



September 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>



September 15: CHIRP software for programming HTs

October 16: NEPYA Run

Hot Humid Weather Moves Annual Picnic Inside



(photo: N3ZZK)

Those lazy, hazy, hot, humid days of August prompted the HARC Board to move the annual picnic from Pennypack Park to the Pub2900 restaurant in Bensalem. Those in attendance had a good time.

Let us know your thoughts on future picnics, socials, etc. Should we continue to have an outdoor picnic? Should we change the date so there will be cooler weather? Should we stay with an indoor event?

HARC Auxiliary??

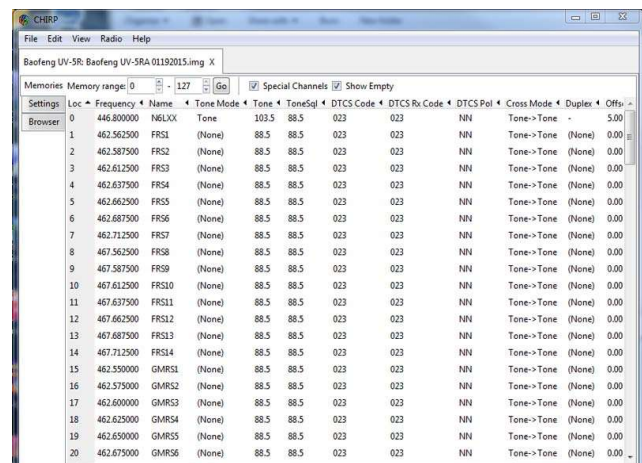
Several wives mentioned an interest in getting together on their own. If your wife or other family member is interested have them send an email to WM3PEN@AOL.COM. We will collect the emails and send out a master list to those that respond. Then it will be up to that group to move forward.

Programming your radio using CHIRP

Rich, K3UJ, discusses programming your radio using the CHIRP software. CHIRP is a free, open-source tool for programming your amateur radio. It supports a large number of manufacturers and models, as well as provides a way to interface with multiple data sources and formats. It is used a lot with the Baofeng and Wouxun



If you are interested in the software bring along a USB thumb drive and Rich will help you.



HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

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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 Meeting - September 15

NEPYA Run - October 16

HARC Meeting - October 20

September 11 – We Remember

While we all remember where we were and what we were doing on September 11, 2001, two HARC members were closely involved. Paul, K3RBO, worked in the World Trade Center, and Bob, WA3PZO, was the Public Service Editor for CQ magazine and reported on the amateur radio response.



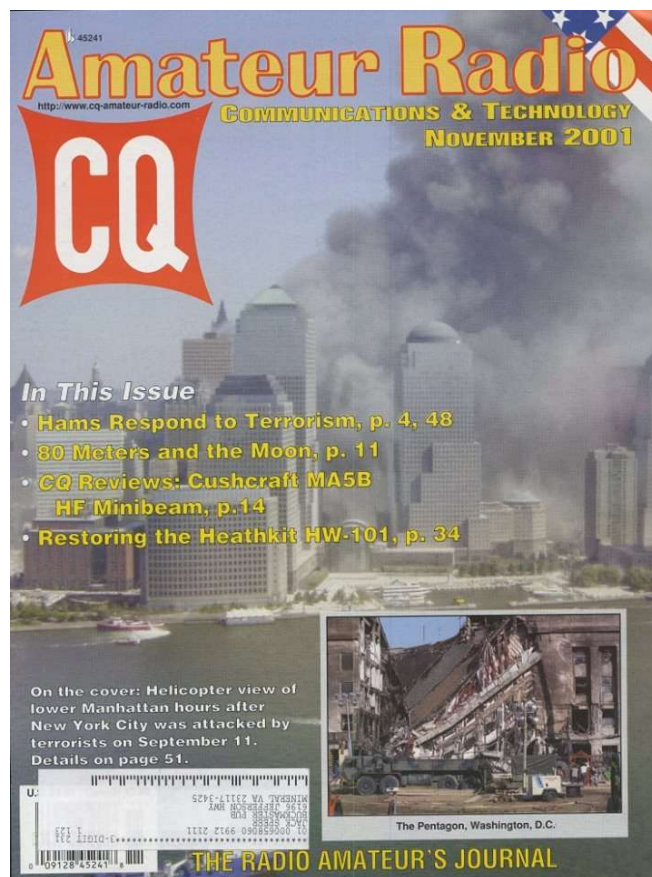
Here is Paul's story from the November 2001, HARC SPARK...

Surviving September 11 HARC member Paul Rothman, K3RBO, is a survivor. Paul travels to New York every day and until September 11 worked in the World Trade Center. Paul does all of the database work for the Club and supplies the mailing labels for your newsletter. Paul was fortunate and was able to get out of the World Trade Center after an aircraft flew into his building some 10 floors above where he works. Paul has provided the HARC SPARK with some insight as to what it was like to be at Ground Zero as it happened.. Like many other workers in a large office building Rothman got off the elevator and bumped into some coworkers. They wanted to know the status of a project. As he got off the elevator on the 74th floor he started his routine of getting his daily oatmeal and tea. Paul was already on the phone when he stood up to go to the fax

machine to get some information being sent to him. It was 8:47 AM. "I stood up to go to the fax machine, and suddenly, there was a commotion," says Rothman. "I can't tell you precisely what the noise was, other than a distant, low rumbling, scraping sound that lasted for several seconds. Then there was the shudder. The building was shaking and swaying. I stood there trying to keep my balance, not sure if the building was going to stay upright. He said there were women's screams. As some tried to be reassuring by saying the building would take the impact and that it wouldn't fall, people ran to the windows to see black smoke above them. SIGNS OF DANGER There were no fire alarms or other indication of danger. However smoke was in the elevator lobby. Rothman said to himself "this is not good. It is time to get out of here." He quickly grabbed his cell phone and left with a few coworkers. "The lobby was filled with choking diesel-like fuel smoke," he said. "The entrance into the fire stairwell was somewhat of a relief." People who survived the 1993 bombing said it would take about one hour to go down 74 flights of stairs. The floors were counted off in groups of ten. "The smoke intensity varied by floor," he said. Fifteen minutes into their decent down the stairs someone heard on a portable tv that another plane had hit tower two. "It was all to clear to us now that this was not just an accident. We were under attack." URGENCY They continued down the steps with a greater sense of urgency and fear. It was an orderly walk down. At some point firemen start to head up the same steps they were coming down. They had all of their gear - helmets, jackets, air tanks, and pry bars. All Paul had was his cell phone. When he reached the 20th floor he turned on his phone and called his wife. "To say that she was happy to hear from me is an understatement," said Paul. "I told her that I was OK and that I would call her later when I was outside. I didn't think to tell her what floor I was on at the time. This would pose doubt and anxiety for her when the first tower (Tower 2) collapsed." As he went down the steps they became damp from the condensation and slippery due to the jet fuel mist that had condensed and deposited on the wet steps. When they reached the mezzanine level there was water cascading down the steps. The

doorway was partially collapsed. Everyone had to squeeze up against one side to avoid wires and metal pieces hanging down. Security personnel lead them to the down escalator. CARNAGE On the way around the mezzanine level to the escalator, Paul and his coworkers saw the first signs of what this was all about- 'carnage'. "The floor-to-ceiling windows looking out at the plaza were blood splattered," said Rothman. "My first glimpse of bodies and body parts occurred as I stepped onto the escalator. I saw a torso, and what looked like a leg. There was a lot of debris out on the plaza. I surmised that this was debris from the plane that had crashed into the building." As they exited the building police were directing them away from the building. The police shout to keep moving and not to look up. "But we had to look up, to see the two buildings fully engulfed in smoke and flames," said Paul. "The flow of humanity away from the building was so much like the flow of refugees out of a war zone. Except they have their prized possessions. All I had was my cell phone." Paul told the HARC SPARK that he looks forward to a time when the memories are not so painful, when we don't have to worry about dangers like the one we faced that day, and when the word peace becomes a reality. A SURVIVOR Paul was almost a casualty of war. He is a survivor. He asks us to remember those who were a casualty. The 81 passengers, nine flight attendants and two pilots aboard American Airlines Flight 11, the plane that was forced to crash into One World Trade Center, his building. The 56 passengers, seven flight attendants and two pilots aboard United Airlines Flight 175, the plane that was forced to fly into Two World Trade Center, the building next to his. The 58 passengers, four flight attendants, and two pilots aboard American Airlines Flight 77, the plane that was crashed into the Pentagon. The 38 passengers, five flight attendants, and two pilots aboard United Airlines Flight 93, the plane that crashed in western Pennsylvania. The estimated 4700 people who worked in the World Center and those who came to help, who have been missing and finally presumed to have been killed. His friend, Peter Chirchirillo, who was a travelling companion and whose friendship made the daily routine of the commute to the World Trade Center bearable.

Peter worked on the 98th floor of One World Trade Center. Over 300 firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians and 57 policemen who were trying to help us survive lost their lives in that effort. Paul said, "I can only feel that I am here and alive because of the sacrifice of those brave men and women. I want to relate my anguish at seeing firemen pass us in the fire stairs, heading up into the dangers of the burning building, and knowing that they were among the casualties. We must never forget these people. I ask myself why I survived. I believe it is because of three things. First, I had God on my side. Secondly, I had the sense and the luck to act fast and get to the fire stairs. Third, because I had the pull of those who love me willing me out of that building.



Bob, WA3PZO, was the Public Service Editor for CQ Magazine from 2000 to 2010. During his years with CQ and prior to that with CQ VHF, Bob reported on major events around the world involving amateur radio. Some that stand out include the war in Bosnia, Hurricane Katrina, Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, and a major earthquake in China, but none could have prepared him to cover the attack on America.

Each month Bob had a deadline of the 10th for his amateur radio public service column. He had just put the finishing touches on a story about an auto race in Pittsburgh. He was ready to take a break for a few days. Then the next morning things changed. Bob went to his day job in the banking industry. When the attack happened there were many things that had to happen. After all the financial center was in NY.

By the time he got home he was working with his editor on writing a brand new story and having it submitted by the end of September 12. Needless to say some midnight oil was burned as Bob checked with his sources in the three locations. Photos had to be obtained, interviews conducted. This was big news. The CQ cover photo was taken by a pilot delivering new helicopters to NYC and were still in the air after the no fly orders were given. The Pentagon photo was an official government photo. Hams were busy providing communications. They did not have time to send pictures in on such short notice. But the story was loud and clear as hams provided communications for emergency management, the military, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. As the days and weeks passed Bob worked with hams who were on the scene and told the story of those that were there.

US House to Act on Amateur Radio Parity Act Bill, H.R. 1301

The US House of Representatives will consider the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, under a suspension of the rules on Monday, September 12. A suspension of the rules is a legislative procedure used to quickly pass non-controversial bills.

Speaking at the New England Division Convention on September 10 in Massachusetts, ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, expressed confidence that the bill would pass the House, but said the legislation would face additional hurdles in the US Senate.

In July, an amended version of the bill received a unanimous favorable report from members of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee. Before reporting the bill out of committee, the panel first voted to accept the amended language “in the nature of a substitute.” Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, said the

substitute bill represented “a good balance” following months of meetings, hard work, and compromise, and he recommended the measure to his colleagues.

“The amendment guarantees that even in deed-restricted communities, Amateur Radio operators are able to use an effective outdoor antenna,” Walden said. “Without an effective antenna Amateur Radio operators are severely limited, so this amendment ensures that amateurs are free to pursue their passion wherever they live.”

In June, the ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI) — the national association of homeowners associations (HOAs) — announced that they had reached consensus on rhw substitute language for H.R. 1301 in an effort to move the bill through committee and to overcome objections to the companion US Senate bill, S. 1685. (Arnewsline via Facebook)

NE Phila Youth Run Sunday, October 16 NE Philadelphia Airport

It’s that time of year for HARC to support northeast Philadelphia Youth by helping provide route and safety communications in the area of the Northeast Philadelphia Airport. This will be HARC’s 13th year to support the 5 mile run and 2 mile walk. The walk starts at 8:15 and the run at 9:00 am. HARC members need to be on site by 7 AM. Our work is finished between 10:30 and 11. The event organizers are very appreciative of our efforts. Each year HARC is mentioned in the program booklet and receives several plugs by the public address announcer. To help out contact Rich, K3UJ 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.



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

Presented by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, WM3PEN,
Philadelphia, PA

Pennsylvania 67 Challenge



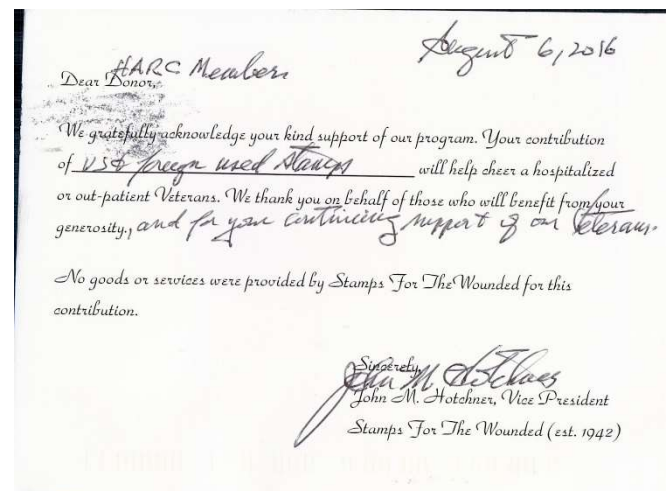
As an incentive Pennsylvania "67" Challenge certificates may be earned by working stations in 20, 40, 60, or all 67 Counties. Paper or electronic QSLs are acceptable. The contacts can be verified by a local club officer or mailed to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club.

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

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.

Additional packages of stamps have been received this month. Bob, WA3PZO, was interviewed on Amateur Radio Newsline about the 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.

PA QSO Party October 8 and 9

Here's a chance to participate in one of the most popular state QSO parties in the country. Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many other amateurs in Pennsylvania, the United States, Canada and the world. Pennsylvania Amateurs receive multipliers for each Pennsylvania county, US and Canadian section, and one multiplier for DX entity. PA Stations give a sequential contact number and their county.

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

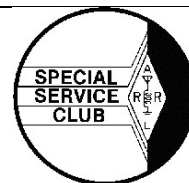
September 15 – Programming your radio with CHIRP



**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) _____