



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

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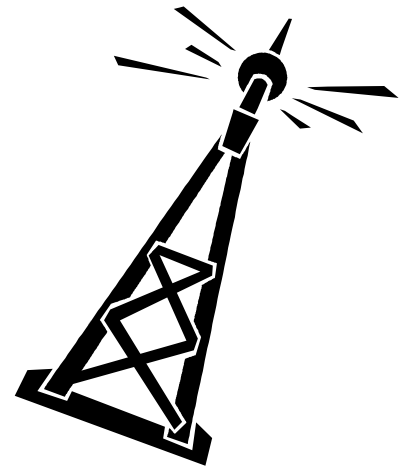
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Shelby Minier
K3EMT
shelbyminier@gmail.com

From the Desk of the President.....

Greetings,

I would like to congratulate the recipient of the "Ham of the Year" award for 2012, Shelby Minier (K3EMT). Shelby also received a special award for her efforts in producing the monthly newsletter. The "Ham of the Year" recipient is chosen for giving of one's self to the betterment of the club. Shelby has immersed herself into the activities of the club, amateur radio promotion, education, and self fulfillment. In addition to her newsletter duties, Shelby helps with just about everything that the club does over the year, including the hamfests, special event stations, and scouting events. Well deserved all around.



Upcoming events for the club: We will be setting up a complete amateur radio station at our HACC location. Keep an eye to our Facebook page, and to the Yahoo message board for updates and our call for your help. We will be setting up a tower and moving antennas to the new location as well as setting up a room in which we will be installing the station.

The Firecracker hamfest, although on July 6, 2013, is already being planned. Lots of work has already begun. The promotion of the event, and procurement of vendors is only a small part. If you would care to help it would be greatly appreciated. Contact me.

If you can't be at our next meeting, Skype in. Our Skype name is (hrac.radio).

73

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!

January Meeting Minutes

The February 13, 2013 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 1905 HRS by the president, Terry (WB3BKN).

A motion was made and seconded to suspend the business portion of the meeting until March and proceed with the Ham Feast, beginning with door prizes.

Ham of the Year for 2012 was awarded to Shelby (K3EMT).

The Wouxon HT was won by Nick Rylatt (AA3T) and the RigBlaster was won by Steven Gobat (KA3PDQ).

Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)
Secretary

Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone,

Last month we had our annual “hamfeast” banquet. I received an award for the effort that I put into each newsletter and also the “Ham of the Year” award, as Terry has mentioned in his President’s Letter. I was **very** surprised by both of the awards – thank you! I am grateful that my work is appreciated. I must say that I **enjoy** making the newsletter come to life each month. I find it relaxing, at least most of the time. I am still learning about amateur radio; it seems like I will never stop learning. I am surrounded by some of the best ham radio hobbyists, and they are always more than willing to answer even the most basic questions for me.



As we go forward with the newsletter, I have a few ideas to keep it interesting. One thing is that I’d like to see the “swap and shop” section in every newsletter. If you have equipment to sell or are looking for some obscure item to buy, we can put it in the newsletter! I’d also really like to see articles from some of the people that haven’t contributed – you ALL have something you can write about!

73,
Shelby Minier (K3EMT)

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 for ideas
then give us a call at 717-585-9779
or email geanne@impressions-by-design.com
for quotes and personalized service.

Meteors, Asteroids, and Rat's Nests

While the meteors fall from the heavens and asteroids come within miles of TERRA FIRMA, I have decided to turn our attention this month to an aerial that everyone can build in a moment's notice.

This revolutionary design came to be as I watched someone cleaning out their truck filled with very expensive copper conductors.

Before we go much further, there are a few drawbacks to my aerial design. You need to have an aerial tuner and, probably most importantly, a radio of some sort to make this project worthwhile. My first observation was that any kind of wire, cable, or extension cord left unattended will by nature try to revert to its natural state. That is, of course, some kind of spherical structure comprised of many twists and knots. While an enterprising Ham with lots of time on their hands would laboriously untangle this mess I propose a different solution using the natural state of conductors. Like with almost any kind of aerial, the more conductor you can get in the air the better off you usually are. One of the first variables we will be faced with is how long is that Rat's Nest of wire laying on the ground? As anyone with any experience can tell you, that roll of wire which may have been X amount of feet long before its attempt to turn back into its natural state can be any length imaginable at this point, but almost always shorter than what YOU know was there. Once you have determined the length we can then move on to such things as polarization and deployment. If all you are interested in is ground wave communications you will need to have a Rat's Nest made up of insulated wire. This way you can just lay your Rat's Nest on the ground hook up you Aerial Tuner and rig and you're good to go!

Now if the untangled conductor would allow for an elevated deployment there are quite a number of options. My preference and those of my crack staff of researchers is to use surplus fiberglass masts. Now we have found that you really need to spend the extra money and get the WHITE ones which have far better RF properties than the very common (insert color here) ones. A pulley of the common hardware store variety will help with the deployment as long as it is manufactured in South America (everyone knows the best pulleys come from South America).

By raising the largest part of the Rat's Nest as high as the mast will allow will give you results even the BIG GUNS couldn't begin to imagine. While still being researched it is a thought that by using a METAL or conductive mast and offsetting the Rat's Nest Aerial from the mast would result in some directivity and a possible increase in gain in the direction of the Aerial.

One of the possible sources for obtaining a Rat's Nest is as close as that collection of extension cords with the addition of other cords a shorting cap and some triple taps and almost endless assortment of configurations could be built.

That's all for this month!!!

Steven, KA3PDQ



W3UU
is
ARRL Affiliated



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.



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

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

Testing starts at 9:00am

February Testing Results

Session Results for 2/16/2013

2 applicants
2 elements administered
1 upgrade to General
1 new Tech

Special WELCOME to Dick, N3UGW newest VE!

Those attending;
Bill KE3YC
Mike N3HLK
Tim, KB3OZA
Gary, KV3Q
Rodney, N3QLB
Dick, N3UGW
Steven, KA3PDQ

There was a short discussion about setting up a schedule for the VEs there are pro's and con's to a schedule. We are very lucky to have a dedicated group that provides testing. What do you think?

If we did set up a schedule I would not discourage any one from attending as we really never know how many applicants may show up. What I will do is try to alternate positions at the sessions so VEs can keep their skills sharp.

Thank You all for making my job easy!

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

New Book by a Local Amateur Radio Operator

To all:

I've been retired for going on four years now. It's great and I highly recommend it! Naturally I'm still in touch with the folks I worked with over the years. I often get together with co-workers for dinner or other gatherings. Whenever we meet, the "war stories" inevitably start to flow; what it took to get certain broadcasts on the air, the last minute emergencies, the crazy antics. Sooner or later, after swapping stories for awhile, someone will shake their head and say, "You know, somebody oughtta write a book!" Well, I decided to do just that.

The title is, "**Brought to You By . . .**"

It's a compilation of some of the best stories from 37 years in television. Each chapter covers a specific time period or a specific event. The stories range from experiences working in Cable TV during its earlier years, working at the local UHF TV station in Harrisburg, what went on behind the scenes during Three Mile Island and on to The Super Bowl and The Olympics. Where possible, I've included photos to accompany the written words. I wouldn't expect to see this book on The New York Times Best Sellers list anytime soon but I think you'll find it an enjoyable read.

It's available in hard cover, soft cover and e-Book. You can order it directly from the publisher AuthorHouse, from Amazon.com or from Barnes & Noble.com. Here are some links:

AuthorHouse, all formats:

<http://bookstore.authorhouse.com/AdvancedSearch/Default.aspx?SearchTerm=rapak>

Amazon Hard Cover:

http://www.amazon.com/Brought-You/dp/1477290516/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1361995250&sr=1-1&keywords=9781477290514

Amazon Soft Cover:

http://www.amazon.com/Brought-You/dp/1477290524/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1361995313&sr=1-1&keywords=9781477290521

Amazon Kindle:

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=9781477290507

Barnes & Noble Hard Cover:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/brought-to-you-by-dan-rapak/1113946681?ean=9781477290514&itm=1&usri=9781477290514>

Barnes & Noble Soft Cover:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/brought-to-you-by-dan-rapak/1113946681?ean=9781477290521&itm=1&usri=9781477290521>

Barnes & Noble Nook Book:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/brought-to-you-by-dan-rapak/1113946681?ean=9781477290507&itm=1&usri=9781477290507>

The ISBN numbers are:

Hardcover: 978-1-4772-9051-4; Soft cover: 978-1-4772-9052-1; E-book: 978-1-4772-9050-7

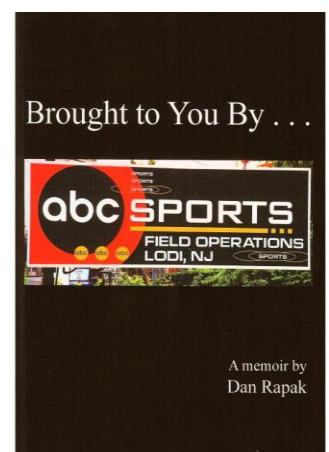
There's also a Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Brought-to-You-By/585219998173766>

I hope you'll pick up a copy, curl up in your favorite chair with your favorite beverage and enjoy!

All the best,

Dan Rapak, WA3ATV



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

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.



If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter,

please contact Terry Snyder, WB3BKN at terry@djerry.com

or Shelby Minier, K3EMT at shelbyminier@gmail.com



Greetings!

My name is Jeff Demers, N1SNB. I need your assistance. If you care about the future of ham radio, please read on.

I wanted to take a quick moment to tell you about a new program to support youth activity on the HF bands. We've emailed you before for our first ever giveaway. We're pleased to announce we have already given away a station to a very deserving youth, Adam KC9VIV (Read more about Adam here: <http://blog.amateurradiosupplies.com/amateur-radio-supplies-announces-winner-of-its-promote-youth-in-amateur-radio-contest/>)

Adam is now on the HF bands making contacts!

We need your help again.

Chances are, if you were like me, getting on the air after getting your first license was a little challenging. Parents were bugged. Pennies were saved. Numerous "compromise" measures were taken to get that first station on the air! My company, Amateur Radio Supplies LLC, of Haverhill, Massachusetts seeks to help a few lucky young hams get on the HF bands and make some contacts! Do you know any deserving young hams? We will be giving away 3 complete HF stations per year to support activity on the ham bands,

Details at: <http://www.amateurradiosupplies.com/youth-s/222.htm>

My sincere hope is that you can spread the word to your club membership. Link the giveaway from your club website, mention it in your newsletter - anything you can do to help make sure this program is a success is greatly appreciated. The more kids we can get on the air, the better!

If you have a young ham to nominate, email us. Otherwise individuals are invited to apply right from our website: <http://www.amateurradiosupplies.com>

Your support is greatly appreciated. The future of ham radio depends on youth activity. Please help spread the word.

73!

Jeff Demers, N1SNB
President - Amateur Radio Supplies

Submitted by Matt Kiner, N3SOZ

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

We will keep adding to the list.

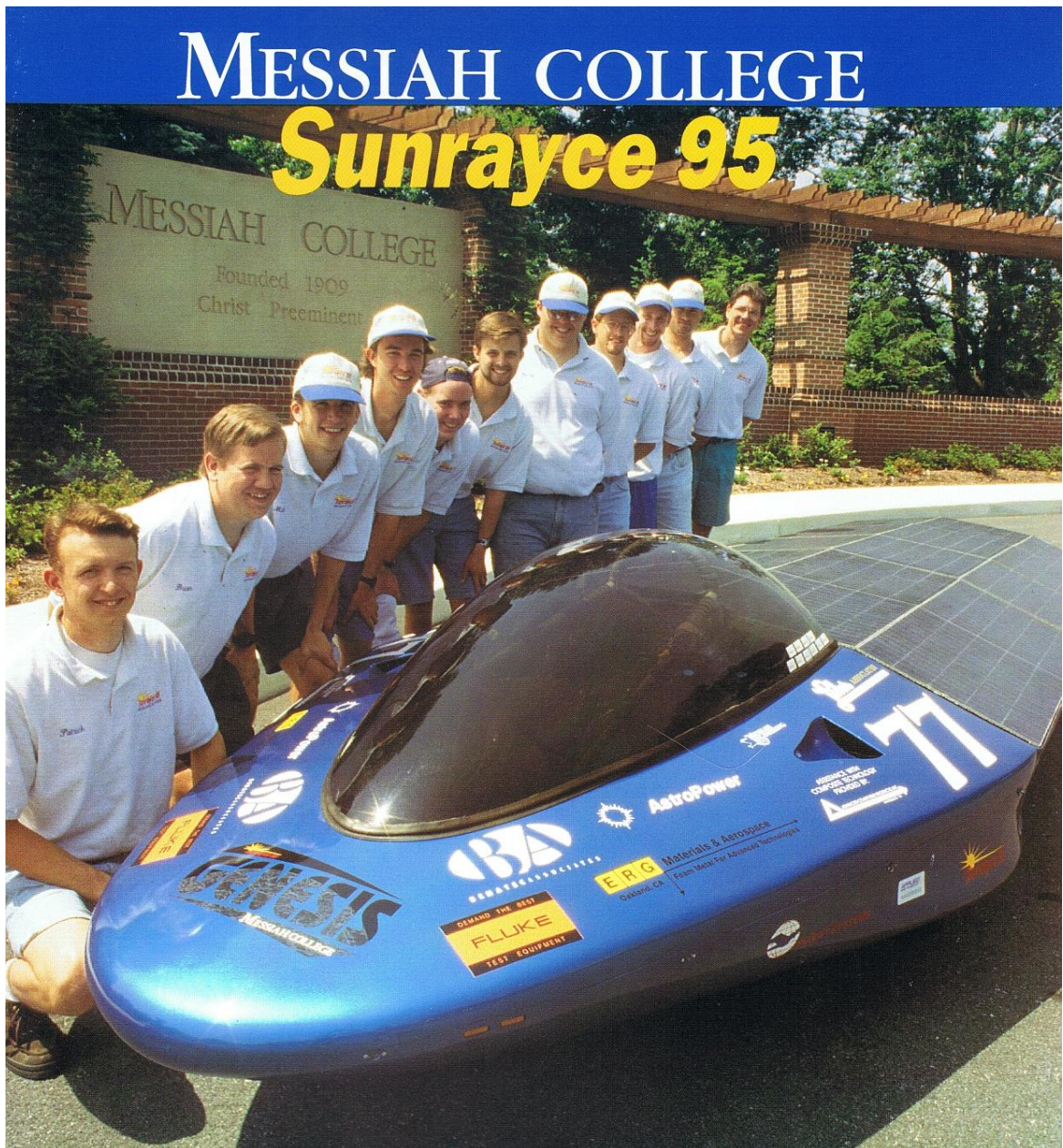
Thanks to Dave, N3PRO for compiling the original list!

Long Delayed Echoes.....

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

Compiled by Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

The program for the October 1995 club meeting was a bit out of the ordinary. Faculty and students at Messiah College were only a couple years into their endeavor of building a solar-powered car to compete in national competitions of speed and endurance. Having completed "Sunrayce 1995" a few months earlier, Dr. Donald Pratt and several students presented details about their car and the experience of competing against world-renowned and better funded engineering colleges. The Messiah College solar powered vehicle, "Genesis" was equipped with many innovative features that the students were eager to discuss, such as regenerative braking and constant telemetry back to their support vehicles.



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



Emergency Communications Training held at PEMA

On February 23 and 24 two HRAC members, Marty Gutekunst (KB3BAA) and Rick Taylor (K2RBT) attended and Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) training event at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) in Harrisburg.

ACS personnel and emergency communications leaders met to learn more about ham radio being an integrated component of emergency response to an incident. Some of the topics covered were organizing volunteers, locating usable frequencies, and planning amateur response to an incident.

Marty and Rick attended this same training last year.

Submitted by Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA



The yearly "Hamfeast" was held at Fire Mountain buffet in Mechanicsburg on February 13, 2013.

There were many hams in attendance; some even brought family and friends with them.

Shelby Minier, K3EMT, received two awards: a "Certificate of Appreciation" for her work on the newsletter, and also "Ham of the Year". The Ham of the Year award (selected by the previous three recipients) goes to the person in the club who gives of themselves selflessly and makes a difference by their contributions. In addition to her work as the compiler, creator, and editor of the newsletter, Shelby works hard on club events to further the promotion of amateur radio. Shelby is the first woman in the long history of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club to receive this award. *(Submitted by Terry Snyder)*

The usual, random door prizes were given out. Nick Rylatt (AA3T) won the 2 meter radio, and Steven Gobat (KA3PDQ) won the signal link interface. A great time was had by all!

Special Delivery - NTS (National Traffic System)

Several weeks ago I had the privilege of delivering, in person, a set of radiograms to John Scanlon. I had been asked by James Wades (WB8SIW), President of an association of retired railroad and commercial telegraphers, from Illinois whether or not these could be delivered by hand to Mr. Scanlon for his 95th birthday. He worked for the Buckeye Pipeline Company (Standard Oil).

Mr. Scanlon was very appreciative of the gesture. He took some time to visit with me and showed me some of his vintage key equipment and shared some memories of his many years of working CW.

I find that working in NTS (National Traffic System) has given me many opportunities to meet others twice a week on VHL. I have been able to get to know some new and interesting people. Nets meet twice a week on VHF and daily on HF.

To learn more about the National Traffic System go to <http://www.arrl.org/nts>. I deliver and take NTS traffic here in the Harrisburg area and in eastern PA. I also act as a digital relay station for NTS traffic for Eastern PA.

Marty Gutekunst
KB3BAA



John Scanlon (left) & Marty Gutekunst (right)

TMI Drill

Volunteers are still needed for the TMI drill that will be conducted on Tuesday April 16th. Please contact Marty Gutekunst (KB3BAA) at mpgutekunst@comcast.net or 717-439-8971 if you are interested in participating.

The Three Mile Island biannual drill is held as **required** by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to see how the local utility and area emergency agencies and government entities handle a nuclear emergency.

On Tuesday April 16th the utility, government agencies, and emergency responders participate in a simulated accident. Amateur radio operators staff the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) headquarters and also local Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) throughout the area and to provide backup communications.

W3UU - Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club – 41st Annual

**NEW
DATE**

Saturday JULY 6 2013

**NEW
DATE**

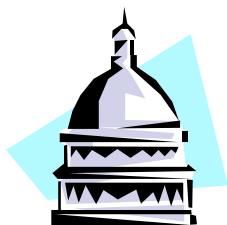


Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention

&

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**

**Map on Reverse side
of this flyer**

**Special Event
Station**

W3W

**In operation at the
Convention**

General Admission:	\$5.00 (XYL & kids free)
Tail Gaiting:	\$5.00 per space
Tables:	\$12 each before June 1 \$15 on or after June 1
<u>General Admission:</u>	8:00am
<u>Dealer Setup:</u>	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

Terry Snyder, WB3BKN
 PO Box 355
 Halifax, PA. 17032-0355
 Tel. 717-896-0256

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 over 62) per year.
Dues end February 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.