



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.....

Thanksgiving is over and I hope it was an enjoyable time for everyone. For my part, all of the kids were home for the holiday, so that was nice. Next up, Christmas.

But before that we have our December meeting, and that means our holiday cookie exchange. That's always a fun event. I like to see what everyone brings.

The winter hamfest is coming up in January. We're going to be at a new location and I'm starting to really get excited about it. We will be at the Vietnam Veterans of America on Derry St, about two or three blocks past The Wharf restaurant.

On another note, I've been running the weekly Skywarn net for the last month or so. I did take last week off for Thanksgiving and will probably take the night off between Christmas and New Year's.

It would be nice if some other folks would step up and volunteer to take the net once in a while. It doesn't take a lot of effort to read the script and log check-ins. The net usually lasts 15 minutes or so, depending on the amount of check-ins there are. It's really not a huge commitment. I'd like to see the Skywarn net get active again and would appreciate all the help I can get with achieving that.

Well, enough of my ranting for now. I hope to see you at the next meeting. Don't forget to bring your cookies to share.

73,
Tim KB3OZA



November Meeting Minutes

The November 9, 2016 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1900 HRS by the President, Tim Lehman (KB3OZA).

Secretary Report – The minutes of the October meeting were published in the newsletter. Chuck (N3WL) made a motion to accept the minutes as published, seconded by Rick (K2RBT) 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.

Election of Officers - Rick (K2RBT) reported that he had contacted all the current officers and all had agreed to continue their current positions;

President – Tim Lehman – KB3OZA, Vice President – Terry Snyder- WB3BKN, Treasurer – Joe Stepansky – KQ3F Secretary – Steven Gobat – KA3PDQ

Equipment Trustee – Terry (WB3BKN) Trailer – Work is continuing on the trailer and some equipment has been installed.

License Trustee – Steven (KA3PDQ) Everything is normal.

Repeater Committee

- .760 Repeater – Still being plagued by high noise levels and interference. The committee is looking for a different site.
- UHF Repeater – The UHF repeater is currently at the storage unit in Dauphin.

Laurel VE Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next test session is December 17 at HACC at 9:00 AM.

Membership Committee – Tim (KB3OZA) reported the Club has 102 members on the role with 75 of those are ARRL members.

Newsletter Editor – Terry (WB3BKN) Thanked all who submit articles however he can still use more on any subject and the editor will decide if they can fit in the newsletter.

Web Page – The President present reported that the domain name "firecrackerhamfest.org" is up for renewal. After some discussion it was decided to renew it for (1) year at a cost of \$20.00. Bill (KE3YC) made the motion to renew for a (1) year period, Seconded by Rick (K2RBT) motion carried.

Emergency Communications – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that he is looking for a replacement to coordinate both the RACES and ARES position.

DXCC Committee – The President reported that he had contacted the ARRL about the new outgoing QSL fee structure and the cost to the club would be \$7.00 per package and \$1.15 per ounce.

Entertainment – Tim (KB3OZA) reported that he was working on a Field trip to WHP 580 Studios sometime in the spring 2017.

Hamfest Committee – Tim (KB3OZA) reported that the Winter Hamfest will be held on January 21, 2017 at the Vietnam Veterans of America Building, 8000 Derry St, Harrisburg, PA. The Hamfest is now listed as an official event with the ARRL.

Field Day – No report at this time.

Elmer Time – Terry (WB3BKN) is seeking suggestions or presenters for 30 minute programs before the monthly meetings.

Old Business –

New Business –

Good of the Club –

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1928 HRS. Motion to adjourn Rob (K2RBT).

Respectfully Submitted

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

2016

Savings

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,160.57
Interest	.22
Deposits	
Membership Dues	
Hamfest	
Total Deposits	-----

Withdrawals

Transfer to Checking	(500.00)
Transfer to CD	-
Redeemed to CD	-

Ending Savings Balance **\$ 4,660.89**

Checking

Beginning Balance	\$ 206.04
Withdrawals	
Deposits	
Membership Dues	22.50
Winterfest Proceeds	
Worked PA Award	-----
Total Deposits	22.50
Transfer from Savings	500.00
Transfer from CD	-
Expenses	
Check 822 – Nick Rylatt – Meeting refreshments	11.47
Check 823 - Mercer Consumer = Liability Insurance	320.00
Check 824 – Dauphin Mini Storage – Storage rental	79.50

Total Expenses (410.97)

Ending Checking Balance **\$ 317.57**

Total Funds **\$ 4,978.00**

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 December 17, 2016** in the HACC Shumaker building at Gate 5 on Industrial road, Harrisburg, PA. Pre-Registration is required. Please arrive by 8:30am

Our First Session for 2017 will be on **January 21, 2017** at HRAC's **Winterhamfest**, located at **8000 Derry St, Harrisburg, PA "Vietnam's Veteran Assoc"**.

Time for this will be at 9 A.M. FYI applicants will still need to preregister to take the exam.

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

As a reminder the question pool for Extra Class has changed on 7/1/2016

Stolen Radios

I am reporting stolen radios. Please advise any members to be on the lookout for these items. Listed are the radios below. Yaesu FT-60 Serial # 5J920734 Yaesu FTM-100DR/DE Serial # 6G220133 Any help in this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank You for any and all assistance.

Contact Jim Seedor, KC3GYE,
jtseedor@comcast.net 717-579-1733

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



ARLS001 Satellite Package Carrying



For Sale (PRICE REDUCED!!)

1986 F350 460CI

ALL RADIOS INCLUDED

Attached is a picture of the inside of the truck.

It is an old picture and lot of equipment has been added.

It has mono band radios for 6,2,220,440 and 1.2 ghz

It has 3 dual band radios, low band for Dauphin County, SGC HF radio and

auto tuner. It has a 440 ATV transceiver and a satellite receiver for 1.2 ghz FM ATV. It has a VHS VCR, a GPS receiver, a small color monitor for use with ATV and the VCR. In the rack there is a GMRS repeater and a two meter repeater. The repeaters are just bolted in the rack and would need re-crystalled and tuned and duplxers if one wanted to try and use them. The truck itself is a 1986 Ford F350 ambulance, with a 460ci engine 4 barrel carb, automatic transmission. The Air conditioning has been removed. The truck gets about 6 miles to the gallon going downhill. It has not been inspected for 2 or 3 years. It is sold as is and includes all the radio equipment.

I hope this answers your questions. The reason we are selling it is the public service events that we once did have all but gone away with everyone having a cell phone in their pocket. We used to provide communication support for 20 events a year. **\$2,000.00** Contact Steven Gobat Ka3pdq@arrl.net
717.439.0090 7am to 9pm REACT Communications Truck



ARRL DX QSL Bureau mailing for HRAC members

I plan to make the next mailing to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau right after the New Year 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)

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 December HRAC meeting or the December Ham Lunch. 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@arrl.net

73

de Glenn, K3SWZ

Ground Rod installation Tip

I was planning to install a couple of 4 foot ground rods for my Beverage on Ground (BOG) project. Over the years I have had pretty poor luck installing ground rods, as I always seem to hit rock after the rod is half-way in and hopelessly stuck! I hatched a simple plan that worked very well... I made a "probe" out of a 0.5 in. dia. piece of steel stock. My friend welded a junk piece of angle iron across the top to make a "T" shape. The cross piece is about 18 in. long and the angle iron happened to be 1 in. I also took a big nut from the junk box and drilled out the threads so the 0.5 in rod would pass through the nut. He welded this nut into place, so I had something to pound on. After locating the desired spot for the holes, I started pounding the probe into the ground, twisting it a few turns after hitting it a few blows with the sledge hammer. If I did not hit a rock I kept going. At about 3.5 ft, I pulled it out fairly easily. I then drove the ground rod into the hole, which is slightly larger in diameter than the probe. The process took about 10-15 minutes. The only problem is that sledge hammer gets real heavy!

73

Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ



RSGB Criticizes TV Broadcast Portraying Radio Amateur as “Nightmare Neighbour”

11/01/2016

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has weighed in following the airing of a Channel 5 TV *Nightmare Neighbour Next Door* episode [the program may have been removed from the website — *Ed.*] that featured an Amateur Radio operator. In the program, neighbors of 75-year-old Armando Martins, M0PAM, of Kent, made unsubstantiated claims that RF radiating from his 30-foot vertical antenna was detrimental to their health.



“Unfortunately, the RSGB was not invited to be part of Channel 5’s *Nightmare Neighbour Next Door* programme or to verify any facts,” the RSGB said. “We have, of course, contacted Channel 5 about our concerns and have highlighted the positive aspects of Amateur Radio. We have also offered our expertise and input for future programmes where Amateur Radio is mentioned.”

Channel 5 broadcast the offending episode on October 27, and it drew criticism from radio amateurs across the UK, some of whom may have used a program complaint service form provided by telecommunications regulator Ofcom. Critics complained that the program was replete with false claims and note that Ofcom has never found any problems with Martins’ station.

Martins, a veteran radio amateur, was put off the air in 2010 by the Canterbury City Council after moving into a council house — a form of public housing — and was not allowed to install his antenna in the back garden, although that was more of a zoning issue. He subsequently

moved to Kent, where the health claims began.

A radio amateur for more than 60 years, Martins was first licensed as CR6IL in Portuguese West Africa (Angola).

“Our volunteers spend a lot of time helping radio amateurs with planning applications,” the RSGB said. “It is by putting forward facts during those processes that we can help to dispel myths about Amateur Radio and any impact on the public or environment.”

One of the best ways to counteract the public’s lack of understanding about amateur radio is to offer positive stories to the media. We are always looking for stories to share and will be very happy to help radio amateurs approach their local media too – please contact comms@rsgb.org.uk

The RSGB said it would let its members know if it receives a response from Channel 5.



Special Event Station to Celebrate the 95th Anniversary of the 1st Confirmed Transatlantic Amateur Radio Transmissions

Twenty years after Marconi invented Wireless the radio spectrum was becoming more crowded, and radio amateurs were limited to the short wavelengths below two hundred meters since none of the commercial stations could see any benefit in these short waves. However, after operating in the new short wave spectrum for a few years, radio amateurs using relatively small antennas and low power were noticing that at times their communication distance range would greatly increase. Naturally this aroused much interest in the amateur radio community.

The ARRL, which was the largest organization of radio amateurs, proposed an elaborate test to determine if these amateur radio short wave signals would reach across the Atlantic Ocean. Paul Godley, 2ZE, of Upper Montclair, New Jersey was chosen to go to Scotland and set up his short wave receiving station in Ardrossan, Scotland and be prepared to listen for amateur radio signals from America starting on December 7, 1921.

The Radio Club of America, the oldest active radio club, assisted this effort, with a team of six radio amateurs to design and build a short wave station in Greenwich, Connecticut using the call 1BCG. They built the transmitter with new, unproven designs and made changes almost daily until the start of the tests.

Transmissions were started and there existed some difficulty and confusion with interference from some nearby commercial stations but finally, at 2:52 AM Greenwich mean time, on the 12th of December, 1921, the following message was received on short waves by Paul Godley in Ardrossan from amateur radio station 1BCG in Greenwich, Connecticut:

To Paul Godley, Ardrossan, Scotland

Hearty Congratulations

Signed, Burghard, Inman, Grinan, Armstrong, Amy, Cronkite

(These were the RCA radio amateurs who designed, built and operated the station.)

This became the very first short wave message that was sent across the Atlantic ocean and this successful experiment shed much new knowledge about the capabilities of short wave radio communications. This led the way to opening up the whole short wave spectrum to thousands of short wave stations for long-range radio communications around the world that we enjoy today.

(From Various Internet Sources)



Whither Amateur Radio Emergency Communications?

There was a time, not so long ago, when amateur radio was a key, if not primary, source of information during disasters and emergencies. Those were the days before everyone had a communication device/camera/video recorder in their pockets. It was also before we had a relatively robust commercial wireless communication infrastructure, plus the Internet.

Those days are gone forever, which makes me wonder about the future of amateur radio for Emergency Communications, or EmComm. This article is not meant to inflame or annoy, but to bring this concern into the open.

Within the past two months we've witnessed two major Atlantic hurricanes (category 3 or higher). The first, Matthew, affected Haiti, Cuba, the Bahamas and much of the southeastern US coast. The second, Nicole, affected Bermuda. In both cases amateur radio operators and nets activated, seeking reports from the affected areas.

In both cases, reporting stations were generally few and far between. Net control operators called for hours, often with few answers. The answers they did receive were often radio checks, or weather reports that were little more than guesstimates of current conditions. Occasionally there was information that was useful to National Hurricane Center forecasters.

So what else was happening? Well, while hams were trying to get reports, videos were appearing on Twitter and other social media showing near real-time conditions. One video during Matthew showed the Atlantic Ocean breaching a sand dune in Jacksonville, Florida. Others showed significant damage to highway A1A. During Nicole there were videos showing near whiteout conditions as the hurricane's northern eye wall passed over Bermuda. Then, as the eye passed over Bermuda, there were numerous videos showing the relatively calm conditions.

For surface observations, the Weather Underground's Wundermap continued showing reports from numerous personal weather and other reporting stations. Yes, the accuracy of some left a bit to be desired, but an overall picture did emerge of hurricane impact.

I've noticed within the amateur community that social media outlets such as Twitter are sometimes met with mockery and contempt. Well, mock at your peril. These are becoming methods by which critical information is being reported (and, to be fair, a lot of nonsense). Yes, I'm well aware of Denial of Service attacks which can create difficulty with on-line connections. But is that so different than an equally unpredictable solar flare, which can create difficulty in the ham bands? Or the more predictable solar cycle, now nearing its low point?

I don't mean to dump on amateur radio. I've been a ham for over 45 years and still enjoy it. And there are many who've forgotten more about EmComm than I've learned. But I do wonder about amateur radio's EmComm future. Are we still relevant? If so, how? If not, how do we get relevant again? Or have newer technologies simply passed us by? I don't really know the answers to any of these questions and am hoping some in the general community might have some ideas. But if we keep ignoring the issue, the issue will eventually ignore us.

73, Joe KQ3F

Thanks to these local businesses that have helped promote our WinterFest

Bill's Restaurant, 5 W Main St, Hummelstown
 Cumberland Electronics, 2501 Sycamore St, Harrisburg
 Mainframe Computer Center, 2 W Main St, Hummelstown
 T Technology, 49 E Main St, Hummelstown
 J & S Computing, 900 State St, Lemoyne
 If you think of any others, let me know and I'll go see them.

73,

Tim KB3OZA

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

Without your contributions to this newsletter, there is nothing to report, and the paper suffers. Keep those cards and letters coming in. Take pictures of things that you do and share them with us.

Please note the new email address for articles:

Hrac.newsletter@gmail.com

Tnx 73

Editor: Terry WB3BKN (AKA Perry White)

Proofer: Jim WF3J





B/Gen. Tom Kuhn, PA ANG, ret., “Rosie the Riveter” and Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ, at the Veterans Day program at the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown. Special recognition was accorded to WW II veterans of which there were 55 present of the 400 folks in attendance...



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.

