

www.w3uu.org



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

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From the Desk of the President.....

Well here we are less than a month to go to our club's major fund raiser, the **Firecracker hamfest / EPA Section Convention and Electronics Expo** on July 6, 2013. I know, it is a long name, but it does cover what we do and offer. As a reminder to club members, we need your help to bring it all together. Some of us will be on the grounds in the week leading up to the event marking tailgating spots and making final layout plans. The day before we will be installing the PA system, setting up the commercial vendor areas, and much more. That job lasts into the night, and begins again at 6am on Saturday the 6th.

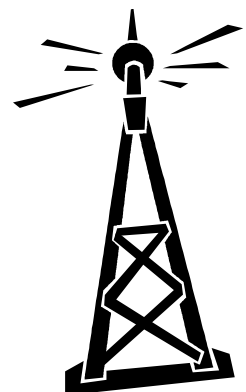
Some of us have been working tirelessly to bring in speakers for the event as well as promoting to vendors and procuring door prizes. This event does not just happen, it is well planned. This will be our second year at this location and we will be implementing a few new ideas from what we learned last year. Oh, one of the speakers will be from Ham Radio Deluxe. That company has been taken over by an American company and has undergone many upgrades and has many new features. It will be interesting to see how the changes look. I urge you to contact me and I will give you a job. For those of you who want to work the Gettysburg event, there will be time to do that after the hamfest, and the day following. Remember, this is your club and without this hamfest, we could not pay for our needs.

Field Day presents a great opportunity to get your feet wet, and learn about HF and other methods of communicating. If you are new to amateur radio, or have just not ventured too far into the hobby, here is a fun way to meet others and get hands on experience. Field day is on June 22 this year and lasts all night into Sunday morning. We will be on the grounds of the HACC campus in the same location as the hamfest (See attached hamfest flyer). We will be under the picnic pavilion.

Be at the meeting, or join us via Skype Wednesday June 12.

73

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)



May Meeting Minutes

The May 8, 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 Chuck (N3WL), 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 Rick (K2RBT), to accept the report. Motion PASSED

Trustee - Steve (KA3PDQ) reported that everything had been removed from the Red Cross Building with the exception of the tower.

Repeater - Steve (KA3PDQ) reported that the system is working well. He reminded everyone that a "kerchunk" filter has been implemented and users should key their radio for one to two seconds to ensure that the machine activates before speaking. Otherwise, their first word or more might be cut off.

VE Committee - The next regularly scheduled test session will be held on June 15, 2013.

Membership Committee – No update.

Newsletter – No update.

DXCC – Glenn (K3SWZ) will do a mailing after the ham fest.

EMCOMM – Marty (KB3BAA) reported:

- The TMI drill went well. There were some problems with the use of digital communication modes, mainly due to stations having older versions of FLDIGI installed and also because some stations had no capability to use digital modes.

Field Day – the pavilion has been reserved for field day and HACC will provide two grills for our use.

Firecracker Ham Fest – Terry (WB3BKN) encouraged members to place fliers at local electronics and computer shops and to pass out at other hamfests.

He also said that more people are needed to do tasks prior to the event such as entering data, contacting vendors, stuffing handouts into bags, etc. as well as helping on the day of the event.

Old Business – We will begin setting up equipment at HACC after the next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. A discussion of tower installation options followed, but it was pointed out that the building roof would not support a tower installation similar to what was in place at the Red Cross. The club will look into purchasing a tower for ground mounting at the side of the building.

The proposal to modify the by-laws was reread. The proposal was to delete the section of the by-laws that set the amount of dues. This will allow the membership to adjust dues from time to time without the necessity of amending the by-laws. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Rick (K2RBT), to implement the proposal. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

May meeting Minutes, continued

A motion was made by Doug (K3DRE), seconded by Chuck (N3WL), to set dues as follows:

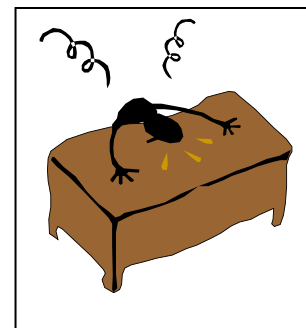
- Single membership: \$15.00 / yr
- Family membership (all amateurs residing at the same address): \$25.00 / yr
- Senior membership (Over 65 years old): 50% of the single membership rate.

Adjournment – There being no further business to conduct, Rick (K2RBT) made a motion, seconded by Doug (K3DRE), to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 1950 HRS.
Tim Lehman, KB3OZA
Secretary



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is
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or email geanne@impressions-by-design.com
for quotes and personalized service.

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

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

Dates for 2013 include:
June 15, August 17, October 1, December 21
Testing starts at 9:00am

There will also be a test session on July 6 (at 11:00am) at the
Firecracker Hamfest

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.

Outgoing QSL Bureau mailing

A mailing to the ARRL Outgoing DX QSL Bureau will be made right after the July Hamfest.

Please get your cards to me before or at the Hamfest so they can be included in the mailing.

The cards need to be placed in prefix order and I must include a copy of a recent QST mailing label, as this service is open to ARRL members only.

This service is free to all HRAC members... You can send one card or hundreds.

Any question, you can e-mail me at k3swz@arrl.net

de Glenn, K3SWZ

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!

Long Delayed Echoes.....

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

Compiled by Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

Our industrious newsletter editor, Shelby, has been going through recently-discovered club archives. She provided the newspaper clipping below from the June 23, 1956 Field Day. Credit goes to the person who labeled the individuals at the time because I need to provide no additional information.

JUNE 23, 1956.

Busy Air Buzzes Keep Blue Mountain Abuzz

By HERB CAMPBELL
of The Sunday Patriot-News

Things are buzzing atop Blue Mountain today — buzzing folk all over the United States and even on foreign soil. And no one is blue on Blue Mountain, for atmospheric conditions are good for radio ham operators.

Reason for the activity? Operation Field Day, in which the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club was vying with other clubs of the American Radio Relay League to determine which could chalk up the most contacts in a 24-hour period.

The operation was serious business, set up to show the value of amateur communications should an atomic bomb land somewhere in the U.S.A.

WINDS UP TODAY

Four teams of the Harrisburg League manned four two-way short wave radio stations which drew their power from gasoline-powered generators. The operation got under way at 4 p.m. yesterday and will wind up at 4 p.m. today.

Distance means nothing in scoring in the operation. Points are racked up on the basis of contacts and the power of the stations. Thirty watt stations multiply contacts by three to deter-

mine points; 30 to 100 watt stations have two as a multiplier, and 100 to 1,000 watt stations get one point for each contact.

Team captains for the four stations are Paul Hertzler, W3HWN, Mechanicsburg; John G. Underhill, W3YMH, Harrisburg R.D. 2; Bernard Schmidt, W3VDA, Harrisburg, and Jack Todd, W3UWD, Harrisburg. About 40 hams will man the sets, 10 to 15 logging calls in each of four shifts.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Checks on calls for scoring purposes are made by logging station identification and the time the call was received. Call letters for Operation Field Day were 3ZEK, a special assembly of figures and letters for the event.

The Harrisburg Club hopes to log 300 calls this year because of its advantageous position at the WHP-TV stations grounds, which are 2,000 feet above sea level and ideal for transmission.

Operation Field Day was not without its humorous incidents. Shortly after 7 p.m., just about time for the dinner break, a call was picked out of the air from the Stoner Marching and Chowder Club — near Boston, of course.

CHAMP W3DAE * * * W3YVJ CAREY

PAUL W3HWN

LEW W3ADE



'This Is 3ZEK—Who Are You?'

Hams of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club man one of four two-way amateur radio stations atop Blue Mountain in Operation Field Day, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. Around the set, clockwise, are Paul Hertzler, Mechanicsburg; Dr. Champ Pool, Harrisburg; Carey Keyser, Shiremanstown, and Lewis Elicker, Harrisburg. Purpose of the Field Day was to show the effectiveness of ham operators in a national emergency.

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

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.



Radio Operators Needed for Bike Event

Currently in contact with American Cancer Society about providing radio support for a bike event June 29th. This will be the first leg of a two leg event going from Hershey to Philadelphia. Consider saving June 29th as a date to help provide radio support for a worthwhile charity event. Contact KB3BAA at 439-8971 or kb3baa@arrl.net to sign up.

This will be an opportunity for several counties to cooperate. The first leg of the event will follow a route paralleling I-78 from Dauphin County. This route will go into eastern Berks County and stop at Kutztown University. The June 30th portion of the event will have the control point starting at Kutztown University. Amateurs from other counties will be handling communications for the June 30th leg.

In introducing the event to the organizers indicated they were developing an Incident Action Plan. This is the standard ICS document used to direct an incident for a particular operation period.

These types of events give us the chance to practice procedures that would be used in an emergency.

Also, if an emergency occurs plans are in place on how to respond to the emergency.

Submitted by Marty Gutekunst

South Central Task Force to Meet at HACC

On July 24th the Amateur Radio Working Group of the South Central Task Force will be holding their meeting at the HACC Shumaker Public Safety Center. This is the same location currently being used by the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club (HRAC) for their monthly meetings.

If interested in providing a talk-in and/or talk/out for the event please contact me at kb3baa@arrl.net.

Submitted by Marty Gutekunst

Volunteers Needed for Trail Ride Communications

The Camp Mukelratz trail ride (for horses) is back on. We provide radio support for the two-day event at Camp Weiser State Forest, located near Elizabethville, PA.

The event is set for July 27th and July 28th and will run from 0700 until 1300 both days.

Contact KB3BAA at 439-8971 at kb3baa@arrl.net to volunteer.

We have enjoyed participating in this event in the past. The unique environment has provided some challenges in years past, but the improved Berry Mountain repeater has made contacts much easier to make. We have even used FLDIGI during this event.

The riders also appreciate our presence on the course as cell phone coverage is not certain and there are a few dead spots on the course.

Submitted by Marty Gutekunst

Solution-Disposal of Antenna Remnants

A few weeks ago I asked about the best way to get rid of the remnants of two rather large antennas. Turns out I found a good way, at a minimum of cost and inconvenience to myself (always an important consideration). In addition to weekly trash collection, our township also has what we call "recycling". It's generally stuff like cardboard and newspapers, but it can be other items as well, and there's a list of what those items can be. However....that doesn't mean you can't put "other" stuff out. The reason is that there are people we affectionately call "scavengers", who drive around in trucks picking up stuff that others put out for "recycling".

You can probably see where this is going. Last week I put out a "test batch" of antenna remnants. If it wasn't picked up, no big deal carrying it to the back of the house. Well...ahem...within an hour the remnants were gone. So I put the rest of the antenna carcasses out last night around 7 PM. By 8 PM, the carcasses were all gone, except for the 10 foot mast remnant. That was still there this morning, when I saw a truck obviously belonging to a scavenger cruising the neighborhood. He drove by the mast and I figured I'd have to carry that back. But then the truck came to a sudden stop and quickly went into reverse. He stopped at the mast. When he picked it up, I knew it was gone. But he must have struggled with it for 5-6 minutes, trying to get it in the back of his truck. Eventually all seemed to be OK and he went on his way.

So if you're looking to get rid of some junk aluminum, that's an option to consider.

73, Joe KQ3F

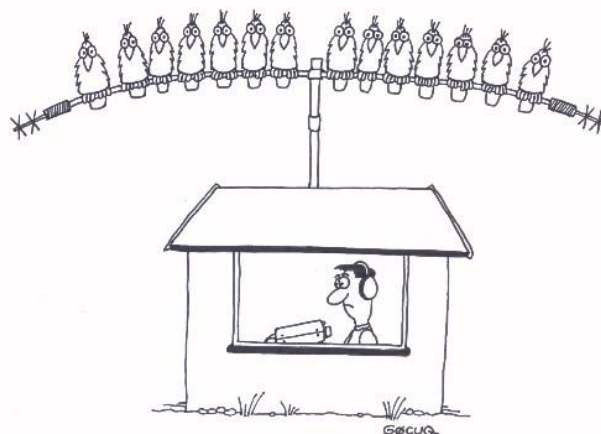
Skype is a Great Alternative

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 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.

**This is an audio version of Skype.



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

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.



Amateur Radio and Alien Technology

Recent developments in a reported UFO crash in Kecksburg, PA in 1965 have started me thinking about the possibility that alien technology has been adapted for use in our advanced communications equipment. Now if you can clear your minds of Field Day and Firecracker Hamfest plans long enough ponder the following: Did you ever really think of the advances in electronic technology in the last 50 – 60 years? We went from boxes filled with glowing things to in some cases postage stamp sized devices doing the same thing but better. How is this possible? What was the catalyst that started the chain reaction possible? Some might say that the trigger for this event was the development of the transistor; but where did that really come from? Research has indicted that some of our largest jumps in technology may have indeed come from backward engineering of Alien technology.

Many might ask that if this was true we would be flying around in spaceships and not be bound on the blue globe. Well the truth is that we have to start with the smallest pieces because they are the easiest for us to produce then as we learn more about the technology we can build better tools to build better tools. Just look at where we are in Ham Radio. When I joined the ranks of Amateur Radio the Club's Novice rig at field day was a Yaesu hybrid transceiver. That is, it had solid state exciter with the transmitter having tube finals. It was once common place for Hams to be able to tune up the transmitter and get on the air, now I really believe that there are few people who became Hams in the last 20 years would even know what I am talking about or have actually touched or try to operate such a rig. Why? Easy it is the continued advancement in the use of Alien Technology has made those rigs all but obsolete.

Where is this research taking place? Well at one time it was probably at Wright-Patterson but probably now has moved to large segments of the industrial complex who have agreed to do the heavy lifting of research and development with the military being first to lay claim to anything that would benefit them. Of course the company gets to use their findings to enhance its bottom line with adapting the technology to consumer products.

So what part of that Icom radio sitting on your desk once flew in the mother ship at warp speed across the universe? What new electronic advancements await us in the coming 18 month cycles. (Moore's Law) Self healing IC devices? Yeah some guy in a cubicle sitting around playing Sudoku just came up with that one! Before too long I expect to see that the current trend toward SDR equipment to be standard for radio equipment. It will just take a new generation of operators who are more at home with the keyboard than spinning dials to make this happen, at that time is very close at hand.

I just need to know one more thing → Are the Crystal Skulls really a form of data storage.



W3UU - Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club – 41st Annual

**NEW
DATE**

Saturday JULY 6 2013

**NEW
DATE**

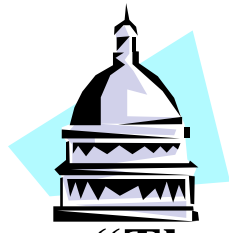


Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention

&

FIRECRACKER

Electronics Expo and Hamfest



**“The Harrisburg Pa. Electronics Expo and Hamfest”
Harrisburg Area Community College
Fire training grounds**

3599 Industrial Road, Harrisburg, PA

- ◆ Covered indoor **Commercial Tables** Available
- ◆ **Largest Tail Gate / Electronic Flea Market in Central PA**
- ◆ **Over 500 tailgate spaces available**
- ◆ New and Refurbished equipment dealers on site
- ◆ **ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest / Section Convention**
- ◆ **Great Food (Breakfast and Lunch)**
- ◆ **Meeting room available for clubs and discussions**
- ◆ **DXCC & WAS** cards checked on site until 10:00 am
- ◆ **VE Testing on site at 11:00 am (Walk-in Welcome)**

W3UU
146.16/76 MHz
PL 100 Hz

Map on Reverse side
of this flyer

**Special Event
Station**

W3W

**In operation at the
Convention**

General Admission: \$5.00 (XYL & kids free)
 Tail Gating: \$5.00 per space
 Tables: \$12 each before June 1
 \$15 on or after June 1

General Admission: 8:00am
Dealer Setup: Hamfest Day 6:00am
 Prior Day 6:00pm-9:00pm (Strictly Enforced)

For further information contact:
 Web Site: www.w3uu.org
 Email: WB3BKN@gmail.com

Tel. 717-896-0256

Terry Snyder, WB3BKN
 PO Box 355
 Halifax, PA. 17032-0355

Directions to the Hamfest from rt. 81 (watch for signs)

Located just north of Harrisburg, Pa.

Rt. I-81 to Exit 67 (Follow signs to Farm Show Rt. 22 East)

Follow Rt. 22 about 3000 ft, Turn RIGHT at light

Continue on Wildwood Park Drive and road will become
Industrial Road. Hamfest / Convention is 3/4 mile on RIGHT

3599 Industrial Road, Harrisburg, Pa 17110

40.303645,-76.888379

Represented on this map and picture by the

Green B and arrow the "A" is Exit 67



From Rt 83 and points south:

Exit 43 (Second Street, Harrisburg)

Follow ramp to light at Paxton St. and turn RIGHT

At next light (Cameron Street) turn LEFT

Follow Cameron street to Wildwood Park Drive, at Farm Show, Turn Left

Continue and road becomes Industrial Road, Hamfest is ¾ mile on Right

Mapping/APRS Coordinates

Hamfest: **40.303645,-76.888379**

Chair: Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)

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 c
Dues end June 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.