



# 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>



December 2015

## ***October Meeting Raises Questions About ARES® in Philadelphia HARC Supports NEPYA 5K Run and Walk Looking Towards 2016 Holiday Dinner – December 17***

### **Philadelphia ARES Emergency Coordinator talks about his plans for ARES in Philadelphia. Questions raised.**

Philadelphia ARES Emergency Coordinator Roger, W4FTJ, presented information on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service program he is working on for Philadelphia. He also introduced Dick, K3ITH, who is the District Emergency Coordinator for the 5 county Philadelphia area and EPA Section Emergency Coordinator W.T., WN3LIF.

Roger spoke on how he is looking at dividing the City into Districts, similar to the various police districts. He stressed the importance of getting involved with the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website the CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Following the meeting additional research was done into the program in Philadelphia. According to the FEMA website there is no CERT program in the City. In addition the City Office of Emergency Management makes no mention of a CERT program. The Phila Citizens Corp Council hasn't updated their info on the [FEMA website](#) since 2010 and the 2 Phila CERT links from the [FEMA page](#) are bad.

### ***HARC Supports NEPYA 5K Run and Walk***

Members of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club provided communications for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Philadelphia Youth Association Run which supports several youth sports groups in Northeast Philadelphia. The event was founded by City Councilman-at-large Dennis O'Brien.



While the event is generally an easy event with participants reporting the location of the lead runners this year proved why we are there. A runner came up lame with a possible muscle pull. E.J., KB3UWJ, handled the response with professionalism as the ambulance was contacted and race officials were notified.

HARC made some recommendations to the Race officials to better handle these types of situations more efficiently in the future. These will be discussed with the Race committee when they meet. Participating in the event were Charlye, K3CJ; Sol, N3UBY; Rich, AB3EO; EJ KB3UWJ, Mike, N3LXN; Dave, KB3AKK; Bob, WA3PZO. Not pictured are Carl, N3ZZK and Jon, NY3Z.

## HARC Board of Directors

President/Treasurer - Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Vice President - Greg Malone, WA3GM

Secretary - Saul Broudy, W3WHK

Technical - Ron Cardullo, K3RJC

Member-at-Large - Sol Volen, N3UBY

Mike Wurgley, N3LXN

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.



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](mailto:WM3PEN@arrl.org), the web page

<http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website

[www.HARCNET.org](http://www.HARCNET.org)

*Upcoming Events*

*December 17<sup>th</sup> - Dinner*

*January 21 - Story behind QSL cards*

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.harcnet.org))

This info was forwarded to the ARES leadership. After discussing the presentation at the NEPYA run with members who were at the meeting, HARC President WA3PZO, emailed the ARES leadership indicating a general support for ARES however there was little appetite to support the current plan. WA3PZO offered some other ideas that could be explored. These include:

1. Learning digital radio for message handling/NTS
2. There are hams volunteering at the Red Cross (23rd and Chestnut)
3. EPA ARRL is a member of SEPA VOAD
4. FEMA is also looking at the possibility of support from NTS.

So are you interested in learning more? Message handling can be done on 2 meters as well as HF. This could be a club/group effort to learn about digital modes. The other activities are being looked into. WA3PZO will stay in touch with the ARES leadership to see what happens.

### 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.

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, AB3EO, who will mail them.

Many stations, including DX, included extra stamps with their qsl cards for WM3PEN that we are able to pass onto the SFTW program. We had 4 stamp albums donated and several mailings once stations received an insert with SFTW information in their qsl card. We even had inquiries from 2 clubs interested in starting their own **program**.

## 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.

Complete rules are posted on the HARC website. Questions on the Award can be directed to HARC at [WM3PEN@ARRL.NET](mailto:WM3PEN@ARRL.NET).

**Holiday Dinner**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM**  
**The Pub 2900**  
**2900 Street Road**  
**Bensalem, PA**

[www.thepub2900.com](http://www.thepub2900.com)  
**Just east of The Parx casino.**  
**You and Family invited. We will**  
**order off of the menu. RSVP to**  
**WM3PEN at aol.com**

From the Offices of Santa Claus

December 7, 2015

**IT IS THIS WONDERFUL SEASON AGAIN –  
REGARDS FROM THE LAND OF SANTA**

Season's Greetings from Santa's broadcasting arm,  
OF9X (Old Father Nine Xmas)

As in so many years in the past, the OF9X station will beam the message of Christmas and help Santa Claus, OH9SCL start his journey to bring Yuletide cheer to children worldwide. This is actually the 30th anniversary of OH9SCL appearing from the Arctic Circle and getting our children and ourselves tuned to the spirit of Christmas on radio waves.

This year the activity is organized by the Radio Club of Artic Circle, OH9AB and the Radio Club of Pusula, OH9W and supported by Radio Arcala, OH8X.

The station OF9X will be active from December 10-28, 2015 on all bands, including 472 kHz.

The elves at OH9SCL are:

Rami, OH3BHL; Ynsky, OH9KL; Kimmo, OH9MDV and Juha, OH9MM

QSL OH9SCL via  
OH9AB <<http://www.oh9ab.com/oh9scl>>

Those dozen radio elves at OF9X are:

Jyri, OH2KM; Niko, OH2GEK; Pertti, OH2BEE; Arto, OH2KW; Pauli, OH5BQ; Pekka, OH2TA; Era, OH2CV; Rami, OH2BCI; Martti, OH2BH; Veijo, OH6KN; Kim, OH6KZP and possibly Arttu, OH2FB, a junior elf of 12 years, will also have a crack at running a pileup and would like to make SSB QSOs during the Christmas weekend.

QSL OF9X through Club Log at OF9X / QRZ.com or via OH2BH

All proceeds and donations will be forwarded to the Finnish Red Cross for their Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

## Time to Give Thanks

Well 2016 will be here in a few weeks. Hardly seems like the coldest days of the season are only 6 weeks away. Yet we have been through a very busy year and looking forward to another exciting year for HARC. Topping the list were the 2 special events that we participated in. The 13 Colonies in July and the Pope's visit in September. WM3PEN made thousands of contacts around the world. The international ham radio press coverage that was generated really makes the call known around the world. Of course the call would not have been on the air without a dedicated group of ops giving up their time behind the mic and key.

Both of these events and through the generosity of families and fellow hams we have supplied thousands of stamps to the Stamps for the Wounded program which helps with therapy for disabled vets.

We have had a variety of speakers. Some of our own members. Each taking time to tell us something of interest about our hobby – amateur radio. Then there is the repeater maintenance, the web site, the nets, picnic, public service events, etc that all involve planning and work.

Each activity has one or more club members helping to get things done for the good of the club. We can do much more, but what we do get done each year is impressive. So give yourself a pat on the back and say thanks to your fellow club member for keeping HARC Radio Active.

Have a safe holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!

Bob, WA3PZO

## Stay Connected!

The HARC Club net meets every Wednesday night at 8 PM on the Club repeater. Check in and see what's going on. HARC has a Facebook page. Sign up today. Follow HARC on the web at [www.harcnet.org](http://www.harcnet.org) and via the HARC Spark.



## Editor's coverage limited

It started with a very slow computer response time in early November. Then some strange gremlins began to appear in Internet Explorer. I thought for sure I had picked up a virus. Well I took it to a repair place to be checked out. While the gremlins are gone, several programs were not behaving correctly. I started to shop for another pc. Well after deciding on what I wanted, we were getting into the Black Friday deals. So I ordered a computer. You'll have it by December 9. Well here it is the 13<sup>th</sup> and it hasn't shipped. So your author has been working off of a smartphone for mail and finally got a laptop that we could use for the newsletter. We're hoping this gets better real soon.

### **Severe Flooding in Southern India Triggers Large Amateur Radio Response. A Report on ham radio activities during the Chennai floods by Gopal, VU2GMN**

When the torrential rain came for several days, numerous areas were flooded. This was compounded by the release of water from a natural reservoir that was overflowing and in danger of the banks failing. Some area experienced over 3 to 4 meters of water, which meant that all ground floor houses were totally inundated and owners lost everything.

Loss of life reported initially is over 300 but several more would have also succumbed. Most hams were also isolated in their homes as normal passenger cars could not negotiate the high waters. Power supply was also cut off in most areas as the distribution systems were under water. Gradually all cellphones stopped working and land lines became erratic. Hand held transceiver batteries also died down.

Most filling stations ran dry, internet failed and even banks were unable to process transactions as they could not access their data bases and so no one could draw any funds. Credit card and ATM transactions were not possible

On 4<sup>th</sup> December water levels started to come down and power was restored in some areas, with most of the city still having no power. Once it became possible to move, hams started going out assisting with delivery of food and water to stranded individuals and assisting with rescue from tall buildings where people were trapped. The army, navy, home

guards and the national disaster action forces have all been deployed

The number of hams increased substantially, a control room was established to coordinate efforts and more volunteer organizations have swung into action to provide food and water. Many mobile stations became active to become active in locations not possible earlier. Fortunately two local VHF repeaters are working and so VHF communications was effective. A watch was also being maintained on 7.070 in case of messages from distant locations, but that was not being utilized very much and so it was discontinued.

VU2JAU OM Jayu has been approached by several hams worldwide as to where relief material could be sent and an NGO in Chennai has been identified to take care of this and provide efficient distribution. We established a station at their location also to assist. On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 the EmComm net slowly reduced the number of hams on the ground and maintained a close watch on what was urgently needed. Some volunteers continued with their work of distributing food, water and medical supplies. Volunteer medical teams accompanied some teams to distribute medicines and treat whoever required on the spot treatment.

Most of the hospitals in and around the city are on high alert now as after the rescue efforts the fear is of disease as many were exposed to flood waters which were highly polluted. The control stations are active on 7<sup>th</sup> December also but with reduced volunteers, many of who have had to go back to work after almost a week of doing relief work. The net was kept going for another two days then wound down as traffic requirements reduced.

The task of rebuilding the devastated city will be herculean and numerous support groups have become active. Especially receiving and dealing with material that is coming in from all over the world. Many of the hams are continue to be active with support groups providing medical and other form of assistance to affected citizens.

Apart from communications, many risked themselves going to very flooded areas distributing food, medicines and accompanying medical teams. Since the 145.550 (-ve shift) repeater was Echolink enabled, several hams connected from remote stations to pass traffic or enquire on situation. One station from Bengaluru was particularly active enquiring about the weather, situation on running of trains and situation at the airport. They made enquiries almost every 10 minutes!

**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

**Club Dinner is December 17**

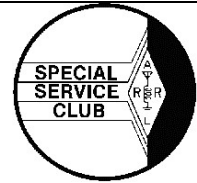


**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**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) \_\_\_\_\_