



THE HARC SPARK

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.WM3PEN.org>
WM3PEN@aol.com



Editor: K3UJ

**August
2025**

Prez Sez!

I'll make this brief, since as many of you know, I've been recuperating from an accident.

Here we are again at September: The air will be crisp and cooler, a perfect time to erect an antenna, or to go out for POTA operation (parks) or even SOTA (summits!). And of course, we are looking forward to the ionospheric changes to come during the winter season on the HF bands.

I was very sorry to miss the club brunch, as it's an opportunity to see members I don't run into often, in a convivial atmosphere. Our club is after all composed of all its members, so thanks for your support.

Saul W3WHK

Goodbye

Time to say goodbye. This will be my last issue as the editor of The HARC Spark. For personal reasons I am stepping back from some club duties. I have enjoyed the past five years putting these publications together to bring news and information to the club.

If anyone would like to take over this position, please contact Saul – W3WHK or Bob – WA3PZO and arrangements will be made.

Rich – K3UJ

August 23 Bike Ride

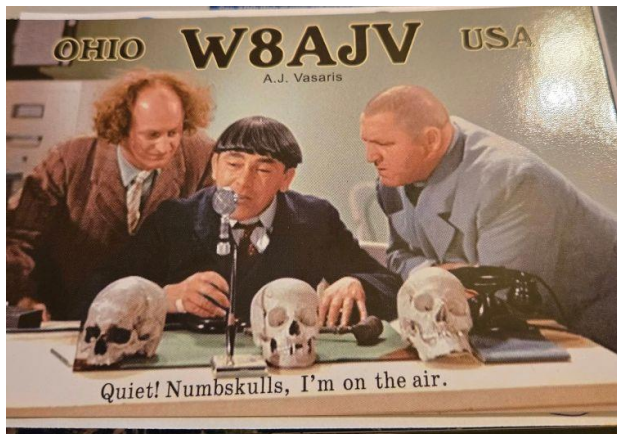
W3GIN will be leading a group of hams supplying communications for a bike ride in Philadelphia on August 23. They will be using the WM3PEN repeater from about noon – 7 PM.

13 Colonies Wrap

The 2025 Edition of the 13 Colonies Special Event is wrapping up, but 2026 is already being talked about. The 13 Colonies Event started in 2009 and HARC has participated since 2011. This year was met with poor band conditions, but still a lot of enthusiasm among all of the WM3PEN operators. HARC plays a role in the running of the event. Bob, WA3PZO is serving as a co-leader of the event nationally. HARC hosted 2 Zoom meetings of the state coordinators and of course putting WM3PEN on the air. Rich, K3UJ, also serves as QSL Manager for GB13COL. As of mid-August QSL Card requests were still coming in for WM3PEN. The WM3PEN operators made 9,633 contacts. A total of 264,015 contacts made by the 13 Colonies and 3 bonus stations.

Operators keeping WM3PEN on the air included WA3PZO, AC3LW, K8PT, KC3SMW, NF3R, K0BUF, W3AZT, W3FRB, WA3ERQ, W3WHK, W3RW, WK2G, WU3I, WA3AAN, WA3GM, K3UJ, K3FZT, WA3BXH, WA3QVU.

If you are interested in being an operator next year, contact Bob – WA3PZO



I'm calling from 35,000 feet over Arizona

I was working the 13 colonies event and on Sunday afternoon while the bands were very QRM/QSB and looked like things were slowing down so I saw an opportunity on phone so started calling CQ . I found out quickly there was more fun to be had on SSB.I got my Inrad W1 headset ready and pointed the Hex beam to S/W Bingo I poked the beehive and my pc log was quickly filling up with calls from all over. It was so frantic and I'm not a phone operator and started to sweat even under 68 degrees from the A/C. It got so bad everything was meshed together so I quickly thought "Hey it's not the usual thing to do but I need to get some control of this pileup." I went from 1 to 0 call areas but what really had me fall out of my chair was when a guy says his call and then says aeronautical mobile. I was like did I hear that right and quickly went back. I didn't write his call sign just frantically put it in my log. I thought I got lucky as I did go back into my log for that day and found K5PEFon QRZ with him standing by his small plane but after exchanging emails he told me was not flying that day. Anyways you just never know who needs a contact from 13 colonies. I can't wait until next year. Maybe an Extraterrestrial. Hi Hi it seems that's where we are heading... ET PHONE WM3PEN

Merrill – WK2G

WA3ERQ (SK)

Just coming off operating for the 13 Colonies, we learned of the sudden and unexpected passing of Jim Lanigan, WA3ERQ, 61, on July 16, 2025. His commitment to public service continued through a 30-year career as a Philadelphia Police Officer. Jim was assigned to the 35th District, 92nd District, AID and Airport Unit. Jim retired fully in May 2024, capping off decades of selfless dedication. Outside of his career, Jim found joy and connection through amateur radio. Using

his grandfather's callsign, WA3ERQ, he made countless contacts around the world and was an active member of the Holmesburg Radio Club and Philmont Mobile Radio Club. Even in retirement, his sense of service remained strong—he was a proud member of Bensalem VFW Post 9220 and American Legion Post 920.



POTA Report: Activating the District

I've been absent from the nets for quite some time now and it seems to be because I am always traveling somewhere on Thursdays. Recently, on a trip down to Virginia, I had a chance to activate the place I called home for 6 years; Washington D.C. Aside from many monuments and memorials around the National Mall, one of the largest parks to activate in the District is Rock Creek Park. The park itself begins in Georgetown, just off the Potomac and continues north all the way up the border with Maryland. From there a trail can continue to take you up through Maryland for some ways.

I had checked the map before I traveled and picked what I thought would be an ideal location to try and activate the park. I drove into the park a ways and as I did traffic got lighter and lighter. When I arrived at my pre-chosen picnic area, there were no other cars in sight. After I had set up my rig, clamping a vertical antenna to a park grill,

I came to a realization that might make my activation all the more challenging, I had no cell service with which to spot myself. As the name implies, Rock Creek Park follows a creek, which at one point must have been a mighty river as I had foolishly placed myself in somewhat of a cellular dead zone in the middle of DC.

After struggling on side band for some time, I decided to try some FT8. But then another problem appeared. I suppose my laptops clock came slightly out of sync over the weeks because I was decoding nothing, and I could not connect to my phone as a hotspot to update the time. Fine, surely someone must be able to hear me on CW 40. After 40 minutes of struggling, I came to the late realization that if the valley is blocking the cell towers from me, how much of my signal is being blocked by the valley.

I decided to pack things up and try setting up in a parking lot closer to civilization. When I got there and had some cell service, I realized my CW activity was spotted on the RBN. So something was getting out there! It took almost another hour but I managed about 12 or 13 contacts total. Most on CW and most from areas such as TX, AR, and KS.

The lesson learned: If you're ever going to operate close to running water, it is probably prudent to check a topo map first.

Final Setup. Antenna angled on car hood to avoid branches of the above tree



Andrew Chen - W3AWC

From across the pond(UK)

My name is Richard G0ILN - why you may ask am I writing a Column in Spark? You have probably guessed from my call sign that I live in England UK. Late one night I was trawling 20M's for POTA calls, I also look up the POTA website and look for "Spots", anyway I heard Andrew W3AWC and gave him 559. It was not long before I received an email from Andrew introducing himself and asking if I would send him a QSL card and my full address for a return QSL card. I always send a QSL card if asked no postage required. Reading Andrews QRZ.com page he mentioned your club magazine "Spark" My clubs magazine is Vital Spark the similarities do not end there as your club is HARC versus our club HERC (Hastings Electronics and Radio Club). Hastings was the home of the inventor of television John Logie Baird. Hastings is also famous as we had a little bust up here when William the Conqueror landed here in 1066! (The last time we were invaded). Sorry I am digressing.

From reading "Spark" again nearly a carbon copy of "Vital Spark" I found that Andrew had written two of the articles. It just so happens that I write for our magazine. I contacted Andrew and suggested maybe we could write a short article for each other's magazines. So here is a short introduction to what a bunch of old fogies get up to in UK. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month and usually have a talk May's talk was on MP1DXTR80 SUPER ANTENNA and Junes meeting is "Bring your thing." Bring along an unusual item and members have to guess what it is. In July we have an outdoor event, bring along your radio and have a picnic .Last year the ladies cooked so much food there was no park bench left to put our radios on!

On a Monday night we have an hours CW. We use 2M's FM. Myself, Mike G0JHK (Mike is Ex RAF radio operator, Ground based) and our Chairman John G0OZY. It is meant to be a CW training session but I don't think anyone has ever taken up the offer to improve their CW! Except I know for sure we have some listeners but they remain elusively silent!

On a Tuesday and a Friday evening we have a zoom meeting. One of our members is in the USA, he joins in on our Friday night session. Every morning at 10am we meet on the Hastings repeater GB3ES and have a natter, this is one way of drumming up customers to join our club. There are just over 30 members in the club and the numbers are gradually creeping up so hopefully we are doing something right!

Probably like us your club suffered through the Covid years and we are only just getting back on our feet again also it is very difficult to encourage young people to join the club. I am guessing that the youngest members in our club are about 40 Years old and I think one of the oldest members is Mike G0JHK at 92 years old and no slouch! His CW far outshines mine.

Well there you have it, an over view of our club and what we get up to. I try and write something each month for Vital Spark, it is not always easy to find something to talk about (Ask any editor!). And though I am not the editor I usually end with a note asking for articles for the magazine. It is also very rare that I get any feedback from my scribbles sometimes I feel like writing something outrageous just to wake everyone up!

For now I will say 73's not just from me but all members of HERC and you can be sure HARC will feature in the July edition of Vital Spark.

Richard G0ILN Fists 398.



Figure 1
Chairmans John
G0OZY in his
car with
Richard G0ILN
leaning on the
door. Richards
car is to the
right.



Figure. 2 John
(LH) Richard
(RH) Bob in
background
SWL

Upcoming Special Events and PA QSO Party

The Continental Navy was formed at the Tun Tavern in Philadelphia on October 13, 2025. WM3PEN will be on the air. October 10 – 13. A special QSL card will be offered. If requested a postage stamp recognizing the Navy's birthday will be put on the QSL card request and will be mailed from Philadelphia.



Adding to the mix is the Pennsylvania QSO Party which is October 11 (Noon – Midnight) and October 12 (9 AM – 6 PM). During the contest WM3PEN will be operated by Philadelphia residents. Others can operate on 12, 17, and 30 meters. At other times we invite others to operate under the WM3PEN call on all bands.

In November WM3PEN will be on the air the celebrate the Continental Marine Corp, formed at the Tun Tavern, on November 10. WM3PEN will be on the air November 8 – 11. A special QSL card will be offered. If requested a postage stamp recognizing the Marine Corp's birthday will be put on the QSL card request and will be mailed from Philadelphia.

If you are interested in operating during any of these events contact Bob, WA3PZO.

SFTW

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

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.

September 17th

HamRadioPrep and WorldRadioLeague – Our speaker, via Zoom, will be James, N0WRL. He is the CEO of HamRadioPrep.com and WorldRadioLeague.com. According to his qrz.com profile he is electrical engineer by training but more focused on software these days. Special Offer: Ham Radio Prep has offered HARC a coupon code for a 10% discount on all Ham Radio Prep courses and bundles. Use the code HARC.

October 15th

Several Club members have become interested in Meshtastic. Meshtastic is a decentralized wireless off-grid mesh networking LoRa protocol. The main goal of the project is enabling low-power, long-range communication over unlicensed radio bands. It is designed around exchanging text messages and data in off-grid environments, with potential applications in IoT projects where a decentralized communication system is needed without existing infrastructure. Our October 15 meeting will be an introduction to Meshtastic.

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.

Committee Position

Are you interested in becoming more involved with the club, HARC is looking for an Audio Visual Chairmen. Their responsibilities would be; setting up the projector and computer equipment at meeting, monitoring the zoom presentation and audio feed. Breakdown after the meeting. Storage of the equipment between the meetings.

All equipment will be supplied by the club. We will also provide instructions on how to do this.

If you are interested please contact Bob – WA3PZO or Saul - W3WHK

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.WM3PEN.org)

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)

Members-at-large – Pete Treml, K8PT

Carl Gerhart, N3ZZK

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Chris Cardullo, KC2ISV

Webmaster - Rich Shivers, K3UJ

Net Manager - Austin Seraphin, KA3TTT

Membership – Pete Treml, K8PT

WM3PEN Trustee - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

K3FI Trustee – Pete Treml, K8PT

WM3PEN @ AOL.COM

The HARC Spark is the Official Newsletter of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club of Philadelphia, PA, a 501.C.3 Charitable Organization

Copyright 2025

Editor & Publisher: Rich Shivers - K3UJ

Permission to reprint articles can be received by eMailing the editor at: spark@wm3pen.org