



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)

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From the Desk of the President.....

There is something happening to amateur radio that needs to be addressed. In days gone by, before people would memorize the answers from a book, new amateurs were mentored by someone so that they would fully understand many things that would make their amateur radio experience an enjoyable experience. We gave that person the name Elmer. This mentor (or Elmer) helped to make amateur radio a disciplined and mature service. In recent years we have seen new amateurs with rude and inappropriate manners and language becoming more, and more prevalent. In the past few months several amateurs have who were given many second chances to clean up their behavior, were sent letters banning them from the local Harrisburg Pa repeaters. I can't say that they were not repeatedly told that they were doing things that were offensive, because they were told. The letters were sent after a long discussion between the representative of the FCC and the board of directors of both Harrisburg amateur radio clubs. In the event that any of those individuals would ignore the instructions in the letter, he, or she, will face fines from the FCC and possible loss of the amateur radio license. Some may feel that this is a drastic measure. It is not. These individuals were properly warned and served notice. It is also a rare occurrence in our hobby.

We all need to step up and take responsibility to help these new amateurs by taking them under our tutelage and correct infractions as you observe them. If you hear someone on the local repeaters, or on your simplex or other local nets who is in need of guidance, give it. They will thank you later.

There is an article in this newsletter about recent FCC actions. It is not a joke. Please read the article.

73

Terry Snyder, WB3BKN



Repeater News

Recently, the HRAC and CPRA denied two area amateur radio operators permission to use their repeaters. This was the result of ongoing unacceptable behavior on several HRAC and CPRA repeaters, which continued despite warnings to cease and desist.

If you observe unacceptable behavior on either the 146.76 or 147.075 repeaters, please notify the trustee (KA3PDQ) or any club officer.

73, Nick, AA3T

October Meeting Minutes

The October 9, 2013 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 1910 HRS by the president, Terry (WB3BKN) followed by introductions. **Editor's note:** *There were nineteen in attendance at the October meeting.*

Secretary Report - The minutes of the September 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. Rick (K2RBT) made a motion, seconded by Chuck (N3WL), to accept the report. Motion PASSED

VE Committee – The next regularly scheduled test session will be held on October 19, 2013 in the Shumaker Public Safety Center cafeteria. Steve advised that if the government is still shut down at that time, all testing results will be forwarded to the VEC in Laurel, MD and held until government operations resume and the paperwork can be submitted.

Trustee – no report.

Repeater – As a follow-up to last month's discussion regarding inappropriate activities on W3UU repeaters as well as other repeaters in the area, certified letters were sent to the offending individuals by HRAC, CPRA and a Lancaster-based club, banning those individuals from using repeaters for which they were trustees. Delivery confirmation was received on the letters sent by HRAC.

Membership Committee – No changes.

Newsletter – A general request for articles was made along with a request that anything submitted be, in general, ready for publication rather than simply an idea of one or two lines that the editor is expected to turn into an article of several hundred words. It was also suggested that Gary (KV3Q) be added to the masthead as the web master.

Web Page – Gary (KV3Q) has the new page up and running. Our domain name has been moved to a new hosting service.

EMCOMM – Marty (KB3BAA) reported the following past and upcoming events:

- The Hershey Half Marathon will be held on Oct 20. More operators are needed to provide communication support.
- There will be a national earthquake drill on Oct 17. Operators are needed for both HF and VHF operations related to the exercise.
- Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be held on Oct 18 – 20. Tim (KB3OZA) is holding an event for a group of scouts near Rebeck, PA. If anyone is interested in helping with this event, let him know.

DXCC – No report

Entertainment – Nick (AA3T) is still trying to contact Scott (N3SW) about the possibility of putting on a presentation.

Minutes continued on next page.....

October Meeting Minutes, continued

Field Day – Joe Shuey (NE3H) has offered to repair the filters used during FD.

Hamfest Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) has transferred fliers to Tim (KB3OZA). See Tim if you need more fliers.

Request form and check for use of the Cooper Union Building have been submitted to HACC.

Elmer Time – Terry (WB3BKN) gave a presentation on modulation before tonight's meeting.

Old Business – None

New Business – Steve (KA3PDQ) raised a point of order in that a nominating committee should be appointed to prepare a slate of candidates for election to club officers in December. Committee consists of Terry (WB3BKN), Rick (K3RBT) and Shelby (K3EMT). The committee's report will be presented at the November meeting.

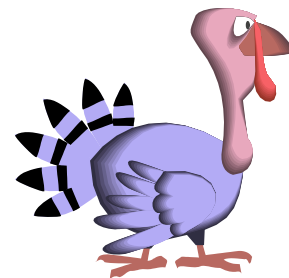
Good of the Club – Steve (KA3PDQ) informed the club that the FCC is considering a rule change regarding how on-air identification is to be accomplished. If an operator has a call sign from a call area different from his current location, even though he is at his home station, he must identify as if "visiting" the local area. This could impact some of our members who have either relocated to our area without changing their call sign or who have obtained vanity call signs incorporating a number other than "3".

Adjournment – There being no further business to conduct, Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Pete (KB3WIH), to adjourn. Motion PASSED Meeting adjourned at 1950 HRS.

Tim Lehman, KB3OZA
Secretary



W3UU
is
ARRL Affiliated



Newsletter Deadline Reminder

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

Articles may be emailed to me at shelbyminier@gmail.com.

Thank you all!

Shelby Minier, Editor
K3EMT

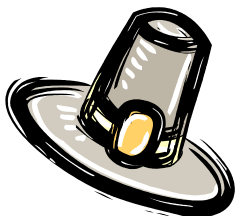




Please send any articles for the newsletter to shelbyminier@gmail.com

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.



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

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

There is one remaining test date for 2013:
December 21
Testing starts at 9:00am

October 19th, 2013 VE Testing Results

We had (4) applicants attend the test session.

The VE team administered (5) Elements.

- 2 - Extra
- 2 - Tech
- 1 - General

VEs attending:

Steven, KA3PDQ

Doug, K3DRE

Gary, KV3Q

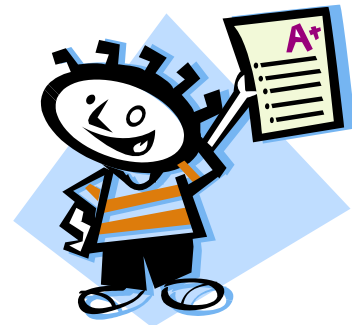
Mike, N3HLK

Bill, KE3YC

Steve, N3FWE

Dick, N3UGW

Thanks to all who helped.



Voices, Zombies, and Tinfoil Hats

While some of YOU laugh, make fun, whisper, and make other derogatory comments about my articles, once again my incredible insight into the mysteries of this world have again come to the world stage.

As some of my faithful readers may remember, it was in this very column I brought to you reports of experiments using ultra low frequencies as a means of MIND CONTROL.

Well as uncovered by the recent tragedies a person more sensitive than the rest of us was sent off the deep end and could no longer control his actions. It has been reported that this individual had left evidence that he was hearing voices in his head caused by these ultra low frequency transmissions. This revelation caused me such concern that after learning of this proof I went to my job and had to terminate the employment of one of my employees. I knew I was on the right track when this 40 something man told me he was going to tell his MOM on me! Of course another one of my crew suggested that he line his ball cap with aluminum foil to block the signals from reaching his grey matter. Well that started a long discussion and engineering session which debated the need for additional foil due to the lack of hair follicles, with no consensus on how to mitigate the signals and not willing to expose the crew to a possible tragedy to be fair I decided to ask the suspect if he HEARD voices in his head. He assured me by saying “Not all the time!”

I am now trying to determine if constant exposure to MSG from consuming large and daily amounts of Chinese Take Out may be a contributing factor to his sensitivity to the ultra low frequency transmissions. Of course he also consumes extremely large quantities of premade Ice Tea drinks from the local supermarket much like a current TV celebrity does (who I believe also hears voices).

I have instructed one of my technicians to begin construction/modifications to a MAGIC BAND radio to detect and decode these insidious transmissions. Once this order was given the technician assigned with this enormous task briefly complained about having to use one of his own MAGIC Band (DX) radios for such an experiment. I assured him that when successful he alone would be able to claim the glory and inevitable riches that this detector would bring! Not to mention saving mankind as we know it. While this device is being constructed I would advise all to wear their foil lined call sign caps to show to the public at large that the Amateur service can NOT be compromised and WE will not be turned into mindless Zombies!

Steven, KA3PDQ



CAUTION



**Tin Foil
Hat Area**

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 149.493

Thursday 8PM 146.64, PL 82.5 NTS traffic net

Berry Mountain Amateur Radio Club

Tuesday 9PM 147.24, PL 123.0

Cumberland Amateur Radio Club

Wednesday 8PM 28.400

Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club

Sunday 9 PM 147.12

Cumberland Amateur Radio Club

Tuesday 7pm 146.490, 2 meter net (*corrected*)

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 145.390, 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 147.015, 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

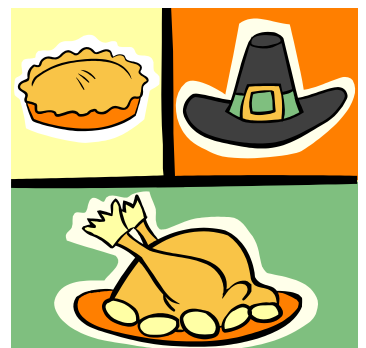
(or see a net that needs corrected)

please e-mail the information to

shelbyminier@gmail.com

We will keep adding to the list.

Thanks to Dave, N3PRO for compiling the original list!



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....as it is this month)

November's lunch will be held on the 21st of the month!

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)

If you've been to an HRAC Field Day, you may have noticed the heavy black extension cords. Here's the brief story behind them from the July 1995 newsletter.

Thanks, W3PLI!

During Field Day tear-down, George, W3PLI graciously donated several hundred feet of extension cords to the club. George had made these heavy duty cords years ago using materials from state surplus and has loaned them to the club for Field Day use ever since. While coiling the cords George unceremoniously commented in his inimitable way, "Get my name off of these. They oughta be the club's anyway."

Thank you, George.

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 for quotes and personalized service.

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



Club Meeting Night.....

HRAC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. The meeting is held at the campus of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), at the Shumaker Public Safety Center. The safety center is located at Gate 5 off of Industrial Road in Harrisburg. 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! *For the November meeting, the XYL of KB3YRC will be making chocolate chip cookies.*

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-t-r

.....A Must Read, Remember the FCC is Watching!

FCC Enforcement-Warnings and Fines

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau recently made public [warning letters](#) to several individuals for alleged infractions of the Part 97 Amateur Service rules or Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. On August 9, Special Counsel Laura L. Smith wrote Jack Hartley, K4WSB, of Tampa, Florida, citing evidence received from members of the Amateur Auxiliary (Official Observers) that Hartley had operated outside of his Advanced class privileges while attempting to work a station on Kwajalein Atoll in the South Pacific.

"According to the OOs, the operator refused the contact noting that you were not authorized to be operating in the band," Smith wrote. "This was your 4th attempt to contact this operator. As a result of your three prior attempts to contact the operator, the OOs had sent you three OO advisory cards for out-of-band operation. Rather than sending you a 4th advisory, they contacted the Commission and asked us to remind you that your continued attempts to contact the operator on Kwajalein Atoll constitute a violation of our rules, as you are not authorized to be operating in that band." The three prior instances occurred in 2007 and 2008.

Smith cautioned Hartley that continued operation outside the parameters of his license could lead to enforcement action that could include revocation or suspension and fines. "It could also jeopardize any attempts to obtain an upgraded Amateur Radio license," she added.

On June 24, Smith sent identical warning notices to Eric J. Christianson, KNØCW, and Thomas E. Barnes, N7OVC, both of Reno, Nevada, to inform them that the trustee of the WA7DG repeater in Sparks, Nevada, had requested that they refrain from using his repeater.

"The written request was issued as a result of your failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for their users," Smith said. "The Commission requires that repeaters be under the supervision of a control operator and not only expects, but requires, that such control operators be responsible for the proper operation of the repeater system. Control operators may take whatever steps they deem appropriate to ensure compliance with the repeater rules, including limiting the repeater use to certain users, converting the repeater to a closed repeater or taking it off the air entirely."

Smith advised the licensees that the FCC expects them to abide by the repeater owner's request and "any other similar requests to cease operations on any other repeaters by any other repeater licensees, control operators or trustees."

She said continued use of the WA7DG repeater could subject them to "severe penalties, including license revocation, monetary forfeiture (fine) or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies upon which you may operate."

On July 8, Smith warned James E. Richburg, address withheld and unknown, against unlicensed radio operation in the Amateur Radio bands. "It has come to the attention of the Federal Communications Commission that at multiple times in the last several months you have made radio transmissions in the amateur band, for which a license is required," Smith wrote. "You have no such license."

Smith pointed out that operating transmitting equipment without a valid FCC license violated Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1943 as amended, "and may subject the responsible parties to substantial monetary forfeitures, *in rem* arrest action against the offending radio equipment, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment."

All of Smith's warning notices concluded with this advisory: "**Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000.**" Read [more](#).

From the ARRL October 3, 2013 Newsletter

Submitted by Terry Snyder, WB3BKN

Editor's Note: The links in this article do work.....so read more about it by simply clicking!

Ham Radio Operating Practices Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- ❖ Always be polite regardless of the circumstances. If not, avoid transmitting.
- ❖ Set a good example especially for short wave listeners who may be thinking about becoming a ham.
- ❖ Be a good listener. It will help you better organize your thoughts before transmitting.
- ❖ Reply to a CQ, or call CQ yourself. It helps keep alive the magic of ham radio.
- ❖ Speak clearly and slowly, especially when giving your call sign to someone you have never worked before.
- ❖ Promote friendship and goodwill to DX contacts. Look for ways to get to know each other rather than simply exchanging signal reports and 73s!
- ❖ Try to keep track of everyone in the QSO. Hopefully someone has assumed the role of "traffic director" to make sure everyone has a chance to contribute to the discussion. If not, don't hesitate to do it yourself.
- ❖ Make it clear at the end of each transmission which station is expected to transmit next. Try to do this even when operating VOX.
- ❖ Operate on frequencies that are in whole Khz (e.g. 18.130 KHz). This alleviates ambiguity and makes it easier for everyone to be on the same frequency.
- ❖ Openly praise other hams when you observe them doing something that you feel is especially deserving. e.g., helping demonstrate ham radio to a group of scouts.
- ❖ Always be ready to quickly and calmly respond to emergency situations. Rehearse what you would do if presented with various scenarios.
- ❖ Pause between transmissions. "Quick keying" gives the appearance that other hams are unwelcome in your QSO.
- ❖ Consider using the Internet to enrich your QSO. Many hams have developed their own comprehensive websites which you can usually find through QRZ.COM.
- ❖ Respect the privileges of hams operating in other modes on the HF bands including those who enjoy AM.
- ❖ Make a point to try 17 and 60 meters. Good operating practices are especially prevalent on these bands.
- ❖ Look for opportunities to "Elmer" newly licensed hams when you hear them on the HF bands. Welcome them and solicit their questions and give them pointers on good operating practices.
- ❖ Remember that no one country can proclaim to be the leader of the Amateur Radio world. Likewise, no one country's foreign policy is any more right or wrong than that of another country.
- ❖ Develop good operating practices. You will be doing your part in helping insure the continuance of our long and proud tradition of self-regulation



Do's and Don'ts of Ham Radio

Continued on next page.....

*Do's and Don'ts of Ham Radio**Continued from previous page.....***Don'ts**

- ❖ Act like some sort of Broadcast Radio station. Your fellow Amateurs will most likely not appreciate such a blatant display of personal ego.
- ❖ Acknowledge the presence of deliberate interference. After all, that's most likely the overall objective of the person doing the interfering.
- ❖ Be excessively long winded especially when in a round-table discussion and during times when band conditions are changing.
- ❖ Just talk about ham radio. Most hams have many more interests.
- ❖ Operate when you are in a bad mood. You will be that much more vulnerable to losing your temper.
- ❖ Overuse Q-codes and other ham jargon on the phone bands.
- ❖ Claim or homestead any particular frequency for nets, schedules, etc. If your designated frequency is already in use, simply move up or down as necessary.
- ❖ Transmit before first determining that the frequency is clear. This includes transmitting within 3Khz of other known QSOs.
- ❖ Break into an ongoing QSO unless you can hear the majority of the participants.
- ❖ Ignore someone new to a round table QSO. We should all do our part to make everyone feel welcome. Avoid making the discussion appear exclusive to your particular circle of friends.
- ❖ Test your transmitter over the air. It is far better to use a dummy load.
- ❖ Cough, sneeze or clear your throat into your microphone.
- ❖ Operate VOX except when in a QSO with three or less participants. It tends to foster "quick keying" which may give the appearance that you don't welcome breakers.
- ❖ Become a "Band Policeman" quick to tell others what you feel they are doing wrong. In instances where it may be called for, always be polite and constructive.
- ❖ Turn up your microphone gain or resort to excessive speech processing in order to be heard. Such practices will most likely result in diminished audio quality and increased likelihood of interference to nearby QSOs.
- ❖ Use the word "break" when wanting to join an on-going QSO. Simply give your call sign between transmissions and reserve the use of the word "break" for more urgent situations.
- ❖ Join an ongoing QSO unless you have something to contribute to the discussion. It is especially rude to interrupt other hams with a request for audio checks, signal reports, etc.

*Don'ts of Ham Radio**Continued on next page.....*

*Don'ts of Ham Radio**Continued from previous page.....*

- ❖ Operate in any fashion that is not in keeping with good amateur practice. Be certain to always comply with the provisions of Part 97 of the rules.
- ❖ Knowingly interfere with an ongoing QSO just because you are working DX, especially split frequency.
- ❖ Say that the frequency "is not" in use when you hear someone inquire. Refrain from responding at all except unless you know for certain that the frequency or one nearby "is" in use.
- ❖ Ridicule other hams or express any negative views of the overall state of Amateur Radio. If you don't have something positive and constructive to say, avoid saying anything at all.

NEW QST App for Android Devices

ARRL members using Android tablets and phones can now download a dedicated app to access the digital edition of *QST*. The app gives ARRL members access to read *QST* online or choose to download individual issues of the journal for offline reading. The *QST* app is free in the [Google Play Store](#) (search for "QST"). After you've tried it, tell us what you think! Use this [online form](#) to share your feedback.

The digital edition of *QST* includes every article, every column, every ad, everything in the printed magazine and more! Members now have 3 great ways to access the current digital edition of *QST* and archives:

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Submitted by Rick Taylor, K2RBT



Richmond Frostfest

The Richmond Frostfest 2014 is approaching! It will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at the Richmond Raceway Complex, from 8:30AM until 3:30PM.

We are looking forward to a great hamfest with manufacturers' representatives, new radio dealers, accessory dealers, and many, many tables filled with amateur radio equipment of all descriptions. There will be VE Testing, forums and meetings, and much, much more.

Our Grand Prize is \$1,000 in Frostfest Buck\$. Also, Early Bird ticket holders will be able to enter at 8AM, 30 minutes before General Admission starts!

All the details can be found at <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Tickets and tables can be purchased online at <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Repeater Etiquette

Starting a QSO via a directed call. There are two main ways by which a QSO can begin, one is via a directed call and one is via monitoring. A directed call is where one amateur calls another amateur individually, such as "N3XYZ from K3ABC". In such a case, K3ABC is looking for one particular individual, N3XYZ. It generally is not an invitation for anyone other than N3XYZ to return the call. If N3XYZ doesn't answer the call, K3ABC may just clear off by saying "K3ABC clear", or may clear and listen for other calls by saying "K3ABC clear and listening". The "and listening" or "and monitoring" implies they are interested in hanging around to QSO with anyone else who might be listening at that time. "Listening" and "monitoring" don't mean you are listening to somebody else's conversation, they mean you are listening for other people who may want to call you to start a new QSO. Likewise, just saying your call by itself with nothing following it is meaningless. If you were to say "N3XYZ", people listening wouldn't know if that means you were monitoring for calls, whether you were testing, or whether they missed the callsign of a party you were calling. Be concise, but be complete.

Starting a QSO via a monitoring call. If the repeater is not in use, simply stating your callsign followed by "listening" or "monitoring" implies that you are listening to the repeater and are interested in having a QSO with anyone else. Calling CQ on a repeater is generally not common, a simple "N3XYZ listening" will suffice. There is no need to repeat the "listening" message over and over again as you might do when calling CQ on HF. Once every few minutes should be more than sufficient, and if someone hasn't answered after a few tries, it probably means there is nobody around. If someone is listening and wants to QSO, they will answer back. Avoid things like "is anybody out there" or "is there anybody around on frequency"; it sounds like a bad sci-fi movie.

Joining a QSO in progress. If there is a conversation taking place which you would like to join, simply state your callsign when one user unkeys. This is the reason for having a courtesy tone: to allow other users to break into the conversation. One of the stations in QSO, usually the station that was about to begin his transmission, will invite you to join, either before making his own transmission. Don't interrupt a QSO unless you have something to add to the topic at hand. Interrupting a conversation is no more polite on a repeater than it is in person.

Interrupting a QSO to make a call. If you need to make a directed call to another amateur but there is already another QSO going on, break into the conversation during the courtesy tone interval by saying "Call please, N3XYZ". One of the stations will allow you to make your call. If the station you are calling returns your call, you should quickly pass traffic to them and relinquish the frequency to the stations who were already in QSO; don't get into a full QSO in the middle of someone else's conversation. If you need to speak with the party you call for a significant length of time (say, more than 15 seconds), ask them to either wait until the current QSO has cleared, or ask them to move to another repeater or simplex channel to continue the conversation.

Roundtables and "Turning it Over". When more than two amateurs are in a QSO, it is often referred to as a "roundtable" discussion. Such a QSO usually goes in order from amateur A to amateur B to amateur C and eventually back to amateur A again to complete the roundtable. To keep everyone on the same page, when any one amateur is done making a transmission, they "turn it over" to the next station in sequence (or out of sequence, if so desired). Without turning it over to a particular station when there are multiple stations in the QSO, nobody knows who is supposed to go next, and there ends up either being dead silence or several stations talking at once. At the end of a transmission, turn it over to the next station by naming them or giving their callsign, such as "...and that's that. Go ahead Joe." or "...and that's that. Go ahead XYZ." If it's been close to 10 minutes, it's a good time to identify at the same time as well, such as "...and that's that. N3XYZ, go ahead Joe."

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*Repeater Etiquette**Continued from previous page.....*

IDing and Who's Who? By FCC regulations, you must always identify at 10 minute intervals and at the end of a transmission. If you are making a test transmission or calling another party, this is a one-way transmission. Since it has no "length" as there is no QSO taking place, you should identify each time you make a call or a test transmission. When identifying yourself and another party (or parties), or when making a directed call, your callsign goes LAST. "N3XYZ, K3ABC" means that K3ABC is calling N3XYZ, not the other way around. There is no need to identify each time you make a transmission, only once every 10 minutes. You do not need to identify the station with whom you are speaking, only your own callsign, but it is generally polite to remember the call of the other station. Avoid phonetics on FM unless there is a reason for using them, such as the other station misunderstanding your callsign. When phonetics are needed, stick to the standard phonetic alphabet.

Demonstrations. From time to time, an amateur may want to demonstrate the capabilities of amateur radio to another non-amateur. The typical way to do this is to ask for a "demo" such as "N3XYZ for a demonstration." Anyone who is listening to the repeater can answer them back. Usually telling the calling party your name, callsign, and location is what they are looking for, not a lengthy conversation. Someone doing a demo may ask for stations in a particular area to show the range of amateur radio communications, such as if the calling station is in the Poconos they may ask for any stations in south Jersey or Harrisburg areas, which is more interesting than demonstrating that they can talk to someone in the same town as they are in.

Signal Reports. If you are unsure how well you are making it into the repeater, DO NOT kerchunk the repeater. Any time you key up the repeater, you should identify, even if you are just testing to see if you are making the machine. "N3XYZ test" is sufficient. Do not use the repeater as a "target" for tuning or aiming antennas, checking your transmitter power, etc. Use a dummy load where appropriate, or test on a simplex frequency. If you need someone to verify that you are making the repeater OK, ask for a signal report such as "N3XYZ, can someone give me a signal report?" "Radio check" is a term most often used on CB, "signal report" is what most amateurs ask for.

Language. Aside from some of the techno-syncretics inherent in amateur vernacular, use plain conversational English. The kind of English that would be suitable for prime-time television, not R rated movies. Avoid starting or encouraging conflicts on the air. If a topic of conversation starts to draw strong debate, change the subject. Avoid "radio-ese" lingo whenever possible. CB has its own language style and so does amateur radio, but the two are not the same. Amateurs have "names", not "personals". Although many new hams have graduated from the CB ranks, let's try to keep CB lingo off the amateur bands. When visiting a new repeater, take some time to monitor before jumping in to get a feel for the type of traffic and operating mannerisms of that particular system. Some repeaters are very free-wheeling in that there are people jumping in and out of conversations constantly. Others primarily have directed calls on them and discourage ragchewing. Others are member-exclusive repeaters. Listen before you talk, when in Rome do as the Romans do.

Emergencies. If there is a QSO going on, break into a conversation with the word "Break" or "Break for priority traffic." DO NOT USE THE WORD BREAK TO JOIN IN A QSO UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY! All stations should give immediate priority any station with emergency traffic.

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*Repeater Etiquette**Continued from previous page.....*

Malicious Interference. If there is malicious interference, such as kerchunking, touchtones, rude comments, etc. DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE IT! Continue the QSO in a normal fashion. If the interference gets to the level where it is impossible to carry on the QSO, simply end the QSO as you normally would.

Power. Use the minimum power necessary to complete a QSO. However, the minimum power necessary doesn't just mean you are barely tickling the repeater receiver squelch. If someone says that you are noisy, increase power or relocate or take whatever measures you can to improve your signal. Continuing to make transmissions after being told your signal is noisy is inconsiderate to those listening. The amateur radio manufacturers continue to come up with newer, smaller handheld radios, many with power levels well under a watt. Many new amateurs start out with a handheld radio as their "first rig". Although convenient, they aren't the most effective radios in terms of performance. Without a good external antenna, operating a handheld radio indoors or inside a car is going to result in a lot of bad signal reports. The following hyperlinks provide general information on good repeater operating practices. We thank those groups/individuals for providing this information.

[http://www.w2li.org/operatingpractices.htm#Special Notes](http://www.w2li.org/operatingpractices.htm#Special%20Notes) - The Tri County Radio Association W2LI

<http://www.rars.org/repeater/rptrguide.htm> - Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Submitted by Terry Snyder, WB3BKN

FCC Turns Away Petition to Expand Technician 10 Meter Privileges

The FCC has dismissed a Petition for Rule Making that sought to expand Technician privileges in the 10 meter band. The Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) had asked the Commission last June to expand the spectrum available to Technician licensees on 10 meters to include operating privileges in the FM portion of the band, from 29.520 to 29.700 MHz. Novice and Technician licensees now may operate on 10 meters from 28.000 to 28.500 MHz.

"We conclude that TMRA has not presented grounds for the Commission to revisit the question of operating privileges for Technician class licensees," the FCC said October 17 in denying the petition. The FCC said that Technicians may transmit through repeaters licensed to a General class or higher licensee that have an output channel in the 29.5 to 29.7 MHz segment, as long as the repeater has a 2 meter or 70 centimeter input.

Further, the FCC pointed out that the current licensing structure was developed "with the expressed desire of the amateur community to provide an incentive, IE: additional frequency privileges, to motivate Amateur Radio operators to advance their communication and technical skills." The FCC noted that it increased Technician privileges in 2006 to include Novice and Technician Plus privileges.

"A Technician class licensee can upgrade to a General class operator license and receive significantly more frequency privileges (including those at issue here) by answering correctly a minimum of twenty-six questions on a thirty-five question written examination," the FCC said. TMRA, the Commission concluded, had submitted no evidence that the FCC should depart from its "long-standing policy of providing additional frequency privileges as an incentive" for license advancement.

TMRA had asserted that amending Â§97.301(e) of Part 97 would extend Technician voice privileges on 10 meters to "coincide with today's technical advancement of the Amateur Radio Service."

From the ARRL, Submitted by Rick Taylor, K2RBT

Jamboree On The Air 2013, HRAC Version

Ahhh, October. Makes you think of Halloween, the PA QSO Party, apple picking, leaves changing colors, and maybe getting one last session with the lawn mower before winter sets in. It ALSO means Jamboree On The Air, or JOTA, as we refer to it in the scouting community.

For the last several years I have helped organize a weekend campout for scouts from the Sunbury, PA area. This year was no different, in that we had about 20 scouts, their leaders and four hams show up at the scout building in Rebeck, PA. Our agenda for the weekend included radio operations, and instruction for the following merit badges:

- Radio
- Geocaching
- Automotive maintenance
- Cooking

Due to time constraints not every scout got to take every merit badge and some of them had already completed the radio merit badge last year. We try to offer a good variety for the scouts that have already completed the radio merit badge.



I arrived Friday afternoon to begin setting up equipment for the radio station as well as my own camping gear. After supper, I decided to fire up the station and see if any other JOTA stations were on the air yet. Since JOTA officially starts at local midnight Friday night, there was a slight possibility that someone was on already. I tuned around on 20 meters and found a station in Norway calling CQ. Not CQ/JOTA, but CQ nonetheless, so I answered him and logged the first contact for the weekend. But it had been a long day and it was time for bed.

Saturday dawned clear and crisp and promised to be a very good day. And for the most part, it was. But more on that later. As we were preparing for breakfast, Dennis (KA3BVJ) arrived with his gear. Then Shelby (K3EMT) and Todd (KB3TPY) arrived. They had agreed to act as instructors for the radio merit badge classes.

As for equipment, I brought two stations. One consisted of a Yaesu FT-897, MFJ tuner and a homebrewed version of the AS-2259 antenna. For those of you unfamiliar with that designation, it is a two off-center fed dipoles arranged at right angles to each other. There was also a two meter ground plane antenna for the FT-897 to use local repeaters. The other station was an MFJ-9420 20-meter monoband QRP transceiver and matching tuner, a homebrewed Buddipole antenna and solar-powered battery box. This gave the scouts some insight into solar power systems and renewable energy sources.



Jota 2013

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Dennis also brought two stations along with two laptop computers. His equipment consisted of an Icom IC-735, tuner and vertical antenna and a Yaesu FT-2800 for two meter operation. He was able to copy a couple of passes from the ISS in addition to working another local JOTA group through a repeater.

Right after breakfast, the scouts had the opportunity to talk with some hams on 80 meters who were getting ready to start a net. The boys were surprised to learn that they were talking to hams in various parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Then it was off to the classroom for instruction from Shelby and Todd in radio merit badge material. They came out to the radio area for a while between class sessions and for additional talk time. We also had several opportunities during the day to talk with scouts at another JOTA event on one of the local repeaters.



After lunch was more radio time and informal discussion on some of the merit badge material that they didn't quite understand the first time around

As the afternoon progressed it became apparent that rain was on the way and probably pretty soon. We decided to pack up most of the gear before we had to do it in the rain, so we started taking down antennas and packing radios and other gear back into boxes and totes. Dennis kept his VHF station set up but relocated to inside that building so that the scouts could see what it looked like to copy a pass from the ISS, which was due to be overhead about an hour after we finished packing up.



So that's the story for this year's JOTA. It never would have happened without the help of the following hams:

- Shelby – K3EMT
- Todd – KB3TPY
- Dennis – KA3BVJ

Their contribution to the event gave the scouts a positive impression of amateur radio and helped further their advancement in scouting. I can't thank them enough for all of their hard work and I hope that they will be willing to help out next year as well.

Written & Submitted by Tim Lehman, KB3OZA

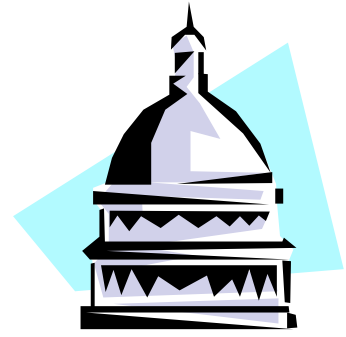
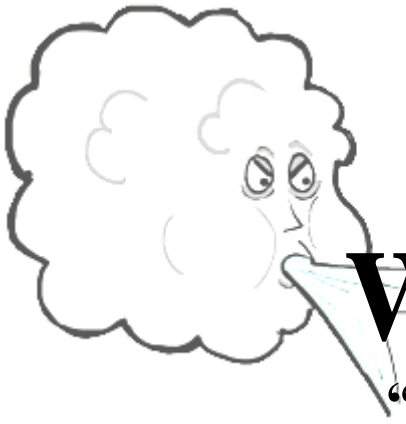
Editor's Note: PLEASE remember to support your club when it comes to doing events like these!



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

JANUARY 18th 2014

(Saturday)



WINTERFEST

“A Harrisburg Pa. Hamfest”

Cooper Student Union, South Hall

1 HACC Drive

Harrisburg, Pa 17110

N 40.29623 W 76.88805 (parking lot)

(HACC Campus Follow Signs)

8:00 am to Noon

TALK-IN 146.76 (PL 100 hz)

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

No reserved table space

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

General Admission: 8:00 AM

Web Site: www.w3uu.org

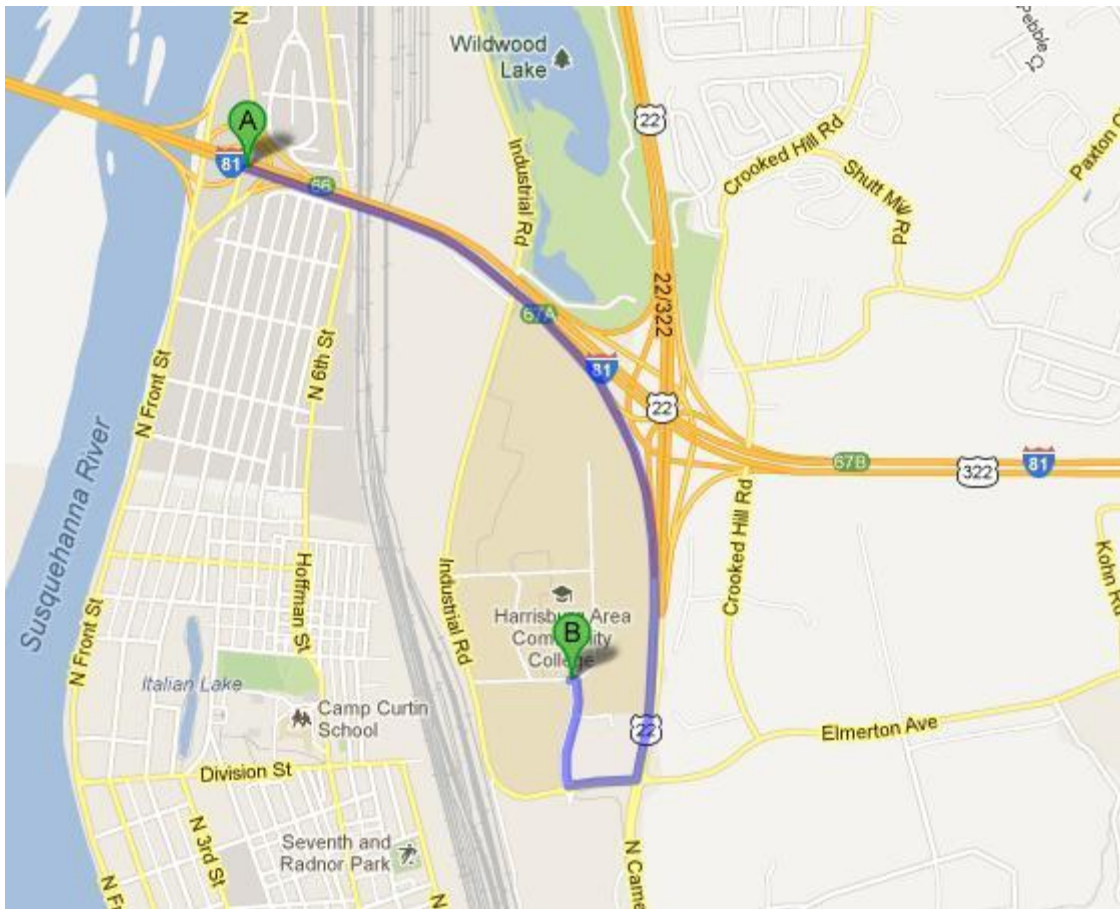
For further information or questions contact:

Tim Lehman

717-982-8550

kb3oza@arrl.net





Driving directions to Harrisburg Area Community College

Parking lot coordinates Willow lot:

N40.29623

W76.88805



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

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.