



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.harcnet.org>
WM3PEN@aol.com



Editor: K3UJ

December,
2023

Prez Sez!

I know several of you have had experience operating remotely. WB2BXO does so due to his lack of antenna space, for example, and WA3GM operates his home station while he's away on Florida. I'd like to tell you about my first remote operation.

I am a member of the Frankford Radio Club, a very competitive "contest club". One of the club's "tech gurus" (K2XR) had the bright idea of hooking us up to operate WA2DNI's station in Staten Island NY (Icom IC-7610, dipole for 40m, triband beam for high bands) for the recent CQWW CW DX Contest. WA2DNI himself does not do CW, so aggregate club score points would've been lost had his station gone unused.

After many hours of training and practice using the remote software on my home computer, I was apprehensive but ready when contest time approached. We operated 28 hours, and I'm told our 1.5 million score (1147 QSOs) is "quite respectable", especially with no 80m or 160m antennas. I did most of the operating, with K2XR doing "mornings for mults". We kept WA2DNI busy switching antennas and aiming the beam.

I really missed not having a paddle to send CW (used keyboard), and not being able to twirl actual knobs like a radio op should (used software control), but I sure could get used to receiving a lot of immediate replies, and to effortlessly working many DX countries like Japan and China that I rarely even hear at home. Just one more example of the many and varied aspects of ham radio!

Enjoy your holidays!

Saul W3WHK

December Meeting

Holmesburg's December meeting will be at Joseph's Pizza, 7947 Oxford Ave, on December 12th at 6:30 PM.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

December Trivia Question?

How many amateur radio bands do we have?

Website

You might have noticed we are having some problems with the HARC web page. It was being hosted on a site provided by Jim – AJ3DI (SK). We are now working on getting it transferred to a new provider.

Stay with us, it will be back up shortly.

A memorable contact....

By Bob, WA3PZO

Recently I was cleaning out some old ham radio material and came across an envelope from LU5HFI. I quickly went to my shoe boxes of qsl cards to find his qsl card.

I had passed my Novice ticket in 1970 and earned my General License in December of 1972. By early 1973 I was ready to make some voice contacts that were spanning the globe. In early March I had my first contact

with a ham in Argentina. Little did I know that Fred Laun, LU5HFI, would be involved with an international incident in April 1974. This was a short time after I received Fred's QSL card.

On April 12, 1974, Argentine guerrillas kidnapped American official Fred Laun. He was a cultural affairs and information officer in the provincial capital of Cordoba. Laun was seriously wounded when he resisted 9 commandos that entered his home. One of the commandos was a woman. They burst into his home at about 8:30 a.m. on a sunny nationwide religious holiday. There was a report of large blood stains on a rug in the living room. According to the kidnappers he was interrogated for his ties to the CIA. The US ambassador to Argentina denied that Laun had any ties to the CIA and he was an amateur radio operator. Radio antennas installed on the roof of Laun's home about 15 miles north of Cordoba might have attracted the guerrillas attention. Laun's short wave radio transmitter and receiver were taken by the kidnappers.

Fred served in several countries before going to Argentina. These included Vietnam, Brazil, and Santo Domingo. In later years Fred, now K3ZO, headed up the Incoming QSL bureau for the third call area. We got to know each other via emails. I told him of my QSO with him and he knew of my call, WA3PZO, and WM3PEN. Fred became a SK earlier this year.



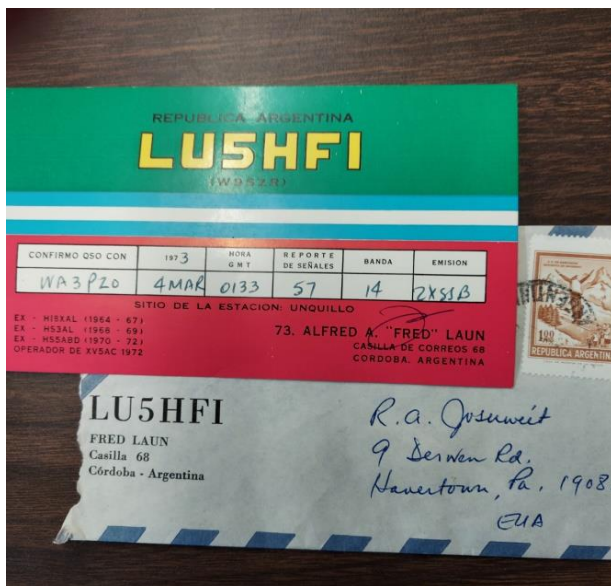
SFTW Stamps For The Wounded

Philadelphia Club supports wounded veterans via stamp collecting program

What do you do with the envelopes when you receive about 1000 QSL card requests following the July 13 Colonies Special Event? Do you just throw out the envelope or is there something you can do with the cancelled stamps? This was a question discussed by the QSL managers for WM3PEN, the club call of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (HARC).

WM3PEN trustee Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, learned of a program called Stamps for the Wounded. Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) is a service organization dedicated to providing comfort and stimulating activity to U.S. veterans through stamp collecting. SFTW sends donated US and foreign postage stamps and other philatelic material and supplies to wounded, ill, and isolated veterans. SFTW has been helping veterans since 1942. The program gives the wounded something to spark their interest and avoid staring at ceilings.

Just how many stamps has the Club shipped? According to Rich Shivers, K3UJ, who coordinates the shipments, HARC has shipped over 68 pounds of stamps. Shivers says approximately 4000 stamps equal 1 pound. That means that about a quarter million stamps have been shipped to SFTW! Stamps have been received from several countries including Great Britain, Germany, and Canada. Through local publicity people learn about amateur radio. Several hams who are active in other organizations have started their own stamp collection and are sending their collections directly to the SFTW program.



Josuweit says that this is a project that clubs, special event organizers, or even individuals can start. We promote the program on our QSL cards as well as on the web and social media sites. For further information on the SFTW program you can go to <https://www.stampsforthewounded.org/> or contact HARC at WM3PEN @ aol.com.

And 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

Please save the stamps from your holiday cards.

On The Air

Winterheat 2024

Jan 1 – Jan 31

VHF/UHF Simplex competition ([Heads-up techs](#))

<https://hamactive.com/index.php>

Santa Net

3.916 7:00 PM CST

<https://www.cqsanta.com/>

January VHF Contest

Another tech opportunity, there is a FM category.

Jan 20-22 2024

<http://www.arrl.org/January-vhf>

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.

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.

Membership

We would like to welcome recent new members of HARC:

Andrew Chen – W3AWC

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.harcnet.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

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

Antenna installation
Carl – N3ZZK Carl9521@aol.com
Dave – KB3AKK kb3akk@hotmail.com

CW & Contest operation
Saul – W3WHK saubro@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

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

Trivia Question Answer.

There are 30.

2200M, 630M, 160M, 80M, 60M, 40M, 30M, 20M, 17M, 15M, 12M, 10M, 6M, 2M, 220 Mhz, 420 Mhz, 902 Mhz, 1240 Mhz, 2300 Mhz, 2390 Mhz, 3300 Mhz, 5650 Mhz,
10 Ghz, 24 Ghz, 47 Ghz, 76 Ghz, 122.25 Ghz, 134 Ghz, 241 Ghz, 275 Ghz and up

HARC Board of Directors

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WM3PEN @ AOL.COM