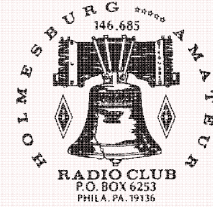




THE HARC SPARK



Editor: K3UJ

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.harcnet.org>
WM3PEN@aol.com

August, 2023

Prez Sez!

We were deeply saddened this month at the passing of Jim AJ3DI. Jim was a wonderful and inspiring character, who served as our Vice President for a period.

Though he was busy with other ham radio activities at the time, I remember him saying that he wanted "to give back". See more elsewhere in this newsletter.

HARC has worked with the University of PA Amateur Radio Club in the past, and our correspondence has resumed as of late. Our main WM3PEN repeater is atop a Penn high-rise dorm. A few weeks ago, Jim N3JT visited his hometown of Philly from his present home in the DC area. Jim is a Penn alum, as am I, and is trustee for their three callsigns. On a personal note, Jim is a founder of the CW ops club, in which I'm very active, and we both attended Central High as well as Penn, though at different times. Another alum, W3MHZ, arranged a lunch for several of us in Center City. WA3PZO and I attended, along with Alan KU2Y (AMSAT, Villanova University), and of course N3JT.

At the Center City lunch, we discussed ways to encourage undergrads and grad students to consider ham radio among their other avocational pursuits like ballooning and rocketry, and to attract new freshmen to ham radio. A fine time was had by all, despite the extreme heat encountered enroute. We expect the Penn club's help will result in a good WiFi connection for our repeater there, which is badly needed.

Speaking of lunch, our Sunday HARC gathering, as you may have read in the IO group, was great fun, and I didn't have to pound my gavel once!

Our September 20 meeting will be live, with Zoom access using my less-than-ideal iPad. Since it's sometimes difficult to come up with relevant local speakers for our monthly meetings, we plan to have a lot of the excellent and expert speakers in the future who are available remotely. To that end, we hope to purchase our grant-funded equipment soon. Until then, we can still have remote speakers via Zoom, though we'll be slightly handicapped using a temporary setup.

I hope you've all had a good and productive summer, and I look forward to seeing a lot of you at upcoming meetings.

73,
Saul W3WHK

August Trivia Question?

How many time zones are there worldwide?

Sad Notes:

Sadly we announce the passing of two amateur radio operators the meant a lot to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club.

Rich Sambenedetto, WA3AOP, founder of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club became a silent key earlier this year. (1941-2023). The Club name was chosen because Rich lived in the Holmesburg section of the city when the club was formed in 1978. The original group of amateurs involved were WA3AOP, WB3BYM, KB3SM, K2XE, and later K3RJC.

Sambenedetto retired from the Philadelphia Fire Department in September, 2000 and moved to the Villas, New Jersey eventually becoming Fire Commissioner of Fire District #1. He is also the founder of the Red White & Blue Freedom Riders (motorcycle club) in Cape May County.



Jim Fisher, AJ3DI, 58, of Abington passed away suddenly on August 1. Jim was a family man.. He was the general manager of a wholesale baked good distribution company based in Cinnaminson, NJ. He was also passionate about being a JEDI from Star Wars. However he had several extended families: Amateur Radio and Computers.

According to Jim's qrz.com page he started dabbling with computers in 1981, with a Timex/Sinclair Kit, and has been dabbling ever since as a hobbyist. "I am an Ubuntu advocate. I promote Ubuntu through all of my affiliations. Not being a paid IT person, I can present Linux in a very informal fashion. I like to say the I am a Linux plumber, when I hack, you can see the crack of my ass. I am a salesman, and I love to perform. I am very passionate about *all* things tech. Linux, Electronics, and Amateur Radio at the moment."

In past years Jim served as Vice President of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. More recently he has been President of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. His energy for getting people involved and on-the-air was

unmatched. Jim spent many years helping with the MS-150 ride to the shore and coordinated digital voice activities for WM3PEN during the 13 Colonies event. Ray, G0VLF, who is the coordinator for the GB13COL operations during the 13 Colonies event wrote, "Sorry to hear the news regarding Jim AJ3DI. Please pass on my/our condolences from Durham. Sad when we lose an active amateur friend."

Jim's callsign was always a tongue-twister. Just recently it all came together. As mentioned Jim was passionate about the JEDI warriors in Star Wars. His call was AJ3DI. Turn the 3 around AJEDI. "Do, or do not. There is no try."



Meeting Location

We are back. The April meeting was in the new room, "The Learning Center" and we will be there again in September. It is a very nice room and will serve us well. There are still a few details to be worked out with the Philadelphia Protestant Home and the board will address these shortly, and we might still have a few Zoom meeting till all of the AV equipment is acquired.

Due to the room change, the day and time had to be adjusted. We now meet at 7:30 on the third Wednesday of the month.

In the meantime please join us at the Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19111, on the second floor of the main building.

Hurricanes

It's that time of the year again. While hurricane season is from June 1st to November 30th, half of the year, the most common time for storms is during August to mid-October with September being the peak month. While every weather website and TV channel provides storm tracks and information, as hams our go-to source is the Hurricane Watch Net. www.hwn.org.

The Hurricane Watch Net is a group of licensed Amateur Radio Operators, trained and organized to provide essential communications support to the National Hurricane Center during times of Hurricane emergencies.

The tracking graphs come direct from The National Hurricane Center in Miami Florida.

While providing a one stop web site that offers up to date information about current storms, there is a lot of background data on tropical storms. There is also information about the Hurricane Watch Net – WX4NHC, its history and what it does. It shows when it is active, frequencies to monitor, check-in and reporting procedures.

As named storms have seemed to become more prevalent in recent years, this is an excellent resource to take advantage of.

Alert System Test

FEMA is coordinating with the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The WEA portion of the test will be directed to all consumer cell phones. This will be the third nationwide test, but the second test to all cellular devices. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset.

The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the seventh nationwide EAS test.

<https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20230803/fema-and-fcc-plan-nationwide-emergency-alert-test-oct-4-2023>

Call for Assistance

NASA is asking amateur operators during upcoming solar eclipses. <https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/citizenscience/ham-radio-operators-we-need-your-help-during-solar-eclipses> Long distance communication takes place due to the ionosphere and the way the sun affects that layer of the atmosphere. During an eclipse this changes rapidly. As hams we can help study these affects. The next NA event occurs on October 14th 2023.

13 Colonies Special Event

July 1-7

Another good year for HARC with 11128 contacts made by 18 operators. Besides the usual HF operations of SSB, CW and digital, we had satellite and SSTV contacts. We also had a clean sweep working all the other 13 Colony stations including GB13COL and TM13COL

So far we've processed 673 QSL cards, 5900 LOTW and 2875 EQsl. As QSL manager for GB13COL, 360 cards were handled for them.

This is a fun and exciting challenge. Would you like to join us next year as a WM3PEN operator? Contact WA3PZO@aol.com

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.

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.

Upcoming Topics

Sept 20 Anthony Luscre K8ZT, via Zoom
"Keeping Up With Amateur Radio News & Events".

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.harcnet.org)

SFTW

Stamps For The Wounded

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 1/4" around, and bring them to the meeting or mail to:

Rich Shivers
9029 Eastview Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19152

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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Webmaster & Newsletter Editor - Rich Shivers, K3UJ
Net Manager - Austin Seraphin, KA3TTT
WM3PEN Trustee - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
K3FI Trustee - Steve Miller, W3AZT

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

Trivia Question Answer.

There are 38 different time zones in use.

OK, we can't get too deep here. While time zones were generally created along lines of longitude they do follow political lines for convenience. Now why 38 instead of 24, there are some that are on the half hour: Iran, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka, and a few on a 15 minute shift: Nepal, New Zealand. China while really spanning five potential zones uses just one for the entire country. They are UTC +8.

We are not even going to talk about Daylight Savings Time, that's not even agreed about within a country. Most of Arizona does not use it. The Navajo Nation does.

Our next question: What is the "ecliptic"

The answer in the next issue.