

# Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club Newsletter

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 (Elmer Time starts at 6:30PM)

## CLUB OFFICERS

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## From the Desk of the President.....

This will be my final installment of the President's Letter. I am stepping down and passing the torch on to someone else as I work on expanding my business to include sunny Tampa Florida. I have been taking a bit of time to reflect back on my time in the chair.

I first took the gavel in January 2006. I had a few ideas of the direction that I thought the club could go, but I was told that as the President, I would probably have very little help. I was very happy to find out that we would, in short order, begin to develop a very good team. Together as a club we have accomplished many things. Our Firecracker hamfest became the Eastern Pa Section Convention and Electronics Swap Fest... Not only is the name big, but the event became bigger, and more successful. The success of that hamfest has led to the revival of the WinterFest, which went through an evolution from a small swap fest to a larger indoor event. Teamwork was the key.

We have seen the team do other things too. We finally moved to a better location for our meetings. The Skywarn net became a reality for the Capitol City area. The repeater was moved to a better location, RACES and ARES involvement has become more organized, and we are teaching hams and prospective hams how to use the radios for which they are now licensed. We also began working more closely with the Central Pennsylvania Repeater Association, (CPRA), which was long overdue.

Several things had been done by the club in the past but were dropped along the way, and now I am happy that they are active again. Everyone can contribute something to the club and to promote our ideas. Hey... Have you seen our newsletter? That newsletter is designed and edited by someone who was new to amateur radio a few years ago, and does a great job in spite of a limited knowledge of amateur radio when she began her job as editor. Oh... and she jumps in as a teacher for the Scouts too. Sorry, Shelby for using you as an example, but you are a good example of how things can get done with limited experience. (Although, now you are a seasoned vet)

To name all of the people who have stepped up and helped me to do my job along the way these past eight years would take a long time, (and more space than that darn editor will ever give me), but you are all appreciated.

Whoever takes the gavel will have a job that will need the help of all of you. This is not a small inactive club, but rather a club with a great potential and a lot going on. Take charge and take us further.

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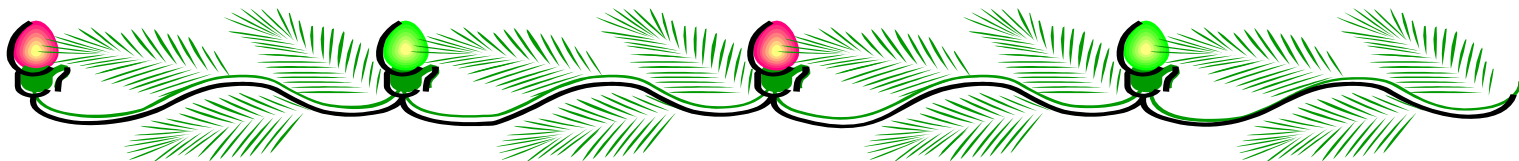
*President's Letter, Continued.....*

I will take a less active roll, but you may see my writings in the newsletter on some random subjects, and as my schedule permits, and I will be at some of the future meetings. I spend a lot of time traveling between the Gulf coast of Florida and Central Pa, working as a DJ and Emcee for events in both places. I am also working on a photography business of sorts, and possibly some contract, or consulting engineering for broadcast stations in the west coast Florida area.

I have connected with the Brandon Florida Amateur radio club and have been to some of their events but I have yet to meet any hams who are native Floridians, so I am in good company. I can be found, during my traveling times, on 40 meters and 20 meters. You will find me on 40 around 7.200 mhz, or as we called it in the old days, 7200kc. I can work central PA on 40 all the way to northern Florida. To keep up with me you could find DJTerry.com on Facebook, or on the web.

73

Terry, WB3BKN



## November Meeting Minutes

The November 13, 2013 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 1910 HRS by the president, Terry (WB3BKN) followed by introductions. There were a total of 30 present, including seven visitors. *At various points in the agenda, Terry took time to explain details of the current topic for the benefit of visitors and newly licensed hams.*

**Secretary's Report** - The minutes of the October meeting were published in the newsletter. Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Glenn (K3SWZ), to accept the minutes as published. Motion PASSED

**Treasurers Report** - Joe (KQ3F) presented the treasurer's report. Joe (K3SZH) made a motion, seconded by Pete (KB3WIH), to accept the report. Motion PASSED

**VE Committee** – The next regularly scheduled test session will be held on December 21, 2013 in the Schumaker Public Safety Center cafeteria at 0900.

**Trustee** – no report.

**Repeater** – The interference that the repeater had been experiencing in the past had returned as of the week of Nov 4. Steve suspects that it could be weather related.

Terry (WB3BKN) spoke briefly regarding the recent cases of repeater misuse and what was done by HRAC and other local clubs to rectify the situation.

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## November Meeting Minutes, continued

**Membership Committee** – Tim (KB3OZA) reported:

- We currently have 90 members and an ARRL membership percentage of 64.4.
- Letters were sent to seven newly licensed hams, two of whom were in attendance.

**Newsletter** – Terry (WB3BKN) reminded the membership that newsletter articles need to be submitted not later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to be published in the next edition.

**Web Page** – no update

**EMCOMM** – no report

**DXCC** – Glenn (K3SWZ) reported that he has checked a few applications recently. He will be making a mailing to the bureau after the first of the year.  
*Terry (WB3BKN) explained the operation of the QSL bureau and the exchange of QSL cards in general.*

**Entertainment** – Nick (AA3T) has been unable to arrange an APRS demonstration. He is working on a Software Defined Radio (SDR) demonstration for December.

**December is cookie swap month.**

Cookies at this meeting were provided by Rich (KB3YRC).

**Field Day** – There has still been no further word regarding a joint field day activity with CPRA.

Terry briefly explained field day for visitors.

**Hamfest Committee**- In response to our request for use of the Cooper Union Building, HACC informed Tim (KB3OZA) that the usage fee had been raised to \$300.00. A check for the additional funds will be sent.

Tim has winter fest fliers. See him if you need fliers to distribute.

**Elmer Time** – Terry (WB3BKN) gave a presentation on antennas and how to calculate the length of their elements. He also made a request for volunteers to give presentations.

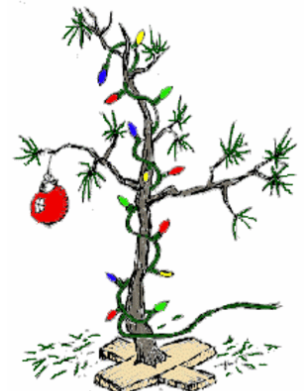
**Old Business** –

Election of Officers: The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates for election:

- President: Tim (KB3OZA)
- Vice President: Nick (AA3T)
- Secretary: Shelby (K3EMT)
- Treasurer: Joe (KQ3F)



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## November Meeting Minutes, continued

### New Business-

Monthly Luncheon - Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the date for the monthly luncheon was changed to Wednesday, Nov. 27

### Hamfest Committee Meeting with HACC:

Members of the hamfest committee met with Angie Sanden of HACC to discuss issues regarding HACC's denial of our request to set up a permanent station in the Shumaker Public Service Center building and also to discuss usage fees for various HACC facilities.

Angie informed the committee that her impression of the decision was that there was concern that club members could possibly be on campus during periods when the campus was closed or evacuated. She then suggested that we draft a new proposal which addresses that concern and submit it for approval. That will be undertaken in the near future. Angie also discussed the actual fee schedule for use of classrooms, the skid pad and the equipment bay. She then stated that since the club had historically made donations for facility use it would require less administrative work for her and thus she would prefer to continue to operate that way whenever possible.

Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Glenn (K3SWZ) to send a \$200.00 donation to HACC for this year's facility use. Motion PASSED.

The possibility of forming a campus radio club was raised as a possible means of circumventing HACC's concerns. The suggestion will be reviewed with Angie to see if she thinks that it would be a viable idea.

Steve (KA3PDQ) asked if the Trinity HS radio club book had been located. It has not been found as yet.

**Good of the Club** – Milan (KC3AYU) stated that he had an extra copy of the ARRL Operating Manual and offered it to the club or to an individual who could utilize it.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business to conduct, Pete (KB3WIH) made a motion, seconded by Milan (KC3AYU), to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 2000 HRS.

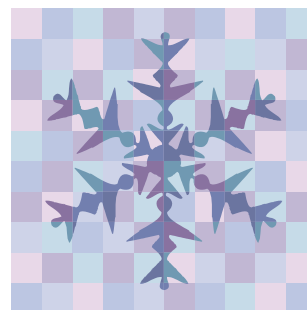
Tim Lehman, KB3OZA  
Secretary



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



## Santa's a Ham!

Now that it is time to get my VAST array of Christmas decorations out of storage; get the voltmeter, continuity tester and even the oscilloscope (to repair the burned out, non working light strings from last year), I happen on the Jolly fellow himself and I know he has to be a HAM! I know this to be true, with recent TV and movies sometimes depicting him as a Tech savvy fellow with a large R and D (Research and Development) team. It would go without saying HE must be a HAM!

Still not enough proof for you. Well let's take a look at his physical and environmental characteristics and compare them to many of the Hams we see every day.

- 1) Geezer – You know it's TRUE, look around. For the most part, we are just a collection of old men trying to find something to keep us away from our XYL. (Recently I attended my 40<sup>th</sup> High School Class reunion, and upon entering the room I said to my wife, "Who in the HELL are all these old people?")
- 2) Overweight – I HEAR you yelling at me now. Just look around. Most of us real don't need to make that second trip to the dessert table at the all you can eat buffet! Personally I skip the ice cream, cake, pie and pudding in favor of the cottage cheese and fruit! HI HI (Abbreviation used by real Hams when using CW.; ie, Laughter)
- 3) Lacking in Physical Exercise - You KNOW this part is true! The big guy only gets out once a year and without the magic, he would never ever fit down a chimney. If it wasn't for the all you can eat buffet some hams would never leave the house! Well, except for field day and Hamfests.
- 4) Stylish Attire – There you go again, YELLING at the computer screen. When was the last time you saw Santa without his trade mark red suit? His outfit has remained the same since I can remember and the executives at Coca-Cola dressed him that way. Next time you go to a HAM gathering look around. We have a uniform ourselves: call sign cap; name tag (sometimes optional but always appreciated); Dockers or blue jeans, and a shirt with a front pocket. It is an absolute necessity to carry a pen and miniature reversible screwdriver. I prefer my sonic screwdriver, but I have been having trouble lately with the battery! In the summer you can trade up to Bermuda shorts provided you wear the required long support socks.
- 5) Failing Eyesight – Again, eyeglasses have been on Santa's face for as long as he has worn the red suit. Sometimes he is even pictured with a magnifier of some kind. Show me a Ham without a lighted magnifier attached to his work bench and I'll show you an appliance operator!
- 6) Cookies - Do I really need to explain this one? We have cookies at every club meeting! We even have a special meeting in December so each of us can bring our favorite carbohydrate poison to show how much we really need sweets to enjoy radio.
- 7) Toys – Becoming an Amateur Radio Operator has done many things for me. It has allowed me to serve my community, providing much needed communications support in various situations. B.S.! It has allowed me to buy TOYS under the cover of public service! And the really neat part is they are always inventing new toys that I can't live without. As soon as KE3YC finds the shipping confirmation, I will finally get my radio!



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## Santa's a Ham.....continued from previous page

- 8) SOV – Special Operations Vehicles - While this category is reserved for the most diehard operators. What else would you call a sleigh pulled by reindeer? Some of us have these vehicles decked out with all kinds of special mounting brackets, oversized alternators, additional wiring schemes, and enough added aluminum and fiberglass to knock off a couple of miles per gallon because of extra drag. I once saw a VW Bug with so many antennas I was concerned that in a strong cross wind it certainly would have overturned.
- 9) Sleep Deprivation - Self imposed of course. Like Santa. Some will go for days without much needed sleep just to complete the task (DX) at hand.
- 10) Elves – In the Ham world known as Harmonics, Rug Rats, Ankle Biters, Pete, etc. Not particularly useful in their early years but later on can be used to bury ground radials, dig tower bases, and with enough training (Pete) may be at some time able to hold things for short periods of time. Santa has been able over the centuries to teach his elves to allegedly design and build complicated toys and a flying sleigh. It is important in the Ham world to discourage any real involvement of these little ones from a true interest in the hobby as they could drain an operator's limited toy budget unless one can convince the Mrs. (Claus) that the new equipment is for the children!

Merry Christmas!

Steven, KA3PDQ



## 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.

Elmer Time, formerly known as Tech Talk, begins at 6:30 pm. Come on out to a meeting and see what's going on with your club!

**December is cookie swap month and election of officers for 2014.**

### 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!**



We use embroidery, heat transfer, vinyl or sublimation to put your idea on just about anything!



Visit us online at [www.shopIBD.com](http://www.shopIBD.com) for ideas  
 then give us a call at **717-585-9779**  
 or email [geanne@impressions-by-design.com](mailto:geanne@impressions-by-design.com)  
 for quotes and personalized service.



# Long Delayed Echoes.....

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

Compiled by Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

This month's entry is a portion of the November 14, 1996 club meeting minutes as published in the December 1996 newsletter. By way of background, before retirement Mike N3HLK was responsible for all audio/visual facilities at Penn State Harrisburg. He got to know his counterparts in State College, many of whom were also hams. The schools were leading videoconferencing technology in education and had installed the most modern of systems. Mike and the State College gang thought it would be neat to hold a joint meeting via videoconference as you can see in the photos. For the nerds among us, they were PictureTel systems linked via an ISDN line. It was a unique and enjoyable experience.

Videoconference: Ron, N3AHM of the Nittany Amateur Radio Club gave a presentation on how the compressed videoconferencing system operates. Program: Joe, K3SZH gave a presentation on the Joy of Working Amateur Satellites. The program was presented by videoconferencing to the Nittany Amateur Radio Club located on the Penn State Campus at University Park. Later both clubs introduced themselves and had a question and answer session.



Links  
to the  
club's  
social  
media  
pages

[Twitter Link](#)



[Yahoo Group Link](#)



[Facebook Page Link](#)



## 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 have anything to list, email [shelbyminier@gmail.com](mailto:shelbyminier@gmail.com).

List can also be viewed online: <http://www.w3uu.org/swap-shop/>



**FOR SALE** by Keith Ostertag (N3KXZ), ([keitho@strucktower.com](mailto:keitho@strucktower.com)):

Tektronix oscilloscopes:

- Tektronix 7903 with 7A18 and 7B80 plugins, \$100, nice working.
- Tektronix 549 Storage oscilloscope with 1A1 plugin, \$100, nice working.

Parting out several vintage Tek scopes

- see [http://www.strucktower.com/tek500series\\_parts.html](http://www.strucktower.com/tek500series_parts.html) for details

Please contact Keith at [keitho@strucktower.com](mailto:keitho@strucktower.com) if you are interested in any of his items.

**WANTED** by Keith Ostertag (N3KXZ), ([keitho@strucktower.com](mailto:keitho@strucktower.com)):

A two meter rig for desktop use. Not sure what I'm looking for, contact me with what you have. Good audio TX/RX important. Mobile unit or HT might be OK, but I don't like tiny buttons, tiny screens, deep multi-layer menus....

Please contact Keith at [keitho@strucktower.com](mailto:keitho@strucktower.com) if you have anything to offer.

**FOR SALE** by Gary B. (K3GB), ([sfrvn@earthlink.net](mailto:sfrvn@earthlink.net))

### Old Equipment

- KY-116/U Leg Key: Authentic 'leg key' from 1960s! Used it to run HF CW mobile! \$50
- Alinco DJ-580 2m/UHF Handheld — Desk charger, rubber duck, batteries do not hold charge! \$30
- Radio Shack VHF Handheld — 2 Chan, AC Charger, rubber duck, battery does not hold charge! \$10

### Parts/Components

- Radio Crystals: About 40 – 50; FT243, scanner, RX and TX xtals \$40 for all
- TT Pad 16-button w/instr \$15
- Bag of Torroids (Ferrite cores) \$5
- RG-59 and RG-6 connectors/Crimp Rings \$4
- Dipole Center Insulator ('Cobra head') \$5
- Bag of U-bolts for antenna use (element-to-boom, etc) \$5
- 15' solid aluminum grounding/bonding wire 8 ga? \$3
- teletype ribbons: (3) Model 37/38 Blk cotton 25 \$5
- teletype ribbons: (3) Model 13? Black nylon \$3
- teletype ribbons: (12) Model 37/38 Grn nylon 25 \$3
- Box of mobile antenna mount hardware incl stainless strap \$8

Continued on next page.....

## Swap and Shop, *continued from previous page*

### Items from Gary B. (K3GB), ([sfrvn@earthlink.net](mailto:sfrvn@earthlink.net)), Continued.....

- Small box of antenna mounting parts w/VHF loading coil \$5
- Tower thrust bearing \$8
- (2) Antenna-to-mast clamps \$3
- Box of BNC connectors: chassis, cable, Tees, barrels Many silver plated \$10
- Bolt Kit for Rohn 48' SS tower HWPBDBX48 \$25
- Box of egg insulators, hose clamps, Oxi-gard, ant putty \$10
- Trunk-lip mount 2m quarter wave antenna w/coax \$5
- Magnetic mount 2m quarter wave antenna w/coax \$5
- Magnetic mount w/coax \$3
- Uniden CB w/hand mic Small 23-chan!! \$8
- (3) Cobra GMRS Handheld radios: chgr, belt clips Set #3 \$15
- (2) Cobra GMRS Handheld radios: chgr, belt clip, headset Set #2 \$12
- (2) Cobra GMRS Handheld radios: chgr, belt clips Set #1 \$12
- (2) Uniden GMRS Handheld radios: chgr Set #4 \$12
- ~900' Insulated copper stranded wire 10 ga For grounding, radials, and more! \$100
- Box coax cables: <25' BNC, PL-259, Motorola conn \$5
- ~60' RG-6 Coaxial cable \$5
- (5) RG-58 & (1) RG-8 Patch cables ( <6' ) \$5
- ~72' Terro 2 AWG Stranded copper HEAVY DUTY GROUNDING wire (Retail: \$2.40/ft \$125)
- ~75' RG-6 TWIN-LINE w/ground \$10
- ~25' RG-6 Coax \$4
- (2) Sections RG-58 ( ~25' ? ) \$3
- 60' Low Loss RG-8X (commercial cable) W/PL-259 \$15
- Tripp Lite Regulated Pwr Supply PR-4 13.8VDC 4.5A \$10
- 1964 'County Hunters' Log Book Unused OLD!! \$10
- Realistic PA Amp Model 32-2027 35W Solid State w/mixer \$15

Please contact Gary at [sfrvn@earthlink.net](mailto:sfrvn@earthlink.net) if you are interested in any of his items.

Hams are invited to stop by and take a look. Gary is about 6 miles SW of Carlisle off Walnut Bottom Road. Email for directions/an appointment & for pictures.

## 2014 Exam schedule for the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club VE Team

- January 18, 2014-HACC Harrisburg Campus-Cooper Student Union Building , 1 HACC Drive, Harrisburg, PA (10:00AM)
- February 15, 2014-HACC Harrisburg Campus-Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Rd, Harrisburg, PA (9:00AM)
- April 19, 2014-HACC Harrisburg Campus-Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Rd, Harrisburg, PA (9:00 AM)
- June 21, 2014 Location HACC Harrisburg Campus-Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Rd, Harrisburg, PA (9:00AM)
- July 5, 2014-FIRECRACKER HAMFEST HACC Harrisburg Campus-Shumaker Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Rd (11:00AM)
- August 16, 2014-HACC Harrisburg Campus-Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Rd, Harrisburg PA (9:00AM)
- October 18, 2014-HACC Harrisburg Campus-Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on industrial Rd, Harrisburg, PA (9:00AM)
- December 20, 2014-HACC Harrisburg Campus-Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Rd, Harrisburg, PA (9:00AM)

## Why is it Called a Ham Shack?

Have you ever wondered why many amateur radio operators refer to their stations as their “shack?” For that matter, have you ever wondered the retailer Radio Shack came to be called that?

Well, there are several explanations for this. According to Rod, AC6V, the first radio shacks were found aboard ships in the early 1900s. He says, “At the time, wireless equipment aboard ships was generally housed above the bridge in a wooden structure that was called the ‘radio shack.’” Even after ship designs include a room specifically for radio equipment, they were often small and cramped. In other words, they were little more than a shack.

In the early days of amateur radio, it was fairly common to house a station in a structure separate from the main residence. The reason for this is that the equipment was quite large and used dangerously high voltages. That being the case, it’s quite understandable that amateur radio operators would adopt the word “shack” for their stations.

Whatever you call it, you will enjoy amateur radio more if you can set aside a space in your house or apartment or wherever you call home as your “shack.” Think of it as your “radio cave,” where you can get away from the other things in your life and enjoy the hobby of amateur radio.

*This entry was posted in [Amateur Radio History](#), [Author: Dan KB6NU](#), [Station Setup](#) by [Dan KB6NU](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).*

*Submitted by Terry Snyder, WB3BKN*



*This 1922 photo shows the “shack” of amateur radio station 8BNY.*

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## ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau Mailing

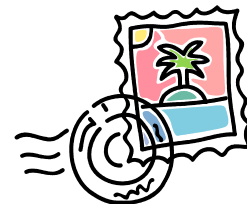
I will be making a mailing to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau for HRAC members who have DX QSL cards to send out.

This service is provided free to HRAC members. Please place your QSL cards in order by prefix and give them to me at the December meeting or at the December Ham Lunch. The actual mailing will not occur until after January 1st. You must include a mailing label or copy of same from a recent QST, as this service is only available to ARRL members.

You can also give your cards to KE3YC or N3WL and they can get them to me.

Questions: call me at 774-1728 or e-mail me at [k3swz@arrl.net](mailto:k3swz@arrl.net)

Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ



## Interesting History

I am sure many of us remember the old famous FT-243 crystals we used as a Novice or on the 6 and 2 Meter bands in rigs of the 50's, 60's and 70's. They were the Phonelic cases that were held together with three screws and generally had metal nameplate. As a side note, those packages are called "Compression Mounts" having reference to the fact that the crystal blank is compressed between two metal plates that match the size of the crystal blank. The entire "sandwich" is compressed in the package and held together with the screws. By today's standards that design was pretty bad, but consider that it was designed 65 plus years ago.

Today crystals are enclosed in vacuum-sealed cases and the electrodes are gold or silver and/or other metals depending on the application. They are far more sophisticated by necessity.

Sometimes it is hard to believe that we "won the war" with technology such as the FT-243 crystal! Having spent my entire working career working around and with quartz crystals, I was always fascinated by the unique history of this device. An old timer in the business told me that during WW II, there were about 150 companies cranking out crystals for the war effort and many of them were FT-243 types.

I decided to set out on a mission to see just how many different manufactures I could scrounge up at hamfests, etc. I had a few "scouts" helping me also... After 20 years or so of looking in junk boxes and carrying my list around at hamfests, I have 109 different companies represented in my collection! There must have been some truth to that old-timers story. All but a very few of these companies are gone and those that remain, probably have no one on their staff who even remembers an FT-243, unless he is an older ham!! What is the collection worth? Probably nothing, except the sentimental value to someone who may want to preserve a bit of history as I have done.

73

de Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

## Link to Repeater and Net Lists

<http://www.w3uu.org/local-repeaters-and-nets/>

Same lists that use to be in the newsletter.....but on the club's website.

## Letter from the Editor

You'll notice that the newsletter has a few little changes. The repeater and net lists are not published, as they are now on the club's website (link located directly above this article). I will continue to include the link in each newsletter. Also, along the side of page 8 are all the links to our club's social media – Facebook, Twitter, and the Yahoo Group. You can click on any of the links and be taken to the appropriate webpage.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Shelby, K3EMT



## IBP Beacon Project

I recently learned about this beacon network and thought others might give it a try.

IBP stands for International Beacon Project, which was started in 1979.

The current IBP beacon system has transmitters in 18 countries, transmitting for 10 seconds on each of five bands using Kenwood TS 50s radios.

Here are the IBP frequencies:

20M -> 14.100

17M -> 18.110

15M -> 21.150

1?M -> 24.930

10M -> 28.200

Each station transmits (CW) for 10 seconds, then switch frequencies in a round table fashion.

So, you can either listen on any one of those frequencies for 3 minutes to check your reception from 18 places around the world (18x10=180 seconds or 3 minutes)

OR, you can point your beam to just one of the locations and tune around your dial to any of those five frequencies to see the propagation from your QTH to that location.

They transmit their call sign (in CW) at 22 words/minute at 100 watts, then transmit four short, power-stepping dashes, all within each 10 second transmission.

A convenient way to find out at any given moment which IBP station is transmitting is to look at a schedule. You can find it online several places- here's one you can download and printout:

<http://www.qsl.net/sm7nwi/NCDXF-IARU-BeaconMonitoring.html>

OR you can visit <http://www.hamradioweb.info/beacons.html> for a replica Hallicrafters radio dial showing which stations are transmitting. Watch it for more than 10 seconds...You need to make sure your computer clock is accurate.

There are also a bunch of various software programs to help you determine the live schedule at this page: <http://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beacontools.html>

Here are the station locations:

<http://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beaconlocations.html>

Interested? You can read some of its history at the International Radio Union site <http://www.iaru.org/beacon-project.html> or at the Northern California DX Foundation at <http://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/intro.html>.

I'm still in the process of setting up my station so I haven't personally been able to hear any of these beacons yet.

Submitted by Keith Ostertag, N3KXZ

*Editor's note*-This is an example of how another club did their scouting event on JOTA weekend. Please see the HRAC November newsletter for the article about our club's event. And remember, whenever possible please support your club with the events that they hold.

## Berry Mountain Radio Amateur Club JOTA Event

The 56<sup>th</sup> annual JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) sponsored by Millersburg Troop 151 and BMARC (Berry Mountain Amateur Radio Club) was held at The Erdman Sportsman Club was a great success.

Contacts were made into 3 continents- South America, North America, Europe, 7 countries- Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Azores Portugal, South America, USA and 9 states- California, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota. All contacts were made using 100 watts of power, equivalent to the power of a 100 watt light bulb.

Our 10 onsite Amateurs brought their own gear and what a selection we had. They erected 5 antennas and operated four stations on multiple bands and modes Friday evening and all day Saturday and into early morning (0300) Sunday.

In addition our Amateurs taught sessions on Morse Code (CW) by key, flashlight and signal mirror. Each Scout soldered together a 2M ladder-line J-pole antenna and lashed together an antenna tower from bamboo. The Scouts also learned about RDF (Radio Direction Finding) and electronic fox hunting. In between sessions the Radio Merit Badge was taught using the 2013 National Jamboree format. All the Scouts completed all the requirements and earned their Radio Merit Badge.

Troop Patrols were renamed Alpha through Foxtrot to represent the phonetic alphabet. Special activities included plotting contacts and weather on a map, phonetic conversations, Q-codes. We had contests for the most, farthest, longest distance, most continents, most countries, most states and most courteous. Prizes were given for each category. We have 10 Scouts in the hunt to win a Baofeng HT (hand held radio) for the first Scout to earn their FCC Technician license after the event. We also had a HT donated that was won by one of our Amateurs to take home.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible through man-hours, donations or equipment and those on the other end of the contacts around the world and locally.

Don Kunst, W3LNE, Secretary BMARC, ASM Troop 151



## Newsletter Deadline Reminder

Just a reminder to all – the deadline for the newsletter is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

Articles may be emailed to me at [shelbyminier@gmail.com](mailto:shelbyminier@gmail.com).

Thank you all!

Shelby Minier, Editor  
K3EMT



### 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. Then it will be held the day before!

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!

## HRAC Website Has New Look



Make sure you check out the club's newly formatted & improved website. A **huge** thanks to **Gary Cappello, KV3Q**, for making it happen!

The site is: [www.w3uu.org](http://www.w3uu.org)

You can find repeater frequencies, net times, articles for sale.....and so much more!

Merry  
Christmas

The words "Merry" and "Christmas" are written in a large, red, cursive font. The word "Merry" is on the top line and "Christmas" is on the bottom line. There are two holly leaves with red berries: one is positioned between the two words, and another is to the left of the word "Christmas".

# The History of W9BSP

In 1922, Marshall H. Ensor, a 22-year-old industrial arts instructor at Olathe High School in Olathe, KS, just outside Kansas City, earned his amateur radio operator license. His interest in radio began in 1916 when he built a spark-gap radio that he operated until the end of WWI in 1918.



This story sounds very much like other early radio operators around the United States early in the 20th Century. But for Marshall Ensor, his hobby continued to grow. In 1929, Ensor began working with the American Radio Relay League to broadcast radio lessons to the listening. He did so under the call sign W9BSP. With the help of his younger sister Loretta, who earned the call sign W9UA, the two taught "Radio by Radio" nightly during December and January for more than 10 years. Their radio transmitter was located in a small room off the kitchen of their parents' dairy farm home.

For his work in educating other radio enthusiasts, Marshall Enso Marshall was nominated to receive the coveted Paley Award for "Distinguished Service to our Country by an Amateur Operator" in 1940.

He and Loretta made plans to turn the dairy farm into a private museum, free by donation. Marshall died in 1970. Loretta continued using the transmitter until 1972. She died in 1991. The museum opened in 1975.

The transmitter sat unused after 1972. Larry Woodworth, WØHXS, the manager of Ensor Park and Museum since 2003, and others agreed that it was fitting to restore the original transmitter. Original hand drawn schematic diagrams of the unit were found in 2003. Harry Krout, WØYQG, and his son Joe Krout began working on the project in May 2010. On Jan. 2, 2011, at 1:32 PM, the classic transmitter returned to the air.

The volunteers at Ensor Park and Museum are proud of their work to preserve this piece of radio history, and will eagerly share all the stories you want to hear. The Kansas City chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (Chapter 59) visited the facility for a meeting this past summer.



1937: Loretta Ensor W9UA, with brother Marshall H. Ensor, 9BSP.

**From:** [http://radiomagonline.com/signoff/the\\_history\\_of\\_w9bsp\\_1101/](http://radiomagonline.com/signoff/the_history_of_w9bsp_1101/)

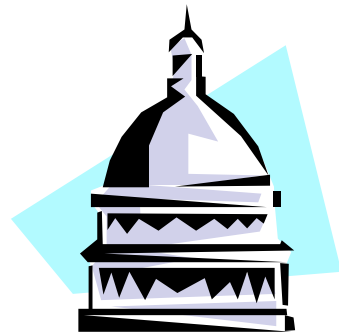
(There are a few more pictures available at the above link)

Submitted by Terry Snyder, WB3BKN

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

**JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.w3uu.org)**

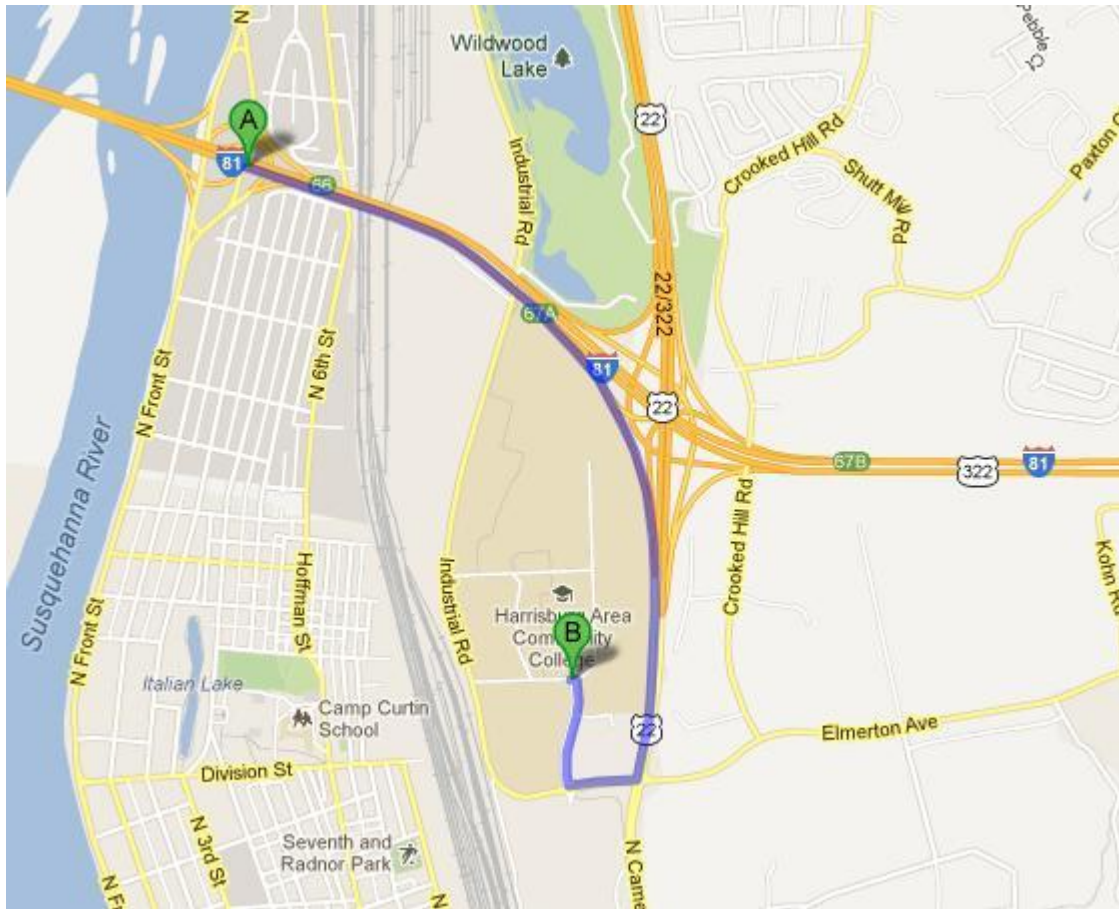
For further information or questions contact:

Tim Lehman

717-982-8550

[kb3oza@arrl.net](mailto: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.