

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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Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club Newsletter

From The Desk of The President.....

Well, here we are in December already. I hope you all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. This year is almost over and a new year is quickly approaching. Before we know it, it will be Christmas, then New Year's and then... and then... and then, it's HAMFEST TIME!!!

That's right folks, the winter hamfest is about six weeks away. The date (Jan 23 to be exact) is set, the hall is reserved, and flyers have been hung with care. The only thing left is to show up on the day of the event and open the doors for the vendors, buyers and browsers.

The entertainment at this month's meeting will be our Christmas cookie exchange. Everyone brings some Christmas cookies to share and we all have a good time socializing, eating cookies and getting a good sugar buzz.

We're always looking for suggestions for Elmer Time and entertainment topics. If there is something that you would like to learn about, hear about or have explained in more detail than you have previously heard, feel free to make your desires known to one of the club officers. We'll make sure that it gets to the right person for preparation and presentation.

On the other hand, if you have something that you'd like to talk about, demonstrate or discuss, let us know and we'll get you on the agenda. Maybe you have built a piece of gear like a radio or SWR meter or an antenna. Maybe you've recently taken a trip to some far and distant land and played radio while you were there. We'd love to see pictures of your project or your trip.

That's about it for this installment. I hope that you will all be able to come out to the meeting. If not, I hope that you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73,

Tim KB3OZA



November Meeting Minutes

The November 11, 2015 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 1900 HRS by the president, Tim (KB3OZA).

Secretary Report - The minutes of the October meeting were published in the newsletter. Chuck (N3WL) made a motion to accept the minutes seconded by Doug (K3DRE). Motion PASSED

Treasurers Report – Joe (KQ3F) presented the treasurer's report. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Rick (K2RBT) to accept the report. Motion PASSED

Equipment Trustee – Terry(WB3BKN) reported:

- The IP phone at the repeater site has not been installed yet
- All the requested equipment has been given to Richard (KB3YRC) for the Fire Museum special event.

Repeater –

- The Repeater controller has been installed and is working
- The repeater is still noisy. The search for a new location is ongoing
- The construction coordination has been received by the club for the UHF repeater.

VE Committee – The next test session will be on December 19th. There was a motion made by Doug (K3DRE) for \$150 to purchase an all in one printer for the VE team, seconded by Milan (KC3AYU)

Membership Committee – Tim (KB3OZA) reported 1 new member, this brings the total membership to 108. Membership reminder letters will be going out after Christmas.

Newsletter – Please submit articles to Terry (WB3BKN) by the last week of the month

Web page – Not Present

EMCOMM – Terry (WB3BKN) is now the new EMMCOMM coordinator. He is looking for volunteers

DXCC – No Report

Entertainment – Nick (AA3T) reported that there will be no entertainment this month. Next month will be the holiday cookie swap, bring cookies to share!

Hamfest – Terry (WB3BKN) has the Hamfest fliers. The approval for the Student union center has been received by HACC. This will be the last hamfest at the Student Union building because they will be converting it to office space next year.

Elmer Time – This month Terry (WB3BKN) did a presentation about nets. Terry (WB3BKN) requested ideas for future topics.

Old Business – Richard (KB3YRC) reported that there has been work done on the trailer. It is currently sitting at the Susquehanna township building.

New Business –

- Old Country Buffet has been reserved for the Hamfeast in February.
- There was discussion about changing the guidelines for awarding the Ham of the Year award, the committee will make the final decision.

Good of the Club –

- Terry (WB3BKN) and Nick (AA3T) will be the nominating committee for club officers, they have not yet found a replacement Vice president.
- The Fire Museum will be celebrating their anniversary on November 14 and 15, a special event station will be operating.

Adjournment – There being no further business to conduct, Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Milan (KC3AYU), to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 2015 HRS.

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 hrac.newsletter@Yahoo.com

The next VE Testing session will be on Saturday December 19, 2015 in the HACC Shumaker building at Gate 5 on Industrial road, Harrisburg, PA. Pre-Registration is required. Please arrive by 8:30am

Contact: Steven Gobat [717-938-6943](tel:717-938-6943) Email: KA3PDQ@arri.net.

=====

I welcome subjects for the Elmer Time sessions from anyone, including our seasoned radio amateurs. Subjects should be something to expand on questions in the license exam that may need a clearer understanding. Either email the ideas to me at Terry@DJTerry.com, or text at 717-979-9515.

Tnx 73

Terry WB3BKN

ARRL DX QSL Bureau mailing for HRAC members

I plan to make the next mailing to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau at the end of January for HRAC members who are also ARRL members, that have DX QSL cards to go out. (DX is defined as other than, the lower 48 states, in this case)

Please place the cards in prefix order according to the DXCC country list and get them to me **with a current QSL mailing label or copy of same** to prove ARRL membership. You can give them to me at the Ham Lunch on January 28 or at the Winterfest on January 23. You can also give them to Chuck, N3WL, as I see him often. This service is provided free to all HRAC members. You may send one card or a thousand. Questions -- feel free to call me at 774-1728 or k3swz@arri.net

73 de Glenn, K3SWZ



Kids Are Not the Future of Ham Radio

Posted by [K0NR](#)



You've heard it a million times: our kids are the future. That statement gets applied to almost everything, including amateur radio. How can you argue with an obvious fact like that?

But I am starting to think it is incorrect.

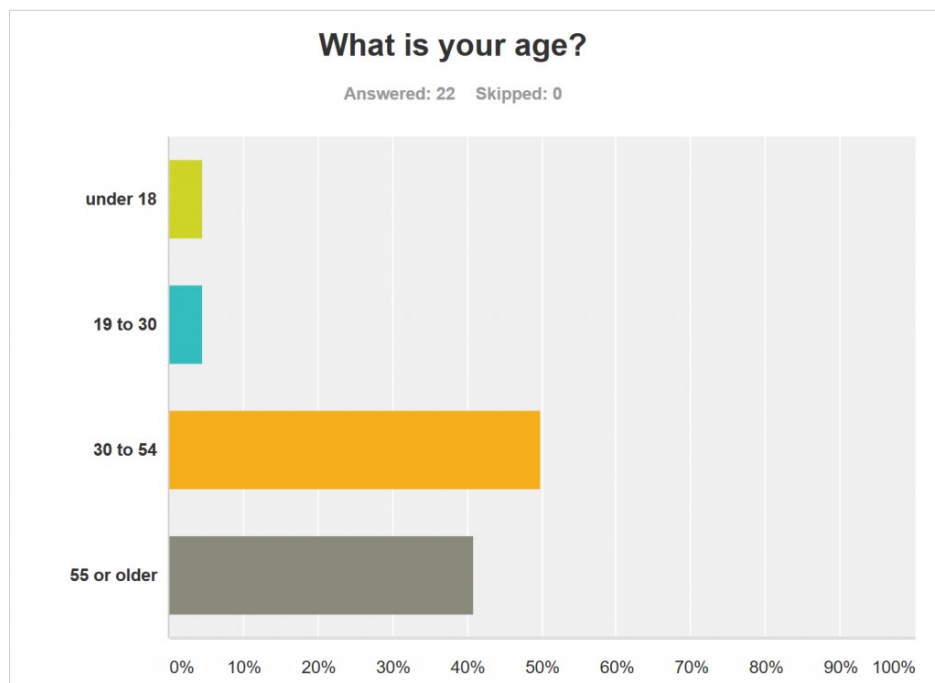
We've had really good success on creating new hams of all ages in our Technician License Class (at the [Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association](#)). We've been doing this for a while now and I think I

am seeing a pattern emerge. We've been able to attract middle schoolers to the class and help them get their ham radio license. I've talked to many of them on the air. They've helped out with public service events. They seem to have fun playing with radios.

Then this thing called high school happens. The high school phase in the US is filled with tons of stuff to do: studying, homework, AP classes, science competitions, sports, dating, movies, driving and after school jobs. Way too much stuff. Ham radio starts to take a backseat to these normal high school activities. Then we don't see the kids at the radio club meetings or chatting on the local repeater because they are busy doing other things. Have we lost them forever? Not sure.

High school is often followed by college which has its own set of challenges: a totally new environment, away from home, a new set of people, new studies, etc. There might be a ham radio club on campus but maybe not. If a kid is not off to college they are (hopefully) out doing something to establish themselves in this world. Eventually they emerge on the other side, get a job, get themselves established, sometimes with a spouse and maybe a kid or two. By this time they are 25 to 30 years old, depending on the individual.

I recently [posted about the demographics](#) of our students in the Tech License Class. The chart below shows the age distribution of our students from our most recent class. Hmmm, clearly most of our students are 30 or older. (Sorry, we have not collected age data with finer resolution.) This particular class is light on the under 18 crowd...sometimes we have a clump of kids in the mix.



For whatever reason, it seems that most people find themselves in a situation as an adult that causes them to say “I want to get my ham radio license.” When asked why they want to get their ham license, the top response is always emergency/disaster communications, followed by backcountry communications, pursuing electronics as a hobby and learning about radio communications. I suspect that starting to be established in a community and having some disposable income also play a role.

My hypothesis is that the most effective way of growing a vibrant ham radio community is to target adults ages 25 to 40.

This age range is more equipped and ready to be ham radio operators and are still young enough that they will be around for a while. Of course, we still want to work with all age groups, including kids and retirees. We’ve all seen very young hams get the bug for ham radio early and carry it throughout their life. And we also see plenty of older folks get interested in the hobby as they approach or enter retirement. We don’t want to miss out on either of those groups.

So that’s my read on the situation. I’ve got some data to support my theory but I can’t really prove it. What do you think? What are you seeing in your ham radio community?

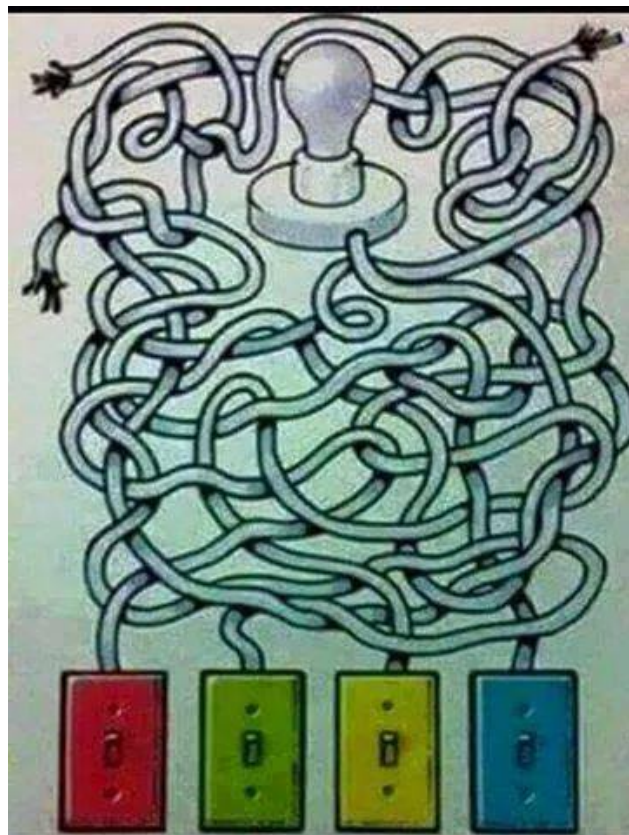
73, Bob KØNR



This photo was taken today of a major rock slide in Ohio. Sources have confirmed that once they removed the boulder they found the remains of a coyote underneath. Witnesses say they saw a roadrunner quickly speeding away from the scene just after impact.



Photo courtesy of Transportation.
It has been rumored that there is a lawsuit pending over this accident. The coyote's family is allegedly suing Acme over the tiny umbrella that did nothing to deflect the rock



Which one turns on the light?

How I got into Ham Radio

Glenn R. Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ



When I was in sixth grade (1958 or so) my good friend got a Hallicrafters S-53A receiver for a birthday present from his grandparents. I had always played with motors, batteries, lights, buzzers and bells.... This seemed to be the next logical step. We spent hours listening to BBC, VOA, Radio Moscow, etc. We also found the ham bands and listened to guys chatting on AM. My dad found an old Zenith Transoceanic receiver somewhere and I was off and running on my own.. It was pretty sick, as I recall, and it really didn't hear all that well.

Part way through seventh grade, I started bugging my parents for a better receiver. They did not show much interest in buying me one.. A little while later an informal deal was reached. If I passed seventh grade, they would "help" me get a better receiver.. Seeing that seventh grade was my worst year in all 12 years of school, I had a job on my hands.. Somehow I managed to pull it off and I got a used Hallicrafters S-38E at Radio Distributing Co. in Harrisburg, PA, which was the local radio and TV parts place. They actually had a ham radio section with all sorts of neat stuff and Jim, W3FUM (SK) worked there... (This was June 1959)

I nearly wore the thing out listening morning, noon and night. I became more and more fascinated with ham radio. We moved a few miles that summer into a new home. A block away was a 6 element, 10 meter beam on a 50 foot tower. I rode my bike over and met Charlie Crider, W3HTO/W3GE (SK) He was a DXer and I spent a lot of time at his house watching him play radio. We went on a family vacation that summer to Philadelphia to see the historic sites. My dad stopped in a news center to grab a newspaper, and I spotted a pile of CQ magazines. I am still not sure why they had used magazines. I got an entire year for 50 cents! I wore them out reading them cover to cover, even though I had little idea, what I was looking at. My dad got me a ARRL License Manual and a Radio Amateurs Handbook, and I began to study.. I built a 2 transistor Code Practice Oscillator from a kit that we ordered from somewhere. I used a soldering iron better suited for sheet metal. Through some miracle it worked! I found out that learning the code took more effort than just thinking about it! Fast forward to the beginning of 10th grade (1961) little progress had been made on the code. The first day of school, I met Ed Cox, who had moved into the area from Pittsburgh over the summer. We were both about the same place in our efforts. We started riding each other about the code and things started to fall in place for both of us.. Another thing that happened was while I was in the basement (my dad called it the "hole") working on the code with my AMECO code RECORD, my dad sat down and started copying along. I asked him, how he knew the code. I knew that he had been a pilot in WWII, but didn't know about the code. He dug into his files and showed me a certificate for 10 WPM from the U.S. Army Air Corp. I then learned that pilots had to know the code to follow Radio Navigation Beacons. That made sense. He got back in the groove at 5 WPM with no problem. He would later go on to become KN3UKO and then K3UKO(SK). His call is currently held by the loosely organized Central PA Contest Club of which I am the Trustee, President, etc. I had a Physics and Chemistry teacher, Dave Anwyll, W3HCC (SK) who tested Ed and I for our Novice Licenses in February or March 1962. In April, I became KN3SWZ and Ed became KN3SWJ (now KE3D). Dave was also a pilot and left teaching in the middle 60's and became an airline pilot. That man had so much influence on my life in so many ways! I had ultimate respect for him. He was a super man in my world. I was able to stay in regular contact with him until he died in 1998. I think I felt worse at his funeral than at my own father's funeral. RIP Dave, you were a great teacher and friend.

A few weeks after receiving my Novice License, I was invited to attend a meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club. My new friend John, KN3SFW (now W4II) made arrangements for some unknown person to pick me up and take me to the meeting... Can you imagine that happening today???

I walked into the room and I was in awe.. Living and breathing hams of all ages and knowledge levels and they all welcomed me, a dumb kid who had been a ham for about 3 weeks! The program that night was a club member, Ray Green, W3UDH/KM4HQ (SK) who had just started a company called Greenray Industries, that made crystal oscillators and frequency standards. He talked about basic transistor theory. This guy must be a genius, I thought! Little did I know that some years later I would start to work for Ray, and it would last for some 17 years!

I joined the 271st Mobile Communications Squadron of the PA Air National Guard to fulfill my military obligation. When the First Sgt. found out I was a ham and worked in the electronics industry, he got out the enlistment paperwork on the spot. I soon learned that there were several hams in the unit. I was even able to talk my way into a promotion later based on being a ham and passing all of the necessary tests, even though I didn't have enough "time-in-grade" for the promotion. I had no way of knowing that I would meet my XYL, Barbara, through ham radio. No, she was not a ham, but we were introduced by mutual friends who were hams.



I had to be the only kid on the block in the early 60's to have a TV in his bedroom. Someone gave it to me because it didn't work and after I fixed it, I used it for a number of years. While I was in high school, I wanted to be a Broadcast Engineer, as I knew a number of hams who worked in that field. I could think of nothing better than getting paid for working with big transmitters. That never happened, for various reasons and actually for the better. My parents always said they felt comfortable about ham radio. If I was not in our basement, they knew I was in someone else's basement, morning, noon or night playing with radios or with other hams at a club meeting or such. When I actually got on the air in the Summer of 1962, it was with some pretty basic stuff.. I used a crystal controlled Knight T-60 transmitter with a dipole antenna (there is a separate story behind this antenna, but that is for another time!) and a surplus Navy receiver (RBO, I think?) that weighed a ton. It had almost no band spread on 40 meters, but somehow I made contacts. My dad and I somehow figured out how to hook up a Heathkit Q-Multiplier, which really helped a somewhat poor receiver. Years later, I found out that this receiver was built for "ships entertainment" and not, communications -- that answered a lot of questions. I fell in love with DX, although my best DX as a Novice, was a VE3! As the saying goes, the rest is history. Upgrades to Amateur Extra, DXCC Honor Roll No. 1, RTTY, Moonbounce, OSCAR, Contesting, DXpeditions, etc. I have met so many wonderful people over those 54 or so years, through ham radio. Some have become very close friends and some just friends passing in the night. I honestly don't know what my life would be like at this moment, had I not discovered ham radio. It has done so much for me in so many ways.

State Ousts Leader Of Oregon Amateur Radio Service

The state is cutting ties with the head of Oregon's amateur radio service, Vince Van Der Hyde.

The cut comes after he asked volunteers not to take part in a recent emergency drill — because of bad equipment and control issues.

When Oregon suffers a major earthquake, cell phones, telephone lines and other communication systems may fail — or be overwhelmed. So the state has an agreement with amateur radio enthusiasts to provide a backup system.

That system was scheduled to be tested during a drill last week.

But Van Der Hyde, the head of the Oregon Amateur Radio Emergency Service, asked his members not to participate.

He declined to comment for this story, but in a letter he said state equipment was in disarray, volunteers were not given enough time to prepare and the state doesn't have operational control of the service.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management issued a statement confirming the end of the relationship with Van Der Hyde. But stressed that it's not cutting ties with the amateur radio group.

World Radiocommunication Conference Approves Global 60 Meter Allocation!

The Plenary Meeting of the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) in Geneva has approved an allocation of 5351.5-5366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis with a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP). The November 18 decision on Agenda Item 1.4 was adopted on two back-to-back readings. Some Region 2 countries, but not the US, will be permitted up to 25 W EIRP. With this action, and despite conditions that are more restrictive than had been hoped at the start of the Conference, the Amateur Service has obtained its first new global HF allocation since 1979. The new band will not become available until and unless the FCC adopts the Acts of the Conference and establishes operating rules. Until then, the five discrete channels will remain in place.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) team in Geneva is now focusing its efforts on tweaking the agenda for WRC-19. It is likely, but not certain, that the agenda will include an effort to harmonize the Amateur Radio allocation at 50 MHz. A proposed agenda item to align the 160 meter allocation in Region 1 with the rest of the world is no longer under active consideration.

The WRC-19 agenda will also likely pose spectrum defense challenges, including the possible consideration of the 144 MHz and 430 MHz Amateur Radio allocations for sharing with the space operations service, and the possible consideration of one or more bands above 10 GHz for 5G smartphone use. The bounds of these potential defensive items, however, are still under discussion.

The IARU team continues to monitor several other WRC-15 items that appear to be headed toward acceptable conclusions. WRC-15 continues through the signing of the Final Acts on November 27.



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\$3,000.00

Contact Steven Gobat Ka3pdq@arrl.net

717.439.0090 7am to 9pm

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!

From the Editor's Desk

Well, get ready for me to start bugging everyone about the importance of emergency communications again. I have been appointed EC/ECS guy (person) for Dauphin County Pa. These are the positions formerly known as ARES/RACES. If you would like to be involved, please contact me. The skills that you can learn may help you and your family some day.

I have a rather full schedule of Christmas Parties scheduled for the next few weeks. I have seen so many things at parties over the years that should be in a book. Maybe some day I will write one. My wish this season is that every one of you will not over consume, or take chances this wonderful holiday season. If you do over consume, please have someone else drive. We all know that a full stomach makes it very difficult to concentrate in traffic. (And now, the fine print)

I welcome and encourage submissions to be published. I am just asking for you all to understand and follow a few guidelines. As an editor, my job is to compile stories as submitted to me, and to check for misspelled words, and grammar problems. Your job is to submit a ready to print article. If you have pictures, please add them to your email and they will be placed into the article. If your story is only fragmented sentences, or just copy points, it will be returned to you to correct. This is not because I am a bad guy, but because it takes valuable time to decipher the meaning intended. Please write any articles from the viewpoint of a reader who knows absolutely nothing about the subject. This includes including the meanings of acronyms.

Please do not wait until a day before publication date to submit things. If that is done, it will not be included. Most, if not all regular information is known by the middle of any month, and should be submitted immediately. If you are writing an article about an event, write it while the event is fresh in your mind, and submit it. Don't wait until the end of the month. Send articles to HRAC.newsletter@Yahoo.com.

Tnx 73

Editor: Terry WB3BKN (AKA Perry White)

Proofer: Jim WF3J



HRAC 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 _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ARRL Member: Y _____ N _____

* YEAR FIRST LICENSED _____

SIGNATURE _____

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



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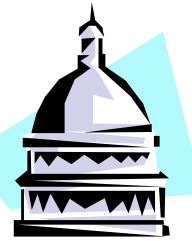
(I always wanted to say that)

OK. One more picture. The BIG PIANO at FAO Schwarz.





Saturday JANUARY 23rd 2016
(Snow date 30th)



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)

This will be our last time at this location. Check www.W3UU.org for next year's location

- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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 the parking area

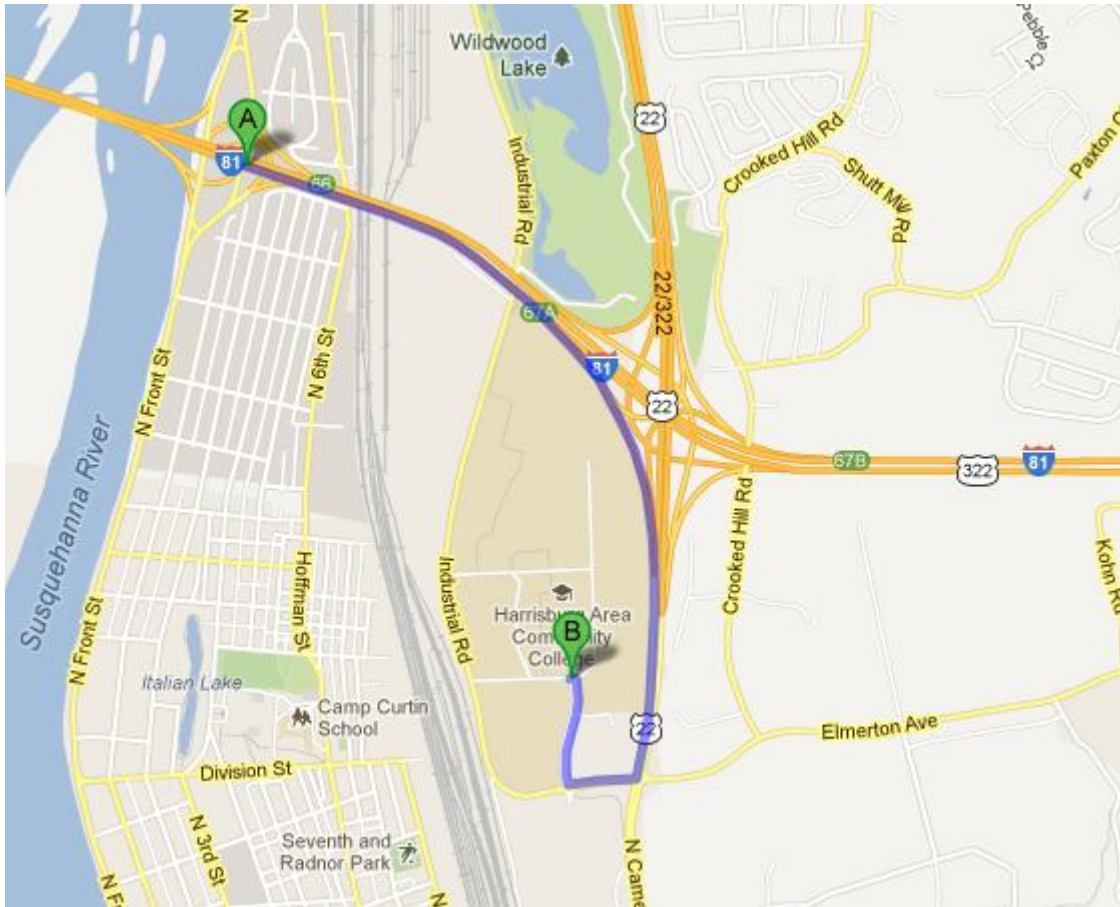
General Admission: 8:00 AM

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.