

www.w3uu.org



# Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club Newsletter

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!**

## CLUB OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT**

Terry Snyder  
WB3BKN  
(717) 896-0256  
terry@djterry.com

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AA3T@arrl.net

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### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Shelby Minier  
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shelbyminier@gmail.com

## The President's Letter.....

Spring is here, and along with it comes static crashes on HF, but ducting opens SSB and CW on VHF, and sporadic E skip opens 6 meters. We seem to trade one band, or bands, for a gain elsewhere.

That's OK, I will take spring over winter any day. I can still operate HF through the crashes.

It seems that on the day of the hamfest everyone shows up to help, but what about the time leading up to the 'fest? There is plenty to do for everyone in the procurement of vendors, and promotion of our event. I have thousands of flyers to get into the hands of prospective visitors.

That means getting out to your local hobby shops, electronic, computer, and car stereo shops and placing flyers. While there, do not forget to ask if they would like to be a vendor. Hamfests have evolved into flea markets that cater to all forms of hobbies, and electronics. We want their business, and they should want to sell at our event.

If you are a user of local repeaters, please check the repeater list in this newsletter for some additions and changes.

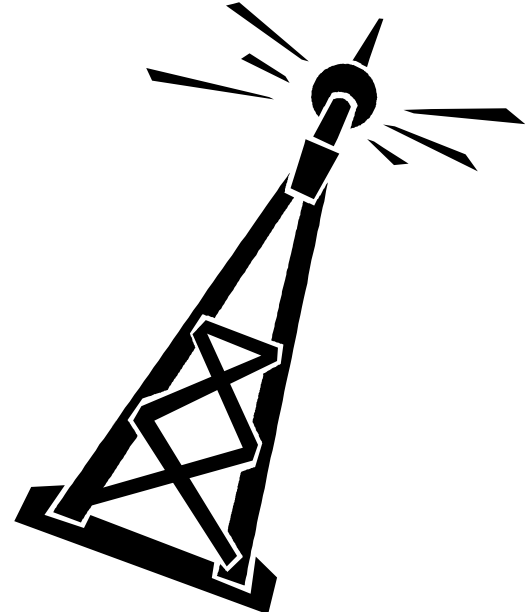
If you want to get involved in local emergency communications and do not have your FEMA tickets, don't let that stop you. Check with Marty (KB3BAA), to see how you can help, and learn.

Just thinking out loud here. Wouldn't it be nice, now that we have a place with classrooms, to have a tech night sometime during the month, in addition to our regular meetings. In such a night, we could introduce members, and others, to new, and old tech things. Hands on workshops to help teach new hams how to properly use those new privileges, and more.

I would like to thank everyone for stepping up and helping with the many projects that we have going on in our club. Without your help, my job would be very difficult. You are all appreciated. Thank you all.

73

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)



## April Meeting Minutes

The April 2012 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 7:00 PM. by President Terry (WB3BKN) followed by introductions.

### Secretary Report

Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Terry (KA3ECQ), 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 Terry (KA3ECQ), to accept the report. Motion PASSED

### VE Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) reported that the next test session will be held on 4/21/12 at the Dauphin County EMA facility on Gibson Blvd.

**Trustee Report** – No update

### Repeater Committee

We are still considering the possibility of converting the repeater to Motorola equipment.

**Membership Committee** - No update

### Newsletter

Harold (N3JOR) requested that a print copy of the newsletter be sent to him each month due to the fact that he has no personal computer.

### EMCOMM

Marty (KB3BAA) reported on the following items:

- The Peach Bottom emergency drill was held March 28.
- The Tour d 'Cure,
  - o Camp Mack event will be held on 4 May and will require four operators.
  - o The main Grantville to Lancaster event will occur on 9 Jun and will require approximately 20 operators.
- 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 and will require approximately five operators.
- Participated in an American Red Cross/ARRL webinar. One of the main topics was credentialing of radio amateurs working at Red Cross shelters.
- Wide Vigilance exercise is scheduled for September 21 – 22. The exercise will span Friday evening through approximately midday Saturday.

*Minutes continued on the next page....*

## April Meeting Minutes, continued

### DXCC

Glenn reported that he will be doing a mailing at the end of April.

He will be checking cards at the York hamfest.

Chuck's (N3WL) wife has been released from the hospital and is home.

### Entertainment

Dale Long (N3BNA) did a slide presentation of his dxpeditions.

Marty (KB3BAA) will conduct a tabletop drill at the May meeting.

### Hamfest

Terry (WB3BKN) will arrange a meeting with HACC to finalize plans and locations for the tent and tailgating area.

Doug (K3DRE) has sent out press release material to various local radio and television outlets.

### Field Day

- HACC security has been briefed that there will be club members on the campus overnight during the field day weekend.
- Terry (WB3BKN) suggested that we develop a plan to pick up our equipment from Red Cross for field day.
  - o Doug (K3DRE) has offered to temporarily store field day equipment at this home until needed for the event.
  - o Marty (KB3BAA) offered to transport the equipment from the Red Cross at a time convenient for Doug.
- Steve (KA3PDQ) would like get the club's equipment out of his garage and into a more accessible storage location.
  - o Terry (WB3BKN) will investigate availability and cost of self-storage units.

### Old Business - NONE

### New Business

Doug (K3DRE) reported that he has found and tested his six-meter station and will bring it to field day.

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

Tim Lehman, KB3OZA

Secretary



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## 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.

Please send any articles for the newsletter to [shelbyminier@gmail.com](mailto:shelbyminier@gmail.com)

## Long Delayed Echoes.....

*Looking back through the rich history of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club*  
By Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

### From the October 1996 Newsletter President's Letter (by John Obradovich W3IS):

It is with great sympathy that I write about the death of another one of our outstanding members, Charles "Charlie" Hilbish. .... He had an extensive technical background and did lots of building and experimenting. .... He served in many offices in the club [including newsletter editor]... There was never a job too tough or demanding for Charlie as far as the club is concerned. Charlie was not only always helping when needed but he did it with a smile and excellent humor.

### From the March 12, 1997 Meeting Minutes:

Charlie Hilbish's, K3BSV, 6 meter transmitter was shown in his memory.

*From WB3JIS today: Some members wonder about that sizeable 6 meter transmitter among the club's inventory. That testament to Charlie's handiwork was given to the club by his widow. As he was building it he kept us abreast of his status and quest for finding parts via the most economical means. As you can tell from the front panel, he was rather proud of the finished product.*

## Upcoming Ham Radio Events

### Tour de Cure Mountain Race

May 20 Camp Mack in Lancaster/Lebanon counties  
4 operators needed rough conditions

### Tour de Cure Bike Race

June 9 Grantville covering Dauphin Lebanon and Berks Counties 20 operators needed (4 to 8 chase support)

### Horse Ride

July 28th and 29th Camp Weiser  
5 operators needed each day

### Hershey Half-Marathon

October 21 Hershey  
5 operators needed

### Wide Vigilance

Week of September 17th - 23rd 2012  
More to follow



**N3BNA**

V26A       LU/N3BNA

ZP6/N3BNA       XE1SLE

5X4DEL       PJ4/N3BNA

CX/N3BNA       HH7/N3BNA

HR7/N3BNA       HQ5A

HH8/N3BNA     

CONFIRMING QSO WITH: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY MONTH YEAR

UTC: \_\_\_\_\_ MHz: \_\_\_\_\_ RST: \_\_\_\_\_ QRP: \_\_\_\_\_ PSE: \_\_\_\_\_ TXN: \_\_\_\_\_

73 de  
DALE LONG  
288A Long Lane  
Lritz, PA 17543  
U.S.A.  
The QSLMAN® - WIMPY

Dale Long, N3BNA, was the guest speaker at the April meeting. He talked of his experiences on “d Expedition” trips.

## 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)



## Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to be CQ Columnist



Riley Hollingsworth

Retired FCC amateur radio enforcement chief \*Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH\*, has been named a CQ magazine contributing editor, it was announced today by CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Hollingsworth will succeed "Washington Readout" editor Fred Maia, W5YI, who recently became a Silent Key.

Hollingsworth, a ham since 1960 and a longtime FCC attorney, became a household name in amateur radio in 1998 when he was named Special Counsel for Amateur Radio in the Commission's newly-created Enforcement Bureau. His highly-visible enforcement actions were cheered by a vast majority of the amateur community after more than a decade during which FCC enforcement on the ham bands was virtually non-existent.

Hollingsworth retired from the FCC in 2008, but has continued to be in demand as a speaker at hamfests and radio club meetings.

His new monthly column - to be titled "Riley's Ramblings" - will incorporate "Washington Readout's" coverage of legislative and administrative actions that affect amateur radio, as well as additional topics of importance and/or interest to CQ's readers, all related in the distinctive common-sense style that has made Riley a sought-after speaker. His first column will appear in the July, 2012, issue of CQ, and will explain why ongoing FCC enforcement actions since his retirement have been somewhat "under the radar."

"We are pleased and honored to have Riley joining our staff," said Moseson. "His stature in the amateur radio community is second-to-none, and his ability to explain sometimes-arcane legal and regulatory language in plain English fits right in with CQ's long-standing dedication to providing practical, useful information for our readers to help them get the most enjoyment possible out of the amateur radio hobby. I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship."

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to CQ and to amateur radio generally," noted Hollingsworth. "As a 13-year-old Novice in South Carolina nervously making my first contact with an overheated Johnson Challenger and a barely effective vertical, not in my wildest imagination did I think I would be writing for a ham radio magazine someday. I am very appreciative of this offer and I hope I can be a valuable asset to the magazine."

Hollingsworth holds a Master's degree from the University of South Carolina, and a law degree from Wake Forest University. He lives in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Pat.

From [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

Submitted by Jim Hoffman, KB3UJF

## Doomsday Disaster and the Cosmic Storm

Now that we are well on our way to December 21, 2012 I have maintained a vigil on what the chatter is from those in the know. As I was sitting watching a very interesting show on the television, eating a light meal consisting of SPAM (Specially Prepared Alien Meat) I was brought to the edge of a very interesting scenario. One, which calls for the Doomsday disaster to be brought upon us not by a rogue planet, but by a far more threatening and REAL object.

A STORM that is not a terrestrial one, but an invisible killer from the center of the galaxy!

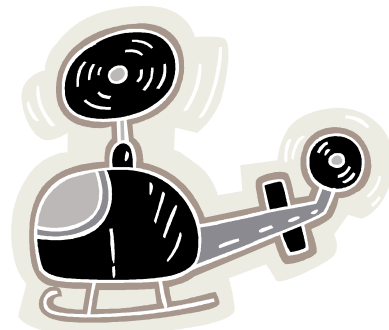
This cosmic storm coming at us at the speed of light would be undetectable and there would be no defense against it. Some scientists believe that a storm such as this was the reason for the extinction of the dinosaur. We at this research center believe that one of these storms caused the evacuation of the surface of the earth to a much safer and protected HOLLOW EARTH! This advanced civilization which now resides under our feet waiting for the next event to offer sanctuary to a few worthy people who know of their existence. Get those antennas built and make contact NOW!

Some of you, I have heard, are already preparing underground shelters to try to ensure survival. One such shelter, I am told, is an underground facility constructed in plain sight in a backyard in CAMP HILL! The homeowner used the construction of a large Amish shed to disguise the large construction project. Under the cover of darkness using his small children as virtual slaves to excavate a large complex in his quiet residential neighborhood with only a shed to hide the opening of this underground fortress. While it has taken a considerable amount of time money and effort to accomplish this task, I understand that the endeavor has paid off in the fact that this person now can boast of a REAL MAN CAVE! I was at one time consulted on the way to support a tower in this backyard as (he said his wife would not allow guy wires) with the real reason being that there was a concern of causing a cave in or leaks in the shelters roof.

After some long discussions I was able to convince him that it would be best to install some kind of remote antenna system so that it would not attract any attention from a survivor who may happen to stroll by. I often wondered what kind of power system could be used to power such a compound? Wind or solar arrays would certainly attract unwanted attention and the hoarding of fossil fuels to sustain a generator, which would certainly run out, not to mention the noise that a generator would certainly make. The last I heard a search was being made to see if there were any plans online to build a small atomic power plant capable of about 1000 KVA or some sort of fuel cell technology that could be refueled with materials that may be in abundance after such a disaster. Like your neighbors house! While some are preparing for some kind of Zombie attack I think Doomsday to be more likely brought upon us by some kind of cosmic disaster! While it is probably not a bad idea to store up several thousand rounds of ammunition one needs to balance that with food and medical supplies.

I will continue next month with more of this subject provided the BLACK Helicopters don't come for me.

Steven, KA3PDQ



## CallSign Profile.....

Hello, my name is Jim Hoffman, KB3UJF. I am a relative newcomer to the hobby, having entered the world of ham radio by passing my technician test in April of 2010. It was through the persistence of several "Elmers" in my home town of Lykens that encouraged me to get into the hobby. After making a couple of trips to the Hamfest in Timonium, Maryland, I got to see a lot of other hams and developed an interest in it. Recently retired from a local government job I held for 37 years, I had the time to devote to a hobby and ham radio sure looked like a perfect fit. I am fortunate in that in my small town of Lykens and the surrounding area, there are many active hams that are willing to share their knowledge and experiences in the hobby. Paul, KB3NFZ, Terry, KA3UJE, Don, W3LNE, and Larry, N3RCL kept the idea of ham radio in my mind, and talked to me at length about what the hobby had meant to them. I began studying for the technician test in early 2010, and when the April testing session at Steelton came up, Andy, KB3UJG, and myself went down to test. I will never forget arriving 40 seconds before they closed and locked the door to the Communications Center where the tests were being held, we had made it just in time. We both passed, and shortly thereafter I bought my first radio, a 2 meter handheld. I began working the local Berry Mountain repeater and enjoyed the fun I had with everyone that frequents the repeater. I began to get interested in HF, and decided that it was something I wanted to get into, so I started studying for the General upgrade. In August 2010 I took the upgrade test in Lebanon and passed, and the world of HF opened up for me. I bought an HF radio and dove in with both feet, spending lots of time on the bands making contacts around the world. I kind of leveled off there, working HF, getting a better antenna and HF radio, and occasionally thinking about the next step in the upgrade process, the Extra. Terry gave me a study manual and encouraged me to pursue it, and I kind of took a slow approach to it, not spending a whole lot of time studying. When fellow hams Dave AB3MZ, Terry, and Larry all achieved their Extra upgrade in the last year, and knowing the question pool was due to change in July 2012, I finally knuckled down and got serious on the Extra upgrade. I started in January 2012 with a daily routine of studying and on line testing, and patiently watched as my test scores crept up ever so slowly. It was becoming second nature to me, spending time every day going over the materials, testing, and working the radio. Finally, I felt confident enough about what I had learned that I decided March 2012 was the time for me to test. So I went to Lebanon again and took the test for the upgrade to Extra, and passed.

I encourage every ham to strive for the Extra grade. It is a rewarding experience. There is a tremendous amount of study aids and information on the internet to assist you, from on line tests, study guides, power point displays, even audio files that all can help with becoming familiar with the materials, theory, and knowledge you need to know to become an extra class operator.

I owe many thanks to my fellow hams that have helped me along the way. I hope that I can be as helpful to other hams as they have been to me.

73,

Jim Hoffman

If you would like to have your amateur radio biography in the newsletter please e-mail it to  
shelbyminier@gmail.com

## Word Search.....

M G P R O P A G A T I O N Z I L Q  
 K H A M F E S T O W B Y D E T A S  
 B F B O A V Y W T C S G R F R C T  
 T F I J R A A E X K J E Q R C R R  
 Y E J A T G C G S I H Q L F T P A  
 X I C D X A U R E P E A T E R I D  
 Z N V H E Y A H S O A L E B H R I  
 A D U M N N Y O T S U N S P O T O  
 V E W V T I P Y J G I W M L H K X  
 K G Y E C O C H N Z N M G J M M V  
 D K N D R N Z I A N T E N N A J M  
 M N U T N D O S A L G K L V R O G  
 A V R E T L I F D N Y P D E C A S  
 D E T U O I V T G X O X C W V R J  
 Q S L A J L A R E N E G A J X A R  
 S Y X E L O P I D X O A R F E S W  
 A G X K N E T N Q L X S H F Y Z X

### WORDS TO FIND:

antenna	filter	QST
antenna	general	radio
ARRL	hamfest	repeater
cw	HRAC	sunspot
dipole	net	technician
extra	ohm	troposphere
FCC	propagation	wavelength
	QSL	

### 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 June 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

.....  
Other tentative testing dates for 2012 are as follows:

August 18, October 20, and December 15

.....

There will also be a test session at the HRAC Hamfest on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am at the HACC Shumaker Public Safety Center

## Miscellaneous Ham Items

### ARRL Webinars

I recently attended a webinar on Winlink 2000 offered by ARRL. ARRL has offered several webinars recently on current topics such as NBEMS and Red Cross, winlink, etc. They are free to attend and can be accessed by computer or by a combination of computer and telephone.

If interested in upcoming webinars, send me an email and I can put you on a notification list.

The webinars utilize GoToWebinar web conferencing software.

### NTS Nets

I am a regular participant on two local NTS traffic nets. It has been a great way to improve my traffic handling experience, meet new people and use the radio to serve the community.

I encourage you to join one or both of the local VHF NTS traffic nets:

- Monday 2000hrs 146.460 +1 Mhz offset PL 67
- Thursday 2000hrs 146.640 PL 82,5

### Volunteers Still Needed

Volunteers are still needed for the upcoming Tour de Cure, Competitive Trail Ride and Hershey Half-Marathon.

Contact Marty at [KB3BAA@ARRL.NET](mailto:KB3BAA@ARRL.NET) for details.

*Submitted by Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA*

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## April Amateur Radio Testing Results

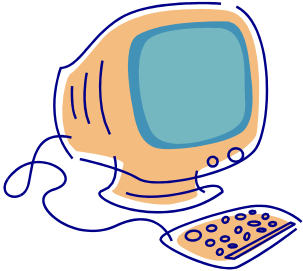
Our test session on April 21<sup>st</sup> resulted in the following:

There were five applicants with 8 elements taken resulting in:

- (4) New Technicians
- (1) General upgrade

Thanks to the VEs in attendance: Bill (KE3YC), Tim (KB3OZA), Rodney (N3QLB), and Steven (KA3PDQ)

The June test sessions will be held on June 16 @ Dauphin County EOC (9:00am) and on June 30 @ the HRAC hamfest at HACC (11:00am)





## HRAC Facebook Fan

Find the HRAC Facebook fan page at:

<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 and Skywarn also have fan pages.



HRAC Officers Terry (WB3BKN), Tim (KB3OZA), and Nick (AA3T)

# 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.