

## Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club Newsletter

July Firecracker Hamfest Date is **Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup>**.  
Flyer appears at the end of this 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)

### CLUB OFFICERS

#### **PRESIDENT**

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### **From the Desk of the President.....**

Well, it looks like spring is finally here. Judging by the amount of rain we've gotten lately and the rate of growth of my lawn.

As hams, that means it's time for antenna projects and operating from the field. We'll be hearing more about antennas at our next meeting during Elmer Time. Practice this time, as opposed to theory. I enjoy learning the theory behind antennas but I also like to see how things are made, based on that theory. I'm not sure if it will be Pete (KB3WIH) or Terry (WB3BKN) doing the presentation, but in either case, I'm sure that it will be interesting. And for the after-meeting presentation, I will be talking about using an SDR dongle as a virtual radar receiver. Pretty neat stuff, if I do say so myself.

As for operating from the field, that is something that I have recently gotten into. My sons and I have gone up to Weiser State Forest, near Camp Muckleratz, and had a lot of fun setting up and operating there for an afternoon. Maybe next time we'll make it an overnigher and see what we can do during the wee hours. If you get a chance to do something like that, go for it. It was a lot more fun than I had expected.

There seems to be a lot of ham radio-related activity of a legal nature lately. The most recent ones that I have heard of include:

- A Philadelphia area ham is involved in an emotionally charged zoning hearing regarding his request to erect a 160 ft. tower on his property. Hopefully his ARRL-affiliated legal counsel will prevail.
- In Florida, a ham has voluntarily relinquished his license as part of an agreement reached with the FCC regarding his interference with the Brevard County Sheriff's jail radio system.
- An Oklahoma ham is facing a possible \$12,000 fine for allegedly interfering with communications on CB channel 19. He admitted to transmitting a continuous carrier on channel 19, reportedly because area CBers were harassing his wife.

And last but not least, Field Day and the Firecracker Hamfest are only about two months away. We still need all the help that we can get for these events. For Field Day, we can always use more help with setting up and tearing down, as well as operating for as little or as long as you might like.

I have plenty of hamfest flyers that can be placed at various locations. Computer shops, electronics stores and music stores are good prospects for leaving a handful on the counter for customers to take. The community bulletin board at the local Laundromat or grocery store is also good place to post a flyer. We will also need plenty of help a few days before the event to get the tailgating areas marked off and coordinating and checking in vendors the night before and probably a thousand other details that I'm overlooking at the moment. If nothing else, just mention that the hamfest is approaching when you check in to some of the local nets.

Well, that's about all I have for this edition. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

73, Tim, KB3OZA

## April Meeting Minutes

The April 9, 2014 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at approximately 1900 HRS by the president, Tim (KB3OZA) followed by introductions. There were 18 members present.

**Secretary's Report** – March's minutes were published in April newsletter. Motion made by Rick (K2RBT) and seconded by Chuck (N3WL) to accept the minutes as published. Motion PASSED.

**Treasurers Report** – Joe (KQ3F) presented the treasurer's report. Rick (K2RBT) made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read, seconded by Chuck (N3WL). Motion PASSED

**Trustee** – No report from the trustee.

**Repeater** – Richard (KB3YRC) reported receiving a radio call from a ham radio operator who was an employee of Comcast cable. The Comcast representative wanted to get a hold of a club officer, and proceeded to drop off a repeater. The big question is does the club want this repeater, complete with everything but the antenna. The club will think about the ramifications of having another repeater and make a decision in the next month or two. Steve (KA3PDQ) will begin the coordination process using the same location as the .76 machine.

Power supply was brought down from the tower site. It appears that the transformer didn't explode but it did get very hot. Cumberland Electronics had a replacement power supply at a reasonable price. Power supply has been replaced and repeater is operational again.

It was reported that there are some repeater issues with someone keying up the mic and dragging their finger across the mic. This was observed on a few different occasions. Control operators need to listen for this and turn the repeater off when situations such as these occur.

It was reported that one of the individuals who received a letter banning them from using the club repeaters was heard on .075. This person NEVER identified himself, but the voice sounded familiar.

**VE Committee** – April 19<sup>th</sup> is the next test session, testing starts at 9:00. After that, June 21<sup>st</sup> is the next session, 9:00 at the HACC Shumaker Safety Center.

**Membership Committee** – The club has 92 paid members, of those, 61 are ARRL members. 66.3% of the club is ARRL members.

**Newsletter** – No report. (not in attendance—)

**Web Page** – Website security usually can hide the junk ads on our website. Reading all the logs, Gary reported that nothing breached the website.

**EMCOMM** – Marty reported that Peach Bottom drill was conducted a few days before the April meeting. York and Lancaster Counties were involved.

- April 27<sup>th</sup> is a marathon that starts at 730am – contact K3BMK@comcast.net.
- June 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> are the American Cancer Society Bike Ride, operators are needed.
- The third weekend in July is the Camp Muckleratz Horse Ride, operators are needed for four rest stops.
- Third Sunday in October is the Hershey Half Marathon, operators are needed.
- RJ Harris played a PSA about ham radio on the air (WHP580).
- Don Kunst (W3LNE) did a presentation at the recent Homeland Security Conference held at the Central Penn College Campus. The presentation was about how ham radio can work with other emergency responders.

- Joe reported that Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> is a Skywarn spotter training session in Carlisle. Pre-registration is required. The next Dauphin County session is not until October.

**DXCC – Nothing** (not in attendance)

**Entertainment** – Tim (KB3OZA) will do a presentation on using the DVB-T dongle as a virtual radar receiver.

**Field Day** – (*June 28 & June 29, editor's note*)

This year, just like the previous two years, Field Day will be held at the Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 off of Industrial Road at HACC. The pavilion is reserved for our use.

Coordination about getting the Field Day supplies from the storage shed was discussed.

Set-up may begin at 2pm on Friday before the Field Day event.

We may use alternative antennas. If anyone has any ideas please feel free to discuss.

**Hamfest Committee-** We have flyers that have been (correctly) printed. Some members are handing them out at various local hamfests.

Terry (WB3BKN) will contact the food vendor to see if they will do hamfest again this year. Importance will be placed on better placement of the concession stand.

**Elmer Time** – What topic should be covered in May? Anyone have any questions? Pete, KB3WIH, will be handling the May Elmer Time. Topic: 2-meter ground plane antenna construction.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – Don (KA7GRU) is looking for a 2 meter, 70 cm or dual band antenna. He would also like some help making a J pole.

**Good of the Club** – Nothing

**Adjournment** – There being no further business to conduct, Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Rick (K2RBT) to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2000 HRS.

*Minutes audio recorded by Tim, President (KB3OZA)*

*And transcribed by Shelby Minier, Secretary (K3EMT)*



W3UU  
is  
ARRL Affiliated

Reminder – Club dues are now due. If you didn't get a reminder by mail, you can use the application at the end of the newsletter.

May 2014 Edition

## Long Delayed Echoes

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

Compiled by Mark Robinson WB3JIS

letter sent by the club on April 4, 1951. The recipient was a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. I've left the color of the scan intact to illustrate the hues of a document created with blue carbon paper. Yes, children, once upon a time "cc:" meant "carbon copy" created by multiple stacked sheets in a typewriter.

April 4, 1951  
40 W. Main St.  
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Hon. Clarence G. Stoner  
407 E. Main St.  
Shiremastown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We are interested in Senate Bill #89 and House Bill #339 in that it will provide special license plates for automobiles of Radio Amateurs who are licensed by the F.B.C. We wish to point out that the States of Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and the Canal Zone are now issuing license plates using the call letters assigned by F.B.C. for plate numbers.

It is noted that many of these Radio Amateurs have their automobiles equipped with two way radio sets. The present efforts of Radio Amateurs to volunteer their communications facilities to assist in Civil Defense communications would be greatly enhanced by the issue of such special license plates for their motor vehicles. Such plates would provide a ready means of identification and registration in connection with Civil Defense and Disaster Emergency Communications.

It is further noted that the States that now issue such special license plates have done so primarily because of the Disaster Emergency Services that have been rendered by Radio Amateurs in those States. We, in Pennsylvania, have been more fortunate in that we have not experienced the severe communications interruptions with the regularity as in the States listed, however, there have been many instances when Pennsylvania Radio Amateurs have furnished emergency disaster communications. It is felt that in view of Civil Defense preparations it would be both timely and appropriate to make available such automobile licenses.

We, therefore, trust that you will give favorable consideration to this legislation, not only from the considered favor to the individuals concerned, and the recognition of Amateur Radio, but also the potential value that such plates could be to the Commonwealth, in readily identifying persons with communications facilities, willing to offer their services for the benefit of the general public.

Very truly yours,

Secretary,  
Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club

*also to  
Sen Haw. Taylor*

## 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 new and exciting things are going on with your club!

Elmer time for May will be about 2-meter ground plane antenna construction.

Shelby, K3EMT  
Secretary & Newsletter Editor

The next testing session  
will be held  
June 21, 2014  
at the HACC Shumaker  
Public Safety Center,  
Gate 5 on Industrial Rd,  
Harrisburg, PA.

Testing begins promptly  
at 9:00AM

### Personalized Items Make the BEST Gifts!

(And who says you can't give yourself a gift...)

**Hats · Shirts · Jackets**  
**Name Badges · Mugs · Mousepads**  
**Vanity Plates · And More!**



We use embroidery, heat transfer, vinyl or sublimation to put your idea on just about anything!



Visit us online at [www.shopIBD.com](http://www.shopIBD.com) for ideas  
then give us a call at 717-585-9779  
or email [geanne@impressions-by-design.com](mailto:geanne@impressions-by-design.com)  
for quotes and personalized service.

## Link to Repeater and Net Lists

<http://www.w3uu.org/local-repeaters-and-nets/>

Same lists that used to be in the newsletter.....but now conveniently located on the club's website.

## Weekly HRAC Net

The weekly information net is held every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on the 146.760 repeater, except for the second Wednesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

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

### Monthly Ham Radio Lunch

The last Thursday of each month there is a Ham Radio Lunch at the "Old Country Buffet" at noon.

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!

## Results from the VE testing session held Saturday 4/19/2014

There were 5 applicants with 9 elements administered. All applicants passed (1) element. (4) elements failed

VEs in attendance:

Steven Gobat (KA3PDQ), Douglas Evans (K3DRE), Tim Lehman (KB3OZA), Steve Hanock (N3FWE), Gary Cappello (KV3Q) Richard Warner (N3UGW), and Bill Rawlings (KE3YC).

Thanks for making this program possible!

## 2014 Exam Schedule for the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club VE Team

All tests are held at HACC -Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Rd, Harrisburg, PA

- Saturday, June 21, 2014 at 9:00AM
- Saturday, July 5, 2014---During the FIRECRACKER HAMFEST (testing is at 11:00AM)
- Saturday, August 16, 2014 at 9:00 AM
- Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 9:00 AM
- Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 9:00 AM

## RADIO VORTEX

I think it is interesting how the media will pick up a term or phrase and all of a sudden it is part of our everyday conversations. First there was the Polar Vortex which terrorized us for months, now to be replaced by the Pollen Vortex and a yet unnamed Vortex that caused the disappearance of the jet airliner. Of course we all know that the aircraft was transported off planet to be used in repopulating a new colony or the passengers are indeed very close to a cloaking device.

HRAC is coming up to the time of year that to me reminds of a RADIO VORTEX

Starting in June with the usual monthly meeting, then we will have an Amateur Radio Exam Session, the following weekend Field Day, then when you might think it's time for a rest the Famous Firecracker Hamfest will be upon us! All of these events require the support and participation of the Club members.

I have recently made a trip thru memory lane and was amazed how Hamfests have changed over the years. When I first started attending Hamfests there were plenty of commercial vendors with all the latest and greatest with boxes of must haves stacked 8' high. I even bought my first Brand NEW HF radio at a Hamfest. I spent years of drooling over the latest ads and reviews before making that purchase. The most amazing thing was there was almost always more than one commercial vendor with new radios! Now I would venture a guess that most Hams will NEVER set foot into an Amateur Radio Dealers Store.

We truly have missed the time when the person behind the counter was a real live HAM. They also for the most part were well aware of the products they sold.

When computers came to the forefront I remember computer vendors filling up spaces with computers and would build what you wanted on site. Remember the people standing at the front doors with flyers boasting their deals of a lifetime. Yes I know we can never go back, but what happened to the booksellers? Oh well so much for that rant, so as you plan out your month of June make sure you pencil in some time for Amateur Radio.

Steven, KA3PDQ



### Swap and Shop

This is to list radio/electronic items that they want to sell or that they are looking to purchase. It seems more timely to put the link to the webpage in the newsletter, because the Webmaster updates it often.

Here is the link: <http://www.w3uu.org/swap-shop/>

If you have anything to list, email [shelbyminier@gmail.com](mailto:shelbyminier@gmail.com).

Links  
to the  
club's  
social  
media

[Twitter Link](#)



[Link](#)



[Facebook  
Page Link](#)



## Outgoing QSL Bureau Mailing Planned for July

I will be making a mailing to the ARRL Outgoing DX QSL Bureau for all HRAC members after the July Hamfest .

Please get your cards to me, in prefix order according to the DXCC List, with a mailing label (or copy) from a recent QST, as this service is open to ARRL members only.

This service is FREE to all HRAC members. If you are not going to be at the Hamfest, you can get your cards to me at the June Ham Lunch, Field Day or give them to Chuck Greiner, N3WL or Bill Rawlings, KE3YC and they will get them to me.

Questions?? Call me at 774-1728 or e-mail at [k3swz@arrl.net](mailto:k3swz@arrl.net)

Thanks

73

Glenn, K3SWZ

## W3TDF turns 90 years young!

Anyone who has operated or knows anything about the PA QSO Party, knows Ray (the "Grump"), W3TDF.

Ray is celebrating his 90th birthday on June 19. I suggest that you remember him with birthday wishes in the form of a card or note.

73

de Glenn, K3SWZ



## Volunteers Needed to Support Bike Event

Operators are needed to support rest stops and repair support in our area on **June 28**.

I understand this is field day weekend but this event will be in our area for a 4-6 hour period early Saturday.

The first leg of this two-day ride goes from Hershey to Kutztown. Looking for up to 10 operators to support the first leg. The second leg of the run is from Kutztown to Philadelphia. I will be contacting operators in eastern PA to support this.

For further information or to help please contact me to help support this effort, [mpgutekunst@comcast.net](mailto:mpgutekunst@comcast.net)

Marty Gutekunst  
KB3BAA



# HRAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:

**Tim Lehman, President (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 \_\_\_\_\_ \* **YEAR FIRST LICENSED** \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

W3UU - Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual



**NEW  
DATE**

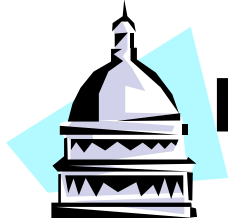
**NEW  
DATE**

**Saturday JULY 5<sup>th</sup> 2014**



**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**
- ◆ **Hundreds of tailgate spaces available**
- ◆ New and refurbished equipment dealers on site
- ◆ **ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest / EPA Section Convention**
- ◆ **Great Food (Breakfast and Lunch)**
- ◆ Meeting room available for clubs and discussions
- ◆ **DXCC & WAS** cards checked on site until **10:00 am**
- ◆ **VE Testing on site at 11:00 am (Walk-in Welcome)**

**W3UU**  
**146.16/76 MHz**  
**PL 100 Hz**

Map on Reverse side  
 of this flyer

**General Admission:** \$5.00 (Non ham XYL & kids under 12 FREE)

**Tail Gating:** \$5.00 per space

**Tables:** \$12.00 each before June 1  
\$15 on or after June 1

**General Admission: 8:00 AM**

**Dealer Setup: Hamfest Day 6:00 AM**

**Prior Day 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM (strictly enforced)**

For further information contact:

Website: [www.w3uu.org](http://www.w3uu.org)

Table Sales

Joe Stepansky (KQ3F)

[KQ3F@comcast.net](mailto:KQ3F@comcast.net)

717-329-1906

General Info

Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)

PO Box 435

Hummelstown, PA 17036

[KB3OZA@arrl.net](mailto:KB3OZA@arrl.net)

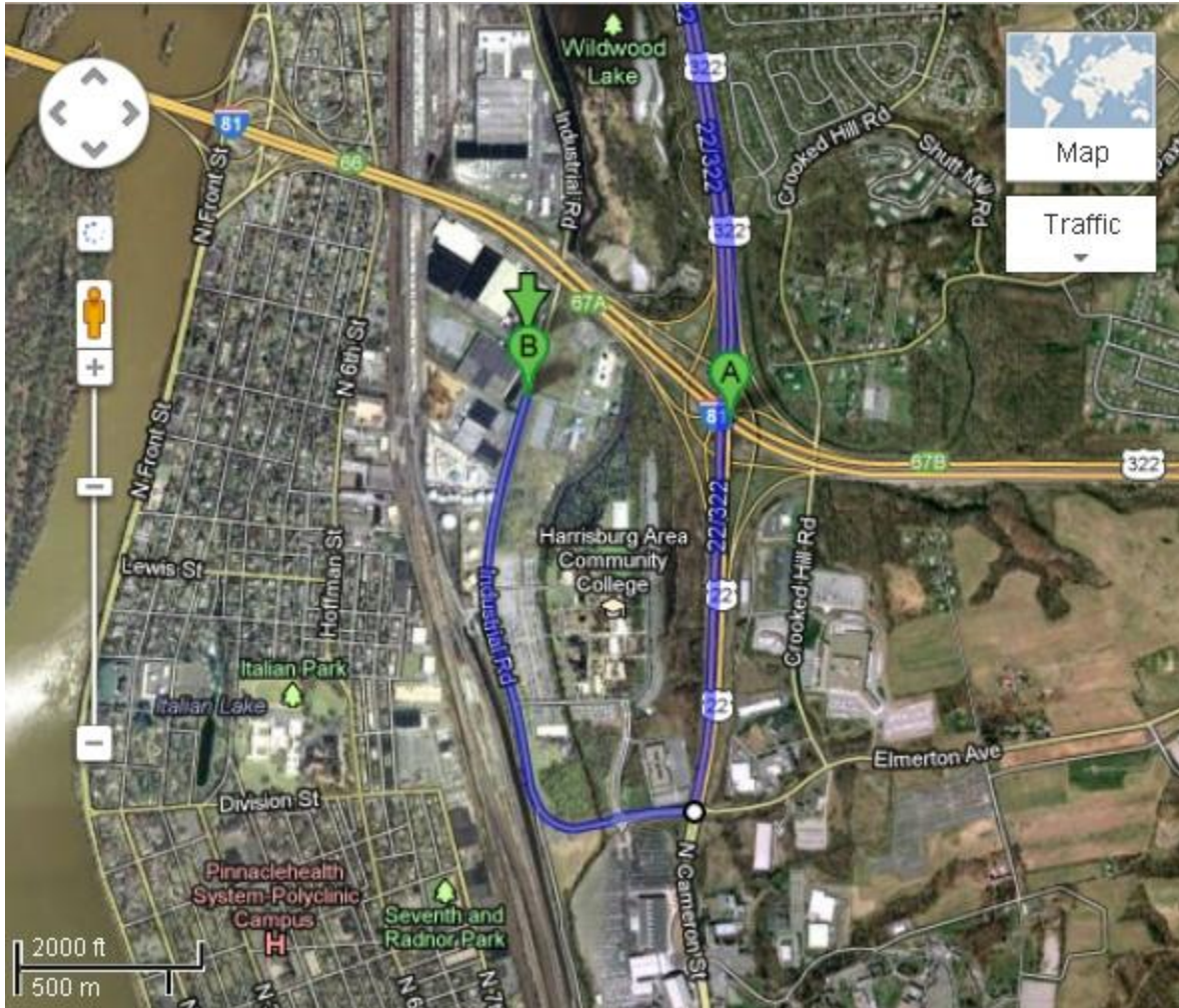
717-982-8550

**Special Event  
Station**

**W3W**

**In operation at  
the  
Convention**

- 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 (**Gate 5**)
- **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**