



August 2016

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 Recap

Picnic August 28, 2016

August Activities

HARC Picnic in the Park
Pennypack Park
Sunday, August 28
Rhawn Street Entrance just west of
Rolland Ave.



There will be no August general meeting. Instead we will gather for a cookout with friends and family in Pennypack Park. Time will be 11 AM until ? Please RSVP to WM3PEN@AOL.COM.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

VE Test Session to be Rescheduled

An amateur radio exam session originally planned for August will be rescheduled. Some VE team members were not available in August and the team felt it was best to move the date. A new date will be announced later.

Field Day Fun

HARC members and guests gathered at Alverthorpe Park for Field Day. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some treated it as a contest, other practiced their emergency response capabilities.

Band	CW	Phone	Total
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80	119	13	132
40	181	91	272
20	26	34	60
	--	----	---
Total	326	138	464



N3LXN, K3RJC, and KC3JV check out action on 40 meters. (Photos N3LXN & N3ZZK)



HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

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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
HARC Picnic – August 28
HARC Meeting - September 15



NY3Z sets up the 20 Meter station and NW3T checks out 40 Meters.



Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig
80	119	13	0
40	181	91	0
20	26	34	0
Total	326	138	0



K3CJ tunes in on 80 Meters



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

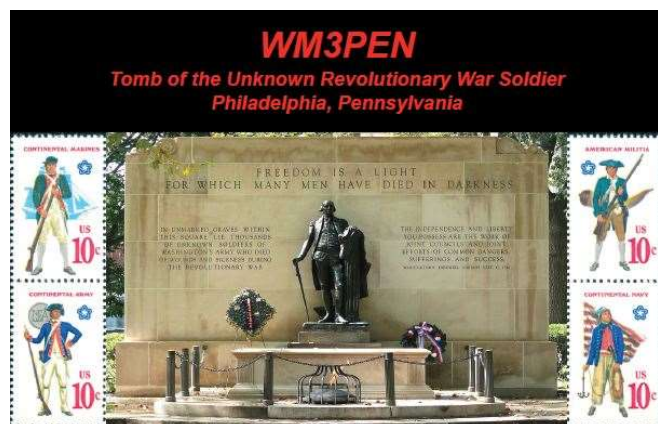
Amateur radio stations operating from the 13 original U.S. colonies will be joined by members of several Philadelphia area amateur radio clubs to celebrate Independence Day from the city where independence was declared, Philadelphia, PA.

The six day event, July 1 – July 6, allows amateur radio operators around the world to learn about the original 13 colonies and the city where Independence began. This will be the sixth year members of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (HARC) will be participating. Also participating will be members of the Philmont Mobile and Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Clubs, and the Philadelphia Digital Radio Association.

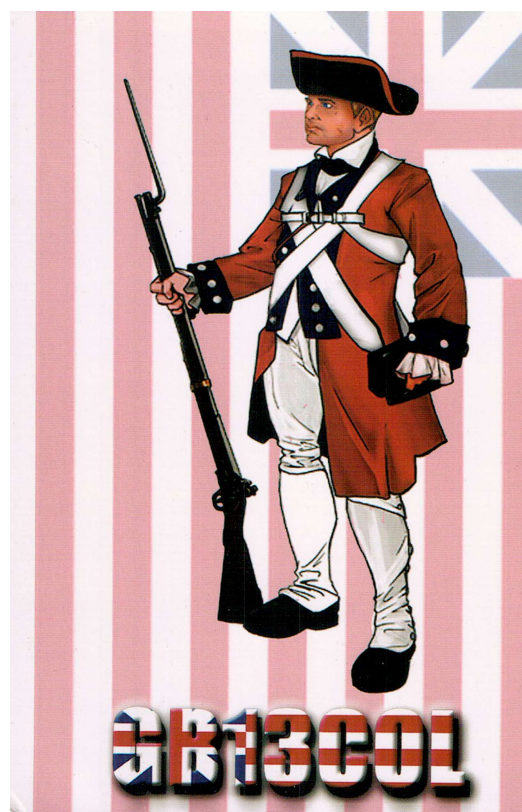


The theme for the 2016 event was Colonial Soldiers of the Revolution.

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, offered a special QSL card featuring the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier.



Also this year GB13COL was on from Durham, England.



As part of the ARRL National Parks on the Air, Pete, K0BAK and Walt, KB3SBC operated from Independence National Historical Park on July 3.

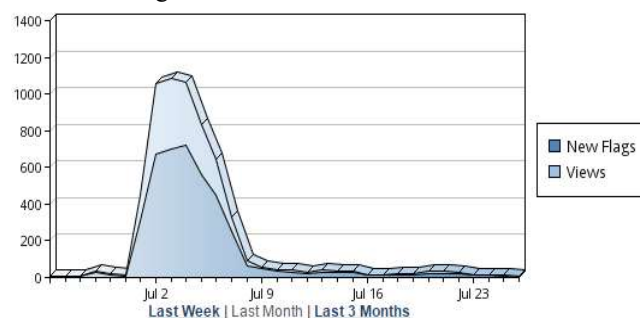


KB3SBC on air from Independence Hall. (K0BAK photo)

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

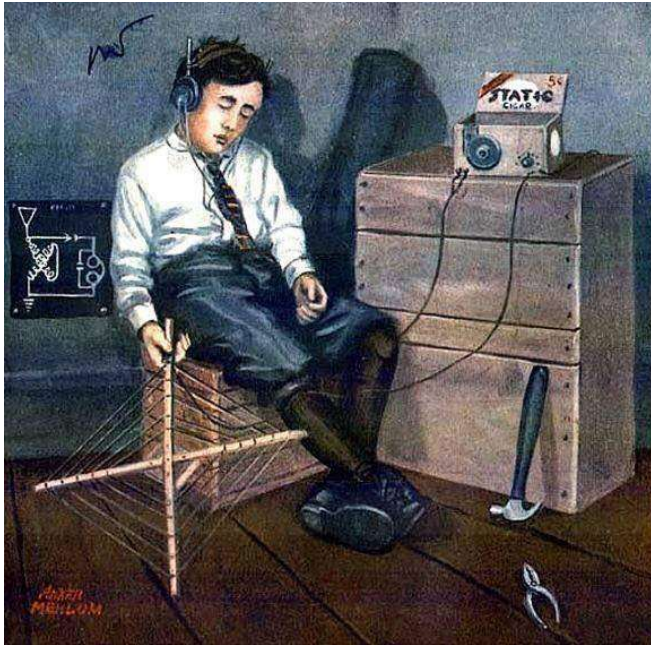
Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total
80	109	726	3	838
40	1,149	2,031	75	3,255
30	43	0	8	51
20	318	1,653	317	2,288
17	0	7	0	7
10	0	0	16	16
6	0	19	0	19
Total	1,619	4,436	419	6,474

Contacts made during the 13 Colonies. Image does not include the digital voice contacts.



The WM3PEN QRZ.com page was visited a lot during the event.

**2016 13 Colonies Ops
WA3GM, WA3PZO, W3WHK, K3CJ,
N3ZZK, K3UJ, WK2G, W3UI,
KC3BRA, WA3QVU, NS3K, K3HWG,
KB3WBN, K0BAK, KB3SBC, AA3WB,
WF3M, W3FRB, WA3FRP**



Report from GB13 COL

The following is a brief summary of the 2016 GB13COL event as the GB based bonus station for the 13 Colonies Special Event.

First of all I would like to personally thank all the individual members from DADARS who participated in various ways in this ever growing popular event. I think we certainly added a unique and challenging flavour to the event in 2016.

GB13COL worked 67 unique countries with 3,112 QSOs logged. Obviously, there will be the odd error which we will correct as they are processed. The guys logged what they heard at the time during the event and as you can appreciate, there were many pile-ups on 40 & 20m SSB, plus we worked PSK and some CW and Fusion. There was a HRD logger & ClubLog on the GB13COL QRZ page and thanks to Tom M0HYE for making this happen.

Again this year there was strange QRM at times, with some of it being rather amusing, which we politely

ignored. The noise levels exceeded S9+ at times and I cannot believe how many nets we managed to work over. The band Police kept us right many, many times, Hi!!

As usual, the K stations and WM3PEN conducted themselves professionally at all times and were a pleasure to work when we could manage it. Some of us even managed the full 15 over the event, which was great, and we even exchanged call signs where ever possible.

It was amazing to work with the other guys from the club in a large event, some chose to do the night shift, and some during the day. I tried the early O'clock until late O'clock approach to oversee things and join in. The humour was great especially in the early morning and was very entertaining, plus the guys enjoyed working the bands and pile-ups. Once again our Top Junior DXr, M6EUB even managed a few night shifts with his parents' permission of course. He was a true trooper who helped out and provided some of the humour and plenty of tea and coffee on hand, and jumped in the seat whenever asked!! Great to see new hams joining the hobby.

Well no doubt we will be on a deflator now after the event as things get back to normal, but I suspect the event has instilled a new passion for our interesting hobby again with the guys in the club and with many hams worked across the globe.

Ray de G0VLF

Event Manager and Certificate Manager KU2US reports:

Try doing the certificates! You can not believe what I get! One guy sent me a donation check completely BLANK! Six so far sent me all 13 cards, one for each state. Three Op's sent me envelopes with NO log sheets, I get Euros, British pound notes and, believe this, a paper IOU! 22 checks were not signed (All returned), three checks bounced and I got a five dollar bill in two pieces! Keeping tabs, I had to look up at QRZ 48 addresses and call signs because I could not read the hand writing, I got an SASE for a K2A/NY QSL card with a Canadian stamp affixed, going to Florida! Another small SASE envelope for a QSL card with \$4.00 postage affixed! And I am NOT the K2A QSL card manager! Sometimes I laugh so hard I cry, and I got 600 to go! and 64 emails asking "Where is

my certificate"? All in all a very pleasant experience. I can not count the positive congratulatory notes and nice letters though. This makes it all worth it!

WM3PEN report

WM3PEN had 6471 QSOs. Worked all 50 states, 61 countries, 980+ counties, 639 prefixes. QSL cards are still coming in. Almost 600 QSL cards have been given out. Cards continue to arrive almost daily as of mid-August. There have been over 1800 EQsls and still more via LOTW. WA3PZO reports many similar issues to the ones KU2US reported. Bottom line: A fun time had by all who participated. Here's a sample of EQsls received earlier this month.

Countries	AG	Non-AG	Combined
ALASKA	1		All
AUSTRIA	1		All
BELGIUM	5		All
BULGARIA	2		All
CANADA	42	4	All
COLOMBIA	1		All
CROATIA	2		All
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1		All
ENGLAND	9	4	All
FRANCE	8		All
GERMANY	5	1	All
ITALY	8	1	All
LITHUANIA	1		All
MEXICO	1		All
NETHERLANDS		1	All
NEW ZEALAND	1		All
NORTHERN IRELAND	5		All
POLAND	1		All
PORTUGAL	2		All
PUERTO RICO	20	2	All
ROMANIA	2		All
RUSSIA (EUROPEAN)	3	1	All
SLOVENIA	1		All
SPAIN	4	2	All
UKRAINE	1	1	All
USA	1295	232	All
VENEZUELA	2		All
WALES		1	All

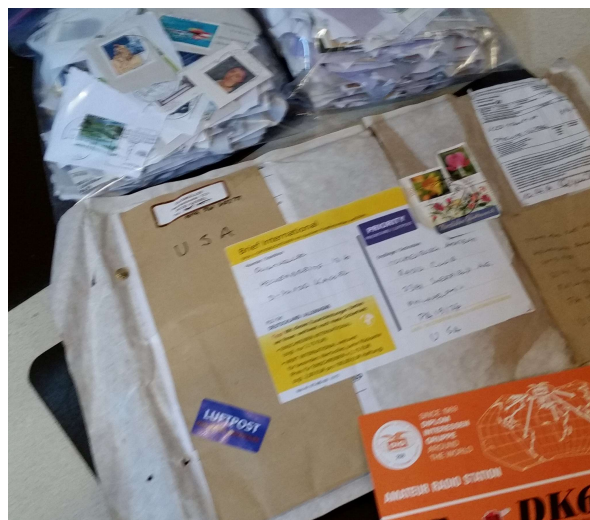
Entire InBox 1675

Looking forward to 2017

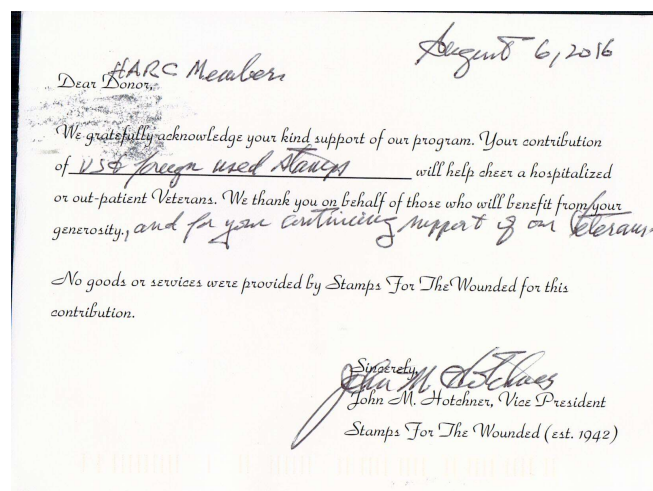
Details have not been announced for next year's 13 Colonies Event. However there is a possibility of adding a French Special Event station on the air to represent the important role that the French played during the Revolutionary War. Stay tuned.

Stamps For the Wounded

HARC members are 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.



Large package of stamps received from a German ham and a Thank You from the SFTW program.



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, K3UJ, who will mail them.

Polluting LED Street Lights

In the USA, the Buck County Courier Times report: *Buzz kills the fun for Bristol Township ham radio operator* (Via Southgate Amateur Radio News.)

The newspaper says one night this spring, the static **Charles Dillenbeck AB3MQ** normally heard on different frequencies became much louder, so loud he could barely hear the people with whom he was chatting.

A few days later, as Dillenbeck — a Navy veteran and retired commercial heating and refrigeration engineer — stared out a window in his home trying to figure out the problem, the street light came on. Immediately, the static started again. Was it the light, he wondered.

It turns out Bristol Township installed a new LED fixture in the light in front of his house as part of its plan to replace incandescent street lights with cost-saving LED bulbs.

"The old lights didn't interfere at all," Dillenbeck said. He talked with another ham radio enthusiast who lives in the township who also had the same problem. He used a "noise finder" piece of equipment to test other street lights. The same static occurred, he said. The electronics in the lights appeared to be causing the static.

Read the [full story](#):

Watch the [video report](#):

A recent ARRL report highlights the problem of LED lights and other electronic equipment creating more radio frequency interference for the more than 725,000 amateur — or ham — radio operators in the United States

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-s-oet-clarifies-emissions-compliance-testing-for-rf-led-lighting-devices>

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.



Congratulations for
making a confirmed contact with
amateur radio operators in:

Pennsylvania 67 Challenge



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.

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.

Scheduled program:

KC3JV's talk was postponed due to the inconvenience of doing the presentation in the Conference Room.

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

August 28 – HARC Picnic

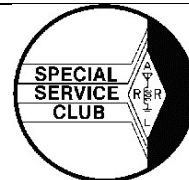


HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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) _____