

October 2009

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3FI CLUB CALLS WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Oct. 22 HARC Meeting General Meeting

NEITHER RAIN NOR WIND

HARC Members braved rain, wind, and cold temperatures to supply communications for the 6th annual Northeast Philadelphia Youth Association Walk and Run this past Sunday. The event started at the Northeast Airport and followed a 5 mile course which brought the event back to the Airport.

Participating in the event were Mike, N3LXN, Rich, AB3EO, Carl, N3ZZK, Tom, KB3PNM, Sol, N3UBY, and Bob, WA3PZO. Sol and Tom staffed spots midway on the route and the others helped control traffic along the driveway entering the airport from Grant Avenue.

Everyone appreciated the work that HARC members did. WA3PZO got several comments:

From the runners: 5 runners said thanks for looking out for them.

From the race director: She appreciated the updates along the course.

From the time coordinator: Appreciation for keeping his staff up to date where the runners/walkers were.

From the DJ: Thanks for the updates so he could inform the crowd.

From: PA State Representative Dennis O'Brien: Thanks for providing the services we do.

HARC is mentioned twice in the program booklet. HARC and the Scouts were mentioned several times on the PA System.

34th Annual Mayfair - Holmesburg **"Parade of Talent"**

Sunday, November 22nd 12 to 4 PM - rain or shine
John Perzel Community Center, 2990 St. Vincent St.

This year will be a change for the Club. HARC has been asked to staff a table promoting amateur radio and the club. There will be other community organizations as well. It does not appear that the Club will have to provide any communications for the event. If you are interested in helping with a Club table contact Bob, WA3PZO.

The change of location from Frankford Ave to the Perzel Center is due to the City now changing for services along the parade route.

Parade sounds, sights, smells, and parade favorites will again be on hand to perform for the community. The Kensington String Band and other top Philadelphia String Bands, plus our community groups will be performing throughout the afternoon. Visit the tables of our parade sponsors to learn how they serve the community. Perzel Club House Hot Dogs, pretzels, and other "parade treats" will be offered by the Center. The Pennsylvania Masons and Shriners will be on hand to continue the Parade tradition, and the LuLu Shrine Klownz will be accepting donations for the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital for disabled children.

And what is a holiday celebration without Santa and Mrs. Claus to meet community children of all ages.

Tell friends, family, and neighbors that the parade marches on!

HARC Board of Directors

President - Mike Wurgley, N3LXN
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

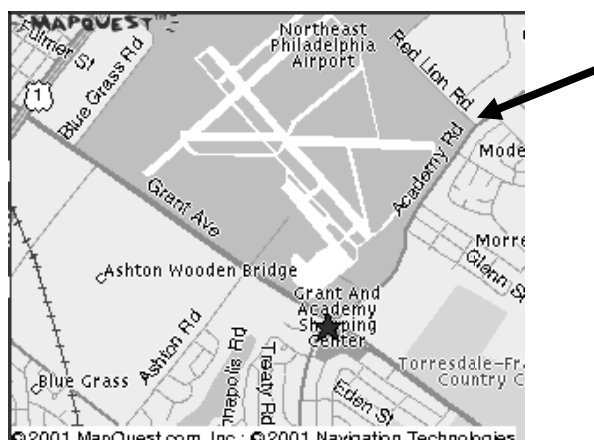
H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Odd number months). General meetings are held the 4th. Thursday @8:00 PM. 8th District Police Station, Red Lion & Academy Rd. Phila PA. No meeting in August.

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

Newsline and the ARRL Audio News are available locally by dialing (215) 624-0672 and follow the prompts.



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.

Your article could be here!

Interested in writing a story for the HARC Spark? We're looking for stories of your involvement with electronics or ham radio. Maybe you got a new piece of equipment, new software, antenna. Did you participate in a special event, contest, or other radio related event? Story ideas can be submitted to wm3pen@aol.com or to the Club address.

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

November 22 – Be There in the Square

Repeater Update

From Ron, K3RJC

The repeater amplifier has been down for some time. Here's an update from Technical Chairman, Ron, K3RJC.

Last week I went down and totally cleaned the repeater and installed an amplifier I had. The repeater is putting out 30 watts so it is probably putting 21 watts out of the duplexers. I also mailed the club's TPL back-up amplifier for repair. I should be hearing something this week. It was putting out about 15 watts. (should be 120 watts)

I went down to the main site this past Sunday to perform some adjustments on the voter. Hopefully they were good improvements. I have been down the Main site three times in the last month... Hopefully the next time is to get high power working again.

The 444.900 is off the air. There is an issue with the voter. No audio is passing through. I had to pull the controller to assure it was OK. It is indeed OK. I am guessing a chip for the voter.

Have an Idea for a Club Program?

Do you know of someone willing to speak at a club meeting?

Have you done something that might be of interest to the members?

Contact Mike, N3LXN or Bob, WA3PZO with your ideas.

***Did you tell
someone
about ham radio
today?***

Personal Service (relayed by N3ZZK)

Here's a story of service from Elecraft on good customer service.

Lu, W4LT, recently built Elecraft K3 SN 3192 from several boxes of parts. During the course of my evaluation of the radio, I have often complained to the company regarding the ergonomic feel of the controls. Both CEO Eric Swartz, WA6HHP, and CTO Wayne Burdick, K6KR, listened to my complaints and assured me that they would take care of them completely.

With these assurances, I jumped off the high dive, spent what to me are big bucks and purchased the rig in June as my gift to myself for losing 100 pounds. All of my issues with control ergonomics had been fixed, except for the four "QUAD" encoders to the left of the main VFO. They were still sloppy.

I complained to the factory, going through the trouble to create a video of the issue for them to look at. Wayne Burdick contacted me personally via email and gave me >the choice of receiving a complete new front panel for me to install or sending the radio in to the factory and having them replace the encoders at no charge to me. The radio would then be certified as a "factory assembled" radio. This process would take three weeks to do. I chose the second option.

Three weeks ago, I sent 3192 via UPS ground to the factory. It arrived in 5 days on a Wednesday. The following day, I received a personal email from Dale, K6ZP, the technician assigned to my radio relaying that he would be working on it the following Friday and asking if I needed to relay any additional information regarding what I wanted done to the radio to him before he started work. I told him to check and see if the mods I had applied were up to the latest factory standard and to generally go over the rig and assure me that I built it correctly.

Later that day, Dale emailed me again to tell me that he had installed the encoders and had certified the radio. I had not installed the IF buffer level mod (changing out one SMD resistor) due to the fact that I do not have a LP-PAN unit. In case I decided to get one instead of a P3, Dale installed the mod for me. In the email was the UPS ground tracking number for the package, as the radio was shipped to me at the end of that day.

I received the radio today, in exactly three weeks as promised, double boxed and packed in a factory new shipping carton, shrink wrapped and looking as if it had just come off the assembly line (they even wiped off my fingerprints!) On top of the inner carton was a personally signed work order from Dale that included a detailed report of the work that was performed on the rig and certifying that it meets or exceeds all factory specifications. Also attached are screen captures of my filter equalization curves, gain adjustments and offsets for reference. Dale also relayed that I was free to contact him at his personal email address if I had any questions regarding the work that was performed on my K3.

The encoders are now perfect with almost unnoticeable backlash... No better or worse than those on my former TS850 or my current TS570.

I just received a follow up email telling me that the package was signed for at our front desk and who received it, to make sure I had the radio in hand and asking for feedback on how the process was executed by Elecraft.

In today's business environment, its rare to find such attentive and personal service. Not only was the process handled in a very professional and efficient manner, but the encoders are now perfect, as they should be. I must say that I am impressed by the care in which Elecraft handled my issues. I am now a completely satisfied customer!



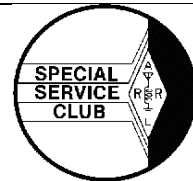
HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136
"Serving the Community Through Ham Radio"



HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 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.

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) _____