



THE HARC SPARK



The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 6253

Philadelphia, PA 19136

146.685 Repeater

Packet BBS WA3RCA 145.030 Mhz

Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>

July 1998: THE PREZ SEZ...

Quoting from a popular musical, "There's trouble in River City.....Right Here!" As I mentioned in my letter the HARC repeater antenna was damaged by the severe weather on May 31. The Club treasury was depleted. So what is HARC going to do? What we are not going to do is close up shop! HARC will survive and things will get back on track.

We need your support. Not only financially, but also with the Club's many projects. Club members just completed teaching 2 Novice/Tech classes. We're already talking about the fall. If you have daytime availability, we can use more help with our program at Lincoln H.S. Are you interested in teaching, being an elmer, or just working with kids. There is a place for you. Over the summer we'll be looking at placing antennas at Lincoln.

Field Day is just days away. This is an event that every ham has to experience once (a year!) If you haven't operated HF, here's your chance.

RF Safety - K3DS gave an overview of being RF Safe. Now we're going to get into the details of the new FCC rules. Is your station compliant?

At the July meeting we'll take you through the rules and calculations, and give you a certificate for completing the class. In August we'll take a break from our regular club meetings and have our annual picnic. By September, we'll be in high gear again.

If you haven't checked out HARC's web page lately give it a try. Bob, KB3SM, has been hard at work on it. Finally remember that Philadelphia is a tourist city. If you hear an unfamiliar call on the repeater give the station a call. Make them feel welcome while in town.

Field Day - June 27-28th

The 1998 HARC Field Day will be held at Alverthorpe Park on Jenkintown Road in Abington. We're looking forward to seeing you there! We will be setting up everything at the June General meeting. So, stop by the HARC General meeting on June 23 and volunteer your services. Look forward to seeing everyone out at Field Day on June 27th. & 28th.

Directions...

Take Cottman Ave West past the Hospital formerly known as Rolling Hill (Allegheny Hospital, Elkins Park Campus). At the second light past the hospital (Jenkintown Rd.) make a right and follow to just past the second light. The Jenkintown Rd. Entrance to Avelthorpe Park will be on the right and the gate will be locked (we'll have the key). If you need talk-in, tune into the repeater on 146.685 and someone will be there to help guide you in!



THE-MAIL ADDRESSES

We are still trying to compile a list of all of the e-mail addresses for club members. We are going to try to set up a listserver for the newsletter so that we can e-mail the newsletter to everyone. Send your e-mail address to Dave (kb3akk@aol.com), Bob (bjosuweit@aol.com), or Larry (hunter2@bellatlantic.net). If you do not have an e-mail address but you do have a computer & modem, contact Larry N3VLC. He will set you up with a copy of Juno. Juno is only e-mail.

FOR SALE

Hustler G6 270R dual band vertical antenna. 6dB gain on VHF & UHF. Weight--5.3 lbs. Height--7'6" Brand new in box. Asking \$125.00 Contact Greg N3FSC at 215-742-7240 E-mail: N3FSC@aol.com

Conner Tape-Stor (New) 4GB IDE Minicartridge Tape Backup System/For IBM and Compatible PC's, Workstations and Servers. Asking \$139.00 Ph: (609)390-0552 (Jim)
E-mail: jkb2tlb@aol.com

For sale Dentron antenna tuner. Used very little. Mint condition. Call Jay WA3IFY 215 289 4531.

ATLANTIC DIVISION HAMFEST CALENDAR + indicates ARRL Hamfest

JUL 4 + Harrisburg RAC - Harrisburg, PA
JUL 5 + Murgas ARC - Dallas, PA
JUL 12 Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn - Brunswick, MD
JUL 12 + Mid-Atlantic ARC / Valley Forge - Kimberton, PA
JUL 26 + BRATS - Timonium, MD
AUG 23 + Gloucester Co. ARC - Mullica Hill, NJ
SEP 12 + Delaware-Lehigh ARC - Schnecksville, PA
SEP 13 + Foundation for Amateur Radio - Gaithersburg, MD
SEP 19 + South Jersey RA - Mt. Holly, NJ
SEP 20 + York Hamfest - York, PA
SEP 26 + Delaware Valley RA-Trenton, NJ
OCT 4 Pack Rats - Warrington, PA
OCT 17 + Hanover Area Hamming Assn - Pleasant Hill, PA
OCT 17 + Susquehanna Valley ARC - near Lewisburg, PA
OCT 18 + RF Hill ARC - Sellersville, PA

ATLANTIC DIVISION LICENSE TESTS

June and July

(A) = ARRL/VEC (L) = LAUREL/VEC (M) = MOUNTAIN/VEC (5) = W5YI/VEC
P = Pre-registration requested *N* = No walk-ins

EASTERN PA

JUNE

24 Warminster, 7 PM. Warminster ARC. Tom Michaud, 215-343-3494 (A)

JULY

4 Dillsburg, 9 AM. Harrisburg RAC Hamfest. Michael Kalbaugh, 717-944-5037 (A)

9 Philadelphia, 6 PM. Phil-Mont MRC. Dusty Rhoads, 215-482-0386 (A)

10 Nazareth, 7 PM. Delaware-Lehigh ARC. Mark Petrino, 610-264-8343 (A)

16 East Stroudsburg, 7 PM. Pocono ARK. Dave Haney, 717-424-0945 *N* (A)

20 Telford, 6:30 PM. RF Hill ARC. Joe Burgess, 215-723-6697 *P* (A)

29 Matamoras, 7 PM. Tri-State ARC. Cono D'Alto, 717-491-2377 (A)

29 Warminster, 7 PM. Warminster ARC. Tom Michaud, 215-343-3494 (A)

Good luck on your upgrade!

Automatic Weather Alerts a No-No!

Recently there have been a number of postings regarding the use of (EAS) automatic severe weather alerts initiated by the National Weather Service on amateur radio repeaters.

Undoubtedly, this is a good service to be able to provide, however repeater owners need to know that this may be in violation of Part 97 regulations however well intentioned this might be.

This issue was brought up in at a meeting in the Western PA Section. After some very comments were brought out pro and con on this issue, this was referred to the ARRL's headquarters in Newington, CT in February 1997. John Hennesey at the ARRL referred this issue to the FCC, and the FCC replied back to John that EAS activating amateur repeaters (stations)for weather alerts without amateur intervention is in violation of Part 97.

The FCC's comment was that amateur radio is not an emergency communications service although amateur radio is used to support emergency communications. If, upon receiving a weather alert tone, an amateur repeater or station immediately sends out a warning message over amateur frequencies, that action has violated one, possibly two, regulation(s) of Part 97.

The first violation is that a transmission was made and was not identified. The second violation is that the transmission may have been caused by a non-amateur at the weather service who transmitted the weather warning tone.

Possible ways to do weather alerting without violating Part 97 would be:

1. To receive the weather alert and the repeater automatically change the courtesy tone and tail message so that with the next amateur transmission the repeater tone and tail message signify a weather alert is in effect. Or, 2. Upon receipt of a weather warning by a control-operator, the control op manually trips the repeater into a weather alert.

When we signed our 610 forms for our amateur license, we agreed to adhere to Part 97. Regardless how we feel on this issue, we still need to follow Part 97. If we feel strongly that unattended EAS activation of weather warnings on amateur repeaters should be permitted, we need to file a petition with the FCC for a change of the rules.

Bill Edgar N3LLR
ARRL WPA Section Manager

LMCC PETITION HAS LOCAL ANGLE

When the Land Mobile Communications Council proposed that portions of the 440 band be taken away from the Amateur Radio Service, the ARRL requested that amateurs who belong or have contact with LMCC member organizations contact them and express their opposition to the proposal. One of the most recognized

members of LMCC is the American Automobile Association.

Another member was APCO, the Associated Public Safety Communications Officers. HARC President and CQ VHF columnist Bob, WA3PZO contacted the Chairman of APCO's Volunteer Resources Committee. Bob had interviewed the Chairman, Tom, W3EAG, last year. Tom forwarded APCO's comments to Bob. They indicated that they were opposed to using the amateur radio 440 band. The news made national headlines in many amateur radio publications and news services.

HARC also filed comments in opposition to the LMCC proposal. As of press time, the FCC has not ruled on the proposal.

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL FORMING

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

DONATIONS SOUGHT!

Following the completion of amateur radio classes at Lincoln High School, some funds were allocated to start an amateur radio club. The club is in need of radios, antennas (HF and VHF), packet, APRS, or other ham radio equipment. The school will issue a letter for tax purposes. If you have some equipment that you would like to donate, contact Bob, WA3PZO.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE/CLUB TABLE

HARC is planning on having a Club Table at the Valley Forge Hamfest on July 12. The table will be set up that members can sell their equipment and enjoy the hamfest at the same time. We will also be sponsoring a membership drive. If you're able to help staff the table contact WA3PZO.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

June 25 - Club Meeting (Field Day)

June 27-28 Field Day

July 12 - MARC Hamfest (Valley Forge)

July 30 - Club Meeting (RF Safety)

August - No Club meeting

Picnic - Stay tuned!

**Holmesburg ARC
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