



# 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](mailto:WM3PEN@aol.com)



Editor: K3UJ

September,  
2024

## Prez Sez!

Even though our club remains comparatively small, I am pleased with what we continue and hope to accomplish. Our treasury is healthy, thanks to the ARRL grant, dues, donations, and hamfest sales. Our members participate in a wide variety of modes and activities such as CW, digital, QRP, POTA, SKCC, contesting, and VE work. We have some nice meeting presentations coming up (if I may say so myself), and the WM3PEN callsign continues to gain fame and fortune through its use during such events as 13 Colonies, and the CQWPX, PA QSO Party, and SKCC contests. We've attracted a few more members recently, and our IO and Facebook groups are quite active. Plans are underway for a possible upgrade to our repeater system, which we hope will help facilitate KA3TTT's Thursday evening net.

Perhaps most exciting is our new website hosting, which will surely enable more features and flexibility. Check it out at <WM3PEN.org>.

I hope everyone will be encouraged by this "progress report". Please keep up the good work!

Saul W3WHK

## Website

We are back. After being down for a year we are back with a new web presence.

**[WM3PEN.ORG](http://WM3PEN.ORG)**

In the past hosting was provided by generous providers or club members as sides to their own sites. This was cost effective to the club but left us open to disruptions. We have now gone to a purchased service. This will keep us working smoothly. By the time of this newsletter it should be fully restored, however if you notice any discrepancies or broken links, please let us know.

[spark@wm3pen.org](mailto:spark@wm3pen.org)

## HARC Promotes Amateur Radio at Northeast Philadelphia History Fair April 13<sup>th</sup> 2024

Your first question might be what does ham radio have to do with a History Fair. For most clubs the answer might be the Morse code connection. For HARC it was the Club promoting Philadelphia history via the annual 13 Colonies Special Event in July.

The Fair consisted of about 30 local history groups representing Lenape Indians, Rochambeau's march down the King's Highway, Grand Army of the Republic, several genealogical societies, Camp William Penn, various historic buildings, and the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club.

We were approached by the organizers and asked if we would like to participate. Besides having our presentation table, they thought it would be interesting if we could also set up a demonstration station. It was not possible to do this inside but thanks to POTA operator Andrew, W3AWC, we were able to set up a station outside the main entrance to the event. Everyone saw us

as they walked in. Weather was not our friend that day. High winds and temperatures in the low 50s. With the assistance of Tony, WO3I and Carl, N3ZZK, Andrew made a number of HF contacts, running 10 watts with his G90 transceiver and a Hamstick antenna. Visitors were then directed inside to see our display which had plenty of information. Staffing the inside table was Rich, K3UJ, Bob, WA3PZO and Dave, KB3AKK.



As visitors came by we explained what the 13 Colonies Event was about and how we promote Philadelphia history by having a different theme on the Event certificate and complimenting WM3PEN QSL cards. We had a 3 ring binder with all of the participating special event station qsl cards as well as the yearly certificate. More importantly we had a one page handout that explained the event.

We used the ARRL handouts on things you can do with ham radio along with the history of Morse Code, and the Club. QSL cards were given as handouts with the Club email address on it where they could write for more information. At the end of the table was a straight key and an oscillator. The code was posted. Visitors had the opportunity to send their first name in Morse Code and upon being successful they would earn a nice certificate.

Visitor questions ranged from what is ham radio, what is the 13 Colonies event, and do you still use Morse Code? Others talked about their working years in electronics or that they or a relative was in the Service and used Morse

Code. Probably the most difficult topic to cover was "can I hear ham radio on a shortwave receiver?". The answer was - it depends. Many had small pocket sw radios. but did they don't receive sideband. There was no one answer that fit all cases.

Some said they would email the Club for more info. Others expressed interest in coming to a club meeting. With the club info we included a club membership sheet at half price. Also included was information on joining the ARRL via the Club.

We were prepared with our 'elevator' speech. For those not familiar with this term, an elevator speech involves getting your message out in the amount of time it takes to go one floor on an elevator. There were several, depending on the topic. You need to grab the visitor's attention quickly before they move on.

It was a successful day telling the ham radio story and promoting the Holmesburg club. Us club representatives also enjoyed visiting the other exhibits and learning more about Northeast Philadelphia History. And it is a rich one, besides the early colonists in the 1600's, the Lenni Lenape made this region their home for many years. Artifacts are still being found.

## PNBR Support

Amateur radio in the Delaware Valley and cycling have a long history of collaboration, and the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club's collaboration with the 15th annual Philadelphia Naked Bike Ride continued that proud tradition.

The Philadelphia Naked Bike Ride, or PNBR for short, is a part of the World Naked Bike Ride, a worldwide movement advocating reduced fossil fuel usage, positive body image, and cycling advocacy by using nudity to showcase the vulnerability of cyclists. PNBR is one of the largest in North America, regularly attracting over 3000 cyclists, and a ride that large has obvious communication problems when it gets under way. The biggest issue was that the front of the ride needed to know where the back of the ride was, so that the front could set a pace to keep the ride together, but we could not reliably communicate that information quickly.

I've been involved in the ride since 2016, and pretty much immediately set about trying to solve the communications problems. We'd tried FRS walkie-talkies, walkie-talkie apps like Zello, group phone calls, text threads, and everything seemed to break down for one reason or another. I'd been interested in amateur

radio for a number of years, saw how useful they could be at the MS150 ride, and got my ticket in March of 2023 with the help of Dennis Silage K3DS.

I set out trying to build a radio team. I recruited Erik Dixon KC3OTY, Jax Loesch KC3UFO, and Jonathan Caicedo N3JEC to help, and aside from some minor repeater hiccups on K3TU, it went AMAZINGLY.

After the success of the 2023 Ride, I started encouraging more cyclists to get their license, and eventually five got licensed in time for the ride: Mountain KC3ZOZ, Jon KC3ZPR, Ee KC3ZPA, Kimee K1MEE, and Mae KC3ZBB. Since K3TU was down for maintenance, on the test rides we did signal checks and worked out that WM3PEN had the most reliable signal over the largest portion of the route. After we got clearance for the event, we programmed our radios with WM3PEN as the primary, switching to 2m Simplex East of Broad Street. Additionally, 10 RX-only HTs handed to trusted volunteers spread throughout the ride gave us a greater ability to communicate requests and information beyond the amateur operators.

The day of the ride went swimmingly. Myself and Ee KC3ZPA were the advance team radio operators, Mountain KC3ZOZ was the frontline operator, Kimee K1MEE and Jon KC3ZPR were the column marshals, with Erik KC3OTY and Jax KC3UFO bringing up the rear as sweeps. Once we nailed down some communications protocols on the fly, information flowed freely and reliably. The back was able to talk to the front, and the ride column stayed together perfectly. The ride ended at Drexel Park in West Philly, and the repeater was returned to normal amateur operation with our most sincere gratitude.

The PNBR and Philly cycling community looks forward to working with HARC in the future, and growing the hobby by getting even more cyclists licensed!

Alexandria Schneider, KC3VTD

### **WM3PEN – 13 Colonies 2024**

While the 2024 event is history on the air the QSL card requests are still coming in. Over 12000 QSOs and more than 4000 QSLs in various forms including, electronic and paper, continue to show up. Several included letters with the paper QSLs. Here is a sampling of those notes:

•  
I am fairly new to the hobby. This is my first attempt at a contest on my own, the only other thing I have done was field day. But I did this at home with no direction or assistance....I do not have any QSL cards of my own yet to share but thank you for all of you hard work in completing this contest. Thank you for the fun and the intensity of the contest for this rookie. - KO4ZYG

•  
It was great fun and I really appreciate your group helping to make it all possible. - KI7FK

•  
I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my heartfelt thanks to you and the entire WM3PEN team for coordinating the recent 13 Colonies Special Event. It was truly a remarkable experience and I am grateful for the time and effort you all dedicated to making it a success. - KP4MI

•  
Thanks very much for your patriotic celebration! You are personally helping bring excitement to the entire amateur radio world in the name of this great nation. Thanks to all of you for your service! - WO8USA

•  
Thank you for providing this special event for shortwave listeners, and a special thank you to the wonderful activators who worked incredibly hard this year. I'm honored to have the chance to participate as a listener while I save up for my first rig. As a still new ham, the community has been wonderfully accepting and knowledgeable, and I'm proud to be part of it. - KD2ZOX

•  
I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and high spirits. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your invaluable contribution as an amateur radio operator during the Thirteen Colonies Special Event. Your tireless commitment, enthusiasm, and expertise have made this event a resounding success. The historical significance of the Thirteen Colonies Special Event cannot be overstated. Not only does it provide a platform to celebrate our nation's rich history, but it also showcases the incredible capabilities of amateur radio operators like yourself. Through your dedication and skill, you have helped foster a sense of unity, education, and entertainment among participants and listeners alike. Your role as an

amateur radio operator is a true testament to the spirit of volunteerism and community service. The countless hours you spent communicating, facilitating QSOs (contacts), and spreading awareness about this event have not gone unnoticed. The level of professionalism exhibited by you and your fellow operators was exceptional, and your patience and kindness towards learners were commendable.

Moreover, your technical expertise showcased during the event has undoubtedly inspired aspiring radio operators, fostering a passion for amateur radio with the next generation. By participating in the Thirteen Colonies Special Event, you have become ambassadors of this cherished hobby, promoting its significance while encouraging others to explore the world of amateur radio.

On a personal note, I would like to express my admiration for your exceptional skills in maintaining clear and concise communication channels. Your commitment to professionalism enhanced the overall experience for participants, providing us with unforgettable moments of excitement and camaraderie. Once again, please accept my sincerest appreciation for your selfless dedication as an amateur radio operator during the Thirteen Colonies Special Event. Your contribution has left an indelible mark on the participants, listeners, and the entire amateur radio community.  
- NC4OM

Getting ready for next year. July 1 – 7, 2025.  
Interesting in participating contact Bob, WA3PZO.

### **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.**

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## **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

We are coming up on the holiday season again. Don't forget to save those stamps from all the holiday cards you receive. Bring them to the January meeting or send them to me.  
Rich – K3UJ

## **New Members**

Alexandria, KC3VTD

## **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.

## **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](http://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](mailto:ab3eo@comcast.net)

Kit building. - I will offer assistance, finish something started or do a complete build for you.  
Rich – K3UJ [ab3eo@comcast.net](mailto:ab3eo@comcast.net)

Antenna installation  
Carl – N3ZZK [Carl9521@aol.com](mailto:Carl9521@aol.com)  
Dave – KB3AKK [kb3akk@hotmail.com](mailto:kb3akk@hotmail.com)

CW & Contest operation  
Saul – W3WHK [saulbro@aol.com](mailto:saulbro@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

### **HARC Membership Dues**

If you have not renewed yet, please do so.

Club membership begins on May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Full member (licensed ham) @ \$20  
Family member (licensed ham, after first member pays full dues) @ \$5 (Name, Call)  
Associate member (unlicensed person) @ \$5

Cash or check can be paid at the April meeting

Make checks payable to H.A.R.C and mail to:  
3341 Sheffield Ave,  
Philadelphia, PA 19136

Please add a note with your:  
Name  
Call  
Address  
Phone Number  
E-Mail address  
Note if you are an ARRL member

As alternative use PayPal:  
[Wm3pen@arrl.net](mailto:Wm3pen@arrl.net)  
and put the information in the note box.

When sending in dues via Paypal using the web interface the procedures changed for submitting dues as a friend.

On \$20 there is a \$1.07 service fee. If you use the Donate button there is a 2.89% of the transaction plus a \$.49 fixed fee. Currently out of the \$20 that you submit the Club gets \$18.93.

By using the attached guidelines there will be no service fees.

## 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](mailto: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  
                                  Tony Pace, WO3I  
Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC  
                                  Chris Cardullo, KC2ISV  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor - Rich Shivers, K3UJ  
Net Manager - Austin Seraphin, KA3TTT  
WM3PEN Trustee - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO  
K3FI Trustee – Pete Treml, K8PT

**WM3PEN @ AOL.COM**