

August 2013

# 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>



## ***HARC IS RADIO ACTIVE!***

### ***Field Day Fun***

***WM3PEN 13 Colonies Special Event ops make over 3300 QSOs!  
WM3PEN Places First in ARRL School Club Roundup – Club Division***

### **FIELD DAY FUN**

HARC members were up early for the annual visit to Avelthorp Park to participate in the ARRL Field Day event.

The early crew worked on setting up the stations and hoisting the antennas. This year we did not put up the beam since the take down crew was going to be short handed.

As usual 3 stations were set up, one for 20-10 meters, one for 40 ssb, and one for 40-80 ssb and cw. Of course one of the more important stations was the kitchen led by Sol, N3UBY.

Several visitors dropped by the Field Day set up, including representatives of the Philadelphia Health Department. WA3PZO was interviewed on KYW radio about Field Day.

CW QSOs – 96

Phone QSOs – 305

Total QSO points 497

w/bonus points claimed score of 994.

See pictures from Field Day on page .

Pictures were taken by HARC's newest Club member Vitaly, KC3ACQ.

**HARC Picnic – August 25<sup>th</sup>  
Pennypack Park**

**Rhawn Street Entrance**

**11 am - ?**

**Family invited**

**RSVP: [WM3PEN@AOL.COM](mailto:WM3PEN@AOL.COM)**

### **13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT SETS NEW RECORD**

**81,141 QSOs**

**WM3PEN Doubles 2012 Record with  
3316 QSOs!**

Just one week after Field Day, HARC was back on the air serving as the bonus station for the 13 Colonies Special Event, July 1-7. The 13 Colonies have a special event station on from each of the 13 Colonies with a special call sign of K2A – K2M. WM3PEN represents Philadelphia where independence was declared in 1776.

This year HARC members, WA3GM, WA3PZO, N3ZZK, AB3EO, KC3JV, and NY3Z, were joined by Brandon, KB3WLN, Drexel University ARC, Russ, WA3FRP, University of Pennsylvania Alumni ARC, and Steve Hoch, W3UI, Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. WA3GM was the top operator with 1245 QSOs.

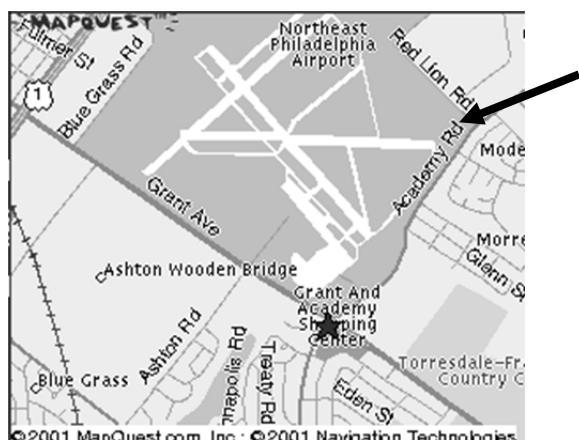
The event involves the international amateur radio community trying to work at least one of the special event colony stations. The prize of working all 13 colony stations plus WM3PEN, the bonus station, constitutes getting a clean sweep.

WM3PEN was heard on SSB, CW, PSK31, and RTTY across the HF bands. Most of the operation was on 20 and 40 meters. WM3PEN made contact with 809 counties in 49 states, 38 countries on 5 continents. In addition 454 different prefixes were worked.

## HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN  
Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO  
Membership - Charley Johnson, K3CJ  
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC  
Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY  
Webmaster - Rich Shivers, AB3EO  
UPARC Rep - Mike Feeley, KB3NDC  
Newsletter Editor - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO  
WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup>. Thursday @ 8:00 PM. 8<sup>th</sup> District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in July. Picnic in August.



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.

## 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))

## HARC Bulletin Schedule

### Bulletin Station K3CJ

Wed 2000L Amateur Radio News Line  
ARRL Audio News  
The RAIN Report  
Contests / Special Events / Hamfests  
Sun 1000L This Week In Amateur Radio  
Gate Way 160  
Handy Hams  
Contests / Special Events / Hamfests

## 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

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](mailto:rjlees@aol.com)

**Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website [www.HARCNET.org](http://www.HARCNET.org)**

## Upcoming Events

**Picnic: August 25**  
**Next Meeting: September 26**





**N3UBY in the Kitchen**



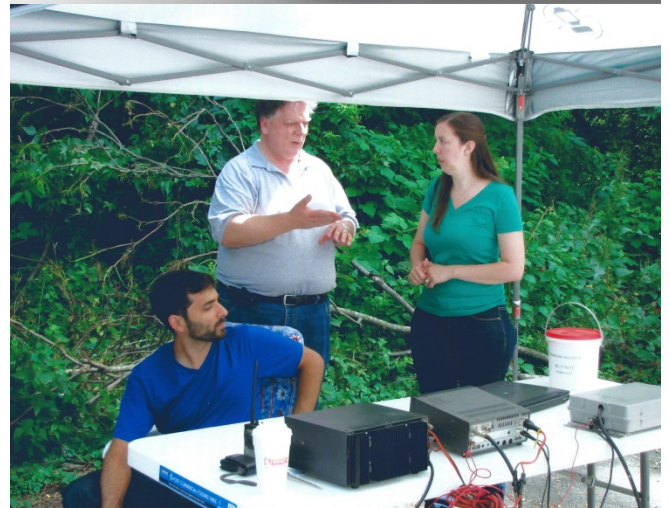
**N3ZZK and KC3JV discuss antennas**



**K3CJ and W3WHK on cw**



**N3LXN on 40 SSB**



**WA3PZO talks with Neale, KD8JJC and Katie from Phila Dept. of Health**



**WA3GM on SSB**





## Oct 2012/Feb 2013 SCR results: We Won!

In mid-July organizers of the ARRL School Club Roundup announced the winners on the contest email reflector. In the Club category, WM3PEN placed first in the nation in both the October, 2012 and February, 2013 School Club Roundup. The objective of the SCR is to exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, or high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate.

SCR organizers on Long Island were hit hard by Superstorm Sandy. No power or internet service for several days caused several logs to be lost to the bit bucket. According to Lew, N2RQ, this past year the number of logging programs that support the School Club Roundup (SCR) was expanded. This was a good thing in that it expanded the number of electronic log submissions. However, we found that the Cabrillo log files varied and that several people used old versions of the software. While the computer logs are intended to make the processing of results easier and faster, we found that too many required manual intervention.

The next School Roundup will be October 21-25. If you are interested in operating with the Club call during the event, contact Bob, WA3PZO.



### 13 Colonies Continued....

Band conditions were crappy much of the time due to solar activity. However that didn't stop the operators from having fun in the pile-ups. There were times where 7 contacts were being made every minute - a real contest pace. There were

times that stations in Europe were stronger than stations in the U.S. The fun of the event was expressed by many operators contacting WM3PEN:

**KK4EUN:** Thanks Bob for the QSO during the 13 colonies special event. Always my favorite SES of the year. Thanks for being there.

**N9WNN:** Greg thanks for working the Colonies. I was not able to make contact with you last, but I did this year. YEAH!



### K2M – Pennsylvania QSL Card

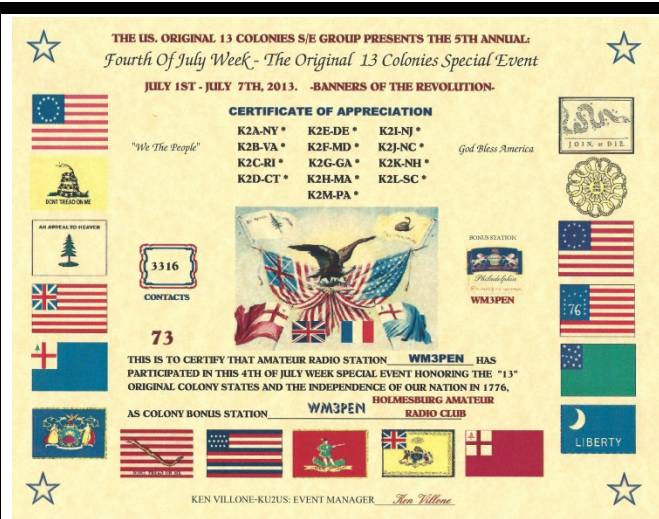
**NM0V:** Hard to connect w/ WM3PEN – much QRN – but worth the challenge! Thanks for supporting the “13 Colony” event – Way cool!!

**N5JPX:** Thanks for the great job you did operating WM3PEN special event station. I know you guys worked your butts off for this event and I want you to know it is appreciated. I was quite proud to get all 13 colonies and WM3PEN this year and my success is a direct result of your efforts. Thanks again!

**WD4JLX:** Thanks so much for working the special event station “13 colonies”. I had a lot of fun. I hope to do better next year and work all 13 colonies + wm3pen station. Very nice event & nice job. I love the special events. Lots of fun. Good luck w/ ham radio & DXing.

**KB3RGB:** Thanks for the special event. We had fun camping and working portable battery power.

**KC8LKB:** Greg, Thanks for the QSL. 7/4. Something happened to my IC-730. I went from 100 watts to less than 20 watts. You stuck with me until we got it. It was my first contest and made a clean sweep. Thanks for what you do. Great Job!



### 13 Colonies Certificate

This year there were a lot of families chasing the 13 colonies stations. Many husband/wife teams as well as mom, dad, and kids participated in the event. In addition many stations worked the 13 colonies stations using 10 watts or less.

QSL cards are still coming in as this issue goes to press. We'll have more details in upcoming issues.

Next year we'll look at expanding our operation on all bands and modes. There are also opportunities available to put 6 meters and up on the air. The 2014 – 13 Colonies Special Event will be held Tuesday, July 1 – Sunday, July 6.

experience of receiving letters from SWL listeners tuned into the German Overseas Radio Service broadcast out of Berlin on the 41 and 49 Meter bands. Following the English news broadcast, the station released names and messages of American soldiers so that their nearest kin may be notified by anyone who heard the message. Some prisoners talked to their loved ones back home, so as to relieve them of worry. This might be the first notification that a loved one was captured and unharmed. In many cases the prisoner would be able to write home via the Red Cross.

Lisa's family lived in Pennsylvania so some of the stories strike home to amateur radio operators and SWLs across the Commonwealth. The Spahr family received letters from many listeners around the country. Some offer advice as to 'the next step' of notification and what kind of information, literature, food, and clothing could be sent to the POW camp.

Of particular interest to Philadelphia area hams is the story of Flavius Jankauskas, K3JV, who as a young SWL heard the German broadcast and sent a letter to Robert Spahr's family. Jankauskas eventually met Lisa Spahr and presented her with the receiver that he heard the broadcast on. Some of the shortwave listeners wrote more than 1000 letters to POW families. The book is filled with pictures of the postcards and letters sent to the POW families.



### World War II Radio Heroes Letters of Compassion Second Edition Lisa Spahr Review by Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Few stories capture one's appreciation for shortwave listeners as does Lisa Spahr's World War II Radio Heroes. The

story traces her research into some of her grandfather's letters she read. Her great grandfather Robert Spahr was held captive in a German prison of war camp during World War II. The book tells the story through her own family's

Many of the listeners were members of SWAM, the Shortwave Amateurs Monitoring Club. In 1944, 44 percent of the members were women. Since the percentage of women members is much higher than the general amateur radio or shortwave listening communities, it might suggest that POW monitoring was a homefront activity that extended well beyond organized hams and SWLs. The book describes situations where the government became suspicious of the monitoring stations fearing they would fall into the enemy's hand.

Radio Heroes also traces the work of shortwave listeners monitoring broadcasts out of Tokyo which announced the names of many prisoners of war in Japan. The letters included in the book describe the process that allowed American POWs



to send a message back home, the radio equipment that was used to receive the messages, and ultimately the time, effort, and dedication of these shortwave listeners to get word to the POWs' family members.

The Second Edition of Radio Heroes contains a lot of new information and is three times the size of the original book. For those that found the first edition of interest they will find additional detail in the second edition. For those that haven't read the book, just pick up a copy and read about this fascinating period of radio monitoring. A limited number of editions of World War II Radio Heroes Letters of Compassion Second Edition are available from HARC. See below.

**World War II Radio Heroes Letters of Compassion Second Edition**

List: 19.95

HARC members: \$15.00

Others: \$19.00

Shipping extra.

Contact: [WM3PEN@AOL.com](mailto:WM3PEN@AOL.com) or Bob, 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.

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.

HARC Award Manager Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO said there was a need to have a County Challenge in Pennsylvania that was within the reach of most hams in Pennsylvania. When other state awards lost their sponsorship it was an opportunity for the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club to fill the void.

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).

**People: Ham Radio Provides Reliable Link for Solo-Circumnavigating Grandmother**

Jeanne Socrates, KC2IOV, a 70-year-old sailor and retired math teacher, completed her around-the-world nonstop, solo sail on July 8. Socrates took off October 22 from Victoria, British Columbia, in her 38 foot sailboat *Nereida*. Ham radio was her link to terra firm during her voyage, which ended where it began.



Jeanne Socrates, KC2IOV, aboard *Nereida*, nearing the end of her round-the-world solo voyage. (Jak Mang photo)

"My email team' of cheerful, helpful Amateur Radio operators are now out of a job," Socrates remarked in her blog after arriving in port. A coterie of ham radio regulars, including WA1RKT, N5TW, WB2REM and VE7TK, kept her company.

Socrates used Winlink e-mail via HF ham radio, but in May her remaining onboard computer failed, bringing the e-mail traffic and blog to a halt. "Word of Jeanne's difficulties made it through to the ham radio community," reports Rick Williams, VE7TK, and within days her onshore ham friends had set up an e-mail reflector and were handling messages to and from KC2IOV using SSB.

Although the UK native had been hoping for a Canada Day (July 1) arrival, she encountered some unfavorable conditions along the way that slowed her progress. Socrates also took along a satellite telephone, but it quit a couple of months into the voyage, and ham radio remained her only reliable link.

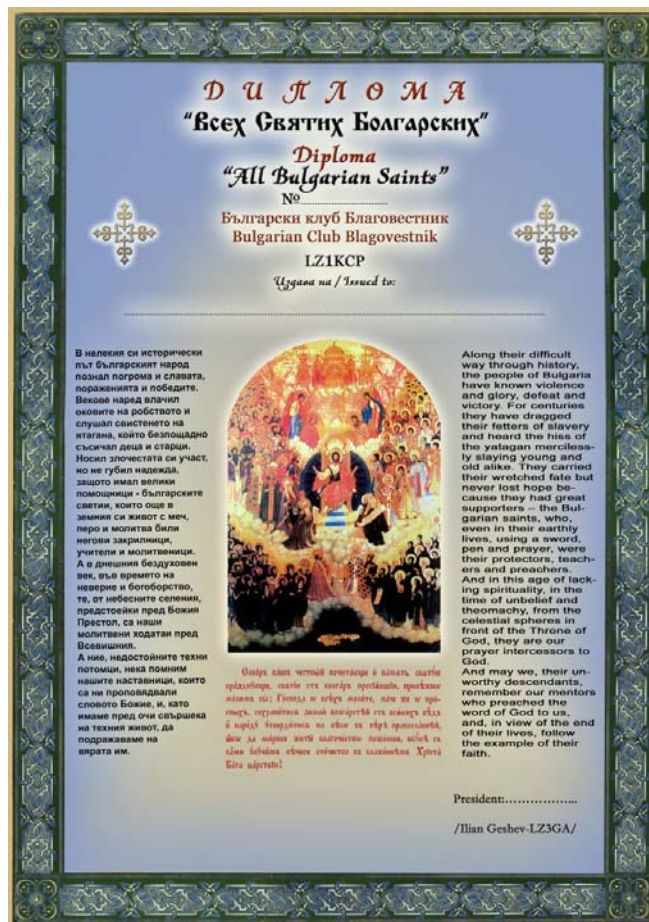
During her marathon sail, Socrates raised funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care, a United Kingdom non-profit society that provides free home care for terminally ill patients.

"This is an amazing effort," Williams enthused, "and the fact that so many amateurs around the world in some small part were able to participate is something that none of us will soon forget." -- *Thanks to Rick Williams, VE7TK (Story via the ARRL Letter and the ARRL.)*

## IN THE HUNT

Bob, WA3PZO reports that he is hoping that propagation and the solar flares cooperate in August as he chases 2 special events. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, W9IMS, is on the air for each of the 3 races held at the track. They are the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400, and Red Bull Indianapolis GP. By working W9IMS one week before each of the

races, you can earn a certificate commemorating the three events. Bob has done it for the past 2 years and hopes to make this year number 3. However working Indianapolis this year has been a challenge. For the first 2 races in May and July there was only a short window available to make a contact. The final race special event will be on the air the week of August 13, For complete details lookup W9IMS on QRZ.com.



Bulgaria has an All Bulgarian Saints award. There is a different special event callsign on the air each month. In August LZ1105PIO will be on the air. So far Bob has worked LZ1323SKZ, LZ1876SMB, LZ1534GWS, LZ1722SN. To get the award you need to work 5 of the special event stations. The award is also open to SWLs. Lookup any of these calls on QRZ.com.

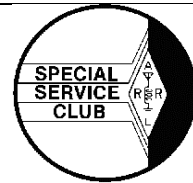
HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136  
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

**Picnic: August 25**



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
2013 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 April 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) \_\_\_\_\_