

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.....

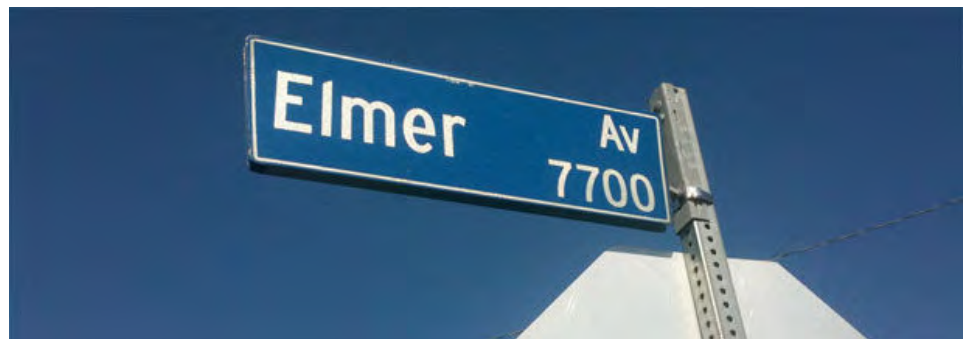
It's Memorial Day weekend and the hamfest is just over a month away. I'm sitting here wondering what happened to spring, because it went from too wet to too hot in no time at all. I hope this is a good omen for the weather at the hamfest this year. Hot weather doesn't seem to keep folks away like rain does.

I get so involved with the hamfest that it's easy to forget the other big event that's quickly approaching: Field Day! Good friends, good food and LOTS of radio! It doesn't get much better than that. And again, let's hope that the weather is better for this year's outing.

I took my portable gear out into the back yard the other day and operated for a couple of hours. I set up my operating position in the shade with my antenna attached to a fence post. A comfy lawn chair and a cooler of my favorite beverages completed the set-up. I had lots of fun, even though I didn't make very many contacts. At one point my neighbor walked over and checked out what I was up to and we got into a discussion about ham radio in general. He was a bit surprised that a license was required, but as we talked he began to realize that licensing was an important aspect of the hobby. It helps to maintain some level of technical competence and skill. Maybe as time goes on his interest might grow.

73,

Tim KB3OZA



**This month during Elmer Time, we begin a series about the Decibel. Understanding the DB, dbm, db and S point, and more can be quite difficult for many. We will try to confuse you even more. ☺**

**Elmer time begins at 6:30pm on the night of the meeting**

## May Meeting Minutes

The May 11, 2016 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 April meeting were published in the newsletter. Steve (KC3EUU) made a motion to accept the minutes seconded by Richard (KB3YRC). Motion PASSED

**Treasurers Report** – Joe (KQ3F) presented the treasurer's report. Steve (KC3EUU) made a motion, seconded by Milan (KC3AYU) to accept the report. Motion PASSED

**Equipment Trustee** – No Change

**Repeater** – Steve (KA3PQD) and Terry (WB3BKN) went to the repeater site to make some repairs to the repeater.

**VE Committee** – The next test session will be on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership Committee** – No Change.

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

**Web page** – Web Master Not Present.

**EMCOMM** – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that he went to the EMCOMM conference and is also requesting hour logs from all EMCOMM volunteers.

**DXCC** – No Change

**Entertainment** – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that there is nothing scheduled for next month.

**Hamfest** – Tim (KB3OZA) reported:

- The ARRL prize package was received
- An inquiry will be made for catalogs to hand out at the Hamfest
- The new location for the Winterfest will be at 8000 Derry St.
  - The Winter Hamfest must be over by 11.

**Field Day** – Preparations are being made.

**Elmer Time** – Glen (K3SWZ) did a presentation about coax connectors. Next month will be dB's.

**Old Business** – The club will be sending in an order for Ed Fong antennas.

**New Business** – None

**Good of the Club** –

- The Ham Luncheon will be May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a special event call for all the upcoming events.
  - The callsign will be W3UU/70
- The Mt. Davis special event will be July 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The turnpike event will be on August 13<sup>th</sup>

**Adjournment** – There being no further business to conduct, Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Milan (KC3AYU), to adjourn. Motion PASSED. Meeting adjourned at 2014 HRS.

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## FCC Denies Petition for Consideration in Vanity Call Sign Dispute

From ARRL News  
05/26/2016

An Arizona radio amateur has been unsuccessful in convincing the FCC to take a 1 × 2 vanity call sign away from its present holder and grant it to him. In the process, Joshua Babb, K6FZ, may have learned not to rely on informal advice from FCC staffers. Babb, of Maricopa, Arizona, had been **trying** to get the initial-suffix call sign W3JB since 2014, and he was briefly successful. The prior holder of W3JB, John K. Birch, had died, and the 2-year waiting period was set to end on August 18, 2014. Babb filed an application for W3JB in July 2014, however, claiming an exemption to the 2-year waiting period on grounds that he was the deceased licensee's nephew, and the FCC granted it. Subsequently pressed to document that relationship, Babb indicated that Birch actually had been his great-great uncle, the FCC recounted in an **Order on Reconsideration** released on May 25 — a relationship that did not qualify for an exemption.

“Because you did not qualify for the exemption, the [Mobility] Division concluded that you should not have been granted call sign W3JB during the 2-year waiting period,” the FCC told Babb in its *Order*.

The FCC proposed to modify Babb's license by replacing W3JB with KD7HLX, but in September of 2015, Babb filed to swap W3JB for the available K6FZ, which was granted the following month. Under Commission rules, when a call sign is granted in error after the normal 2-year waiting period has ended, it becomes unavailable for 30 days after the erroneous grant is rescinded. The FCC informed Babb of this provision at the time it granted K6FZ, telling him he could reapply.

Babb sought clarification of the W3JB availability date from an FCC staff member, who calculated that it was November 2, 2015. Babb filed two preference-list applications for W3JB on that date as well as one on November 3 and another on November 5. The FCC instead granted W3JB to Scott Phillips of Plano, Texas, who had filed a competing November 3 application and was granted through the FCC's “standard lottery process.” The FCC staffer subsequently informed Babb that his advice had been incorrect, and that November 3 was the correct date.

On December 1, 2015, Babb file a *Petition for Reconsideration* of the grant to Phillips, arguing that, based on his prior staff communication, the call sign should have become available on November 2. The FCC said such a petition “must identify a material error, omission, or other reason that justifies further consideration” and that Babb's *Petition* failed to do so. The FCC said its Universal Licensing System (ULS) had processed the applications correctly.

“[E]rroneous staff advice is not grounds for reconsideration,” the FCC said in its denial *Order*. “Licensees are obligated to know the Commission's rules. It is well established than an applicant acts on staff advice at his own risk.” In any case, the FCC pointed out, Babb nonetheless had filed an application on the correct day.

## 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](mailto:hrac.newsletter@Yahoo.com)

The next VE Testing session will be on **Saturday June 18, 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

## Why is there no Testing at the Hamfest

There is a simple reason that you will most likely not find VE testing at your local hamfest. If there is testing offered by a hamfest, it is offered at a location other than the hamfest site. There will NOT be any testing at the Firecracker Hamfest / EPA Section convention.

As is written in the Laurel VEC Supplemental Policy to 97.527 this is the part that applies to this situation:

**Laurel VE-affiliated VE teams may not administer exams at any event that requires the applicant to pay a fee to gain access to the area where the exam session is held.**

Since a fee is charged to enter the hamfest testing simply can not be done.

## Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club

By Terry Snyder WB3BKN

On June 6<sup>th</sup> 1946 Harrisburg Pa welcomed its first FM broadcast station to the air. I am sure that was a great day in radio, but less than a month later, something even bigger in radio history would take place in Harrisburg Pa. Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club exploded onto the scene! Members came out of their basements, attics, closets, and wherever their spouses would allow them to keep that infernal piece of s.... that was a big eye sore to them, to gather together as a club of, of, well, whatever they called nerds and geeks back then.

Yes! People of a common interest finally had a place to gather and brag about how big their stations, and antennas were, and who got the most DX. Congratulations to HRAC on 70 great years. Oh, yes, you guys at WHP. Congratulations to you too, even though you changed your call sign to WRVV. But then, we changed our call a few times too.

# Special Events to commemorate 70 years as a club

By Terry Snyder WB3BKN

This year Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club will be heard on the air as **W3UU/70**. This call will be used with several special event stations that will be on the air throughout the summer and fall.

We will be kicking everything off with a trip to Mt. Davis on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Mt Davis is in the south western corner of Pa, and is the highest point in the state. This site also is a Summits On The Air (SOTA) location and is worth 10 points to those who collect such things. We hope to be on the air from the top of the mountain by 10am Eastern time until about 2pm Eastern time. Listen for us on 7.265 and 14.265, or close to those spots.

The second official Special Event station will be on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from the Abandoned Tunnel on the PA Turnpike at the Sideling Hill Tunnel. This, along with another tunnel and about 10 miles of old turnpike were bypassed in 1968. The tunnels were boarded shut, but later opened for testing various road surfaces, paints, and devices. They have since been opened to the general public (and zombies) for walking and bicycling enjoyment. One can always tell if zombies are around because they drag one foot and leave a trail in the dust. Again, we will be using 7.265, and 14.265 mhz, or close to those frequencies.

There will be some short distance events that you will find on the club web site, and on QRZ.com during the coming months. We have found a few SOTA locations close to Harrisburg, and if something comes up that will allow us to show off a bit, we will let you know. A special QSL card will be made for the Tunnel and the Mt. Davis trip, and a special 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary card will be used for other events this year.

With all of our events, you will find QSL information and directions can be found on QRZ.com, or better yet, on the club site [www.w3uu.org](http://www.w3uu.org). You are all invited to join us on our trips. The plans for meeting everyone will be listed on the club web site. Good hunting and we hope that you find us on the air.





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

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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](mailto:kq3f@comcast.net).

# Personalized Items Make the BEST Gifts!

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

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for quotes and personalized service.



## 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 duplexers 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](mailto:Ka3pdq@arrl.net)  
717.439.0090 7am to 9pm REACT Communications Truck



## 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

Keep those cards and letters coming in. Take pictures of things that you do and share them with us.

Tnx 73

Editor: Terry WB3BKN (AKA Perry White)

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.

