



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.....

Spring is definitely in the air and the days are (with a few exceptions) getting progressively warmer. Once this wind dies down I, for one, will be getting up on the roof to do some spring antenna work. Mostly routine stuff, cleaning connections, re-terminating coax and generally checking things out for signs of wear and tear wrought by Old Man Winter.

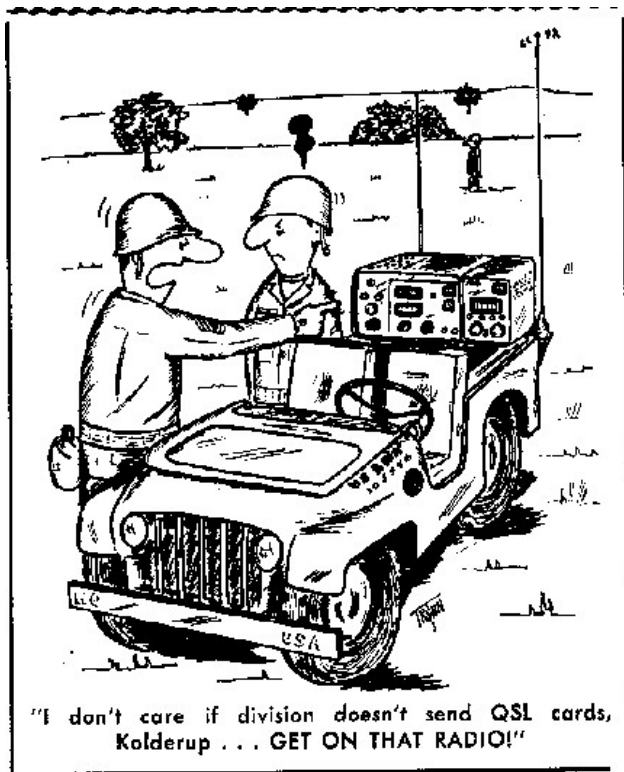
After things are all secured on the home front, it will be time to plan a radio outing of some sort. It may be just a Saturday afternoon of operating portable from the park up the road for starters, but I'd like to get in at least one good outing to a unique location. I don't think I'm up to anything like the turnpike event some of our members did last year, but I'd definitely like to try a location that was a bit farther than my own back yard. Time will tell.

The CQ WPX SSB contest fell over Easter weekend this year, so I didn't have a lot of time to devote to it. That's not a big problem as far as I'm concerned. I'm not anywhere close to being what could be called a serious contester, but it is fun to get on the air and make contacts nonetheless. In the five or six hours I was on the air I managed to get 81 contacts in the log. Not a world class showing, but like I said, it was a lot of fun.

See you at the meeting.

73,

Tim KB3OZA



March Meeting Minutes

The March 9, 2016 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 1906 HRS by the president, Tim (KB3OZA).

Secretary Report - The minutes of the December meeting were published in the newsletter. Dave (N3DSA) made a motion to accept the minutes seconded by Steve (KC3EUU). Motion PASSED

Treasurers Report – Joe (KQ3F) presented the treasurer’s report. Joe (K3SZH) made a motion, seconded by Dave (N3DSA) to accept the report. Motion PASSED

Equipment Trustee – No Change

Repeater – Steve (KA3PQD) and Terry (WB3BKN) were testing the repeater coverage.

VE Committee – The next test session will be on April 16th.

Membership Committee – Tim (KB3OZA) reported 97 current members. 72 are ARRL members.

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

Web page – Not Present.

EMCOMM – Terry (WB3BKN) is looking for volunteers for future EMCOMM operations including the Horse Ride in July.

DXCC – No Report

Entertainment – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that this month’s presentation will be about 2M J-Pole antennas.

Elmer Time – Terry (WB3BKN) did a presentation about on-air etiquette.

Old Business –

- The new title and registration was received for the trailer.
- There was discussion about the PA QSO party bonus station.

New Business – None

Good of the Club –

- The Ham Luncheon will be on March 31st.
- There was discussion about different portable operation events in the future.

Adjournment – There being no further business to conduct, Steve (KB3EUU) made a motion, seconded by Dave (N3DSA), to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 1957 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.

The next VE Testing session will be on **Saturday April 16, 2016** in the HACC Shumaker building at Gate 5 on Industrial road, Harrisburg, PA. Pre-Registration is required. Please arrive by 8:30am

As a reminder the question pool for Extra Class will change on 7/1/2016



Pictures of Dave, W3SOX's shack

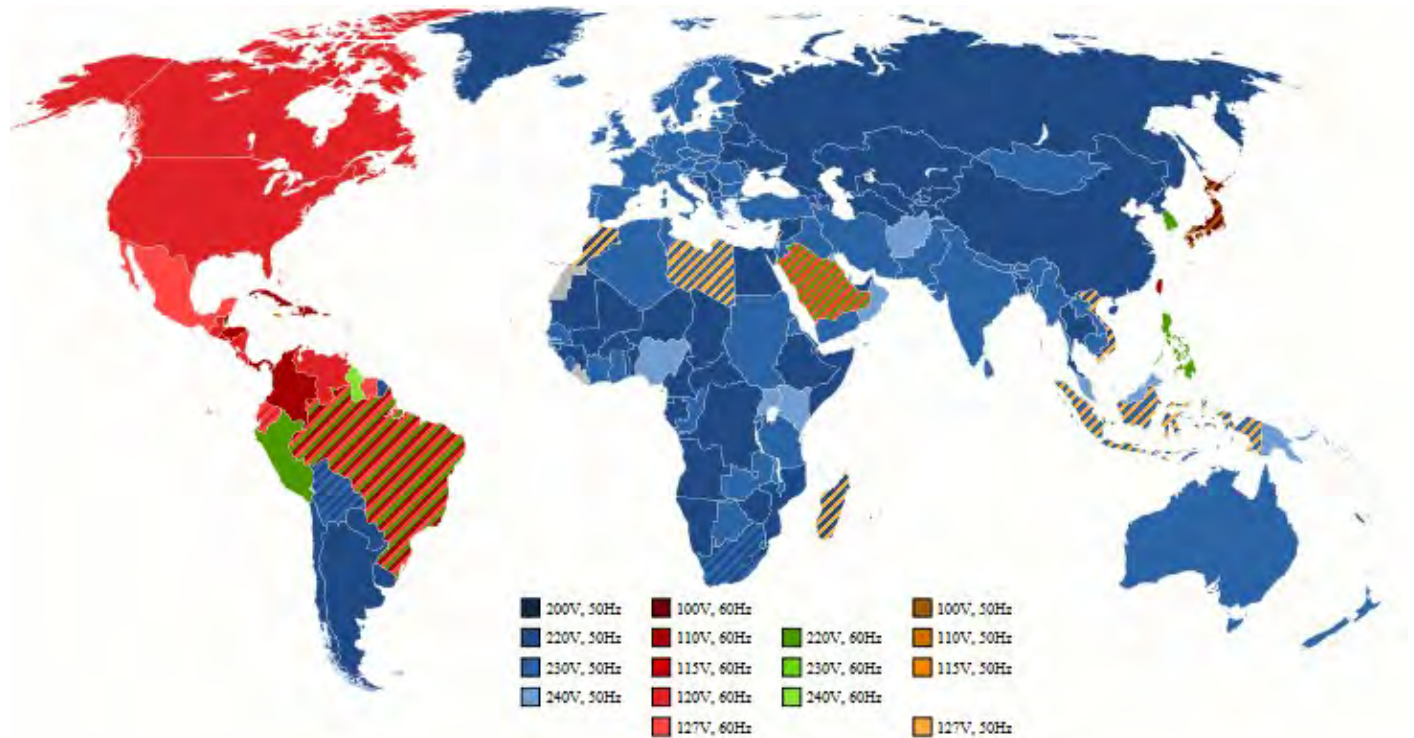


Please send any articles for the newsletter to hrac.newsletter@Yahoo.com

Why doesn't the US use 220V like everyone else in the world?

By [Jeffrey Bausch](#)

It's a common question tied to a couple of common misconceptions. First is the idea that the United States is the only country in the world to use the 120V 60Hz standard. The fact of the matter is that there are many other countries that primarily use 120V. To this end, there is no "everyone else in the world". Some countries use 240V, some 230V, others 220V, and so on. Just take a look at the map below to get a clearer understanding of the global disparity:



To answer the question, though—the US does have a higher power supply. Nearly all homes in the US have 240V alternating current lines at the service entrance to the household as well as select locations within the home. The reason it's 240V is because that's the power line that has been standardized over here. Some European countries use 220V, while some specify 230V; most appliances will accept 220-240V however.

The appliances hooked up to this higher power supply (generally speaking) include more energy dependent machines like ovens and laundry machines. Regular appliances like lamps, laptops, and phones do not need access to this power.

For those who are surprised to hear households have 240V coming into the home, the way it works is as follows: right prior to the residence entry, the line transformer secondaries are center-trapped so as to provide split-phase 240V on two hot legs (1 and 2) and neutral at the center tap (which is referenced to Earth at the breaker box). For most home outlets, either leg 1 or leg 2 is used with the neutral line to provide 120V alternating current to power small appliances with a plug-in cord. In this sort of set-up, there won't be any outlet above 120V. Also, if you looked at both legs at the same time, they'd both appear to be 180 degrees out of phase from one another.

For larger appliances, as in the case of the aforementioned oven and laundry machine, they will use leg 1 to leg 2 voltage, which is a straight shot of 240V line to line out of special outlets, or otherwise specially hardwired to specific areas of the home. While larger appliances generally draw approximately 1800 watts (15 amps at 120V), these special outlets / hardwired spots can take up to 3600 W (30A at 240V).

Now, historically speaking, one of the main reasons why the US stuck with 120V as its standard power supply largely has to do with the fact that it was initially tied to carbon filament lighting. Later, a metal filament was created which could be used for more efficient power distribution systems using 220V, but since the country's power grid was already largely established using 120V infrastructure, there was no real gain to scrapping the initial system just to go with a new higher-voltage system. So 120V was made the standard.

The United Kingdom is one area of the world that did change things up after setting up its power grid. It was much smaller than the United States version, but could not be supported after World War II when the UK began running out of copper to rebuild its infrastructure. To fix the problem, it decided to instead build the fuse into their plugs; this, as opposed to having all outlets connected to a fuse box individually. This is why the outlets in the UK are different from those in mainland Europe.



So, the answer to the question is a nation's needs come before global unity. It doesn't make sense to change everything just to be the same as everyone else. The only time it does make sense to harmonize a power grid is to make it possible to join power grids, or to make using another country's electrical equipment easier. The US has a substantially larger grid than many other countries in the world, and a large domestic market that uses it to great extent so, from a global trade perspective, there's nothing really driving the US to update its power grid.

What's more, considering the fact that many of today's digital electronics and switching power supplies are able to work on a majority of the world's domestic main power voltages and frequencies, there's no change coming in the foreseeable future.

HAM RADIO CLASS

Preparation and Test for FCC Amateur Radio Technician License

April, 16 2016 (0800-1600) – April, 17 2016 (0800-1200)

Testing April, 17 (1200-1500)

No Charge for the class

Laurel VE charges no License Testing Fee

Come with an open mind, pen and paper. We discourage the use of iPhones, etc. during the class except for emergencies.

A simple calculator and a windows PC are useful.

Class is held at the Holy Spirit Hospital

501 North 21st Street

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Access point for the hospital is the door marked Emergency and Outpatient Entrance. Security can then direct you to the proper location.

External contact: Ralph Brandt K3HQL ralph.brandt@comcast.net 717-885-3063

Holy Spirit contact – Pamela Drake Nesbitt pjdrakenesbitt@geisinger.edu

Pre-registration helps knowing how many to expect for planning purposes. Please give a phone number and email when registering where you can be reached in case of bad weather and to provide contact. Upon passing the test an FCC Technician Class license is usually issued within a week.

HRAC (W3UU) bonus station for the 2016 PA QSO Party

It may seem early, but the 2016 PA QSO Party will be here before you know it. For 2016, the Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club will be the bonus station for the PA QSO Party, which runs October 8-9. We were selected, in part, due to the successfully innovative bonus station(s) we ran the last time we did this.

The significance of being the bonus station is that each contact with you is worth 200 points, ***in addition*** to the normal 1 point for SSB and 2 points for CW/Digital. So you become not just one of the in-state “hunted”, you technically become “super hunted”.

So how do we intend to implement this bonus station? There are several options:

1. One station with either a single or multiple transmitters. This is the way bonus stations used to operate until HRAC shook things up with a new idea.
2. One station in each HRAC county. This is what we did last time. We had one station each in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry and York counties, all signing W3UU/county. This means that the Dauphin county station signed W3UU/DAU, the Cumberland county station signed W3UU/CUM, etc, allowing callers to differentiate among the stations. Everyone could contact each W3UU in the different counties and they could also contact each W3UU on different bands/modes. So you could contact W3UU/DAU on 40 CW, on 40 SSB, on 20 CW, etc. Then do the same for W3UU/CUM, W3UU/PER and W3UU/YOR. We also had a mobile station running around eastern PA, using the same W3UU/county callsign as the fixed stations. One condition was that the mobile station was not allowed to transmit from the counties where we had fixed stations operating.
3. Multiple stations in each HRAC county, operating on different bands/modes. This means that any club member who wants to operate as W3UU/county can do so, there just needs to be coordination among stations within a county as to who operates which band/mode. For example, you could have the following scenario:

W3UU/DAU on 40 (CW and/or SSB), another W3UU/DAU on 20, another W3UU on 80, etc. Or...

W3UU/DAU on CW (any band), another W3UU/DAU on SSB (any band), another W3UU/DAU on digital (any band).

Repeat either scenario with the other counties.

Option 3 also involves the trailer operating from counties outside the fixed station counties, and possibly a mobile station (skeptical on the mobile, but it's possible). You can also look at this option as a large distributed multiple-operator multiple-transmitter operation. You can have a station with beams and amps, or a station with wires or a vertical and no amp (barefoot), it doesn't matter. You'll still be popular, just louder with the first station.

I'd like to do option 3. Yes, it's more complicated and will require scheduling and real-time coordination, but I also see it as more fun. Don't want to operate the full 22 hours of the PA QSO Party? No problem. Pick the hour(s) and band(s)/mode(s) you want to operate and we'll do our best to accommodate everyone.

So that's the initial information on this year's bonus station effort. If you don't know what a QSO party is, there's plenty of time for you to find out. Future newsletters will list major QSO parties being held that month, so you can listen in and get a feel for how these things work. You can even make a few contacts, if you like. We'll also list the significant rules for the PA QSO Party well in advance, so everyone understands what's required.

But the key is to have fun, because if we're not having fun, what's the point? I think we can put together an outstanding effort, but that will rely on the membership. You don't have to be a hard core tester, just someone wanting to give out contacts in one of the more enjoyable contests around.

If you have any questions, or want to volunteer your station, email me at kq3f@comcast.net.

HAM RADIO ETIQUETTE

Congratulations on your new ham license. We understand that getting on the air can be a bit intimidating. Don't worry; we all were new hams once

Take the time to listen

Speak like you were talking to someone face to face. Key the mike, AND THEN start to talk. Don't start speaking as you key the mike. Repeaters have a short delay before transmitting. If you start speaking too soon, your first few words may not be heard. Make sure you have finished talking before you un-key the mike. Give your call sign clearly, and slowly.

Use English and avoid jargon as much as possible. Q-codes are really a Morse code short hand. They have their place when voice communications are marginal. Say, "My wife" rather than the "xyl".

Avoid falling into the habit of using cute-isms: "Roger Roger", "QSL on that"...

Avoid phonetics unless you are asked to do so. When using phonetics, use standard phonetics. "Alpha, Bravo, Charlie"... etc.

If you are listening and would like to have a conversation, just give your call sign. You can add "monitoring", or "listening". Using the term "CQ" on a repeater is generally discouraged.

When you wish to communicate on a frequency, listen for a while before talking, there may be a conversation in progress.

If you want to join into a conversation, just give your call between transmissions rather than using the term "Break Break". You will be acknowledged and allowed into the conversation.

If you want to talk to a certain person, call their using their call sign once or twice, then your call sign.

In an emergency, give your call and say "emergency" rather than using "Break Break". Saying "emergency" will make it clear why you are interrupting and it will also get more attention from those just listening.

Make sure you ID (state your call sign) according to the rules, but avoid over ID'ing. If you are using a repeater system, the repeater has a timer so that it can ID every 10 minutes. Whenever you hear the repeater ID that is a good time to send yours. There is no need to send your call sign, then say "For ID". Your call sign IS your ID.

It is generally frowned upon to "Ker-chunk" a repeater. That means keying up your radio for just a moment so that the repeater transmits, usually you hear the "courtesy beep" afterwards. This is also annoying to the repeater owners and control operators. If you want to make sure you are transmitting okay, make sure you give your call sign.

Have fun. These are just a few pointers to help you sound like an old pro. You will make friends. Do not be afraid to ask questions. We were all beginners at one time.

Mary Ann Crider, WA3HUP SK

For the past ten and one half years Mary Ann Crider, WA3HUP has provided Radio Amateurs whose call sign has a three in it with exemplary service as Manager for the ARRL Third Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau. Her tenure has been notable for its length of service and for the collegial atmosphere she has nurtured among her loyal band of sorters.

Ms. Crider came to the position with stellar qualifications. Anyone who knows her has remarked over and over again how she is a "natural" for the job. Her encyclopedic knowledge of DXCC entities and call sign prefixes was built by her work in the trenches, as illustrated by her DXCC confirmed total of 360 entities including deletions and the certificate on the wall awarded by CQ Magazine for being the first Novice, as WN3HUP, to qualify for that magazine's CQ DX award.

Prior to accepting the Bureau Manager position Ms. Crider had served a total of 11 years as a sorter for the bureau. At times she was responsible all by herself for five letters of the alphabet. Such was her reputation and the quality of her work that when ARRL HQ needed extra help her services were requested and she willingly accepted. In that connection she served for three years as a sorter for incoming packages of QSLs arriving from overseas at ARRL HQ, and for almost three years she also sorted and mailed the majority of QSLs for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau.

In managing the bureau she is firm but fair. Where problems arise she is quick to correct them but in a way that maintains the devotion and friendship of her sorters. The annual luncheon which she hosts for her sorters has the feel of a family reunion.

Ms. Crider's accomplishments have not by any means been limited to her bureau work. She takes very seriously the Radio Amateur's creed to promote international friendship. In this regard she served as long-time QSL Manager for one of Amateur Radio's highest profile practitioners of all time, Alhussein Ibn Talal, JY1 popularly known as King Hussein of Jordan, right up until his untimely death. Such was His Majesty's appreciation for her work that on more than one occasion he invited her to visit him in Jordan, all expenses paid.

But her work as QSL manager has not been limited to service for the high and mighty. She has performed the same function for, among others, Radio Amateurs in Mexico and Turkey. She took on QSL Manager chores for several beginning Amateurs in Iraq and in the process taught them all about operating and DXing.

For all of the foregoing and more, the American Radio Relay League is proud and honored to award Mary Ann Crider, WA3HUP its President's Award for 2005.

Mary Ann got me into the QSL sorting business when, through the late Pete DiVolpi, K3PD, who was her "right-hand" man at the bureau, she invited me to become the sorter of the "Z" suffix calls for the bureau. Her logic was simple: I got more cards at the time than any other "3" with a "Z" suffix, so "why not ask Fred?" Thus began a period of several years where each month I and my late XYL Somporn would drive up to her place to get the monthly sort of cards for the "Z's". She was exceptionally kind to Somporn and Somporn looked forward to those monthly visits, where Mary Ann taught her embroidery among other things and inspired Somporn to take that up for herself. May Ann's stories about her visits with King Hussein were very entertaining, along with her tales about growing up in Rhode Island, about her life with her by-then-long-deceased husband W3GE who got her into ham radio, and so many other topics.

Ham radio has lost yet another outstanding member of our incredible fraternity.
73 in sadness,

Fred, K3ZO

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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!

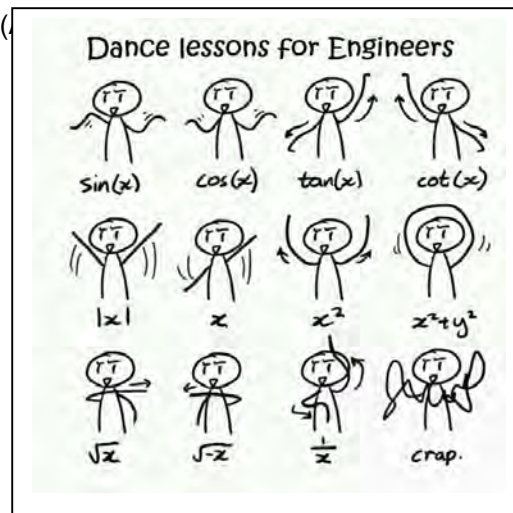
From the Editor's Desk

Since nobody reads this anyway... Have you ever went over a friends house to eat, And the food just ain't no good? The macaroni's soggy, the peas are mushed, And the chicken tastes like wood. So you try to play it off like you think you can, By saying that you're full. And then your friend says, "Mama, he's just being polite He ain't finished, uh-uh, that's bull!" So your heart starts pumpin' and you think of a lie, And you say that you already ate. And your friend says "Man, there's plenty of food" So you pile some more on your plate. While the stinky food's steamin', your mind starts to dreamin' Of the moment that it's time to leave, And then you look at your plate and your chicken's slowly rottin' Into something that looks like cheese. Oh so you say "That's it, I gotta leave this place, I don't care what these people think, I'm just sittin' here makin' myself nauseous, With this ugly food that stinks". So you bust out the door while it's still closed, Still sick from the food you ate, And then you run to the store for quick relief, From a bottle of Kaopectate

Tnx 73

Editor: Terry WB3BKN (

Proofer: Jim WF3J



Great Cesar's Ghost!! Where are all of my reporters??

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.

