



HRAC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at HACC, Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Road in Harrisburg

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Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club Newsletter

From the Desk of the President.....

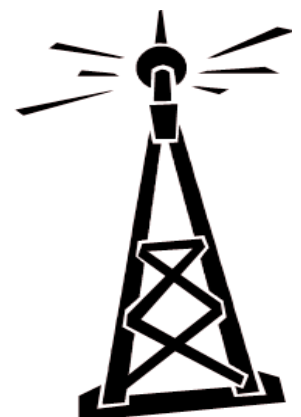
It's August already. How did that happen?? We have begun planning for the Winterfest that will be held on January 18, 2014 in the Cooper Student Union Hall (at HACC) as it was last year. In this location we finally have room for commercial vendors to show their products. Please mark the date and plan to attend. There will also be VE Testing at the event. It is a great time to get out and meet friends in the middle of winter. You will need a break from the cold by then. An indoor hamfest is just the answer to the mid winter blues.

July has been an active time for our club. The Firecracker was very successful and very well attended. It seems to get better every year. We will be back at the same location again in 2014 on the day before the first Sunday of July. This coming year it will be on July 5th. I hope to see you all there.

We have training opportunities just about every month and I urge you to get involved in one or more of these events. We provided communications for the horse ride event in the mountains just outside of Halifax this past month. At these kinds of events you learn how to communicate and pass information in a way that could use in emergency situations. Join us next time. You will have a good time.

Come to the next meeting,

73 Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)



July Meeting Minutes

The July 10, 2013 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 1900 HRS by the president, Terry (WB3BKN) followed by introductions.

Secretary Report - The minutes of the April meeting were published in the newsletter. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Shelby (K3EMT), to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. Motion PASSED

Treasurers Report - Joe (KQ3F) presented the treasurer's report. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Chuck (N3WL), to accept the report. Motion PASSED

VE Committee – A test session was held at the hamfest. There were nine applicants, seven of whom passed. The next regularly scheduled test session will be held on August 17, 2013.

Trustee – no report

Repeater – no report

Membership Committee – Received one new application at field day and one email inquiry.

Newsletter – no update

Web Page – Gary (KV3Q) demonstrated a new web page which incorporated multimedia and greatly expanded capabilities. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Shelby (K3EMT), for Gary to search for an adequate hosting site. Motion PASSED.

EMCOMM – The following events were discussed:

July 15, there will be a planning meeting for the Hershey Half Marathon

July 24, the SCTF-ARWG will meet at HACC

July 27 – 28, the Camp Muckleratz Trail Ride will be held. Operators are needed to man four water stations as well as the Start/Finish and net control.

The American Cancer Society requested support for a weekend event by way of our Facebook page. The request was made only four weeks ahead of the scheduled date... They requested three operators for Saturday and three for Sunday. (June 28 & June 29)

July 3 – 5, the Gettysburg 150th anniversary celebration was held. The four-day event was supported by 40 volunteer operators.

Marty (KB3BAA) reported that the Skywarn Yahoo group and Yahoo in general, have been hacked and addresses used by spammers. This has caused back-ups and delays in message traffic through Yahoo. He will have more information in the future.

July Meeting Minutes, continued

DXCC – Glenn (K3SWZ) reported that he checked several applications at the Firecracker Hamfest and will be doing a bureau mailing in a few days.

Winterfest – Glenn (K3SWZ) reported that Bob Famiglio asked if we had received ARRL approval for the winter hamfest. Apparently we need to get league approval in order to qualify for free items from the league.

Field Day – Doug (K3DRE) gave a brief report on field day: The activities were organized by Nick (AA3T). Operations were conducted from noon Saturday until approximately 10:00 AM Sunday. We were able to run a wire antenna between the fire tower and a lamp post in front of the pavilion. Joe (KQ3F) asked for logs, press releases and other documentation for submission to ARRL.

Firecracker Ham Fest – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that the food vendors did not make a profit. They did say that they realized that they had stocked the wrong items and think that they know what menu items they should offer next year. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Gary (KV3Q), to make a \$100.00 donation to the vendor for food consumed by the hamfest staff. Motion PASSED Terry (WB3BKN) wants to form a committee to go over all of the details involved in the event and to distribute the workload among the committee members.

A suggestion was made to only use the small parking lot in front of the portable classroom for handicap, VIP and staff parking. Terry asked if everyone thought that the tailgating layout was acceptable. It was generally agreed that the layout was quite good.

Tech Time – Terry (WB3BKN) and Shelby (K3EMT) will have a presentation on the use of social media and how it can benefit the amateur radio community. Marty (KB3BAA) offered to coordinate future tech time presentations.

Adjournment – There being no further business to conduct, Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Shelby (K3EMT), to adjourn. Motion PASSED
Meeting adjourned at 2010 HRS.

Tim Lehman, KB3OZA
Secretary



W3UU
is
ARRL Affiliated

2013 HRAC Field Day Results

Call: W3UU Class: 3A

Digital QSOs: 71

Phone QSOs: 367

Bonus Points: 450

Claimed score: 1,468



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

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.



ALL testing sessions will be held at the HACC Shumaker Public Safety Center.

Dates for 2013 include:
August 17, October 19, December 21
Testing starts at 9:00am

Please note the correction to October's testing date...

July 6th Hamfest VE Testing Results

We had nine (9) applicants for testing. There were nine (9) elements taken:

- 1 Extra
- 3 General
- 3 Tech
- 2 Unsuccessful

Thanks to the following VEs who were in attendance:

Steven, KA3PDQ
Bill, KE3YC
Dick, N3UGW
Mike, N3HLK
Gary, KV3Q
Steve, N3FWE
Doug, K3DRE
Tim, KB3OZA

All in all things went well, I think we do need to SLOW down a little when it comes to paper work, we need to make sure everything is signed and complete. It is probably time to start to use the trays when we have more than 5 applicants.

Steven Gobat (KA3PDQ)

August Test Session Planned

The next testing session will be held at Shumaker Public Safety Center, HACC Harrisburg Campus, Gate 5 on 3599 Industrial Road, Harrisburg, PA. The date of the test is Saturday, August 17th.

Testing begins promptly at 9:00 AM. VEs please arrive by 8:30 AM.

Look for the sign as you enter the building for exact room assignment.

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

Long Delayed Echoes.....

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

Compiled by Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

One of the charter members of HRAC was Lew Elicker, Jr. W3ADE (SK). During the 1997 PA QSO Party Banquet Lew received a framed certificate commemorating his 60 years of ARRL membership. Presenting the certificate was Kay Craigie K3KN (then WT3P) who, at the time, was Atlantic Division Director.

More about the QSO Party Banquet next month.



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If you are interested in
 advertising in the newsletter,
 please contact

Terry Snyder, WB3BKN at
terry@diterry.com

or

Shelby Minier, K3EMT at
shelbyminier@gmail.com

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 8PM 28.400

Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club
Sunday 9 PM 147.12

Cumberland Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday 9pm 144.49

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

Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club
Mondays at 1900 local time on the 145.110 repeater PL 123 (Data Net)
Wednesday 8 PM on the 146.76 repeater *Except for the second Wednesday of the month, which is club meeting night*

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

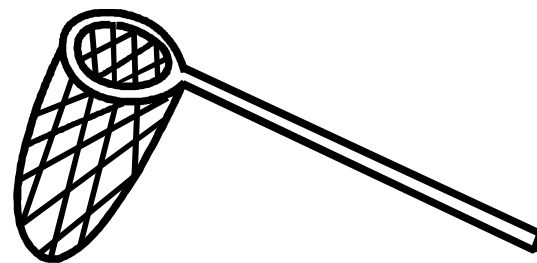
Red Rose Repeater Association
Wednesday 9PM PL 118.8

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 (or see a net that needs corrected) please e-mail the information to shelbyminier@gmail.com

We will keep adding to the list.



Large Dish to be Available for Moonbounce

The InfoAge Science History Museum in Wall Township, New Jersey, plans to make a 60 foot tracking dish antenna available to hams for moonbounce, secondary to its function as a radiotelescope. It was on the InfoAge site, then part of Fort Monmouth, that the US Army's "Project Diana" team in 1946 first received radio signals bounced from the moon.

According to InfoAge's Martin Flynn, W2RWJ, Daniel Marlow, K2QM, an InfoAge board member who teaches physics at Princeton, wants to use the dish, currently under rehabilitation after being dormant since the 1970s, to pursue radio astronomy for instructional purposes. Marlow's primary goal is to restore the TLM-18 dish antenna to working order and use it to see the 21 centimeter radiation from the Milky Way. But he also wants to observe radio pulsars, and since that activity can be performed at 70 centimeters, the TLM-18 will be made available to the Amateur Radio community for EME at 432 MHz on a secondary basis.

Submitted by Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

(From the ARRL Newsletter)

American Cancer Society Ride a Success

American Cancer Society Hope Ride, held on June 29 and June 30, was completed successfully with 55 riders. The ride raised over \$50,000.

Amateur radio operators from Lancaster, Carbon and Montgomery counties provided support in SAG vehicles and rest stops along the 170 mile route from Hershey to Kutztown to Philadelphia.

These are great opportunities to stretch your communications and messaging skills. It was a challenge for me to organize this event over a six county route with little notice. We had about five weeks notice. I attended three organizational meetings with details being refined/changed every meeting. **They found us through our Facebook page.** If we put ourselves out there, then we need to be able to respond.

They are planning to expand this event for next year.

Submitted by Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA

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!

Swap and Shop

This is an area for ham radio operators, members and non-members, to list radio/electronic items that they want to sell or that they are looking to purchase.

If you are looking to unload something, or seeking something to add to your ham shack, please e-mail shelbyminier@gmail.com.



Club Meeting Night.....

HRAC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. The meeting is held at the campus of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), at the Shumaker Public Safety Center. The safety center is located at Gate 5 off of Industrial Road in Harrisburg. Tech talk begins at 6:30 pm. Come on out to a meeting and see what's going on with your club!

Skype is a Great Alternativeif you can't make the meeting

Just a reminder....if you are unable to attend an HRAC meeting, Skype is always there as an alternative. This way you don't have to miss any valuable meeting and you can still participate!

To sign up for Skype:

1. Go to www.Skype.com, and download your free Skype messenger.
2. Select your Skype name (make up something)
3. Go on line and connect to the test server to verify that your install is working.
4. Add a contact request for **hrac.radio** (We check, and approve requests)
5. Be ready to connect to **hrac.radio** any time after 6:30pm on meeting ni
6. Meeting begins at 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

**This is an audio version of Skype.



Facebook Group Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harrisburg-Radio-Amateurs-Club/208171495915056?fref=ts>



Yahoo Group Link:

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



Twitter Link:

https://twitter.com/HRAC_W3UU



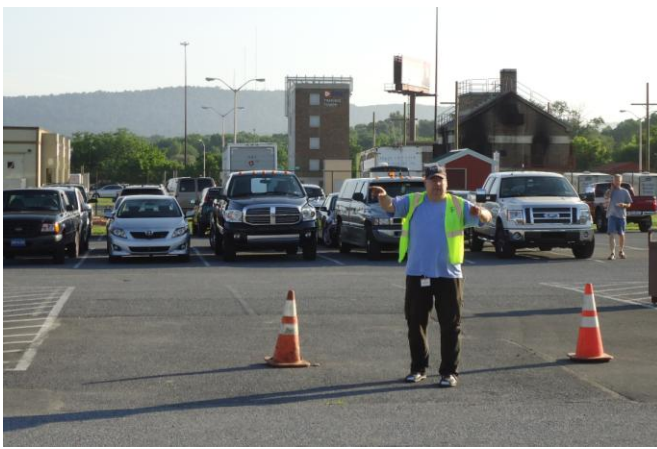
Hamfest 2013 Preparation



Painting lines and figuring out the layout so the vendors and tailgaters all know where to go the day of the event.....



Hamfest 2013---July 6th Shumaker Public Safety Center At HACC



Parking cars, directing tailgaters.....



One of the vending areas.....



Preparing for the opening ceremony.....



Ham Radio Demonstration.....



Ham Radio Demonstration.....



Aerial view of some of the parking.....



Aerial view of a portion of the hamfest.....



Had a fox visit the hamfest.....



Some of the VEs at the hamfest testing session.....



One of the presentations..... Tim Browning (KB3NPH) of Ham Radio Deluxe Customer Support

It's time to start thinking about how you can help to make the Firecracker Hamfest 2014 an even bigger success.

Planning has already begun!

Support your club!

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)

145.21(123) WB3EYB Harrisburg, on mountain north of Linglestown

145.430 (67) South Mountain Repeater Association, Mt Holly Springs

146.46 + 1mhz (67) Western Cumberland County & Perry County, Echolink N3tw-r

If you know of a repeater that isn't listed,

PLEASE send the information to shelbyminier@gmail.com!

Hamfest Treasures

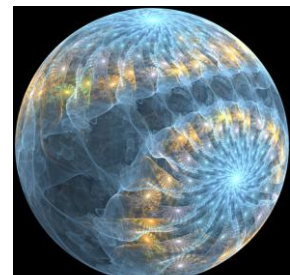
Wow! What a great Firecracker Hamfest! I have learned over the years that most Hams rate a hamfest on if they find what they are looking for, find something that they were not looking for, or find someone they have not seen in years.

For me I found something I was not looking for and was being visited by club members not seen for a long time.

KC3MG, KA3BZX (K1RDM) and N3JDT were reunited like the old days when we traveled together spend untold hours working on the .76 repeater and caused other trouble. GREAT HAMFEST!

While I usually try to spend my time manning "Talk-In", I try to take a quick look at the flea market and see if there is any bargains to be had. Well there was a gentleman who had things from an estate and was trying to dispose of the equipment for the family. While looking thru the assortment of stuff there was a black box which seemed to have all the connectors for a SDR (Software Defined Radio). As was the case in a lot of this kind of offering the seller could not shed much light on the black box what it was, if it worked or even if there was even anything inside the box. Well the price was right so I bought the box and stowed it in my car till after the Test Session and I could get home and do some further investigation.

Upon returning home, after finishing the test session paperwork, I took the box to my bench and proceeded to open the box to see if there was anything inside. Well upon opening the box there was circuits inside a processor or two and it seemed that something should happen if power was applied to it. I made some notes on where power should get connected to, and the like. I have to be the first to tell you that I am in no way a computer expert, but the dot.com machines are still a mystery to me and I feel lucky when any kind of new program or gadget actually works. Well I connected the USB cable up to my computer and found a power cord that would work on the black box and hit the power button. Eureka! The computer indicated it found new hardware! So after dragging this and setting that I thought I was making headway when all of a sudden my computer screen goes black! OH NO!! Well after years of moving too quickly I waited for something to happen the blinky lights on the computer indicated to me that it wasn't dead yet and something still might happen. After what seemed like an eternity a small orb like object appeared on the screen. At least it was something. Then through the computer speakers I hear "Good Morning Dave" well that was a surprise, I thought well the Ham who owned the black box must have been named "Dave", I tried entering a couple of commands on the keyboard to see if it would do something but nothing really happened except the glowing orb would change its color slightly and seemed to rotate.



Continued on the next page.....

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I usually don't have a microphone or camera connected to my computer (paranoid about remote activation). I reason that since there was no microphone connection on the black box that maybe a microphone on the computer was needed to operate the SDR. So while I was at it, I connected the video camera to the computer just for laughs. Well.... the computer still seems to be locked up so I power down everything and restart the computer. I set the microphone and camera up thru the many menu options and then power up the black box once again. The same thing happens as before-- the computer screen goes black and once again the speakers announce "Good Morning Dave". Then after a couple of seconds I hear "Nice to see you Dave". Well now I am totally freaked out, the Aliens have finally taken control of my computer! I again try to type in some commands with no response. Almost ready to give up I utter a couple of inappropriate words and I hear "Dave" I take a quick look around and not seeing any spacecraft or black helicopters I said *Hello*

Well I once again was greeted by "Good Morning Dave". I have got to find the menu to change the name.

So I am trying to think of some kind of verbal command that the black box might recognize and do something. Well it now appears to me that this must be some really advanced device and must use verbal commands as control. COOL! So I talk into the microphone and say *146.760* (I thought it might have been a REAL radio) and it responds "Sorry Dave I can't do that" *Oh great*, I thought to myself another piece of almost useless HF gear (maybe I can sell it to Bill). Well it has now been a couple of hours with me trying different commands with varying degrees of failure. When, just for giggles, I ask the black box *Do you have a name?* Well imagine surprise when it actually answers back! It says "Dave you know my name is HAL"

So that's all I need is a talking radio at least I have someone to talk to when the bands aren't open.

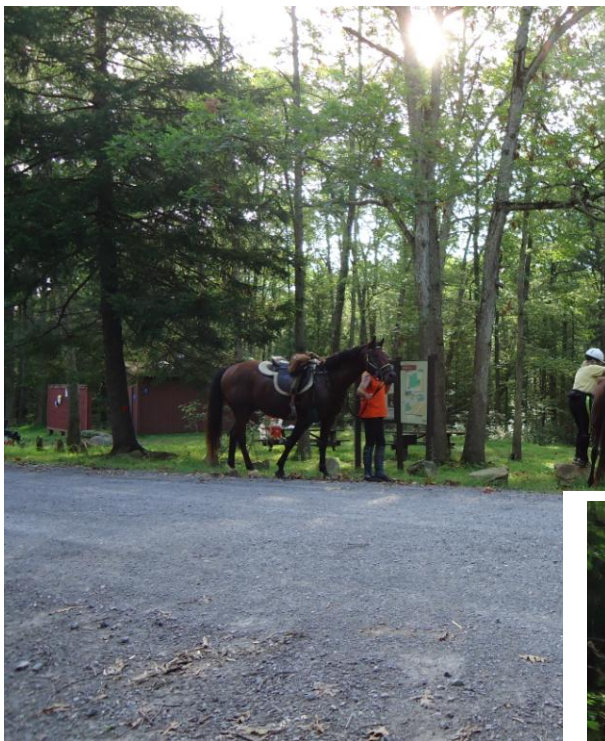
Now the problems start. It has now been several hours of trying to get this thing to work so I really need to move on before the XYL has a meltdown from not having completed this week's "Honey-Do List". I hit the power button on the black box and it say's "Sorry Dave I can't do that". What the heck is going on! I still can't seem to control the computer from the keyboard so I reach for the button on the computer to turn it off and again I hear "Sorry Dave I can't do that". While very intrigued on what was happening now, I fear the XYL a lot more than a black box on the desk. So I pull the AC plug and everything shuts off!

So if anyone out there has a use for a HAL 9000 I can make you a great deal. What a GREAT Firecracker Hamfest.

Always remember if it is on the Internet It has to be TRUE!

Steven, KA3PDQ





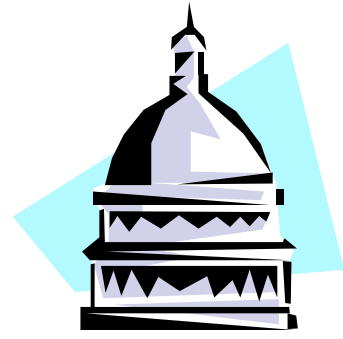
Competitive trail ride at Muckleratz, held on July 27 & 28.





More from the competitive trail ride
July 27 & 28

W3UU - **Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club** – WinterFest



JANUARY 18th 2014

(Saturday)

WINTERFEST

“A Harrisburg Pa. Hamfest”

Cooper Student Union, South Hall

1 HACC Drive

Harrisburg, Pa 17110

N 40.29623 W 76.88805 (parking lot)

(HACC Campus Follow Signs)

8:00 am to Noon

TALK-IN 146.76 (PL 100 hz)

- ◆ Admission, **\$3.00** per person.
- ◆ **First table free. Additional tables \$3.00 each!**
- ◆ Food and drinks available
- ◆ DXCC/WAS/VUCC QSL Card checking on site
- ◆ Amateur radio testing at 10:00 am
- ◆ Please, be courteous to your fellow hams by using reasonable table space. If you can use ½ table, please do so. (based on demand)

No reserved table space

Unloading can be done at the main doors, and then move vehicle to parking area

General Admission: 8:00 AM

Web Site: www.w3uu.org

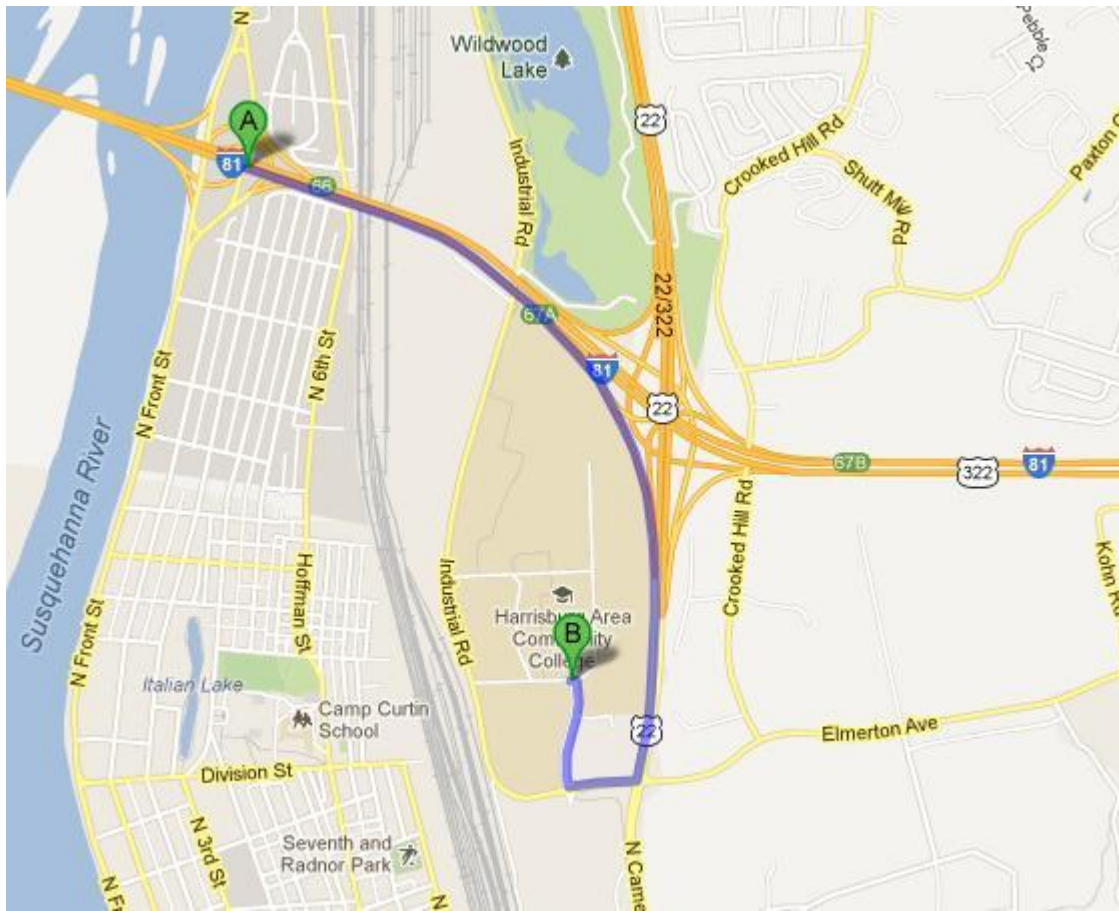
For further information or questions contact:

Tim Lehman

717-982-8550

kb3oza@arrl.net





Driving directions to Harrisburg Area Community College



I-81 N

1. Head **east** on **I-81 N** toward **Exit 67A**

0.7 mi



2. Take exit **67A** to merge onto **US-22 E** toward **PA-230/Harrisburg/Cameron St**

1.1 mi



3. Turn right onto **Wildwood Park Dr**

0.2 mi



4. Turn right onto **Hacc Dr**

0.2 mi



5. Turn left onto **Alumni Dr**

56 ft



Harrisburg Area Community College

1 Hacc Drive

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Parking lot coordinates Willow lot:

N40.29623

W76.88805

Upon entering HACC campus, turn Left and follow signs.

Vendors: After turning left, vendors will turn Right onto a service road and follow signs to Cooper Student building.

Buyers: After turning Left, proceed over small bridge, and turn Right into Willow parking area. Go until you see a foot bridge on the right, and find a parking spot. Get out of car and walk across the foot bridge to Cooper Building.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)
PO Box 453
Hummelstown, PA 17036
717-982-8550

Make checks payable to HRAC
Membership is \$15.00 (\$7.50 if over 65) per year.
Family Membership is \$25 (Hams must reside in the same household)

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.