

www.w3uu.org



Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club Newsletter

HRAC meets the
second
Wednesday of each
month
at 7:00 pm at the
Red Cross Building
1804 North 6th Street
Harrisburg, PA

CLUB OFFICERS

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Shelby Minier
K3EMT
shelbyminier@gmail.com

The President's Letter.....

In the event that you have been under a rock someplace, we are having our Winter Hamfest this month. Saturday January 14th to be exact. We will have the doors open at 8am (or sooner if we get set up earlier) and will be open until about noon. VE Testing at 9am, so be ready to upgrade. Further details are in this news letter.

I have been working with CPRA in a joint effort, at no cost to the HRAC, to create a linked system of UHF repeaters which will cover the central portion of Pennsylvania. With the help of Dan (WA3ATV), Kevin (KA0JQO), Chris (KB3TWW), and me (WB3BKN), the newest addition went on line Monday 1-2-2012.

You will find the Newport repeater on 445.55 with a tone of 123hz. The coverage is impressive. I was sitting in Palmyra and talking through it with a very strong signal. The linking system should be in place within the year. The repeater carries the call sign W3ND.

As of approximately two weeks ago the new UHF repeater on Reeser's Summit went on-line. It is on 446.425 mhz with a tone of 123hz. This repeater also carries the call sign W3ND. This one will be linked to the Newport 444.55 machine and a few others including Harrisburg and Cornwall.

Please come out to the meetings and the winter hamfest and help support your club.

73,

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)



December Meeting Minutes

The December 2011 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was opened at 7:00 PM. by the President, Terry/WB3BKN, followed by introductions.

Secretary Report

Doug/K3DRE made a motion, seconded by Rick/K2RBT to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the newsletter. Motion PASSED

Treasurers Report

Joe/KQ3F presented the treasurer's report. Doug/K3DRE made a motion, seconded by Rick/K2RBT to accept the report as presented. Motion PASSED

Laurel VE Committee

The next scheduled testing session will be held on Dec 17 at 911 Gibson Blvd.

There will also be a test session held at the winter fest.

Trustee Report – no report

Repeater – no report

Membership Committee

Tim/KB3OZA still has not yet been granted access to the New Hams query on the ARRL web site.

Terry/WB3BKN will continue to pursue the matter with ARRL.

Tim has figured out a way to process the raw data from the FCC database, but it would still be easier if he had access to the ARRL application.

A mailing to newly licensed hams will be done after Christmas along with the mailing of the dues reminder letters to current club members.

Newsletter

Terry/WB3BKN reported that he had been approached by at least one vendor regarding advertising in the club newsletter. During the course of the discussion, it was mentioned that other clubs sell advertising space in their newsletters. Joe/KQ3F will try to research what other clubs are doing and we will discuss the matter further at the January meeting.

RACES/ARES

Terry received a letter from the Red Cross asking if the club had ever signed an agreement with them regarding use of the building and if the club has insurance coverage. No one was certain but the general consensus was that there had never been any sort of agreement signed. Joe/KQ3F will check on the insurance issue. Joe also suggested that the master agreement between the ARRL and the Red Cross might be sufficient.

Winter fest

Rick/K2RBT will not be able to work in the kitchen at the winter fest due to work commitments. We will continue to work to find kitchen staff for the event.

DXCC

Glenn/K3SWZ will be doing a mailing of QSL cards shortly after Jan 1, 2012.

December Meeting Minutes, continued

Skywarn

Shelby/K3EMT reported that she had completed Skywarn training and received her spotter number.

Entertainment

Paul Theis/K3TUF has been invited to come to a meeting and give a presentation on tower and climbing safety.

Old Business - none

New Business

Firecracker Ham Fest site

The possibility of moving the Firecracker Ham Fest to the HACC Public Safety Center was discussed. They have completed a major renovation/upgrade of the facility and in addition to outdoor tailgating space, there is supposed to be a large indoor area for vendors. Doug/K3DRE will talk with the new director of the center after the holidays and report back.

Printing of newsletters

There have been requests for hard copies of the newsletter from a few hams that don't have computers. It was suggested that this would be a very costly undertaking due to the length of the newsletter and the number of pictures and other graphics used. Someone pointed out that some clubs levy an additional charge on members who opt to receive hardcopy mailings. The general consensus is that we don't want to do this because of the additional labor and costs involved.

Good of the Club

Boscov's sponsors community enrichment classes. It was thought that the club could offer a class on ham radio, but it seems that there is not enough lead time to get everything in place. It might be something to plan for next year.

There being no further business to conduct, Shelby/K3EMT made a motion, seconded by Ezel/K3ELJ, to adjourn. Motion PASSED.

Tim Lehman, KB3OZA

Secretary



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is
ARRL Affiliated



KB3OZA was unable to make the last meeting, so his stand-in took the minutes!





Elmer's Corner by Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)

Last month we talked about HF and net operations. This month I will talk about a question that comes up often from new HF amateurs, contests. The conversation often goes something like this... "I heard some guy calling CQ and I answered him. He said something I couldn't understand and asked for my report and section. What the heck was that all about? I said I didn't understand and he started calling CQ again, and ignored me."

Well, here is what you ran into. There are contests many weekends throughout the year. Contests are a fun way to make contacts and win awards and certificates. Sometimes, in a weekend, you could gather enough contacts to win an award like a WAS or a DXCC, or any of the many awards available, not to mention, you could win a contest.

In every contest, you must know the "exchange". What that means is what information for which the other station is asking, and how to log the information he is giving to you. This exchange information can be found on the ARRL web site, or the web site of the contest, if not an ARRL contest. It is a good idea to listen to others for a little while to get the rhythm and exchange. Then go ahead and jump in.

Once you get the hang of it, contesting can be fun and addicting. Do a little research and have fun.

Terry (Elmer) Snyder WB3BKN



HRAC Repeater Information

146.76 mhz, Tone 100 hz

147.075 mhz, Tone 123 hz

And 220 returns to Harrisburg:

224.18 mhz, Tone 123 hz

And the newest repeaters:

444.550 MHZ, + 5.00 MHZ, PL - 123 hz (Newport)

446.425 mhz Tone 123 hz (Reeser's Summit)

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS!

The year 2012 the month January the start the DOOMSDAY Clock!

As you may have heard the "REAL" end of the world is to take place on December 21, 2012.

The staff here is always looking to reveal all there is to reveal even if the (7) people who actually run the entire world (shadow government) and the Aliens who are keeping close tabs on Our progress have not yet reported in.

Our crack Team of researchers has come up with yet another way to monitor the situation.

You will need to start assembling the various components to receive radio transmissions not readily accessible with standard equipment. The first and maybe easiest part of the project is to build the highly directional antenna. The first thing you will need to get is a Chrome plated oven rack. The rack should measure 23"x 16" with the grid bars being 1 1/8" between. These are found in almost every home! The electric oven at my home has (2) of these racks! The XYL will never miss 1 of them, in my case I am almost positive she doesn't even know we have one (oven that is). In my case there is no preparation necessary as they have little use on them. Next you will need to obtain some wood dowels. I find that the old fashion wood broom handle works great. Again I have a vintage almost new one for the project. You will need (4) dowels cut to exactly 3 and 3/32" (THIS MEASUREMENT IS CRITICAL) unless you live south of the Carolinas which then requires a minute adjustment. You will also need (12) #10x3/4" stainless steel self tapping screws (Phillips works best), (12) stainless steel fender washers, (1) piece of aluminum sheet metal 12"x 6" this is for our driven elements, about 2' of bare #12 AWG solid copper and some 300 ohm twin lead.

There is no soldering need for this project but some heliarc welding makes the project move along quite nicely.

To get started cut the aluminum sheet metal into 4 pieces with one side being 4" and the opposite end tapering down to 2" this way all (4) elements can be cut out of the one piece of metal. Try not to get blood on the aluminum as this greatly affects the capacitance of the elements.

I will have detailed drawings to work from next month.

So as not to overwhelm the novice builder with the difficult and tedious assembly in one month we will end this month's installment and begin again next month.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Steven, KA3PDQ

Weekly HRAC Net

The weekly
information net
is held
every
Wednesday at
8:00 PM on the
146.76-
repeater, except
for the second
Wednesday of
the month, which
is
club meeting
night.





W3UU - **Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club** – WinterFest

JANUARY 14th 2012

WINTER FEST

H A M F E S T

“A Harrisburg, Pa.Hamfest”

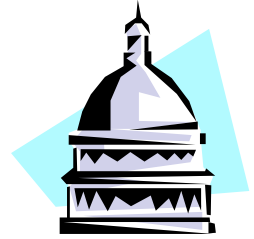
Paxtang Firehouse (Rear)

3423 Derry St.

Harrisburg, Pa

8:00 am to Noon

TALK-IN 146.76 (PL 100 hz)



Parking in rear of building or on streets

- ◆ Admission **\$3.00** per person.
- ◆ **No extra charge for table space!**
- ◆ Food and drinks available
- ◆ DXCC/WAS/VUCC QSL Card checking on site
- ◆ Amateur radio testing at 9:00 am
- ◆ Please be courteous to your fellow hams by using reasonable table space (based on demand)

No reserved table space

Unloading can be done through doors to alley behind building

No AC power available!



General Admission: 8:00 AM

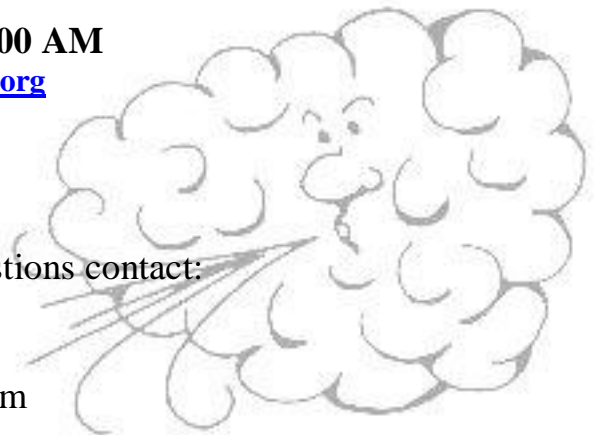
Web Site: www.w3uu.org

For further information or questions contact:

Terry Snyder

717-896-0256

wb3bkn@gmail.com



December & Year End Amateur Radio Testing Session Results

On December 17, 2011 we had 5 applicants with 4 CSCE issued (2) elements failed.

Attending VEs: KE3YC (Bill), KA3PDQ (Steve), K3DRE (Doug).

Thank you very much!

Year End

Applicants: 30

Elements Passed: 24

Elements Failed: 12

Total Elements administered for 2011: 36

HRAC conducted (7) sessions for 2011

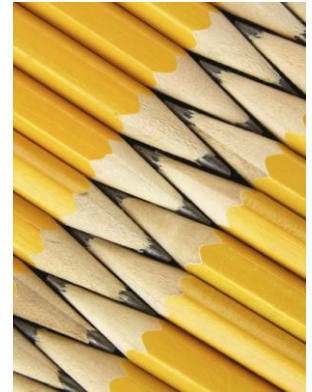
HONOR ROLL Test Sessions Attended

Bill, KE3YC	31
Barry, KB3MCK	27
Steven, KA3PDQ	27
Mike, N3HLK	21
Tim, KB3OZA	20
Rodney, N3QLB	14
Doug, K3DRE	7
George, N3YB	7

(As of 12/17/2011)

GREAT JOB EVERYONE, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ



Please send any articles for the newsletter
to shelbyminier@gmail.com

Monthly Ham Radio Lunch

The last Thursday of each month there is a Ham Radio Lunch at the "Old Country Buffet" at noon (unless it is a major holiday).

This restaurant is located on Route 22 in Colonial Park in the vicinity of Value City Furniture, K-Mart and Home Depot.

It's a great way to meet new people!

As seen in Perth, Australia



Thanks to Glenn, K3SWZ for submitting this picture by WA3OFR/1

My Christmas Haul.....by Pete Lehman, KB3WIH

This year for Christmas, my Dad decided to buy me a radio, now it's nothing much, just an old Radio Shack HT, not much but it gets the job done, so I can't complain.

Along with the new radio I also got an IR helicopter (no, it doesn't operate on the ham bands but, oh well). Either next Christmas, or sometime soon, I see a base rig in my future (if you are reading this dad-KB3OZA, I WANT THAT FT-2900!!!).

Surprisingly Steve (KA3PDQ) did not give me coal in my stocking, although I did hear that coal is resonate at 28.300-28.500 Steve!!

The next **ham radio testing session** will be held during the HRAC's WinterFest event on January 14th at the Paxtang Fire House, located at 3423 Derry Street in Harrisburg. Testing will be on the 2nd Floor in the Council's Chambers at 9:00 am

Tentative testing dates for 2012, set up to be held at the Dauphin County EOC in Steelton are as follows: February 18, April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20, and December 15, 2012



Straight Key Night (SKN)

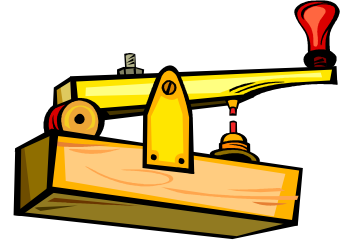
Traditionally, I have never played in the SKN activities on New Year's Eve. This year, since 2012 is my 50th year as a licensed ham, I figured I would give it a shot.

I played on 40 and 80 Meters and made 10 QSO's which was my goal. I could not handle the slow speed of the operating and rag chewing on CW... I prefer DX QSO's that are fast and painless. I was using my original Johnson Key that my parents bought for me in 1961, when I was learning the code. It still has the block mounted to it that I made in 10th grade wood shop class. I remember doing that clearly.

Interestingly, I did not run into any guys that were using old tube type radios. Everyone I worked was using a modern "rice box", if we happened to exchange information on radios. It was lots of fun and I'll do it next year.

73

de Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ



Just a Reminder.....

HRAC has a Yahoo Group

Here is a link to the HRAC Yahoo Group page:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hrac/>

Be sure to check here for recent news.



HRAC has a Facebook Fan Page

Here is a link to the HRAC Facebook fan page:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Harrisburg-Radio-Amateurs-Club/208171495915056>

Be sure to check out some pictures from events the club has had. You can also add your own ham radio pictures to page.

In case you didn't know, the ARRL also has a Facebook fan page.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)
PO Box 453
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0453
717-982-8550

Make checks payable to HRAC—Membership is \$15.00 (\$7.50 if over 62) per year.
Dues end December 31st.

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ARRL Member: Y _____ N _____

SIGNATURE _____

I agree to abide by the guidelines of the membership and The Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.