one car width, head-in parking) not including admission. An indoor table with electricity service is available for \$10 each for 1 to 4 tables or \$8 each for 5 or more tables not including admission. Reservations for indoor tables are required: kf3cd@arrl.net

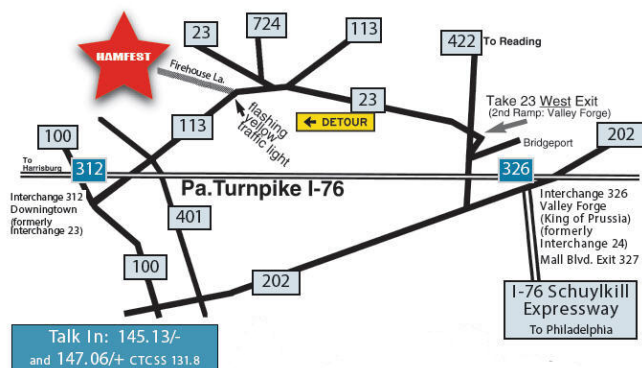
QSL card checking for the ARRL DXCC and WAS awards will be available while you wait, saving you the time and expense of mailing your valuable QSL cards to the ARRL. QSL bureau envelopes will also be available for purchase.

Food and beverage sales are provided by authorized vendors only. Unlicensed children and spouse with a licensed Ham admission are free.

MARC sponsors at VE Test Session at the Hamfest at 1000, arrive by 0945 in the Pavilion. See MARC [ARRL VE Test Session](#) for additional information.

This is a great day in the country! Come to the MARC Hamfest in the morning and spend a leisurely afternoon in nearby [Valley Forge National Historic Park](#).

Detour for 2015! Route 23 will be closed west of Valley Forge Park for bridge construction! On Route 23 and after Valley Forge Park turn left onto Valley Park Road which is opposite the Valley Forge Post Office. Bear right onto Clothier Springs Road, turn right onto South Whitehorse Road, cross the bridge and turn left onto East Pothouse Road to Route 113. Turn left onto Route 113 South for approximately 1.5 miles to the Kimberton Fire Company grounds for the Hamfest on the right.



Mid Atlantic States VHF Conference

The Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference will be held on the weekend of October 2-4, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Bensalem / Philadelphia 3327 Street Road, Bensalem, PA.

Registration now open on-line and by mail. Go to the Packrat Website PACKRATVHF.COM and click on the VHF Conference link for all information. Make hotel reservations at 215-639-9100 for Special VHF Conference rate \$79+tax/nite til Sept 4, OR USE: http://dataandwireless.com/packrat/2015_vhf_registration.php

Early Bird Conference registration \$40 (til Sept 20)

Early Bird Banquet \$40 (til Sept 20)

Fri eve: Hospitality and table-top indoor selling

Saturday: Conference 8a-5p registration includes pizza lunch and snacks and proceedings disc

Saturday: 10a-4p Technical test bench with Greg Bonaguide of Rohde & Schwarz

Saturday eve: Banquet, speaker, door-prizes*

Sunday AM: limited outdoor flea-market free to all.

*You must be registered and paid for conference and banquet to be eligible for door prizes

ADDITIONAL PAPERS STILL SOLICITED FOR PROCEEDINGS

Contact Rick, K1DS at 215-284-5517 or rick1ds@hotmail.com

Tentative Speakers and topics:

Joe Taylor K1JT New VHF & Up Features of WSJT-X

Roger Rehr W3SZ Open HPSDR for VHF/UHF/uW Operating
 Phil Theis K3TUF Radio Server for VHF/UHF/uW Contesting
 Chris Wilson N0CSW Yaesu Fusion System Innovations
 Rob Renaud K3RWR SDR and Noise Reduction
 John Jaminet W3HMS Roving in the Pennsylvania Boondocks
 Mario Filippi N2HUN uWave Satellites
 Al Katz K2UYH Devilish Doppler
 Joe Horanzy AA3JH Talking to the Astronauts
 Michael Davis KB1JEY Painful Tower Lessons
 Al Waller K3TKJ Six Meter Magnificence
 George Heron N2APB Scalar Network Analyzer
 Gary Hitchner WA2OMY New Packrat Beacons (Can You Hear Me Now?)
 Steve Simons W1SMS RF Safety for Radio Amateurs

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.

HARC Minutes 21 May 2015:

1. Meeting called to order shortly after 2000 by VP WA3GM.
2. Election
 The only new candidate is for Secretary: W3WHK was nominated by N3LXN and seconded by N3ZZK. N3ZZK was the "election judge" who counted the ballots, and W3WHK was elected.
3. Short Field Day discussion by WA3GM.
4. There was no repeater report.
5. N3LXN: Raffle tickets are being sold up until the day of the picnic, where the drawing will be held.
6. Greg WA3GM gave an excellent talk on remote operation of home stations, and demonstrated same by making a QSO using his laptop.
7. W3WHK made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ira Clavner. The meeting was adjourned at 2147.

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

June 18 Meeting – Field Day/13 Colonies

	<p>HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM HARC, 3341 Sheffield Ave, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136 http://www.harcnet.org WM3PEN/K3FI</p>	
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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) _____