



# THE HARC SPARK



December 2025

Editor: W3AWC

The official Newsletter of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club 501(C)(3) Charitable Organization

WM3PEN 146.685 MHz Repeater | K3RJC 444.9 MHz Repeater | Club Calls: K3FI – WM3PEN

Web Site <https://www.WM3PEN.org> | Groups.io <https://groups.io/g/WM3PEN> | [WM3PEN@aol.com](mailto:WM3PEN@aol.com)



## Feature Photo — Courtesy of Peter Tremel K8PT

Echoes of a mild October day are brought forward in these photos submitted by Peter Tremel. A light breeze, and the faint smell of just decaying leaves set the backdrop and the Mood's covered bridge your portal to stacks of used and like new Yaesus. Boxes of tubes and other new-old stock electronics being offered at the can't beat price of free where, quite frankly, you'd be doing the ham a favor by freeing up a shelf for that project that's just been sitting in the middle of the floor.

## EchoLink is Up!

A huge thank you to Chris Cardullo KC2ISV for getting EchoLink back up and running so that far flung hams can check into the HARC Thursday night nets (at 8 pm eastern time).

The club is still troubleshooting the EchoLink node from the perspective of both signal quality (on transmit and receive) as well as the number of users that the node can host at a single time. Of note: If you find yourself speaking to someone on EchoLink, that person cannot transmit while the squelch is broken. That can take a few extra seconds after a transmission, so give a bit of extra time to those EchoLink users!

## In this Issue

As 2025 comes to a close, we hope you enjoy this December issue of the HARC Spark! A few fun tidbits and recaps in case any of the HARC events were missed.

Members of HARC are becoming more involved with the UPenn ARC, not only because of the historical connection between the two clubs, but a new and energized president at the helm of UPARC who is bringing together the local ham community to breathe some new life back into the club.

During our November meeting, we learned about a new club and effort to bring ham radio to the broader Philadelphia community through the Free Library of Philadelphia led by Drew Birden.

The conversation around Meshtastic continues in this issue with a reprint of an article which raises some worthy points on the popularity of Meshtastic and contrasts that technology to more traditional ham tech.

Look out for a seasonally appropriate work of fiction from our correspondent overseas G0ILN and a few other pieces from club members. Happy Holidays!

Andrew – W3AWC

## Prez Sez!

I feel like it's been a pretty good year for HARC. We've developed relationships with the University of Pennsylvania ARC and the Free Library of Philadelphia, and have had several new members join us as well. We have a fine new newsletter, this HARC Spark, and our Thursday net continues to prosper. The WM3PEN callsign is recognized worldwide, especially because of its use in the annual 13 Colonies operating event, and we have collected even more Stamps for the Wounded. Let's keep it going in 2026!

Please remember that I'm anxious to have any topic or speaker suggestions for meetings, so if you have an area of interest you'd like to learn about, do let me know.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season, and much fulfillment in the new year.

73,  
Saul W3WHK  
HARC President



HARC President Saul Broady W3WHK demonstrating his morse chops



UPARC President Jefferson Ding VA3JFO at the helm

## HARC and UPARC

By John Campbell, W3MHZ

On October 18<sup>th</sup> UPARC engaged the broader U Penn and amateur radio community by hosting and informational and networking session on campus. Bob WA3PZO gave a presentation on the history of the club and HARC club president Saul W3WHK was also in attendance.

UPARC got the station on the air and made contact on both phone and CW NVIS in Regions 2 and Regions 3 for FemFEMA; upstate New York down to North Carolina also DX to Germany using the W3KZ club callsign. We raised a 70 foot Chameleon Sloper for 10 - through forty meters in the Engineering School Levine Hall inner-courtyard, ordered 10 pizzas and made some contacts. Worked great with 5x9 and 599 signal reports using 100 watts

HARC president Saul was banging out Morse Code like a pro and some U Penn students made their first ham radio contacts

Two people signed up for the More Program (not Moore) - which is Dr. Mercuris program where they give instructions for the tech exam and if you pass you get a free radio. A nice one at that! Like a Yaesu HT.

UPARC continues to explore and research Meshstastic and are providing Seeed T1000E mesh nodes to interested Penn students.

UPARC is setting up a base station on Campus at Levine Hall using 6 meter and 2 meter dipoles. Hopefully the 6 meter and 2 meter antennas can be used to participate in the Geminid meteor scatter Ham Sci QSO event December 12 - 14, though that is during final exams so will be tough for the students.



Bob WA3PZO presents on the history of UPARC

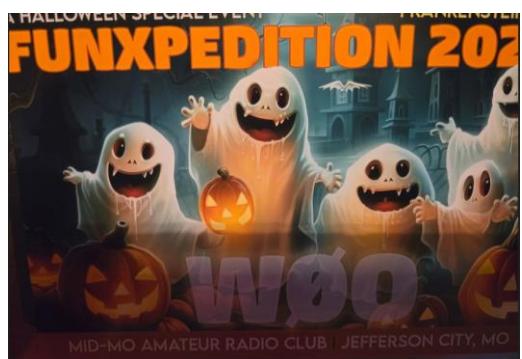
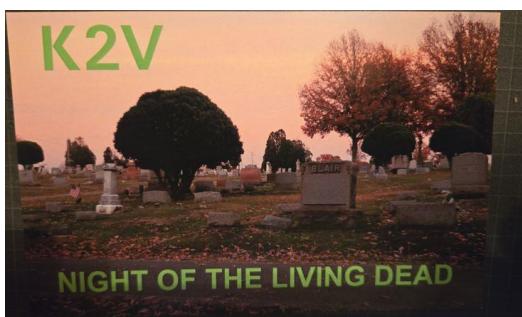
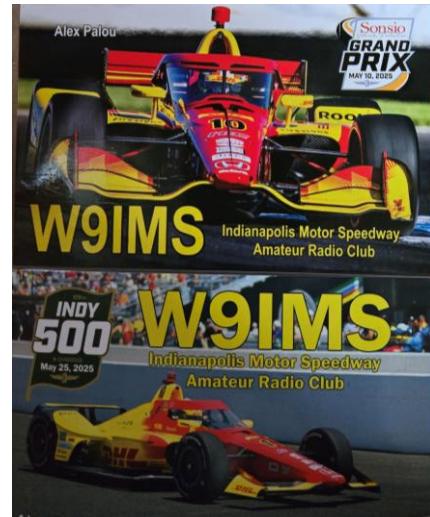
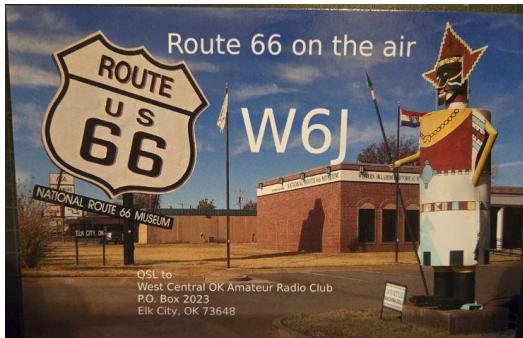
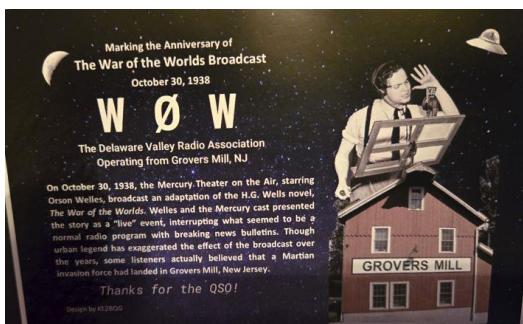
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# Special Event Stations

By Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Within HARC the term special event comes up frequently. Most are familiar with the 13 Colonies Special Event that WM3PEN participates in. But just what is a special event? A **Special Event Station** is a special operation usually in observation or commemoration of a special or historical event, often with a special vanity call sign. These stations generally operate for a short time and have special QSL cards to commemorate the event.

In the past few months there have been special events from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, along the famous Rt 66, Halloween related events such as the Night of the Living Dead, War of the World, and from Frankenstein. Mo. Some can commemorate a significant event such as the 50 th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Others recognize Bigfoot, Godzilla, and even National Mashed Potato Day. Here are some sample QSLs and certificates that you can earn.



# MESHCON 2025 is a Wakeup Call to Amateur Radio for Relevance With Techies Interested in Radio Technology

By Steve Stroh N8GNJ

Meshtastic is becoming popular in the Philadelphia area. Many tech types are playing with Mesh. It's a growing community where you don't need a license to operate. Read on...de WA3PZO

This article is reprinted with permission. It was first published in Zero Retries newsletter, issue Zero Retries 0226, October 31, 2025 - <https://www.zeroretries.org/p/zero-retries-0226>

*MESHCON 2025 isn't quite a fully independent conference devoted to Meshtastic (and MeshCore, and Reticulum - which I'll call collectively call "Meshtastic, etc.") but it's pretty close to one. And its existence of such a focused conference should be a wakeup call to Amateur Radio's leaders because mindshare among techies interested in radio technology is shifting away from Amateur Radio.*

MESHCON 2025 is a one day conference, on a Friday, organized by [SpecFive](#), a manufacturer of mesh networking units for commercial and government (rather than hobbyist) users, some of their units incorporating Meshtastic.

But wow... an entire conference / day devoted to *one* mode? That would be like the entire [Zero Retries Digital Conference](#) being devoted to AREDN or M17. (Oh, wait, that was actually done with the recently concluded [M17 Conference](#)).

## [MESHCON 2025 Videos on YouTube](#)

*Meshtastic, etc. now has phenomenal penetration amongst techies that are at least mildly interested in radio technology.*

It's been said that Meshtastic, etc. is a "gateway drug to Amateur Radio". I (somewhat smugly) agreed with that statement when I first heard it in 2025.

*But I'm not so smug now, and no longer certain that Amateur Radio is going to be able to interest Meshtastic, etc. and more generally, mesh networking operating on unlicensed bands.*

Consider:

- Meshtastic, etc. is now well represented at every technology conference, especially those targeted at non-professionals and hobbyists, such as Open Sauce and many others.
- One of the most appealing aspects of Meshtastic, etc. is that it can be used mobile / pedestrian. The units are lightweight, portable, battery powered. There's very little equivalent in Amateur Radio technology for portable data communication devices.
- It's easy and inexpensive to get involved in Meshtastic, etc., especially in being able to purchase low cost equipment.
- To get involved in Meshtastic, etc. there is ample infrastructure available and waiting new users to just "connect up".
- There are now Meshtastic, etc. organizations in many urban areas and regions. Example - [Meshtastic Bay Area Group](#).
- Meshtastic, etc.'s core technology, Semtech's implementation of Chirp Spread Spectrum (CSS) - LoRa - is a very robust modulation, marrying long range capability at low transmitted power.
- While it hasn't been widely used for Meshtastic, etc., there is a more robust infrastructure option (than the current digipeater network architecture) that could be used - [LoRaWAN](#).
- To get involved in Meshtastic etc., there are ample learning resources available - videos, web pages, tutorials, vendor information, local user groups, etc. Note these two YouTube videos posted just in the last few days - [This Really Is CB Radio For The Modern Era!!!](#) and [Can Meshtastic Replace APRS? The Ultimate Showdown!](#)
- Meshtastic, etc. has multiple well-developed and well-maintained free apps to make the experience of using Meshtastic, etc. more pleasant than small displays and constrained keyboards on portable devices.
- Meshtastic, etc. is quickly evolving and improving. When techies want to get involved in improving Meshtastic, etc. there are ample opportunities to do so.

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- Despite Amateur Radio's generally better knowledge of the fundamentals and vagaries of radio technology, Meshtastic, etc. is increasingly filling those gaps with explaining radio technology fundamentals, like various types of antennas, propagation, etc.
- Meshtastic, etc. almost entirely operates on unlicensed spectrum, thus no hassles with obtaining learning arcane things for an Amateur Radio test, taking the test, battling the FCC or equivalent to get a license (and in the US, pay \$35 for the privilege).
- Although not Meshtastic (which is a layer operating on LoRa), even satellite communications can be done, as a hobbyist, without an Amateur Radio license thanks to LoRa and the [TinyGS](#) project.
- Because Meshtastic, etc. isn't operating in Amateur Radio spectrum, there are no hassles about using encryption, commercial use, interconnection with Internet, etc.
- Most Meshtastic, etc. users seem to be young, or at least *younger* than the typical demographic of Amateur Radio.
- I haven't seen any information / promotion of Meshtastic that wasn't completely publicly available. There are no "Meshtastic, etc." paywalls for basic information such as books, magazines, organizations. If you're interested in Meshtastic, etc. you can find more open information than you can easily consume.
- All available information about Meshtastic, etc. is relatively new and current. When information about Meshtastic, etc. is out of date, it's only out of date by a few months or at most a year, perhaps two. Certainly not decades, as is often the case with much information about Amateur Radio available on the web.
- The Meshtastic, etc. community is well-connected and has now proven that it quickly mobilize to meet threats or opportunities. This was amply demonstrated in commenting on NextNet's proposed reconfiguration of the 902-928 MHz band in the US ([FCC WT Docket No. 24-240](#)).
- Meshtastic, etc. users consider Meshtastic, etc. to be an emergency communications capability, both wide area and personal.
- Meshtastic, etc. is improving and growing exponentially. The last time we saw something comparable in Amateur Radio was the *Packet Radio Revolution* beginning in the early 1980s.
- Most profoundly, in comparison to Amateur Radio, Meshtastic, etc. is considered *relevant... current... interesting... cool*. The most common response when Amateur Radio is mentioned to someone with no previous exposure to it... "Oh, is Ham Radio *still a thing*?"

By comparison, Amateur Radio is often perceived as old, tired, and much of the information available from casual web browsing is comparatively stale. Information about anything in Amateur Radio that's comparable to Meshtastic, etc. is very hard to find without knowing what, specifically, to look for.

- **APRS?** Nope - Just from the technology aspect (versus LoRa), it's not even in the same league as Meshtastic, etc., even APRS messaging. And the core capability of APRS - sharing location information, is built into Meshtastic, etc.
- **Packet Radio?** Also not in the same league, mostly stuck in 1200 bps AX.25 AFSK even when packet radio capability is built in to portable radios and made more usable with nice apps like [Packet Commander](#). Even applying Forward Error Correction is a huge battle against decades of inertia to continue using 1200 bps AX.25 AFSK without FEC.
- **CATS?** Better technology than APRS, and in some ways comparable to Meshtastic, etc. But, there are vanishingly few people that know about it, and it isn't getting promoted by anyone besides its creator and here in Zero Retries.
- **IP400?** Just getting started, and it's not being promoted very effectively.
- **LinHT?** Very promising given it could be a "do anything" portable radio that can run GNU Radio flowgraphs. But it's still in the prototype / development stage, with no firm plan for it to become generally available.
- **SuperPeaters?** [I can envision SuperPeaters](#) being vastly better infrastructure for an Amateur Radio alternative to Meshtastic, etc. But from what I'm observing, 99.9% of the owners of repeater currently online would rather see their repeaters sit quiet and unused rather than convert them to vastly more useful and capable SuperPeaters.

#### Why Does This Exponentially Improving Success of Meshtastic, etc. Matter?

- Remember the 11m Amateur Radio band? *Now Citizens Band*.
- Remember the 220-220 MHz portion of the 1.25m band? *Now commercial use (however poorly)*.

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- Remember the Amateur Radio exclusive portions of the 3.5 GHz and 5 GHz bands? Now *unlicensed or commercial use*.
- In the next few years, Amateur Radio is going to lose much of the utility of its secondary priority in the 1240-1300 MHz band because of increasing use of it by the primary application for that band worldwide - non-US Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). Those systems consider most types of Amateur Radio operation to be incompatible with GNSS operations - mostly because Amateur Radio can transmit at high power in this band. But given the popularity of Meshtastic, etc. worldwide, and that Meshtastic, etc. hardware is universally low transmit power, regulators allowing techies to experiment with low power Meshtastic, etc. in 1240-1300 MHz might be tempting.

Thus there's ample precedent for some (well organized) individual, or organization, or company, or regulator to propose reallocation of Amateur Radio exclusive or shared spectrum... or begin sharing of currently exclusive or semi-exclusive Amateur Radio portions of spectrum. Again, as a precedent, in the US, there's 100% overlap of the 902-928 MHz band between unlicensed use and Amateur Radio use. The only substantive difference between unlicensed and Amateur Radio operation in that band is that Amateur Radio can transmit at higher power levels than unlicensed use. But operating as Amateur Radio on 902-928 MHz...

- Encryption cannot be used,
- "Commercial" use (however ill-defined that is) is not permitted,
- "Broadcasting" is not permitted,
- Callsigns must be used,
- You must have an Amateur Radio license, with all the other myriad restrictions inherent with that.

#### **To use Meshtastic on 902-928 MHz as unlicensed... "just go have fun".**

*Which sounds more interesting to you? Which do you think sounds more appealing to an average techie who's curious about experimenting with radio technology?*

In Meshtastic, etc. on unlicensed spectrum "versus" Amateur Radio, my opinion is beginning to shift that perhaps there isn't a good response by Amateur Radio to the momentum of Meshtastic, etc. operating on unlicensed spectrum - and having lots of fun doing so.

Perhaps the only effective response by Amateur Radio is...

*If you can't beat 'em... join 'em.*

As in get some Meshtastic gear operating on (low power) unlicensed rules, and join in the fun with Meshtastic, etc.

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## **SKCC Sprint**

By Austin Seraphin, KA3TTT

On September 13-14 I activated WM3PEN in the Straight Key Century Club's weekend sprint. The SKCC does all their work with mechanical keys, such as traditional telegraph keys, sideswipers (also known as cooties), and bugs. For this sprint I used my SKCC Cootie, made by W1SFR. It has a marble base and a wood handle. It feels organic, which complements the mechanical CW.

Each month's sprint has a theme, and this month celebrated club calls. Stations would get a five-point bonus for working one. The WM3PEN call went over well, as it always does. I received many thanks for the bonuses. By the end I worked 20 stations on 20 and 40 meters.

Our club has member numbers in several clubs, and activating WM3PEN makes a great way to get out the club call. I look forward to next year's sprint.

## **WA3PZO Appointed Assistant 13 Colonies Event Coordinator**

By Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO

Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, has been appointed Assistant 13 Colonies Event Coordinator. In making the announcement Event Manager Tony Jones, N4ATJ, said that Bob has been a big help.

Josuweit has coordinated WM3PEN's participation in the 13 Colonies Special Event since 2011. The 13 Colonies Special Event is held July 1 – 7. It has become one of the most anticipated summer operating events with over 264,000 contacts being made by all 16 of the special event stations in 2025.

If you are interested in helping with the WM3PEN operation in 2026 contact Bob, WA3PZO. Information on the 13 Colonies Special Event can be found at 13colonies.us. Information on the WM3PEN operation can be found at [wm3pen.org](http://wm3pen.org)

# Flashover House

By Richard Putnam, G0ILN

The residents of Flashover House, a retirement home for radio amateurs, are readying themselves for Christmas. Some of the guests are getting quite old now. Some have become SK to be replaced with younger residents such as G4 and G6 even a G0,

G4 James is quite a jovial character always cracking jokes you know when he is in the sitting room because you can hear him laughing long before you walk into the room. G6 Frank, besides amateur radio is also a dab hand on the guitar that is of course if you like country and western music!

The same old chestnut was being talked about in the lounge and also over the dining table.

What is happening at Christmas. Christmas was always the highlight of the year, looked forward to

by the guests and staff alike. Matron was a big lady matched by her authority but always kind to her boys who she loved to the point that she had taken her basic radio exam and now was a G1.

She was scratching her head as to what metaphorically she could cook up for Christmas to keep the boys amused. A good slap-up Christmas dinner was a certainty but they always had a meal on Christmas Eve which usually meant inviting guests. Female company always worked well as did inviting fellow amateurs from Balun House in Long Twittering. What to do? At that moment Cook walked in to the room "I was just thinking about Christmas" said Matron "That's funny so was I," said Cook. "What do you think the boys would like best, male or female company!" Cook with grin on her face, replied "Well I am sure there is no competition. They would all like some female company."

One day in late October Matron ushered all the Guests into the lounge. A spacious room with comfy arm chairs and sofas and a few low coffee tables dotted around. It was quite a sombre room, Oak paneling and a large bay window looking over well-manicured gardens. Between the bushes discreetly hidden were a few vertical antennas and not in view from the bay window but stretching from one of Flashover Houses baronial chimney pots to a tall tree at the far end of the garden was a beautiful long Doublet antenna. Well, the boys thought it was beautiful!

Cook and Matron were both smiling waiting to see the reaction of the boys to the Christmas arrangements. "We are in trouble again" said Angus, "Matron is smiling". "Probably RFI upsetting Cooks TV set" said Rees Morgan in a lilting Welsh accent.

"Boys, Boys please can I have your attention," said Matron. "This year's Christmas arrangements". The old Hams brightened up. "We were thinking that you might like to spend Christmas Eve with the ladies from the home in the next village? What do you think?"

A cheer went up from the assembled audience. So that was settled and everyone was happy.

The talk in Flashover House leading up to Christmas besides who they expected to work over the Christmas holiday was what the seating arrangements were going to be and what presents they could surprise their guests with.

At long last, and it did seem an eternity to the Boys Christmas Eve came around. There was a large Christmas tree in the bay window and decorations were hung in the lounge and the dining room.

Matron had even had lights strung around the porch doors and everything was in place for a wonderful evening. A coach had been laid on for the ladies to transport them to Flashover House.

The smell of food was wafting from the kitchen and Cook had been working most of the afternoon

, making sausage rolls, sandwiches of all description. Hot mince pies and Ice cream and many more delicacies to cheer the pallet!

The boys were in their best bibs and tuckers and Matron had warned them to be on their best behaviour. Everything was ready. The sausage rolls and other savoury morsels were sitting next to mince pies and were cooking in the oven and everyone was on the porch awaiting the arrival of their guests. The Ladies were a bit behind schedule but once they arrived were doted on by the boys.

Pre-dinner sherries were served by Cook who then checked the seating plan and became a most amiable host helping the elderly ladies to their seats and generally chatting to the assembled crowd. Maybe she should have been paying more attention to the cooking of the sausage rolls and it wasn't until the smoke alarms sounded that Cook rushed back to the kitchen followed by Matron and the Boys, peering round the kitchen door. Flames and smoke were gushing out of the oven Frank a sprightly G6 rushed into the kitchen and maybe a little too hastily grabbed the fire extinguisher opened the oven door and flooded the inside of the oven with foam.

Now we are in trouble said G3 Arthur Thrustle looking over his half-rimmed glasses.

Cook was beside herself. She was in tears and Matron was lost for words. Have we any more sausage rolls said Big Dave. "No" said Cook. "I made

them all freshly this afternoon. James who was usually a very jovial man had a frown on his face as he thought of ways to save the day. Franks fire extinguisher antics had scuppered any idea of saving the contents of the oven. The ladies were undeterred and regardless the of Flashover House problems were determined to make the best of the situation and were already pulling crackers and putting on paper hats.

One lady read out a mock motto. "What made the sausage roll?" the boys were groaning "A fire extinguisher". The ladies were all laughing and James and the boys all joined in.

"So, what are we going to do," said Matron. I have an idea said Big Dave "we could order Chinese.

One of the local Hams owns a Chinese take away".

"What about all the sandwiches" piped up Weasel? "That's not a problem", said Cook "I can freeze them". "Go ahead Dave" said Matron you might be able to save the evening.

Dave put a call out on the local repeater as he knew Lee always left the "handy" ticking away in the background while he was cooking the orders. Lee answered nearly straight away "Hi Dave how are you. I heard you are all entertaining this evening" Big Dave told Lee about the disaster in the kitchen.

"Could you put together a mix of Chinese food for us. "No problem," said Lee. The details were exchanged.

It seemed no time at all that Lees wife was standing in the porch of Flashover House with boxes of trays full of delicious Chinese food. The aluminium trays were passed down the table. It was more like some mad indoor picnic than pre-Christmas nibbles but all the guests were having a fine old time.

Time flew by and it was not long before it was time for the ladies to go home if not a little worse for wear. But all agreed it had been a super evening.

\* \* \*

PS. In case you are wondering if the Hams ever got their Christmas dinner. All was well.

Mr Hammeright the part time maintenance/odd job man worked through the night to restore the oven to pristine condition. So yet another year passes at Flashover House.

As the picture fades we see them with paper hats having a fine old Christmas meal with Matron and Cook looking on.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year From Hastings Electronics and Radio Club. HERC.

Richard G0ILN.

I must thank Stan Simpson G4ITM (SK) for the original idea of Flashover House.

## HARC November Meeting

By Andrew, W3AWC

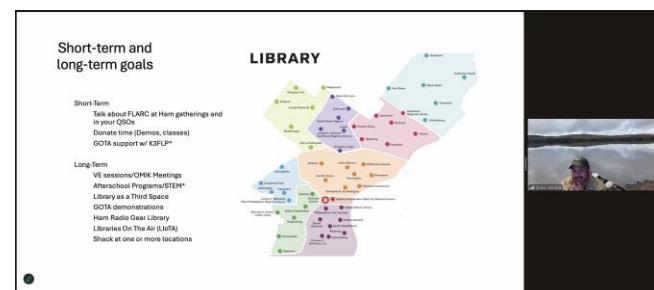
The HARC November meeting was a very interesting talk given by Drew Birden (WA3DB) on his current efforts and future plans to bring ham radio to as many Philadelphians as possible through the Free Library of Philadelphia (FLP). Drew has already made great progress in spreading the good word of ham radio through educational sessions, displays, and VE testing sessions at the Parkway Central Library.

Of note is that Drew hopes to engage the next generation of hams through the integration of ham radio at FLP. Some topics that were discussed were a possible ham equipment loan program and potentially setting up remote stations in libraries where licensed hams and library card holders could reserve time and operate HF from the comfort of their homes. An additional foundational pillar of Drew's efforts is the establishment of an official club call: K3FLP!

With's Drew's vision, access to library resources and the help of a few local hams, he is poised to make waves in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the national if not international ham community. I'm sure

many share the view of this editor.

All at HARC wish Drew the best of luck building K3FLP and the ham resources at the Free Library. Readers should not hesitate to reach out if they would like to volunteer time or resources to Drew's efforts!



Drew presenting plans and FLP locations during our November meeting



A display of some books, QSL cards, a straight key and more at FLP

# HARC Spark Reader Survey

We hope you have enjoyed this December 2025 edition of the HARC Spark. Last time we wanted to know how many radios with TX capability you own. About 16% own 1-3, 66% own 4-8 and 16% own 9+!

**Please follow [this link](#) to take our reader survey!** Ever wondered how your fellow hams approach the hobby? Well here's your chance to find out! Come back to the next issue to see the results!

Don't hesitate to contact us at [spark@wm3pen.org](mailto:spark@wm3pen.org) or post something on our groups.io page to give us feedback or suggest some things you're curious about your fellow hams!

## Stamps for the Wounded

It's that time of the year, please save the stamps from your holiday cards for the Stamps For The Wounded program.

I can arrange to get them or you can mail them to me.

Rich Shivers - K3UJ  
168 Crabtree Dr.  
Levittown, PA 19055

Thank you for your participation.

## Meetings

Club meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month 7:30 PM Eastern over Zoom. Please check the HARC groups.io page ([groups.io/g/WM3PEN](https://groups.io/g/WM3PEN)) for a meeting zoom link posted by our president the day before the meeting.

## The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club Weekly Net

The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club's weekly net meets on Thursday nights at 08:00 PM. On the WM3PEN repeater in Philadelphia. Come and join us on 146.685 MHz, with a PL of 146.2 Hz. We now also link to the K3RJC repeater, 444.9 MHz, with a PL of 131.8 Hz. Bring your questions, announcements, and stories of your latest ham radio adventures.

### Interested in being net control?

The net begins promptly at 8PM. Use the strongest radio you have to ensure a good net control signal into the machine. Be sure to have a pad and a good pen, or type quickly, because the check-ins come quickly (you can ask them to slow down and do phone cs if you'd like). When someone checks in, please acknowledge them by callsign, and name, and thank them for checking in, wishing good evening, make a joke, whatever suits the moment. Leave some space after asking for check ins, because we sometimes get groups of 3-4 at a time.

Opening: The Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club weekly net meets on Thursday nights at 08:00 PM. on the WM3PEN repeater in Philadelphia. Come and join us on 146.685 MHz, with a PL off 146.2 Hz. Bring your questions, announcements, and stories of your latest ham radio adventures. Information on the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club can be found on the Club website – [www.wm3pen.org](http://www.wm3pen.org). You can check out the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club Facebook page or join the WM3PEN group on groups.io.

First – Is there any emergency or priority traffic. (pause) We will take check-ins from stations that are short on time. (pause – acknowledge them)

After check-ins are recognized we will have: Announcements Contests Comments from those checked in. A 73 round for final comments. Any additional check-ins before we start comments.

Call on each check-in for comments. If a lot of stations checked in pause after a few comments looking for additional check-ins. At the end of the list of check-ins indicate that there will be the 73 round. Once done. Close the net and turn the repeater back to regular use.

## 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, WU3IL, 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 the newsletter know and you will be added to our list here.

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

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 [Carl19521@aol.com](mailto:Carl19521@aol.com)

Dave – KB3AKK [kb3akk@hotmail.com](mailto:kb3akk@hotmail.com)

CW & Contest operation

Saul – W3WHK [saulbro@aol.com](mailto:saulbro@aol.com)

Portable Operation – Are you trying to operate away from home? Looking to get into POTA? Maybe you're not sure what kind of antenna can fit in your car but can still deliver results. Let's chat!

Andrew – W3AWC [callsign.w3awc@gmail.com](mailto:callsign.w3awc@gmail.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, a short comment or just have a photo or two you would like to share! We would be happy to receive all material.

The HARC SPARK is a publication of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to HARC members, and space is available. Material is accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Articles and other materials may be submitted in Word or Text format to [SPARK@WM3PEN.ORG](mailto:SPARK@WM3PEN.ORG)

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**Submission Deadline: January 15 2025**

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