

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 (Tech Talk starts at 6:30PM)

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From the Desk of the President.....

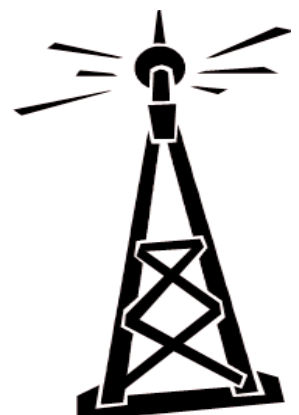
We just seem to have slipped into September when I wasn't looking. I had a chance to visit a tailgate hamfest in Tampa recently. I wish we could have a place like they have for a club house. It is remote enough to have all of the room a club needs to erect a few large towers and wire antennas. I believe the radio room had at least six operating stations that can work at the same time. The hamfest was not a large event, but a nice collection of both seasoned, and non-seasoned hams along with the usual fare of used toys. I have pictures on the club's Facebook page for all to enjoy.

As you may have heard, our Winterfest is proceeding right on target for Saturday January 18th, 2014 in the Cooper Student Union building on the HACC campus. This is the same location as last year. Please take a look at the attached flyer for all of the details. There is a provision for additional tables that has been clearly spelled out in the flyer, along with any other enhancements for this year. Last year was our first time at that location, and as with any new location, we had a few bumps that have since been ironed out. I hope you can make it this year.

Every month we have a technical discussion before the meeting. It is a half hour that has been set aside to discuss things of interest to fellow amateurs and further our understanding of things that concern our craft. The discussions seem to have strayed somewhat from its original intent. As a long time amateur who actually had to do more than simply memorize questions and answers to pass a test, I had to understand electronic theory and radio theory along with the rules and regulations. There are many new licensees now, and recent conversations heard on the bands indicate that it is not uncommon for misinformation to be taken as fact. As a club, it is time to educate and train people who have a license, and those hoping to upgrade to further understand the theory behind those radios and licenses. I hear even extra class operators who are missing the simplest concepts. An indication of the lack of knowledge was extremely apparent this summer while walking through the tables at the hamfests. As a new amateur, I would have never thought of buying a dipole or any wire antenna. I made all of them. At one hamfest I saw off center fed dipoles selling used for over \$100. By the way, the math is simple to make one of these Windom antennas. You may, however, need a little guidance as to how the hardware can be made from PVC pipe. There will be time to learn about digital modes and other cool things after the basics are understood. This is how we will get the new amateurs on the air properly.

73, and I will see you at the meeting,

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)



August Meeting Minutes

The August 14, 2013 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 1910 HRS by the president, Terry (WB3BKN) followed by introductions.

Secretary Report - The minutes of the July meeting were published in the newsletter. Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Pete (KB3WIH), to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. 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 August 17, 2013.

Trustee – no report.

Repeater – Steve (KA3PDQ) reported the following items regarding the repeater:

A defective pager transmitter was found to be causing problems with our repeater as well as a number of other local repeaters. The issue was referred to the FCC and the owner of the defective transmitter has made necessary repairs.

Our repeater will soon be modified to use separate receive and transmit antennas. The receive antenna will be located at or near the top of the tower and our current antenna will become a transmit-only antenna.

Membership Committee – Tim (KB3OZA) reported on the following membership activities:

Twelve letters were sent to newly licensed hams. One new membership has resulted from that mailing so far.

One renewal application was received.

One inquiry was received from an individual who was interested in getting a license. He stated that he had been licensed in the past but let his license expire.

Terry (WB3BKN) suggested that we should try to establish some sort of mentoring program to assist new hams with advice on equipment and setting up a station.

Newsletter – Terry (WB3BKN) relayed a request from Shelby (K3EMT) that everyone looks for opportunities to write and submit items for publication in the newsletter.

Web Page – Gary (KV3Q) has tracked down the domain registrar for the club's web site. He suggested that it would be prudent for us to use the same organization for both domain registration and server hosting. Gary and Matt (N3SOZ) will work together to implement this.

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

The July 27 – 28 Camp Muckleratz Trail Ride went well

The Hershey Half Marathon will be held on Oct 19. There is a need for several operators to provide communication support.

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be held on Oct 18 – 20 near Gratz. A request has been made for operators to support the event.

Continued on the next page.....

August Meeting Minutes, continued

DXCC – Glenn (K3SWZ) will do another mailing at the end of the quarter.

Entertainment - Terry (WB3BKN) and Shelby (K3EMT) will do a presentation on the use of social networking services in support of amateur radio in the near future. The main determining factor at this point is Shelby's availability with respect to her work schedule.

Field Day –Joe (KQ3F) submitted the club's report to ARRL. Total QSO points claimed were 1018 and an additional 450 points were claimed for various factors.

Hamfest Committee – Committee members are Tim (KB3OZA), Joe (KQ3F) and Shelby (K3EMT). The committee met and discussed forming subcommittees in order to divide tasks among many different individuals rather than having only a few people responsible for the entire event. Some possible subcommittees discussed were publicity, commercial vendor coordination, parking and traffic flow, tailgating coordination, door prize procurement, etc. The committee will work out a detailed list of subcommittees and begin to solicit volunteers from the membership. On August 7, a meeting was held with HACC representative Angie Sanden to discuss requirements for both hamfests as well as other club requirements including regular meetings and VE test sessions. Angie has reserved the cafeteria for our use on regularly scheduled VE test sessions. She will check on the availability of the Cooper Student Union Building for the winter hamfest. She will also facilitate a meeting between our representatives and Joe W. of the facilities department to discuss installation of radio equipment.

Tech Time –Marty (KB3BAA) made a general request for anyone who wishes to do a 30 minute presentation prior to the meeting to contact him via landline or email. He will get word out to the membership at least one week prior to meetings to advertise the tech time presentation.

Old Business – None

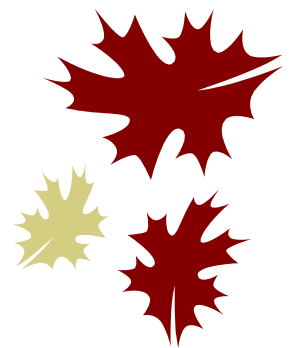
New Business – Joe (KQ3F) received a letter from the Nittany Amateur Radio Club asking that we sponsor the Portable/Multi Plaque for the PA QSO Party, scheduled for the weekend of 12 – 13 October 2013. Joe then put that into the form of a motion which was seconded by Rick (K2RBT). Motion PASSED.

Adjournment – There being no further business to conduct, Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Pete (KB3WIH), to adjourn. Motion PASSED Meeting adjourned at 2010 HRS.

Tim Lehman, KB3OZA
Secretary



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.

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

Remaining Dates for 2013 include:
October 19, December 21
Testing starts at 9:00am

Please note the correction to October's testing date....

August VE Testing Results

We had another **GREAT** Session!

We had 4 applicants.

1 General -- Congratulations Richard, KB3YRC

3 Technicians

All were successful!

One of the applicants came from Hazelton.

Thanks to the following VEs who gave the exams.

Bill, KE3YC

Mike, N3HLK

Steve, N3FWE

Gary, KV3Q

Steven, KA3PDQ

Next Session October 19, 2013 at HACC, Shumaker Public Safety Center, in Harrisburg



Tech Talk- Topics and Presenters Needed

Topics and presenters are needed for upcoming meetings. The tech talk session starts at 6:30PM before the monthly meeting.

September's presentation will discuss CHIRP software.

Other upcoming topics are APRS, more on DSTAR.

If you are willing to be a presenter or if you have a topic idea, please contact Marty Gutekunst (KB3BAA) at 717-439-8971 (cell) or mpgutekunst@comcast.net.

Long Delayed Echoes.....

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

Compiled by Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

Many, many years ago HRAC hosted annual banquets for participants and friends of the PA QSO Party. Perhaps this was because the club once administered the contest which today is one of the top state QSO Parties in the country. In 1997 a club member thought it appropriate to do that once more (OK, the club member was yours truly...). The date was scheduled for July 5, 1997, not coincidentally the day after the Firecracker Hamfest so both events could be attended by out of town visitors.

Thirty four people attended the banquet at the Best Western Harrisburg West Conference Center. Glenn K3SWZ was the perfect Master of Ceremonies and kept the busy evening on track. Last month's Long Delayed Echoes described the 60 year ARRL member award presented to Lew Elicker W3ADE by Kay Craigie then WT3P, the 1996 QSO Party certificates, plaques, and trophies were presented to winners, and a couple software vendors demonstrated their QSO Party logging systems. Most importantly, many operators and their guests got to meet fellow participants in person, many for the first time. Watching people have "eyeball QSO's" for the first time made all the organizational work extremely worthwhile and rewarding.



Some of the 1997 PA QSO Party Banquet attendees getting to know one another. You can pick out a couple familiar faces.



Software authors were on hand to demonstrate their QSO Party Logging Systems and gather input from users.



Software author Don Reamer KA3JWE chatting with QSO Party Chairman Doug Maddox W3HDH. Doug was instrumental in providing support and advertising for the banquet in the QSO Party mailings.



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).

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!



The above photo is from the monthly Ham Radio Lunch at the “Old Country Buffet” in Harrisburg. It was taken on July 29, 2013. If you've never attended, you should. It's a great way to get to know people.

Photo courtesy of KB3YRC, Richard Lenker



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. Tech talk begins at 6:30 pm. Come on out to a meeting and see what's going on with your club!

Skype is a Great Alternativeif you can't make the meeting

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)
5. Be ready to connect to **hrac.radio** any time after 6:30pm on meeting ni
6. Meeting begins at 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

**This is an audio version of Skype.



Facebook Group Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harrisburg-Radio-Amateurs-Club/208171495915056?fref=ts>



Yahoo Group Link:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hrac/>



Twitter Link:

https://twitter.com/HRAC_W3UU



BAN CW

After all these decades of constant change and evolution, the never ending chorus of those who wish us to become more and more energy independent, why do we still tolerate that noise in the air waves known as CW? The band with that these transmissions occupy is enormous and still seems to be growing.

In this age of technological wonder why is it that the US Government not taken this assault on the world serious enough to eliminate it once and for all from our modern culture? As a youngster I remember being forced to listen to this racket for hours on end as the old timers ridiculed us kids as being no better the pond scum or at least future anarchists waiting in the wings to topple civilization as they know it.

There may still be a place for CW, some archive or museum looking to preserve the ancient ways may be a good repository for such dribble. You would think if there was such a great interest in CW there would be entire collections of vintage equipment and recordings in closely guarded and climate controlled cases so as to ensure that we as a free people would never repeat this tragic mistake again. As it is not bad enough to be accosted on a seemingly never ending siege now with the advent of low current drain transistors and circuitry it has left the home and now can be heard in the car, boat, airplane and even at our serene parks and playgrounds. I have even heard it at State Fairs and Carnivals where the unsuspecting public is unknowingly subjected to this pollution of the air waves.

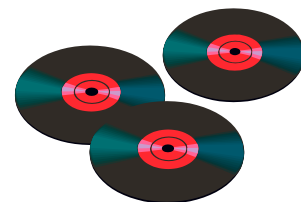
I have even heard of those who take this noise with them to a campground where they proudly listen to CW on improvised home built receivers that they have fashioned out of a tin can or fountain pen. Some people wonder at times why we have not made contact with beings not of our planet or have not been able to find the elusive Big Foot or Yeti.

One listen to the racket called CW would be all it would take to send intelligent life scurrying in the opposite direction. My XYL is so disgusted by the sound of it she forbids in our home, and has walked out in disgust if exposed to it out in public.

In this digital age I can see no reason to continue to expose the citizens of the world to this menace called Country/Western.

Remember if you read it on the internet it has to be true!

Steven, KA3PDQ





2013 Skywarn Spotter Training!



Are you interested in weather? Do you like serving your community during times of need? If you have answered yes to the above questions, then you are invited to the 2013 Lancaster County Severe Weather Spotter Training. All are welcome!

Date: October 3rd, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Location:
Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center
101 Champ Boulevard
Manheim, PA 17545

Cost: FREE!

Pre-registration required:
dboucher@lancema.us
or register with your mobile device



Hershey Half Marathon

Operators are needed for support of the Hershey Half-Marathon the morning of October 20th.

Operators will support aid stations and provide communications during the event.

Approximate times are 0700 till 1300.

Contact Marty Gutenkunst (KB3BAA) at 717-439-8971 (cell) or mpgutekunst@comcast.net if interested.

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

Letter from the Editor

There are few things as frustrating as editing a newsletter when there really is no news to edit. All of you have stuff that you can write about, be it your experiences as an amateur radio person, an exciting contact that you have made, something technical that you think the group could benefit from, or even pictures of your ham shack. Please, I am (nearly) begging....take a few minutes and write something for the newsletter.

Come to the next meeting (Wednesday, September 11) to learn all about social media – Facebook and Twitter. Terry Snyder (WB3BKN) and I will explain the basics, from privacy concerns to how to post a status update. We will even help you set up an account if you need help! This informational session will be held after the business meeting.

73,
Shelby Minier, Editor
(K3EMT)

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Name Badges • Mugs • Mousepads
Vanity Plates • And More!



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

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

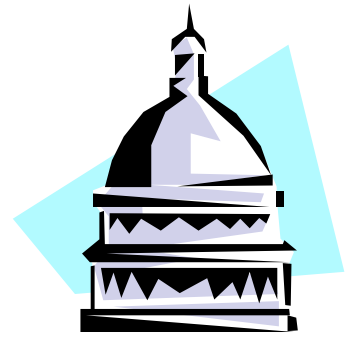
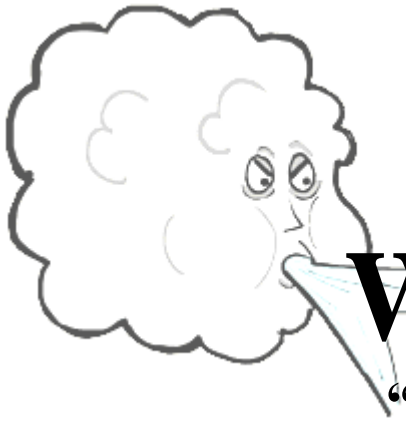
If you know of a repeater that isn't listed, or have any corrections,

PLEASE send the information to shelbyminier@gmail.com!

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

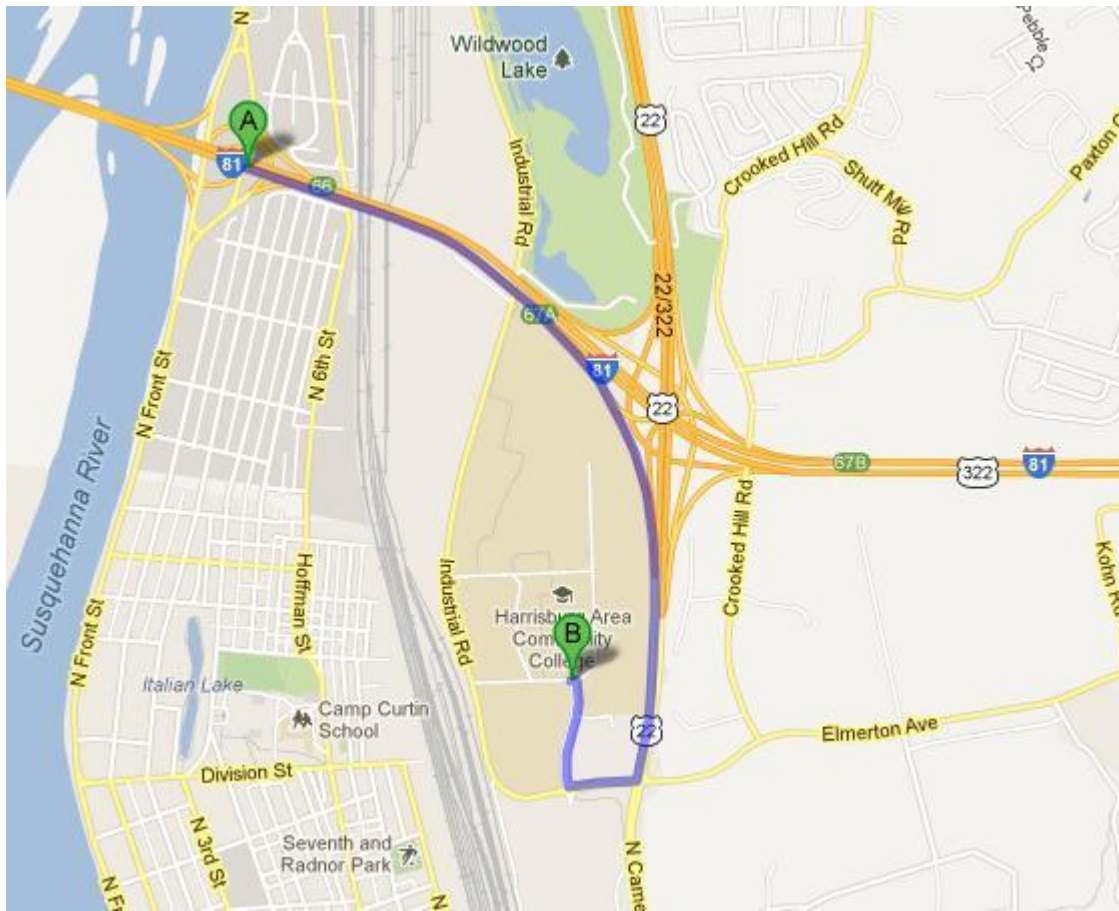
For further information or questions contact:

Tim Lehman

717-982-8550

kb3oza@arrl.net





Driving directions to Harrisburg Area Community College



I-81 N

1. Head **east** on **I-81 N** toward **Exit 67A**

0.7 mi



2. Take exit **67A** to merge onto **US-22 E** toward **PA-230/Harrisburg/Cameron St**

1.1 mi



3. Turn right onto **Wildwood Park Dr**

0.2 mi



4. Turn right onto **Hacc Dr**

0.2 mi



5. Turn left onto **Alumni Dr**

56 ft



Harrisburg Area Community College

1 Hacc Drive

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Parking lot coordinates Willow lot:

N40.29623

W76.88805

Upon entering HACC campus, turn Left and follow signs.

Vendors: After turning left, vendors will turn Right onto a service road and follow signs to Cooper Student building.

Buyers: After turning Left, proceed over small bridge, and turn Right into Willow parking area. Go until you see a foot bridge on the right, and find a parking spot. Get out of car and walk across the foot bridge to Cooper Building.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)
PO Box 453
Hummelstown, PA 17036
717-982-8550

Make checks payable to HRAC
Membership is \$15.00 (\$7.50 if over 65) per year.
Family Membership is \$25 (Hams must reside in the same household)

Dues end December 31st

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ARRL Member: Y _____ N _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

I agree to abide by the guidelines of the membership and The Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.