



THE HARC SPARK

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
501(C)(3) Charitable Organization
WM3PEN 146.685 MHz Repeater
K3RJC 444.9 MHz Repeater
K3FI – Club Calls – WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.WM3PEN.org>
WM3PEN@aol.com



Editor: K3UJ

June
2025

Prez Sez!

Many of us enjoyed the Warminster Hamfest in early May. It's always a nice social occasion, it enabled us to do a little shopping among the various vendors, and we even sold quite a bit of donated gear at our sales tables!

I'm especially looking forward to the various special events in 2025 in which our club will participate. July 1-7 will be the 13 Colonies operating event, and many of our members will help represent Philadelphia, using WM3PEN from our home stations. Of course, WA3PZO is the coordinator for WM3PEN's part in the event, and has turned into a publicist extraordinaire! If you're not signed up to operate (any mode, any amount of time commitment), you might want to contact him. Bob will tell you all you need to know at our June 18 meeting.

Other projects are in the offing. The annual PA QSO Party takes place in October (11 - 12)...great fun trying to work as many counties as you can. The USA is celebrating its 250th birthday in 2026, but, in anticipation of this, plans are afoot for local hams to celebrate the founding of the Navy (October 10 - 13) and Marine Corps (November 8 - 11) right here in Philadelphia in 1775.

So stay tuned, both literally and figuratively!

Saul W3WHK

HARC 2025 Election results

W3WHK President & Acting Secretary
K3UJ Vice President
WA3PZO Treasurer
At-large Board members
K8PT(one year left of 2-year term),
N3ZZK(new, 2-year term)

13 Colonies Special Event July 1 – 7 Recognizes Ken Villone, KU2US, Event Founder

In just a few weeks, one of the most popular summer operating events kicks off – The 13 Colonies Special Event. Now in its 17 year the event has grown from Special Event Stations making approximately 12,000 contacts to last year making 292, 496 contacts around the world. The Event runs from July 1 9:00 AM -July 7 Midnight Eastern (July 1 – 1300 UTC – July 8 – 0400 UTC).

This year Event organizers are recognizing the 13 Colonies Special Event founder Ken Villone, KU2US, who is passing the torch on to Tony Jones, N4ATJ. For the past 16 years Villone has lead the Event by working with state and bonus station coordinators. Then after the event he would print out individual certificates for thousands of people who made contact with the special event stations.

The Special Event consist of one station operating in each of the 13 Colonies (K2A – K2M) and three bonus stations (WM3PEN – Philadelphia, GB13COL – England,

TM13COL – France) each representing their city, state, or countries role in America's Colonial period.

Villone describes how the event got started:

"I had just finished participating in the ARRL Sweepstakes in 2008, and remarked how fun it was. I could not figure out why there were not more of these type special events on the air? So I decided to try my luck and create one for one year only to see what happens and to have some fun. I knew we had to offer a special QSL card and/or certificate plus have on hand a printer and supplies. The hard part was deciding what the event would commemorate and when to do this. I needed a theme that ALL could relate to! Also the event would have to be the type with multiple event stations involved, like the ARRL Sweeps.

Then it hit me! 13 Colonies states, during the 4th of July week and offer a certificate with the theme for the year, I made sure the theme was different each year with a different certificate design, to make it interesting and to also make the cert collectable. The theme would highlight some event or thing connected to the American Revolution. The event was held July 1st to the 4th, 2009, 4 days with no advertising except on QRZ. I had a hard time getting 13 different Ops, one from each Colony state but it worked out. All in all it was a success! We did over 12,000 contacts the first year. I decided we have a good thing going so I recruited another Op from each state and ran the event the next year in 2010. We did over 32,000 contacts in 2010, and had 26 state operators total. There was a 13 Colonies special event in 1962 but only lasted one year, according to my research. (I was 13 years old)."

Ham Radio operators and SWLs can participate in the event. Complete information about the call for each colony station and the bonus stations can be found on the event website 13colonies.us and they can follow us on Facebook – 13 Colonies Special Event Community. Stations need only make one contact with one of the participating stations or they can go for a Clean Sweep and work all 13 Colony stations and the 3 bonus stations. Each station offers a special QSL card for the event as well as a different certificate each year. Operators can keep an eye out for the special event stations can keep an eye out for them by watching many of the dx spotting networks such as DXSummit.fi.

WA3PZO Helps Celebrates 45th Anniversary of 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY

Turn back the clock to the winter of 1980. Excitement was building in the sporting world as Lake Placid was getting ready to host the Winter Olympics. This would

be the second time Lake Placid would host the Winter Games. The first was in 1932. Before any Olympic Games there is the lighting of the Olympic Flame in Greece and the lighting of the caldron in the host city. Getting the flame between Greece and Lake Placid became the job of 52 torchbearers and 13 ham radio operators. There was a torchbearer from each of the 50 states, Washington, DC, and the Lake Placid area. The 13 ham radio operators were from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut.

The 10 day - 1000 mile route from Langley AFB in Virginia to Lake Placid required skill, coordination of vehicles, and keeping runners connected as they were spread out over 100 miles participating in various events in towns that the Olympic Flame would pass through. Keeping it all together were the ham radio operators, including Bob, WA3PZO. Everyone's day started at about 4:30 AM and ended around midnight. While handling communication responsibilities Bob pulled out his 35mm camera and took pictures looking out into the crowds that were cheering the group on. In addition, Bob picked up newspaper articles and souvenirs from the run. For his participation in the Torch Run, Bob received an Olympic Participation medal.

In November 2024 the Lake Placid Olympic Museum participated in Giving Tuesday. Bob made a donation and in his comment mentioned that he was a member of the Torch Relay Team. This started an email discussion with the Museum Director and the Collections Manager. As things progressed Bob ended up digitizing about 300 35 mm slides and close to 100 newspaper and magazine articles about the Torch Run. It turned out that the Museum did not have any of the artifacts that Bob donated. The Museum invited Bob to Lake Placid to review everything that I had scanned. In addition, Bob brought additional items that he collected including press releases, routing books, communication plans, and local town program booklets. All info the Museum did not have. Bob's collection was clearly a major addition to the Museum's collection. In addition, Bob participated in a 45 minute interview about his experience on the Torch Run.

Bob's picture and a short story became part of the museum exhibit. Each week the Museum does a Touch-a-Torch program. Bob was invited to participate in a meet and greet with Museum guests and allowed about 30 people to hold the 1980 Olympic Torch. Amateur Radio is now part of the Torch Run history book.

It took Bob a few minutes to realize that some of the museum staff were not born in 1980 so that he was really a piece of history. Yikes! He has reconnected with some

of the hams involved as well as a few of the Torchbearers.

First is a poster shared on social media, then me speaking to a crowd in front of the museum archives, and finally my photo/story on display at the museum.



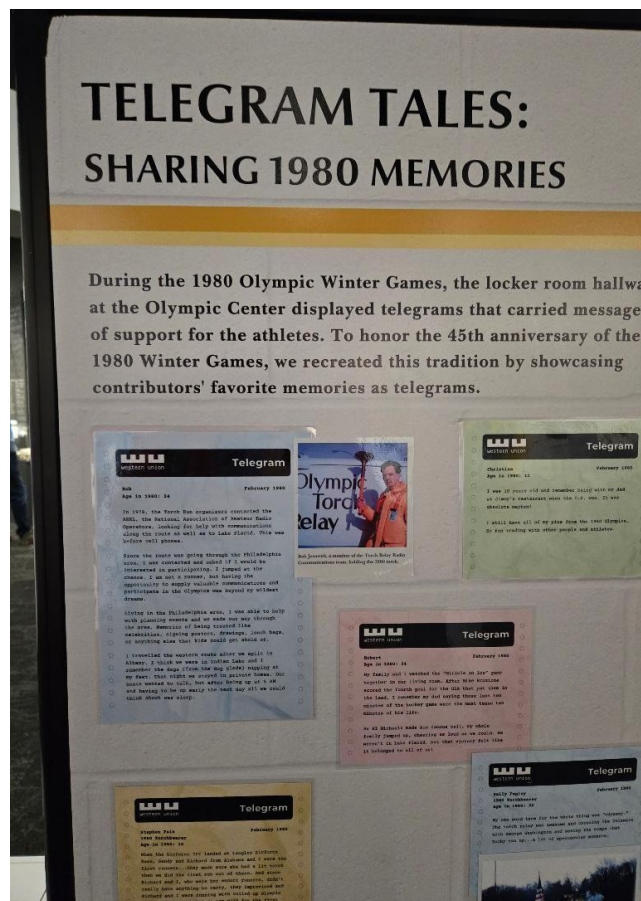
TOUCH-A-TORCH AND MEET & GREET

Bob Josuweit
1980 Torch Relay Radio
Communications Team



MAY 9, 2025
2:00 – 3:30 PM





POTA Report: A POTA Park 2 Park DX

Andrew Chen W3AWC

This POTA activation happened back in March of 2024, over a year ago! A part of the hobby that I particularly enjoy is QSL cards, and as I've only just started to digitize my collection recently, I finally have some interesting visuals to go along with this unique POTA QSO story.

March is a month of transition, it can have its cold days and warm days, this one was one of the former. But since my only opportunity to get on HF is to go portable, portable I went. I parked my car by the bird observation deck at Ft. Washington State Park and hiking in a short way to an empty spot in the group camping area. On this day I was trying out a new-to-me 18 ft. vertical whip with a short ground wire and 12 ft. counterpoise which, when oriented properly, makes the antenna somewhat directional. You can see this antenna set up on a campsite grill on my QRZ page. My radio was the Xigeu G90 which has a max power output of 20 watts.

I started on this vertical with the directionality induced by the counterpoise orientation aimed at Europe. I managed to make a few DX contacts including Lithuania, Russia, and Scotland on 12 meters. Most of the DX contacts I make in this way I assume are due to the DX station having extremely directional antennas which allow them to pull out my response to their calling CQ. Satisfied with these few DX contacts, I switched over to 20 meters and started calling CQ on a different antenna.

About an hour later, the cold had thoroughly penetrated my jacket and shoes and I was about ready to pack things up. Once last check of the POTA spotting page revealed a single station operating in Spain on 10 meters. I had little faith in making any contact but decided I would give it a try. I changed over to 10 meters and tuned to the frequency and could see no other stations on my waterfall, not a good sign. But then from out of the noise, at what I could only confidently give an S1, I could hear a station calling CQ. Since the station was calling CQ the moment the voice cut out I gave my callsign and “park to park”.

“Park-to-park station, come back?” So I had been heard! And gave my callsign again.

“Again again?” To be expected, I am only running 20 watts on a vertical.

“Very hard to hear you, again?” This went on for a while. It’s always disheartening when after trying to make contact for some time, and exchanging fragments you hear the other station say “sorry, no copy” and start calling CQ again but we pressed on, probably due in no small part to the fact that this was a park to park contact. Then finally I heard, “Ok, Whisky station, again?” Progress!

Then something that’s perhaps more difficult to surpass in poor conditions than a partial copy of a callsign... an incorrect copy, “Whisky Two Alpha Alpha Charlie?” Both prefix and suffix wrong, this would take some work.

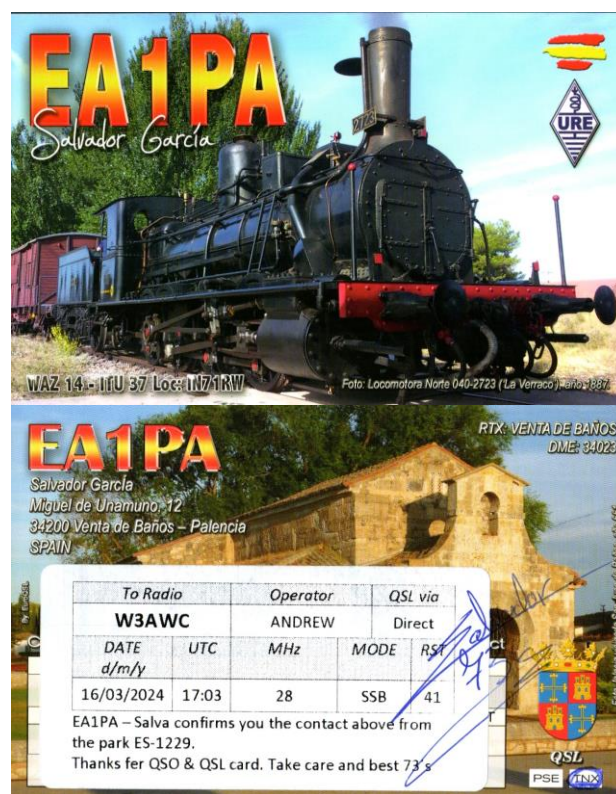
“Negative, Negative”, one part at a time, “Three, Three, Whisky Three.” Eventually he got the prefix. Just a matter of repeating “Alpha Whisky Charlie” ad nauseum until finally I heard a correct call back, “QSL QSL QSL!” Is the only message I wanted to communicate after hearing my callsign.

I could hear the excitement and relief coming over the other end, “Wow, Whisky Three Alpha Whisky Charlie park to park, you are three and one, three and one.” I gave my signal report a 41 but I’m not sure if he heard.

Given the effort and nature of this contact, I knew I had to send a QSL card. And though it is perhaps more effort than most would deem it worth, I usually include a small note with my QSL cards, why the contact was special if I was out for any particular event. I like to think it helps with response rate, but also I think it connects to why I enjoy radio and QSL cards, the great connections and interesting people you meet through the hobby.

A few weeks later, I receive the following QSL card from EA1PA, a spare special event card for my collection, a bookmark from a radio museum close to EA1PA’s QTH, and an additional little note from him which I think communicates his excitement for the contact as well.

I hope you enjoyed my short retelling of this special contact, and maybe I’ve inspired you to do some POTA, or even send some QSL cards!





SFTW

We are still collecting and sending packages of stamps in support of this very worthwhile program. Save what you can, especially those foreign QSL mailings, cut off the corner of the envelope, leaving at least a ¼" around, and bring them to the meeting or mail to:

Rich Shivers
9029 Eastview Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19152

WM3PEN QSL stats

The WM3PEN call is out there. A lot from the 13 Colony event, but club members have used the call in various contests over the years and we have racked up some impressive numbers and operation awards.

Electronic Confirmations continue to come in for WM3PEN

EQSL shows 38193 total

LOTW shows 58397 total
DXCC - 141 entities confirmed

WAS - Have worked all 50 states on SSB, CW, Digital
For 5 Band WAS WM3PEN needs Hawaii and Alaska on 80 meters and Vermont on 10 meters.
WPX - 1779 different prefixes
WAZ - 33 of 40 CQ Zones

Meetings

Club meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month 7:30 PM at the Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19111. We meet in the Learning Center, second floor of main building.

Stay Connected!

The HARC Club net meets every Thursday night at 8 PM on the Club repeater. Check in and see what's going on. Net control, Austin - KA3TTT.

Please note the day change. As club meetings are now on Wednesday, the net has been moved to Thursday's. Same time.

Committee Position

Are you interested in becoming more involved with the club, HARC is looking for an Audio Visual Chairmen. Their responsibilities would be; setting up the projector and computer equipment at meeting, monitoring the zoom presentation and audio feed. Breakdown after the meeting. Storage of the equipment between the meetings. All equipment will be supplied by the club. We will also provide instructions on how to do this.

If you are interested please contact Bob - WA3PZO or Saul - W3WHK

Pennsylvania ARES and Red Cross

Commonwealth Wide SET

By Robert Alan Griffiths, NE3I, ARRL EPA Public Information Coordinator.

On Saturday April 5th, Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) and Western Pennsylvania (WPA) Section ARES groups conducted a joint Simulated Emergency Test with their corresponding Red Cross regional organizations. The state-wide two-hour exercise utilized 40 VHF repeaters by running 30 separate nets and involved 461 Radio Amateur participants. The operational objective was to familiarize, and practice simulated Red Cross message traffic between Red Cross hierarchy and would be shelters, emergency services and governmental liaisons

utilizing, when possible, current Red Cross "FROST" system Shelter Reports and other forms. Of the 461 Radio Amateurs that checked into one or more of the nets, 160 were successful in forwarding Daily Shelter Reports to a Red Cross WinLink mailbox.

The Simulated Emergency Test was primarily organized by EPA and WPA Section Emergency Coordinators, Jay King, W2AFE and Kevin Lear, W3XOX with Red Cross Regional Coordinators, Cliff Hotchkiss, KC3PGT and Dave Herzog. During the April 15th online out briefing, ARES and Red Cross Leaders recognized that the event revealed areas for further improvement including, Net efficiency and familiarization with and uniformity of message forms to be utilized. However, the Exercise demonstrated the successful coordination and cooperation achieved to date by EPA and WPA ARES groups with their regional Red Cross Served Agencies. Pennsylvania Radio Amateurs interested in joining their local ARES group or in becoming a Red Cross communications volunteer can access further information via the sites listed below.

For the Red Cross:

Greater PA Dave Herzog Dave.herzog@redcross.org
Southeastern PA. Cliff Hotchkiss KC3PGH
Cliff.hotchkiss@redcross.org

For ARES

WPA Kevin Lear W3XOX w3xox@arrrl.net
EPA Jay King W2AFE w2afe@arrrl.net

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section
Section Manager: Robert G Wilson, W3BIG
w3big@arrrl.org

PHILA ARES INFORMATION

All amateurs interested in participating in ARES should check into the Phila ARES Net, Sunday's at 9:00 PM, local time, 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 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.

HARC member, Cliff – KC3PGT, is the Philadelphia Emergency Coordinator, Section 1, EPA Region.

We look forward to hearing everyone on Sunday nights @ 9:00 pm. See web site for more information.

- Visit the Philadelphia ARES web site

<http://www.phlares.org/>

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.WM3PEN.org)

Helping Hams

Would you like to assist your fellow club members? Do you have an expertise in any particular area and would like to make that available to other hams? If so, let me know and I will add you to our list here.

eMail Rich – K3UJ ab3eo@comcast.net

Kit building. - I will offer assistance, finish something started or do a complete build for you.

Rich – K3UJ ab3eo@comcast.net

Antenna installation

Carl – N3ZZK Carl9521@aol.com

Dave – KB3AKK kb3akk@hotmail.com

CW & Contest operation

Saul – W3WHK saubro@aol.com

Associations

SKCC – Straight Key Century Club #24642 under both WM3PEN and K3FI.

Ten-Ten International #71057

PODXS 070 Club #1493 (PSK activity)

ARRL Special Services Club

Your Contributions

Please tell us what you are doing. Have you received any awards, upgraded your license, done any activations, (SOTA, IOTA, etc.), built something special. Or if you would like to write an article. We would be happy to receive all material. Email Rich AB3EO@comcast.net

HARC Board of Directors

President - Saul Broudy, W3WHK
Vice President - Rich Shivers, K3UJ
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
Secretary - Saul Broudy, W3WHK (acting)
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 Carl Gerhart, N3ZZK
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC
 Chris Cardullo, KC2ISV
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor - Rich Shivers, K3UJ
Net Manager - Austin Seraphin, KA3TTT
Membership – Pete Treml, K8PT
WM3PEN Trustee - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
K3FI Trustee – Pete Treml, K8PT

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