



HRAC meets the second
Wednesday of each
month

at 7:00 pm at HACC,
Public Safety Building,
Gate 5 on Industrial
Road in Harrisburg

****Please note the NEW
location!**

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Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club Newsletter

The President's Letter.....

We did it again!! Thanks to good team work, we have just had a very successful Firecracker Hamfest and EPA convention. We were thrown a few curves with the layout of the tailgating area and misjudged the placement of the food truck, all of which will be addressed for next time. It takes a lot of effort to make such an event successful. My thanks go out to all who made it a successful event.

I had another of my No-Sleep-Weekends for the hamfest. Friday was set-up day and then off to York to entertain. I got a call from Doug K3DRE while working the gig in York Friday night telling me that the sound towers that we had set up Friday were

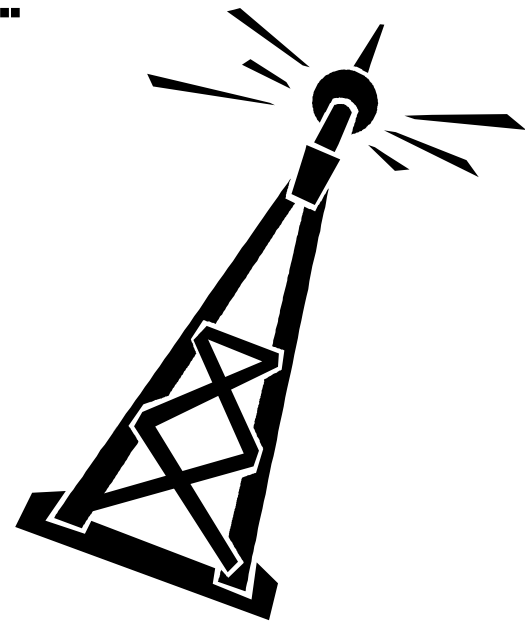
now on the ground, and the amplifiers were taken to dry locations. After my gig, I arrived on scene at 3:00am to re-set the towers, repair the broken speakers and stands, and test the systems. There were three independent sound systems connected by RF. I finished around 4:30am, (no time for a nap now because people will be arriving by 5am). I found that the Golf Cart had a problem and would not run, so I spent a little time trying to figure it out, probably dirt in the carburetor, and back out to do whatever I can to keep things flowing. It was 30 hours of awake time and then a short nap and another gig Saturday night. Sunday was indeed a day of rest!!

Field day was well attended and the part that I was able to attend was a good time. Your attendance of the Field day event and participation made it a success. Thanks to Nick AA3T for his guidance and direction.

On a personal note, I am inviting anyone who may be available to join us at Halifax for the Halifax On The Air international Special event. If you can't be there, check in with us on 40 meters and 20 meters. The dates are Saturday July 21, AND Sunday July 22 from 9am to 4pm local time each day.

73

Terry Snyder WB3BKN



June Meeting Minutes

The June 2012 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 7:30 PM. by 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. Motion PASSED

VE Committee

There will be two test sessions in June. The regularly scheduled session will be June 16, at the Dauphin County EMA at 9:00 AM. The second session will be held at the Firecracker Hamfest on June 30. This session will begin at 11:00 AM.

Terry (WB3BKN) said that he had received several calls about testing at the ham fest.

Trustee Report – No changes.

Repeater Committee – No changes.

Membership Committee – Membership increased by four since the last meeting.

Newsletter – No issues.

Web Page – No issues.

EMCOMM

Marty (KB3BAA) reported on the following items:

- The Tour d 'Cure,
 - o The main Grantville to Lancaster event took place on 9 Jun.
 - o The amateur radio group was actually tasked above and beyond their nominal responsibilities, but they performed all requested tasks.
 - o Thanks to Tim (KB3OZA) and Pete (KB3WIH) for their participation.
- Camp Mucklerats horse ride will be 28/29 Jul. They will need approximately five operators per day to support rest stops along the course.
- The Hershey half marathon is scheduled for October. Volunteers are still needed to support this event.

DXCC

Glenn (K3SWZ) will be checking cards at the Firecracker.

He mailed cards on 30 April. Next mailing will be at the end of summer; late August or early September.

Entertainment

July is ice cream month.

June Meeting Minutes, continued

Field Day

Prior to the meeting, a survey of the field day site was made and tent locations were planned.

- Rick (K2RBT) will try to copy the W1AW FD bulletin. He will check the ARRL web page for transmission schedule.
- We need people to meet at the storage site in Dauphin at 9:00 AM to transport equipment to the FD site.
- Doug (K3DRE) has sent out a press release to all local media outlets.
- HACC security has been notified of FD and ham fest activities, including the fact that we will be on campus all night for FD.
 - o We were advised that security personnel might stop by during these events to see what we do.

Hamfest

- Hand-out bags for the ham fest will be set up during FD.
- Doug (K3DRE) will check with HACC to see if we can store the bags on site until the ham fest.
- Tailgating areas will be marked on June 26 beginning at 2:00 PM.
- Signs need to be put up no later than early Friday morning.
- The Fisherville fire dept. will run a concession stand
- Tailgaters will be identified by placing a piece of blue painters tape on the windshield of their vehicle.
- The gate will open at 6:00 AM. Workers need to arrive at 5:30 AM.
- Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Doug (K3DRE), to make a \$150.00 donation to the scouts for their help in directing traffic.

Old Business

All club equipment, with the exception of antennas and the microwave system, has been moved from the Red Cross to the club's storage unit at Dauphin Mini Storage.

New Business

Terry (WB3BKN) will be running a Halifax on the Air special event station on July 21 & 22. He plans to operate from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM on 20 and 40 meters. He needs volunteers to operate and to talk to visitors about the station and the event. The station will be operation using the Halifax Radio Club call sign, KA3RKW.

There being no further business to conduct, Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Pete (KB3WIH), to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Tim Lehman, KB3OZA

Secretary



W3UU
is
ARRL Affiliated



Long Delayed Echoes.....

Looking back through the rich history of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club

By Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

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.

From the November 1995 Newsletter:

Joe Shuey, NE3H has finished building the “Bandpass Interference Filters” for next year’s Field Day. A handsome painted metal box encloses each of the three filters, each containing 10 torroids, each carefully hand wound by Joe. Built from modified specifications from a June 1994 QST article, the filters will allow the club to operate two or three transmitters without interference to each other. The filters have been tested for SWR and bandpass rejection, and currently reside in the club room at the Red Cross building. The filters may help us improve on our already impressive performances at Field Day.

In that same issue, the meeting minutes contained a report from the Construction Committee:

Joe, NE3H reported that the band pass filter project is completed. Tom, WU3X reported that Joe did all the work. ... The filters will have only a half db insertion loss. ... Tom and Joe went on to say that the cost of one new filter would be \$350. And they were able to make three filters for less than \$300.

Wide Vigilance Event Planned

Plans are in the works for the upcoming “Wide Vigilance” event that will be held in September.

The Dauphin County Emergency Operations Center, various municipalities, and area hospitals will need trained ham operators for support during the event.

For further details please contact Marty Gutekunst at kb3baa@arrl.net

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

Personalized Items Make the BEST Gifts!

(And who says you can't give yourself a gift...)

Hats · Shirts · Jackets
Name Badges · Mugs · Mousepads
Vanity Plates · And More!



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Visit us online at www.shopIBD.com for ideas
then give us a call at 717-585-9779
or email geanne@impressions-by-design.com
for quotes and personalized service.

Reasons to Get Involved in National Traffic Safety Handling

1. National Traffic Safety (NTS) traffic handling is a great way to meet other hams.
2. NTS traffic provides a public service allowing for messages to be accurately sent across the country.
3. NTS improves your message handling skills for other traffic handling. It has a very accurate way of ensuring the message is correct. ICS forms may be modified in the future to incorporate some of the error-checking and addressing done in NTS.
4. NTS allows me to use my equipment on a regular basis ensuring it is in good working order.

Go ahead and give it a try!

VHF Nets are held Mondays and Thursdays at 8 PM.

Contact KB3BAA or N3SW for more details.

Beginners welcome!

Submitted by Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA



Local Repeater Information

146.76 (100) W3UU Blue Mountain

147.075 (123) W3UU Ellendale (Dauphin County)

146.79 (114.8) KB3TWW Reeser's Summit

145.11 (123) W3ND Ellendale

145.29 (123) W3ND IRLP NODE 7060 Blue Mountain

145.47 (123) W3ND Blue Mountain

224.18 (123) KA3RKW Blue Mountain (Halifax Radio Club)

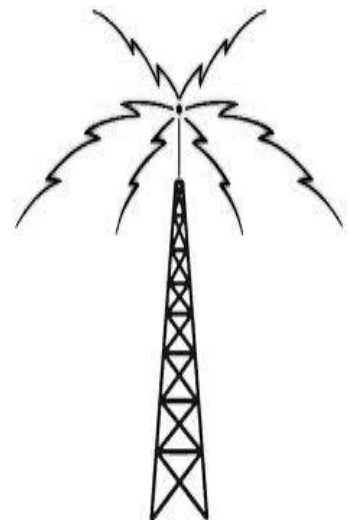
444.45 (123) W3ND Blue Mountain

444.55 (123) W3ND Newport

446.425 (123) W3ND Reeser's Summit

448.075 (123) W3ND Ellendale

147.24 (123) KB3VDL Elizabethville (Berry Mountain Amateur Radio Club)



Tour de Cure Bike Rally

The Tour de Cure bike rally, held in Grantville on June 9th, was another opportunity for local hams to test communication skills while serving a good cause, the American Diabetes Foundation.

Participants started at a small fairground in Grantville and followed one of three routes leading through Dauphin, Lebanon and Berks Counties.

Communications were planned for five rest stops and a series of service vehicles. Two nets were set up. One net serviced the short Dauphin County loop (25k) while the other covered the rest stops and the five service vehicles. The communications group was also given control of the service vehicles. Volunteer drivers were given little guidance and had to be directed by the communications leader.

The race organizer was involved in many onsite activities during the event. We decided to put a shadow on him to follow him throughout the event so he could maintain contact with us.

There was limited medical staff. Their numbering scheme for rest stops was not coordinated with our rest stops, providing a challenge.



The volunteer radio operators went above and beyond addressing non-communication issues as they arose such as limited water supplies, logistics support, and assistance to medical staff.

A debriefing with the race sponsors will provide me a chance to review issues that came up and, hopefully, provide better organization for next year using Incident Command System principles.

Looking forward to having more volunteers from our club at next year's event!

*Submitted by
Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA*

To advertise in the HRAC newsletter, please contact Terry at terry@djterry.com or Shelby at shelbyminier@gmail.com

June declared “Amateur Radio Month” by the Governor



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

It gives me great pleasure to join with the citizens of Pennsylvania in supporting June 2012 as “Amateur Radio Month”.

Thousands of our Commonwealth’s citizens have been licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as Amateur Radio operators. These dedicated volunteers, also known as Hams, have been providing vital supplemental communications to their communities during times of natural disasters, in local emergencies, and at public events since wireless radio’s earliest days. These individuals work without compensation in the best interests of our Commonwealth and world—they are on the alert for any local or global emergency and are committed to being a critical resource in our Homeland Security efforts.

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am proud to support June 2012 as “Amateur Radio Month”. I thank the many men and women across the state that promote international goodwill, encourage young people to pursue an education and careers in scientific, engineering, and liberal arts fields, and expand state-of-the-art communications and electronics through experimentation in the field of Amateur Radio.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Corbett".

TOM CORBETT
Governor
June 2012



Elmer's Corner by Terry Snyder, WB3BKN

I was recently reminded about an antenna that I had heard of long ago, and had completely forgotten. During a conversation with Dana W3TS, he told me about a nice multi band antenna. It is called a Maypole antenna. It is a dipole for 80, 40, and 20 meters spread out about 25 degrees apart, like the spokes on a wheel. Each band works like a dipole and needs no tuner. All are fed at one central point with a 1:1 balun.

A little tuner action makes it work on 15 meters because 15 is a harmonic of 40 meters. Just a minor inductance change makes it work on 10 meters, because 10 is a harmonic of 80 meters, and 6 meters works with the tuner too because 6 meters is a harmonic of 20 meters. This all means that you can reduce your feed lines to one, while having a dipole for each band.

Measurements depend a little on the gauge of wire that you are using, but we will assume that we are using 14 ga wire:

75 meters phone band. 130 ft total (65 ft on each side of center)

40 meters phone band. 64.7 ft total (32.39 ft on each side of center)

20 meters phone band. 32.91 ft total (16.46 ft on each side of center)

One could use those fiberglass Army surplus poles to support the antennas with small pullies at the top of each to pull the wires to the top with rope or twine. Each dipole intersects the center pole at the feed point so that electrically each is an independent dipole.

Some may ask, why this and not a G5RV. Here is the reasoning. A G5RV needs a tuner and is a compromise for every band except maybe for 20 meters. I will come back to that later. A dipole has a main lobe of radiation broadside to the antenna in two directions. There are no nulls, or dead spots within that lobe. I have my antenna oriented so that the broadside lobes are going east and west. This gives me Europe and most of the USA on each band.

A G5RV delivers less signal for several reasons on bands other than 20 meters. There is loss in the feed line, because even though the radio "sees" a match, there is a SWR on the line which equates to signal loss. On 20 meters, the band for which the antenna was intended, there are several lobes in all directions. If a station that you are trying to reach happens to be within one of those lobes, you are in luck, because the signal could be better, due to the gain factor in the lobe. If the station you are looking for just happens to be in one of the nulls, because with every lobe, there must be a null next to it, you may not reach him, or her. I actually have a G5RV and the maypole so that I can change antennas for best result on 20 meters

If you would like to add 160 meters to the mix, and still need no tuner for that band too, here is how to do that: eliminate the choke balun at the feed point, raise the feed point to 44 ft, and at the ground level remove the rubber coating from your feed line. Add radials sized for 160 meters. Be sure to keep the feed line away from the support structure at least 6 inches. You could add a 6 turn loop of coax at the new feed point, which is before the radials as a choke balun. Now you have 160 as a "T" antenna, and dipoles on 80, 40, and 20, with no tuner needed.

Give it a try, and have fun building.

Thanks again to Dana (W3TS) for the inspiration.

Terry Snyder WB3BKN

Photographs on next page

Elmer's Corner, continued



Above: WB3BKN's Antenna Farm

Photos by Terry, WB3BKN

Below: WB3BKN's Maypole Antenna



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!

The next **ham radio testing session** will be held on Saturday August 18th at 9:00 am at the Dauphin County Emergency Operations Center.

Please arrive by 8:30 am

The address of the EOC is 911 Gibson Boulevard in Steelton.

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Other tentative testing dates for 2012 are as follows:

October 20, and December 15
.....

Ham Fest Amateur Radio Testing Results

We had a GOOD Session in a beautiful Air Conditioned room.

There were 9 applicants.

- (5) successful
- (4) unsuccessful.

VEs in attendance: KE3YC (Bill), N3QLB (Rodney), KB3OZA (Tim), N3HLK (Mike), K3DRE (Doug), and KA3PDQ (Steven).

Our next session will be held on August 18, 2012 at the Dauphin County EOC. At this session we will have the new Extra question pool as well as new answer keys and answer sheets for all exam levels.

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

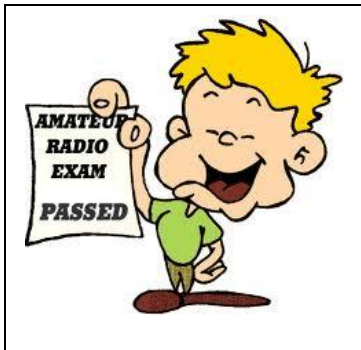
Reminder: HRAC has a Facebook Fan Page

The Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club has a fan page on Facebook.

Here is a link to the 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.



Ham Radio Nets

Adams County Amateur Radio Society
Tuesday 7:30 145.35 PL 103.5 except club meeting nights.

Appalachian Amateur Radio Group
Sunday 8 PM 146.64 PL 82.5 and echolink 149493
Thursday 8PM 146.64 PL 82.5 NTS traffic net

Berry Mountain Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday 9PM 147.24 PL 123.0

Cumberland Amateur Radio Club
Wednesday 9 PM 28.440

Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club
Sunday 9 PM 147.12

Ephrata Area Repeater Society
Monday 9 PM 145.45 PL 100.0
Friday 9PM 146.61 PL 131.0 Digital Net

Keystone VHF Club of York
Monday 8:30 PM 146.97 PL 123.0
Tuesday 8 PM 146.97 PL 123.0 Keystone Digital Net
Wednesday 9PM 146.97 PL 123.0 QCWA net

Lancaster Radio Transmitting Society
Thursday 9 PM 147.015 PL 118.8

Lebanon Valley Society of Radio Amateurs
Tuesday 8 PM 147.315 PL 82.5

PennMar Radio Club
Tuesday 8 PM 147.33 PL 123.0
Sunday 8:30 28.450 Dew Drop Inn net
Friday 8 PM 28.495 South Central PA net
Thursday 8:30 146.55 Tri-State Simplex net

Red Rose Repeater Association
Wednesday 9PM PL 118.8

South Mountain Repeater Association
Monday 8 PM 146.46 PL 67.0 Capitol Area Traffic net
Monday 9 PM 145.43 PL 67.0

Tuscarora Amateur Radio Association
Sunday 8 PM 147.045 PL 146.2

If you know of a ham radio net not listed please e-mail the information to shelbyminier@gmail.com

We will keep adding to the list.



Thanks to Dave, N3PRO for compiling the list!

Halifax On The Air

Here is a little project that I have been working on for about a year. I call it Halifax On The Air. What started out as an idea to promote amateur radio in the Upper Dauphin County area quickly grew into an international event. After posting the idea on QRZ.com last year, I received replies from just about any address with the word "Halifax" in it. There were everything from Halifax Avenue, to "I live along the Halifax River" to you name it. They all wanted to be part of the special on air event. I finally settled everyone down a little by announcing that it is intended to apply to only towns and cities named Halifax.

There are several Halifax towns, and cities in the USA. We have Halifax Vermont, and North Carolina working with us, as well as Halifax England. All will be on the air on various bands through the weekend. Halifax England will be on 20 meters, looking for contacts in the USA from 1100 to 1500 UTC. Our station will be on 14.260 and 7.260 + or - QRM from 9am local time to 4pm local time. Listen for the call KA3RKW (the Halifax Radio Club)

What is planned, you may ask. We will have an ambulance on display, Scouts working on the air as part of their merit badge, videos and handouts for the public, and the two on air ham stations. There may also be a fly over of a classic 1946 Piper J3 Cub with an aeronautical mobile 2 meter station on board courtesy of John Miller WN3V. We have need for people to talk with the guests and explain how everything works and how we help the community, not to mention how much fun ham radio really is!!

The location is on RT 147 and RT 225 just south of Halifax at the start of the business district. After you go through the traffic light and head north, you will pass Sheetz on the Right, and the next thing you will see is the open parking lot on the right. That is where we will be set up. There should be several easy up tents and my DJ sound trailer at the location. I will be setting antennas on Friday the 20th.

Check our web site at www.HalifaxPaRadioClub.org

Terry Snyder WB3BKN



Swap & Shop

Leftovers from tailgating at the Harrisburg Hamfest

12 volt Power Supplies For Sale:

Astron 20A 20 amp Power Supply \$65

Astron 12A 12 amp Power Supply \$50

Genave PS1/10 6 amp Power Supply \$25 (no mating connector on fly leads)

Micronata 2.5 amp Power Supply \$15

All work and are physically clean. The items can be delivered to the July HRAC meeting if anyone is interested.

Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

Phone: 717-774-1728

k3swz@arrl.net

Successful EPA Convention

Last Saturday, Bill Edgar, Atlantic Division Director, Bob Wiseman, EPA SEC and I had the opportunity to participate in the EPA section convention/hamfest. The event was sponsored by the Harrisburg Amateur Radio Club. The location for the 'fest was changed this year, and it was obviously a good choice because attendance was great. I enjoyed meeting those who stopped by the ARRL table, and it was fun to run into so many friends like our new EPA Public Information Coordinator, Lloyd Roach, K3QNT.

I had the pleasure of speaking briefly at the EPA National Traffic System meeting at the convention. I encourage you to look into the NTS, because it is an important emergency communications resource – the "long-lines" carrier for ARES traffic in a disaster. It isn't our grandfather's traffic system, as some may believe. I don't support NTS simply out of tradition or nostalgia, but because it is a relevant skill that we must maintain. Please consider becoming more familiar with NTS. Contact our Section Traffic Manager, Scott Walker, N3SW, for more information.

Bob Famiglio, K3RF
EPA SM



Ham Radio Field Day 2012



HACC grounds, planning field day & ham fest



Photo by Shelby, K3EMT



Radio Interview on WQLV, 98.9 Photo by Shelby, K3EMT



Photo by Mike, N3HLK



Photo by Mike, N3HLK



Photo by Tim, KB3OZA

Ham Radio Field Day 2012, continued



Photo by Mike, N3HLK



Photo by Mike, N3HLK



Photo by Mike, N3HLK



Photo by Mike, N3HLK



Photo by Shelby, K3EMT



Photo by Shelby, K3EMT

Ham Fest 2012

All photos this page by Shelby, K3EMT



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 SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ARRL Member: Y _____ N _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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