

September 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 ON THE MOVE
NEW MEETING NIGHT
NEW MEETING LOCATION
NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 19th!***

NEW MEETING LOCATION

We checked out 2 locations and have decided to move our meetings to the **Philadelphia Protestant Home**. Thanks to Carl, N3ZZK, for making the arrangements.

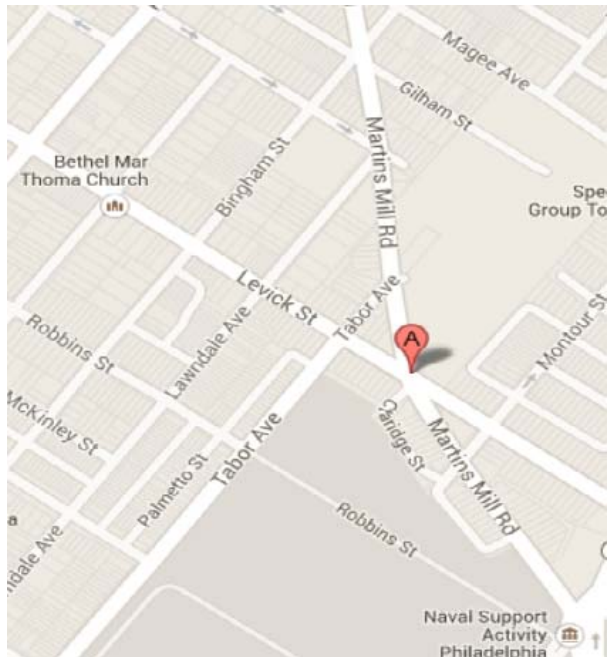
In addition we were able to change our meeting nights to the **3rd Thursday of the month**. This will allow us to have meetings in November and December without interfering with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Our first meeting at the Philadelphia Protestant Home will be on **Thursday, September 19 at 8 PM**. PPH is located at 6401 Martins Mill Road at Tabor Rd. We will be meeting in the Pathway building which is just left of the main entrance.

Enter the main gate. There is a guard at the gate. Park in the main parking lot. Once you pass the guard shack the Pathway building is to the left. It is clearly marked. We'll be meeting in the Multi-Purpose room. The room has chairs and tables, a projection system, and a small kitchenette. (The room was open at the time pictures were taken.) This will allow us to have small projects at the meeting. PPH is community oriented and we'll invite residents to attend. We may be able to schedule license testing and new ham classes.



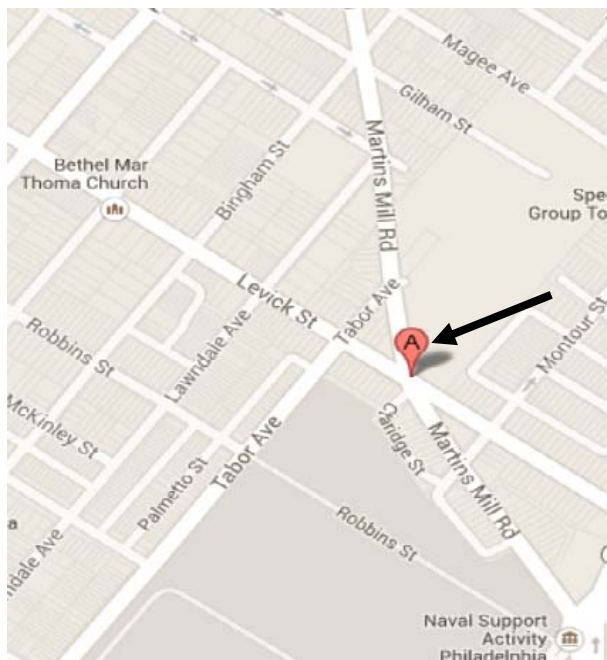
From Roosevelt Blvd, take Cottman Ave west to Algon Ave. Make Left on Algon. Make Right on Levick. Make Right onto Martins Mill Rd and a right into the parking lot.



HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
V.P./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 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. 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, the web page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

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

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website www.HARCNET.org

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting: September 19
NEYPA Run: October 20

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)

HARC in the PARK Picnic

Perfect August weather gave Club members and their families a chance to get together in Pennypack Park. Pictures courtesy of Vitaly, KC3ACQ.



N3UBY, K3CJ, WA3IFY, KB3UWJ



WA3IFY



**NY3Z, Spock, Heidi (Mrs. NY3Z),
N3ZZK**



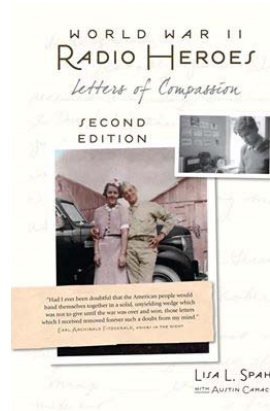
N3LXN



W3WHK, Beth (Mrs. WA3PZO)



The Gang



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 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.

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 or at HARC Meetings: \$15.00
Others: \$19.00
Shipping extra.
Contact: 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.

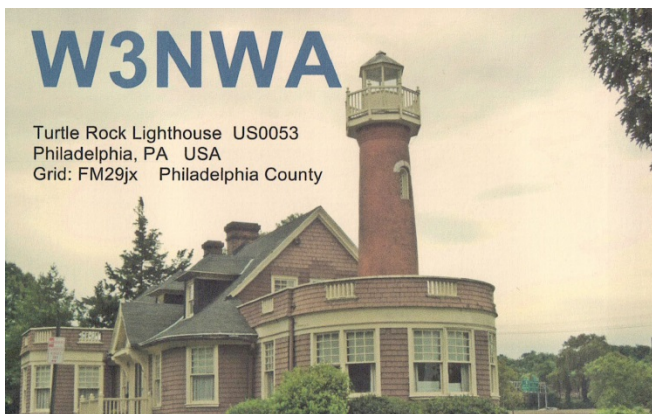
Complete rules are posted on the HARC website. Questions on the Award can be directed to HARC at WM3PEN@ARRL.NET.

ON THE AIR

Bob, WA3PZO succeeded in working W9IMS, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, during all 3 races held at the race track. He'll receive a special certificate for making the 3 contacts.



Did you know there was a lighthouse in Philadelphia? Turtle Rock lighthouse, located near boathouse row on the Schuylkill River was put on the air by members of the Mid-Atlantic ARC during International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend in mid August. There were over 500 lighthouses around the world on the air. The lighthouse was built in 1887 to aid traffic on the Schuylkill River. The lighthouse was constructed by Frank Thurwanger at a cost of \$2,663.



(qsl cards and certificate via WA3PZO)

Last month we mentioned the All Bulgarian Saints award. Each month the Bulgarian Club Blagovestnik, has a different callsign to honor a Bulgarian saint. If you work 5 of the callsigns you can get a certificate. Bob was issued the 23rd certificate this year.



Two Bulgarian Saints qsl cards.



13 Colonies Special Event
2013 Slowing down
2014 – Gearing up

Even though this year's 13 colonies special event was 2 months ago, things are just beginning to slow down. Over 475 QSL cards came in through the end of August. EQSLs and LOTW contacts are still coming in daily. Each have between 1000 and 1100 contacts confirmed. Information wrap ups have been done with all of the participants with thank you notes being sent to all of the Clubs involved.

Meanwhile plans are already being made for the 2014 event. The dates will be July 1 – 6. (Tuesday – Sunday) Several of the K2x stations will have a qrp only operator. For 2014 a second bonus station will be joining the operation. W3FT from Baltimore, MD, will be commemorating the writing of our National Anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner* during the battle of Baltimore at Fort McHenry in 1814.

We'll be looking for more ops on hf and adding vhf/uhf and satellite operations to the event. The WM3PEN QSL card will feature Ben Franklin. The theme of the 2014 event is Founders and Patriots of the Republic.

University of Pennsylvania
Amateur Radio Club News
By Russ, WA3FRP

The news from Penn is promising. We have a new and very active student leader on campus. He is Alfredo Muniz, KC3BBL, a Junior in ESE (Electrical and Systems Engineering) Department. A table was manned by Alfredo at the Engineering Activities fair and an organizational meeting in mid-September is already planned. If things go well, UPARC will be able to apply for recognition by the University as well as the Engineering Student Activities committees in January.

NE Philly 5 Mile Run
October 20th
Northeast Phila Airport

12 Radio Operators are needed to provide communications for the annual NE Philly 5 Mile Run. Walk starts at 8:15 and run starts at 9:00 AM. Some operators will need to be on site at 7:00 AM. Others 7:45.

This is a fairly easy event. Come out and support local youth sport clubs. This event was started by State Representative Dennis O'Brien (now City Council Member.) He has been very supportive of HARC and amateur radio. Contact Rich, AB3EO, or Bob, WA3PZO.

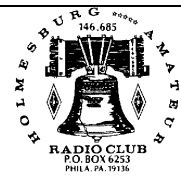
Say Hi to Juno!

NASA's Juno spacecraft will fly past Earth on October 9, 2013 to receive a gravity assist from our planet, putting it on course for Jupiter. To celebrate this event, the Juno mission is inviting amateur radio operators around the world to say "HI" to Juno in a coordinated Morse Code message. Juno's radio & plasma wave experiment, called Waves, should be able to detect the message if enough people participate. So please join in, and help spread the word to fellow amateur radio enthusiasts!

For this experiment, we would like to ask those participating to spread out in frequency across the 10 meter band. 10 meters was chosen for several reasons. The Waves instrument is sensitive to radio signals in all amateur bands below 40MHz, but experience with the University of Iowa instruments on the Galileo and Cassini earth flybys shows significant shielding by the ionosphere at lower frequencies. As sad as it sounds, we hope for lousy band conditions on October 9, so an appreciable fraction of the radiated energy escapes the ionosphere into space, and is not refracted back down to the ground somewhere else on the planet. Complete info can be found at: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/hijuno/>

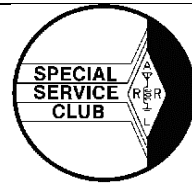
HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"

Next Meeting: September 19 Philadelphia Protestant Home
NEPYA Run: October 20th – NE Phila Airport



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) _____