



# Harrisburg Radio Amateur's 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

## CLUB OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT**

Terry Snyder  
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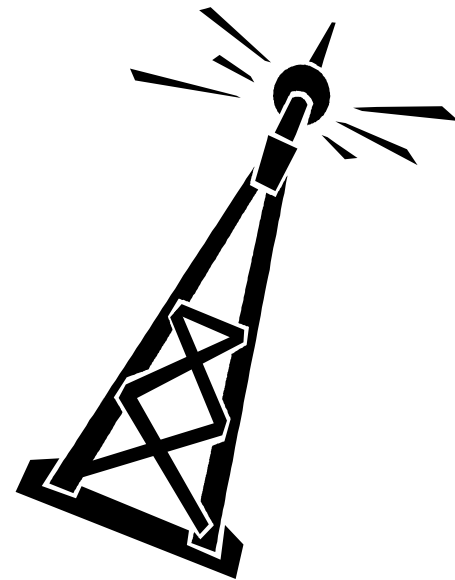
## The President's Letter.....

From the desk of the President... Actually a folding table sitting near to the blazing pellet stove.....

As we settle back to normal life after a holiday season, I have several things to bring to you. First is the Winter Hamfest on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Information on the hamfest has been included in the past few newsletters, so there should be no excuse for not knowing about it. Arrive early, like about 8am, because the good deals go quickly. VE sessions are at 10am. VE sessions are not classes to learn how to speak Canadian phrases, but rather, testing sessions for amateur radio licenses. (Canadian amateur radio licenses begin usually with **VE**, as in **VE2XYZ**... In our case, VE is Volunteer Examiner.) The hamfest usually ends by about noon. For a map and info, see the second attachment to this same email.

It was brought to our attention that some club members who would love to come to a meeting, often can't get out of the house, or are in some way tied up, but could virtually connect to the meeting, if such an opportunity were available. In November, I used Skype to connect to the meeting for a few minutes, while in Florida. Since then a suggestion was made to try Skype as a way for people to connect with the meeting. This will begin with our January meeting. We will first begin with voice only, due to the cost of obtaining a video connection for multiple users. Our Skype address is hrac.radio We should have it up and connecting callers shortly after 6:30. You should get on Skype and test your connection, by following the directions for testing, and then send a friend request to hrac.radio before the meeting date. Skype is a free download, and is free to use. Sign up and secure your Skype ID by visiting [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com). Usually amateurs will use their call sign, or, maybe not, as an ID. Using Skype, I can make actual telephone calls anywhere in the USA, and abroad for very low cost. Connections from computer to computer are free. We will be using the free computer to computer method. Many will have a camera connected on Skype and can video chat. (This is the video phone we were promised by the year 2000. Now... Where are those flying cars???)  
Thanks, and 73

Terry Snyder President HRAC



## December Meeting Minutes

The December 2012 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 7:00 PM. by Vice President Nick (AA3T) followed by introductions.

### Secretary Report

The minutes of the September meeting were published in the newsletter. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Joe (K3SZH), to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published. Motion PASSED

### Treasurers Report

Joe (KQ3F) presented the treasurer's report. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Marty (KB3BAA), to accept the report. Motion PASSED

### VE Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) reported the following items:

The next test session will is scheduled for Dec 15 at 0900. Location is DEMA, 911 Gibson Blvd.

**Trustee Report** – No changes.

**Repeater Committee** – No current problems.

**Membership Committee** – Current membership is 84 with 65.5% membership in ARRL.

**Newsletter** – A comment was made by Joe (KQ3F) that this was one of the best newsletters he has ever seen.

**EMCOMM** - Marty (KB3BAA) reported the following items:

Antenna parts are on order for the 145.110 repeater.

Dates and other information on upcoming events will be made available ASAP.

A number of digital nets are being conducted around the area. Some of them are:

|         |         |             |
|---------|---------|-------------|
| Monday  | 145.110 | 1900 – 1950 |
| Tuesday | 146.970 | 1900 - ???? |
| Friday  | 146.610 | 2100 - ???? |

**DXCC** – Glenn (K3SWZ) reported that he has checked several applications for DXCC, WAS, etc. He will mail cards to the bureau after Jan 1, 2013.

**Entertainment** – Christmas cookies!!

### Winterfest

- Date: Jan 19, 2013
- Location: HACC Cooper Student Union cafeteria
- We will be able to access the facility at 0700 for set-up.
- People should enter at Gate 3 for parking.
- As of Jan1, 2013, the Subway in the cafeteria facility will no longer operate on Saturdays. We are working with the cafeteria concessionaire, ARM, to see if they are interested in supporting the event. There are also vending machines available.

## December Meeting Minutes, continued

### Ham Feast

After a brief discussion about the event, the date, time and location were decided by consensus.

Date                    February 13, 2013  
 Time                    1800 HRS  
 Location:            Fire Mountain Buffet on Carlisle Pike

**Ham of the Year** – The nominating committee will consist of Bill (KE3YC), Glenn (K3SWZ) and Tim (KB3OZA). The committee will meet to discuss nominees for the award.

### Old Business –

Election Committee – There were still no volunteers to serve on the nomination committee and no nominations from the floor. Marty (KB3BAA) made the following motion, seconded by Doug (K3DRE); to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one vote for the incumbent officers. Motion PASSED.

### New Business

Doug (K3DRE) reported that HACCC has found space for the club to use for our radio station. The club will coordinate with the Dept. of Buildings and Grounds regarding installation of tower and antennas.

It was reported that Dan Cullison (KA3RMP) was a silent key. He was the owner of the 449.925 repeater. The question was asked as to whether or not the club should contact the family about purchasing the equipment.

Steve (KA3PDQ) pointed out that coordination does not transfer with ownership of the equipment. If we wanted to operate that repeater, we would have to apply for coordination all over again. It was brought up that even if we didn't want to undertake the coordination process, we could still benefit from having the equipment. Marty (KB3BAA) will follow up.

### Good of the Club

Glenn (K3SWZ) reported that Charlie Vogelsong (W3BQA) had become a silent key.

There being no further business to conduct, Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Bill (KE3YC), to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 1955 HRS.

Tim Lehman, KB3OZA

Secretary



W3UU  
 is  
 ARRL Affiliated



**Starting in 2013, ALL testing sessions will be held at the HACC Shumaker Public Safety Center.**

Tentative dates for 2013 include:  
February 16, April 20, June 15, August 17, October 1, December 21

**There will also be a session held January 19 at the HRAC Winter Hamfest held at the HACC Cooper Student Building - Testing at 10:00AM**

## **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.

## **December Testing Results**

For the testing session held in December, we had two (2) applicants with one (1) upgrade to a general class license.

I would like to welcome Gary (KV3Q) as our newest VE.

The next testing session will be conducted January 19 at the HRAC Winter Hamfest held at HACC Cooper Student Building. Testing is at 10:00AM.

VEs in attendance at the December session: Doug (K3DRE), Rodney (N3QLB), Tim (KB3OZA), Bill (KE3YC), Steven (KA3PDQ), and Gary (KV3Q).

Thank you all for your support of the Team.

Steven, KA3PDQ



### **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.

## Thursday Luncheon

Every month in this news letter we post the date and place for the Ham Radio Lunch. What you don't know is just what it is, and how it came to be.

There is something that you need to know about the history of amateur radio in Harrisburg before we get into why we have a lunch meeting. The original ham club in Harrisburg was, and is the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club (HRAC). When the use of repeaters began in amateur radio, there were a few members who found the technology of repeaters fascinating. The idea of a club repeater was met with opposition by the club, because, in some member's words, "it isn't ham radio if it is being retransmitted by a repeater". The members who wanted to pursue this new idea formed a club called Central Pennsylvania Repeater Association (CPRA). Some remained members of both, and others went with the new club.

Over time both clubs flourished, and even a third club emerged, but some members of each club held resentment toward each other. In an effort to bring the clubs together again, and realize that all of us are first of all, radio amateurs, who enjoy the different things that our hobby can bring to the table, Tim Shingara (WB3EYB) came up with an idea. How about a non-club get together of hams, for lunch, once a month to get everyone to know one another. The last Thursday of the month was chosen, and it has become a tradition for years. At these gatherings, we have all found common interest, and exchanges of ideas. Hams are not the only people who show up either. Friends of hams, spouses, and others stop by regularly. This has become a really good place to learn about more the hams of the area, and much more.

Check the dates listed in the reminder, which is always posted in this newsletter. Most arrive by noon, but some of us arrive anywhere between 11:00am and noon, and some stay until 2:00pm.

And now you know the rest of the story.

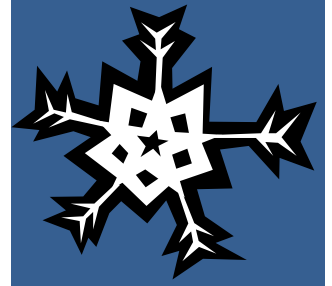
Terry Snyder WB3BKN

### 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!



## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED or

### OH CRAP we're still here!

As you are reading this then there is only one conclusion and that is the portal did indeed exist and our hero was able to access the other side and reset the main frame that controls the universe, as we know it. The much talked about Mayan Calendar was indeed a countdown to the fate full day when someone with the foresight and knowledge was able to save the world from impending destruction! It is a real shame that the world may never know who this courageous person may have been or if she even survived the trip to the other side. Some of you may be already saying that the Mayan's had miscalculated the true date because of something to do with leap year. Well I believe they were far smarter than that and it was the reset of the main frame that saved us ALL!

My talented staff and I have begun new ways to bring you the loyal reader up to date information on the magical and sometimes mysterious world of Amateur Radio. Topics like if a QRP rig falls off the bench is there any noise from it hitting the ground? What bands and modes does a real HAM use?

Does alcohol and RF mix well? We will try to answer these and many other made up topics in the next year. We may even try to enter the continued debate between antennas and aerials (will these people ever end this continuing feud?)

The continued and aggravating discussions on the existence of Dark Suckers.

To the uninformed known as Light Bulbs. These devices around for years still stir up heated arguments and now with the growing popularity of LEDs for lighting, major questions are being asked if the dark is being stored in the drivers or some remote location to be released on us all if the containment field fails.

That's it for now. Have a Happy New Year!

Steven, KA3PDQ

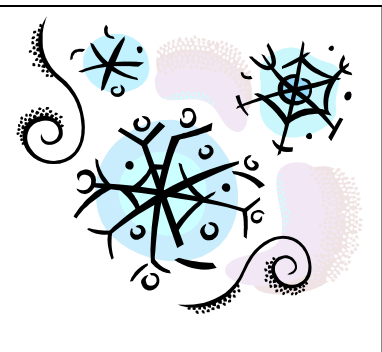
**Just a reminder that  
your 2013 HRAC dues  
are now due.**

You should have received a reminder in the mail. If you have not, just pay your dues at the meeting or e-mail Tim Lehman at [kb3oza@yahoo.com](mailto:kb3oza@yahoo.com)

*Membership application is at the end of this newsletter.*

Thanks!

If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter, please contact Terry Snyder, WB3BKN at [terry@djerry.com](mailto:terry@djerry.com) or Shelby Minier, K3EMT at [shelbyminier@gmail.com](mailto: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 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

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 please e-mail the information to [shelbyminier@gmail.com](mailto:shelbyminier@gmail.com)

We will keep adding to the list.

**Thanks to Dave, N3PRO for compiling the original list!**

# Long Delayed Echoes.....

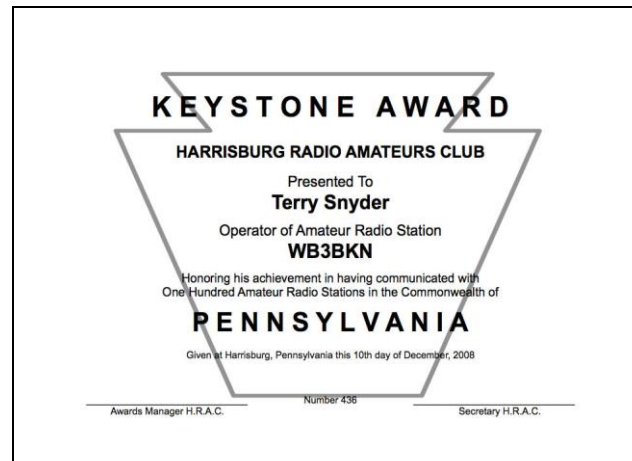
*Looking back through the rich history of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club*

Compiled by Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

*Last month we started looking at the history of the Pennsylvania Keystone Award (PKA). This month we'll complete the series by reviewing a few facts from the award's 55 year history.*

*I've included an image of the award itself. For the first 35 years it was a preprinted certificate with the facts added using a typewriter. I took over the administration of the program in 1992 from George Kabroth W3PLI (SK) and converted the text to a word processor but still printed on certificate stock. A primary goal was laying out the text and graphics to replicate the traditional form and indeed the certificate has looked largely the same for its entire life.*

*Below is a scanned excerpt of a letter sent to me by W3PLI on July 18, 1992 telling history that I'm now re-telling! Typed on the Commodore 64 he so proudly mastered in retirement, George provided details on the award's creation and listed a few notable recipients. I have one more notable recipient – Glenn K3SWZ is # 226 granted August 1, 1963 – and I know there are others in the club today.*



*With two months' of articles about the PKA award, you may now be interested in applying for one yourself. Check out the details at <http://hrac.tripod.com/pka.htm> . In 2008 I passed the HRAC Awards Manager responsibilities to Mike, N3HLK who continues to guard the tradition while using today's technology. Mike will be happy to answer any questions on how you can earn this award that has been granted to fellow hams around the world for over a half century.*

Going through the records of the Keystone Award presented some interesting items.

Certificate Nr. 1 was issued on Dec. 8 1957 to W3JMY of Williamsport Pa. The last certificate No. 397 was issued on July 12 1982 to W3KEK, Fred Mumma a HRAC club member now a Silent Key. It appears the Keystone Award has been dormant for ten years.

Other Notables .....

Cert. Nr. 10 W1AW --- ARRL  
 Nr. 44 GB2SM Science Museum, London England  
 Nr. 47 W6KC LLOYD Colvin Well known to all DXr's as world traveler with his XYL Iris.  
 Nr. 88 W3IMN The late Hal German who was the award manager.  
 Nr 200 W3JGW Guess Who?? Hint ... ice cream!  
 Nr 211 K5UYF Now N4MM, John Kanode, presently ARRL director, Roanoke Div.

Twenty nine HRAC members or past members have earned the award and approximately 35 hams in DX countries including such faraway places as Tanganyika (Now Tanzania), Angola, Mozambique and Uganda.

The award records are on paper and are getting a bit ragged. It is hoped we will get them stored on disk soon.

## 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

If a repeater is not listed  
please e-mail the  
information to  
[shelbyminier@gmail.com](mailto:shelbyminier@gmail.com)

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

## New Data Net Continues

HRAC will continue data nets on Mondays at 1900 local time on the 145.110 repeater PL 123. The net will feature practice using FLDIGI and FLMSG to send /receive traffic. In the next few weeks faster modes should be available with new releases of the FLDIGI suite of software.

Also listen for K3DRE and others practicing digital modes on simplex around 145.000 Thursday evenings around 2000 local time.

Watch for an article in an upcoming newsletter about digital modes of communicating by radio.

## Dauphin County Ham Testing Honor Roll

As you already know the December 15 test session was the last session scheduled for the Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Center (DCEMA EOC) for a while.

In February we move to HACC for our regularly scheduled Test Sessions.

Here is what WE did at the DCEMA EOC.

1st Session February 8, 2007

Since then we have tested 176 applicants and administered 209 elements.

Results for 2012:

37 Applicants 47 elements (all sites)

Below is the VE HONOR ROLL

Thanks everyone!

Steven, KA3PDQ

*After reading QST for the last several months and looking at the running BOX that showed the VE HONOR ROLL I thought it might be fun to start our own!!*

*Here we go!*

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| KE3YC  | 40 |
| KA3PDQ | 35 |
| KB3MCK | 27 |
| N3HLK  | 26 |
| KB3OZA | 26 |
| N3QLB  | 22 |
| K3DRE  | 14 |
| N3YB   | 8  |
| KV3Q   | 1  |

*As of December 15, 2012*

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## Hamfeast 2013

The annual "Hamfeast" banquet will be held on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Fire Mountain, 6476 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg 17050. It will begin at 6:00pm. There will be a brief business meeting, door prizes, and a fun time with other hams and their families.... (Feel free to bring your family!)

Come on out for a good time!

## Skype into the next meeting, if you can't be there in person

To sign up for Skype:

1. Go to [www.Skype.com](http://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 daily)
5. Be ready to connect to **hrac.radio** any time after 6:30pm on meeting night.
6. Meeting begins at 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

## January Meeting Technical Topic and Presentation

The technical topic at 6:30 PM (prior to the meeting) will be the WinLog logging program.

The topic for the presentation after the business meeting will be Logbook of the World (LOTW).

73, Nick, AA3T

## Looking Backward and Forward.....

Year end is always a good chance to look backward and to look forward. This past year gave ham radio operators a lot of chances to exercise their skills and equipment in a variety of venues.

Tour de Cure Mountain Bike Race, Tour de Cure Bike Tours, Camp Weiser Horse Ride, Hershey Half-Marathon, Wide Vigilance.

This year will bring many of the same events like the Tour de Cure events (with new management), and Camp Weiser's Horse Ride. We will also see a return of the Hershey Half-Marathon, maybe, with more participants.

But this year will also present the TMI practice drills, an anniversary celebration of the Battle of Gettysburg which will bring heavy crowds and a need for amateur radio support.

I believe there will be even more opportunities for amateur radio to contribute to our community while practicing the skills that can serve the community when disaster strikes. All of these events give us chances to exercise our equipment and our procedures that can be applied when disaster strikes.

I hope this year you take advantage of one or more of these opportunities.

Watch here and on yahoo groups and listen for announcements on our weekly net for upcoming events. Take advantage of the many digital nets offered here in south central PA to learn more about NBEMS.

*Submitted by Mary Gutekunst, KB3BAA*

**Editors Note:** NBEMS stands for Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Service; more information can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/nbems>

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

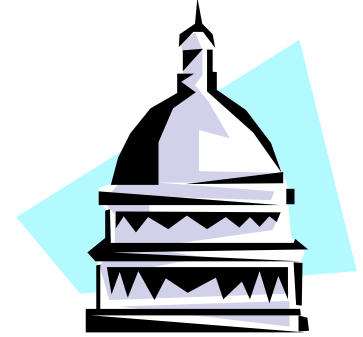


**JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**(Saturday)**

**WINTER FEST**

**H A M F E S T**



**“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.
- ◆ **No extra charge for table space!**
- ◆ 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 (based on demand)

**No reserved table space; Unloading can be done through doors, and then move vehicle to parking area.**



**General Admission: 8:00 AM**

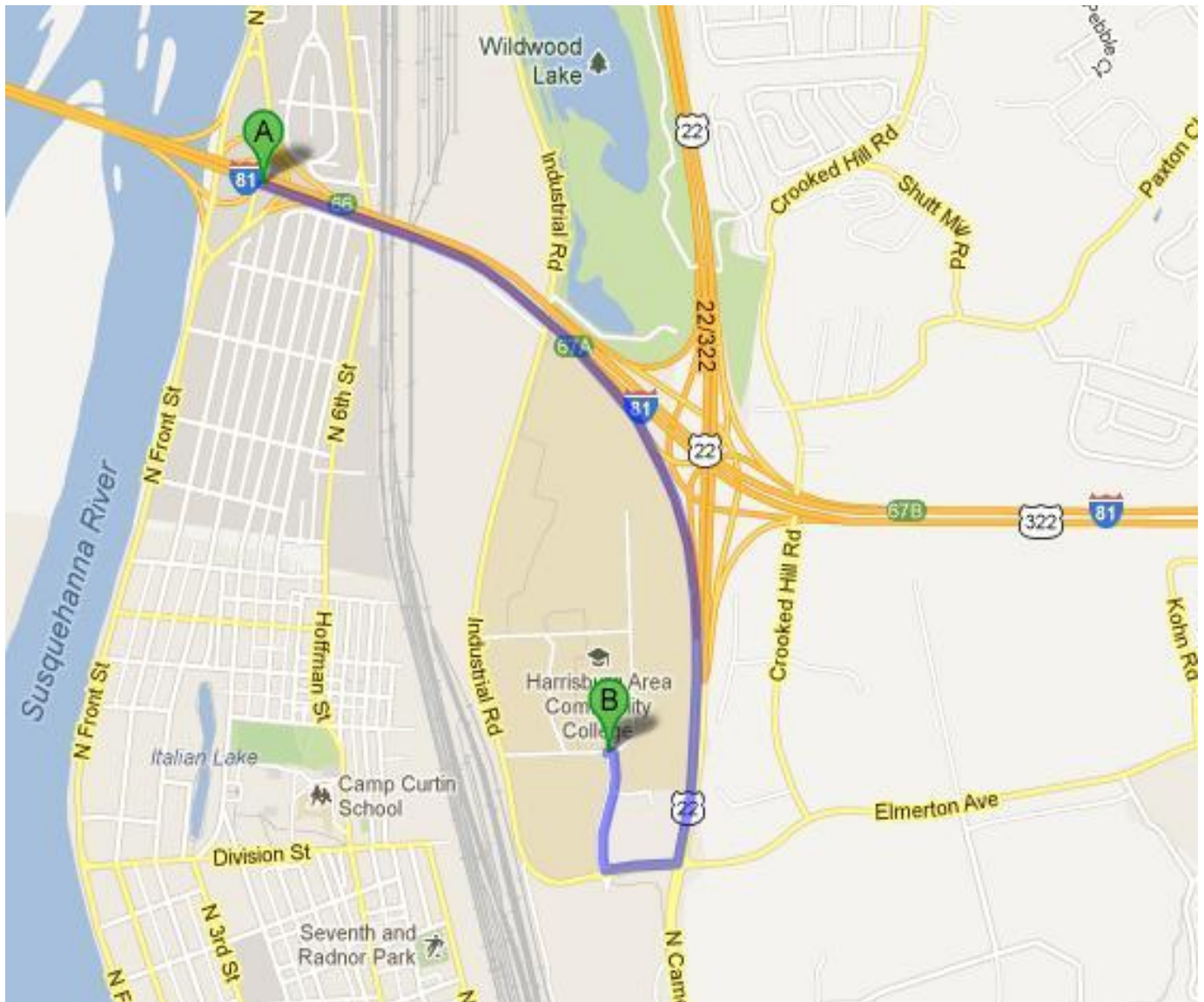
**Web Site: [www.w3uu.org](http://www.w3uu.org)**

For further information or questions contact:

Terry Snyder

717-896-0256

wb3bkn@gmail.com



### 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  
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 January 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.