



August 2017

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>

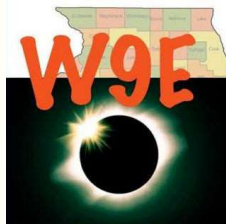


- HARC Meeting – August 17

Many Special Events Will Be on the Air to Mark the Total Solar Eclipse this Month

Radio amateurs from several states will gather in southern Illinois on August 17-21 to operate special event station [W9E](#), leading up to and during the 2017 solar eclipse on August 21. W9E, which will operate from Marion, Illinois, is one of several announced solar eclipse special events.

"This will be the first total eclipse on American soil since 1991, the first on the mainland United States since 1979, and the first to sweep across the entire country since 1918. It will be an event you do not want to miss!" the W9E announcement said. "The far southern tip of the state of Illinois is the only place viewers can see the totality of the eclipse."



W9E plans to operate on 80, 40, and 20 meters (and perhaps other bands, if conditions permit), on CW, SSB, and digital modes (JT65, JT9, and PSK31).

ARRL President Issues Call for Members to Ask Senators to Support S. 1534

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, is calling on League members to urge their US Senators to support the [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#) of 2017, S. 1534. ARRL has opened a [RallyCongress page](#) to simplify the task. "[W]e are at a crossroad in our efforts to obtain passage of The Amateur Radio Parity Act," Roderick said. He said the campaign to secure passage of the bill scored a major victory earlier this year when H.R. 555 passed unanimously in the US House of Representatives. Obtaining passage of the companion Senate bill, S. 1534, is the final legislative hurdle.

"Now is the time for all hams to get involved in the process!" Roderick said. "Many of you already live in deed-restricted communities, and that number grows daily."

He urged radio amateurs now restricted by a homeowners association from installing effective outdoor antennas to visit the RallyCongress site and e-mail their two US senators. He also encouraged those not currently affected by deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) to support their fellow radio amateurs by doing the same.

"If you want to help create an opportunity -- not available before now -- for Amateurs who live in deed-restricted communities to install effective outdoor antennas on property that you own or lease, send these e-mails today!" Roderick said. "We need you to reach out to your senators today. Right away."

S. 1534 was introduced in the US Senate on July 12, marking another step forward for this landmark legislation. Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) are the Senate sponsors. The measure will, for the first time, guarantee all radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities governed by a homeowners association (HOA) or subject to any private land-use regulations, the right to erect and maintain effective outdoor antennas at their homes, while protecting the aesthetic concerns of HOAs.

HARC Board of Directors

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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.



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.

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website www.HARCNET.org
Upcoming Events
HARC Meeting – August 17
September Luncheon – Sept 10
HARC Meeting – September 21

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

Phil-Mont 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, Monthly, Last Mon. 7:00 pm at the Wilson Senior Community Center 580 Delmont Avenue Warminster, PA 18974.

George Brechmann (215) 443-5656.

Mid-Atlantic ARC provides VE Test Sessions quarterly on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 0900 and hosted by the Lower Providence Township Building. The VE Test Sessions are coordinated by Dick Stewart K3ITH.

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)

Solar Eclipse QSO Party

The Solar Eclipse QSO Party ([SEQP](#)), sponsored by [HamSCI](#), will take place on August 21, 1400 to 2200 UTC.

As the August 2017 *QST* article "[The Solar Eclipse QSO Party -- Are You Ready?](#)" explains, "The objective...is to flood the airwaves with contacts, all measured by the automated receiver networks of the Reverse Beacon Network, PSKReporter, and WSPRNet. When those observations are combined with the logs from individual stations, the result will be one of the largest ionospheric experiments ever performed."

Other Total Eclipse Special Events

- The South Dakota's Black Hills Amateur Radio Club in South Dakota plans to operate [special event K0E](#) on the day of the eclipse, August 21, 1500-1930 UTC, from Harrison, Nebraska. Operation will be on 20 meters (14.260-14.280 MHz) and on VHF and UHF. [Contact](#) Bob Ewing, W0RE, for more information.
- The Near Zero Sunlite, Great American Eclipse N0S special event will take place August 20-22, 1400-2200 UTC, in Crystal City, Missouri, sponsored by the [Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club](#). Operation will be on or about 3.850, 7.250, and 14.300 MHz. QSL with SASE to Jim Berger, WA0FQK, 131 Ozark Dr., Crystal City, MO 63019.
- K7E will be on the air for the Great American Total Solar Eclipse 2017 special event, August 21-22, 1500-0300 UTC, from Laramie, Wyoming, near the path of totality, on or about 7.183 and 14.256 MHz. QSL [Perry Lehman](#), N7FST, 19828 N. 78th Ln., Glendale, AZ 85308.
- The North East Wyoming Amateur Radio Association ([NEWARA](#)) will field special event W7S from historic downtown Gillette, Wyoming, August 19-21, 1200-0600 UTC, on or about 3.945, 7.265, and 14.265 MHz as well as on 147.360 MHz. QSL to [Garth Crowe](#), WY7GC, P.O. Box 2208, Gillette, WY 82717.
- The Lincoln County Amateur Radio Club ([LCARC](#)) will operate special event N7E,

August 20-22, 1600-1900 UTC, from Newport, Oregon, on or about 3.820, 7.200, 14.245, and 28.350 MHz. [Contact Michael Eastman](#), N7ONP.

- Total Solar Eclipse special event N9E will be on the air on August 21, 1400-2000 UTC, from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, 7.180-7.190 MHz. [Contact Peter Herman](#), KD9VV.
- The Lewis and Clark Radio Club ([LCRC](#)) will operate special event K9HAM from Godfrey, Illinois, on August 21, 0900-1700 UTC, on or about 7.225 and 14.280 MHz. [Contact](#) the LCRC for more information.
- In North Carolina, the Greater Gaston Amateur Radio Society ([GGARS](#)), will be on the air as N4S from Lexington, South Carolina, on August 21, 0000-1900 UTC, on or about 7.180 and 3.895 MHz. QSL to [Robert Wells](#), W7CSA, QSL. Robert Wells, 409 Elizabeth St., Gastonia, NC 28054.
- The Southern Illinois University Amateur Radio Club ([SIUARC](#)) will sponsor W9S, August 18-22, 0000-2359 UTC, from Fulton, Illinois, CW on 160 meters and all modes on 80 through 10, with a focus on the lower bands. Satellites and 6 meters are also possible. QSL to Martin A. Schuette, N9EAT, P.O. Box 29, Fulton, IL 61252.
- Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club ([OVHARC](#)) will sponsor W4E from Lexington, South Carolina, on August 21, 1500-2015 UTC, on or about 3.810, 7.230, and 14.263 MHz and 146.52 MHz FM simplex. QSL to [Terry Erlacher](#), KC4DV, 10855 Felicia Ct., Manassas, VA 20110.

This may not be a comprehensive listing. Search the [ARRL Special Events Calendar](#) for total eclipse special event operations.

August 17 Meeting

I'm Stuck Here - help me? Our panel of experts, those of you at the meeting, will be available to answer questions from those who want to know? Meeting time 8 PM.

Wake Up Call

Most of us don't like reading annual reports. However I read the ARRL 2016 Annual Report and thought part of the message from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, struck a chord.



“We all need to be thinking about that forward motion, and at no time is that more apparent than when talking to young people about Amateur Radio. Last year, I had the opportunity to speak to a high school group. I prepared my usual talk about some interesting ham radio stories over my 50 years as a ham, how we can talk all over the world, and I brought some QSL cards from rare places to show the group. I have given that talk many times, and it usually impresses people — but not this time. I was surprised to see flat, uninterested faces. I realized that I had to change my approach to the presentation if I was going to keep the attention of these young people. After all, what could ham radio offer people who grew up in homes that had computers hooked up to the internet? Today's young people are used to riding down the interstate at 70 MPH as a passenger while watching high-definition videos on their iPhones. I quickly shifted the focus to discuss how ham radio has changed, the new technologies, the computerization of ham radio, and Raspberry Pi. I explained the newer digital modes, and talked about ham radio experimentation. The group lit up. I found the topics where ham radio touches that world — their world — and told them what was possible. They responded. That was a wake-

up call for me.” The complete report can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-publishes-its-2016-annual-report>

Total Eclipse of the Sun

Forever 49¢ Stamp – Info: USPS.com

On August 21, 2017, tens of millions of people in the United States will have an opportunity to view a total eclipse of the Sun. A total solar eclipse was last seen on the U.S. mainland in 1979, but only in the Northwest. The eclipse this summer will sweep a narrow path across the entire country—the first time this has happened since 1918. The U.S. Postal Service® anticipates this rare event with a stamp celebrating the majesty of solar eclipses.

The *Total Eclipse of the Sun* stamp is the first U.S. stamp to use thermochromic ink, which reacts to the heat of your touch. Placing your finger over the black disc on the stamp causes the ink to change from black to clear to reveal an underlying image of the moon. The image reverts back to the black disc once it cools. The back of the stamp pane shows a map of the eclipse path. You can preserve the integrity of your *Total Eclipse of the Sun* Forever® stamp pane with our [protective sleeve](#) specifically designed for stamp preservation. The stamp uses a photograph taken by astrophysicist Fred Espenak of a total solar eclipse that was seen over Jalu, Libya, on March 29, 2006. Mr. Espenak also took the photograph of the full moon that is revealed by pressing upon the stamp image. The reverse side of the stamp pane shows the path across the United States of the forthcoming August 21, 2017, total solar eclipse and gives the times that it will appear in some locations.



Stamps, Stamps, and More Stamps for SFTW

Last year turned out to be a banner year for HARC's participation in the Stamps for the Wounded Program. Over 31 pounds of stamps were collected and shipped to the SFTW program. So far 2017 is off to a flying start with 26 people, including one ham from England, sending stamps to the Club for SFTW. We have had many inquiries about SFTW from the 13 Colonies event. The collected stamps are distributed to various centers around the country to help with physical and occupational therapy programs for our wounded vets.

HARC About to Turn 40!


HARC will celebrate its 40th birthday in 2018. How would you like to celebrate it? We have archives of information and photos of the club. Should we have a party? Should we do something special? Let any of the Board members know your thoughts.

Some of the 13 Colonies QSL Cards




13 Colonies Special Event 2017

Station K2M



Pennsylvania



"Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof"

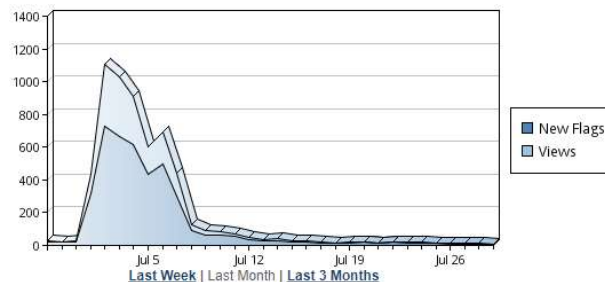
Inscription on the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall

WM3PEN
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Credit: Photo by J. Fusco for Visit Philadelphia™


Some QSL Stats

While the 13 Colonies Event was over in early July, QSL cards continue to arrive. As of the end of July over 500 qsl cards have been sent out from WM3PEN. EQSLs received so far are over 1770 and climbing daily. LOTW confirmations are also high.




The WM3PEN QRZ.com page had 1104 visitors on July 2 during the 13 Colonies event. The graph show the spike in visits to the site.

GB13COL



King George III (1738-1820) was the third monarch of the Hanover house and the first to be born in England He held the throne aged 22yrs from 1760 until 1820, a reign nearly as long as his granddaughter Queen Victoria's. George III ruled Britain throughout the Seven Years' War, French and Indian War, American Revolution, Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812. His popularity declined in the American Colonies which resulted in the 1776 Declaration of Independence. The rest is history...



Amateur Radio A Contact Sport

Looking Ahead

Celebrate the end of summer by joining us for lunch on Sunday, September 10, 12 Noon at the Pub 2900, 2900 Street Rd, Bensalem, PA 19020. This is near the Parx Casino. Wives, friends, invited. You will order of the menu and be responsible for your check. RSVP to WM3PEN at AOL.com.

September HARC meeting is September 21

The Northeast Philadelphia Youth Association Run at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport is Sunday, October 15.

QSL Cards Come In/Going Out

Several pictures have been posted on Facebook from various stations that have received the WM3PEN QSL Card. Here is a sampling.



Krimpets and Tea – Philly Style



Jim, AJ3DI, works GB13COL, via DSTAR while enjoying krimpets and tea. (photo N3ZZK)



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. For further info check out www.harcnet.org.

QSLs continue to be processed. It will be a few months until we receive DX QSL cards via the QSL Bureau.

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.



Open Source Coding for Amateur Radio and Beyond

As many amateurs know the ARRL has been looking into how to proceed and grow moving forward.

See here for more info:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeking-synergy-with-maker-movement>

FOSSCON is a Free and Open Source software conference held annually in Philadelphia PA.

Saturday, August 26th. **Doors open at 8am**
International House of Philadelphia
3701 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

FOSSCON brings together users of Free and Open Source Software from a wide variety of fields. Our attendees include students, systems and network administrators, developers, executives, and more. Attendees come from around the world to participate in talks, learn of new technologies, and visit sponsors and FOSS projects represented in our exhibit area.

Fossccon page: <https://fossccon.us/>

FREE REGISTRATION: <https://fossccon.us/attend>

Talks and Workshops (including a VE test session): <https://fossccon.us/Speakers>

You (we) are all cordially invited to attend this conference. It was a conference similar to this that got me into the Amateur Radio hobby.

If you believe, like the ARRL and I believe, that bringing the Amateur Radio Community together with the Maker/STEM/Geek community benefits us all, please come out and meet some folks!

PLEASE pass this on to any group or individual that you think this may benefit.

73
and

HOPE TO SEE YOU at FOSSCON 2017.

Jim, AJ3DI, is the Event Coordinator for Fossccon and will be giving 2 presentations.

Building A More Lively LiveCD

In this workshop, attendees will learn how to create their own bootable live media (CD/DVD, USB, PXE/iPXE, etc.) custom-tailored to their own specific environment/datacenter/deployment's needs.

FOSS In Amateur Radio - Oink Oink

Free Open Source Software and Amateur Radio.

From programming your radios to moon bounce.

Including new-ish entries from the cross-connected Maker/Hacker communities.

Amateur Radio And The Maker Community

The [HamRadio360 Workbench #22](#) podcast episode released on April 25th, 2017 focused on two communities we love, the maker and ham radio communities. The host, George (KJ6VU), points out during the introduction that this podcast will be exploring “What does being a ham get you as a maker”? George and co-host Jeremy (KF7IJZ) discuss the advantages these two communities bring to each other with [Kenneth Finnegan](#) (W6KWF) and [Mark Smith](#) (KR6ZY) during the nearly two-hour workbench discussion. This episode peaked our interest. FaradayRF is situated between these two communities and is bridging the gap. Our goal is to help interest people who do not find traditional amateur radio relevant or compelling enough to pursue it. Several critical points were made during this podcast:

- What can amateur radio gain from makers?
- What can makers gain from amateur radio?
- What types of makers would be interested in amateur radio?
- The pros and cons between using FCC Part 15 radios or FCC Part 97 (amateur) radios

George, Jeremy, and guests provide personal insight into their experiences between both communities on both the technical and social fronts. Does this discussion actually raise a much larger question about the future of the hobby itself? Can we learn something from the tremendous growth of DIY electronics and the rest of the maker scene? Listen to the episode and hear what they have to say!

The Future of Ham Radio

At FaradayRF we believe that the future of amateur radio will be built on experimentation. Equally evident, the fundamental difference between both communities regarding wireless communication is how they use it. Makers generally use radios as a means of achieving a larger goal whereas radio amateurs generally use radios as a means of communicating. Today's young generation has also grown up with digital networks being ubiquitous. Cell phones and WiFi access has certainly influenced how they view radio fitting into society. Overall, sending data over large distances is nothing new regardless of whether it travels through wires or radio waves.

Access to cheap electronics including [unlicensed radio modules](#) have lowered the barrier of entry for hobbyists utilizing radios in projects. This raises the question if amateur radio can remain relevant by continuing to embrace the act of "making contacts" as its main goal. We think something needs to be done to change this mindset.



Learning From the Maker Community

Faraday is based on a popular Part 15 ISM radio transceiver but designed for Part 97 amateur radio use

Amateur radio is in the position to enable the use of radios while also educating about how they work. While radio amateurs can develop enticing technology for makers we can also learn how to utilize this technology from them. The maker community will bring new skills and ideas into the hobby that will help shape how we as a community use amateur

radio. [APRS](#) and [HAMWAN](#) are great examples of utilizing amateur radio without needing to focus on "making contacts". They represent a taste of what the future may hold if we start embracing ideas outside of our comfort zone.

Clearly there are both technological challenges and social challenges facing amateur radio's future. The growth of the maker community and the popularity of wireless communications within it show a need to address these challenges soon so that we can grow together. FaradayRF is attempting to address some of these challenges with [Faraday](#), our first radio intended to appeal to both electronics hobbyist and programmers.

It is unlikely that the traditional amateur radio values, skills, and activities will disappear as we embrace less of a "making contacts" ideology. This is similar to the [continued popularity of Morse Code](#) after the FCC removed the Morse Code requirements from amateur radio exams. Just because the hobby may start changing doesn't mean it's for the worse. Exposing makers to contesting, DXing, Morse Code, etc. is beneficial in a similar way. Ham radio operators would see technology being used in new ways to solve new challenges from the maker community. This mixture is where Ham radio should be headed if it wants to remain relevant as a hobby.

Source: <https://faradayrf.com/amateur-radio-and-the-maker-community/>

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

August 17 Club meeting

I'm stuck....Help me



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2017 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) _____