

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.....

The Ham Feast was a big success. Congratulations to our Ham of the Year, Nick (AA3T). We selected Nick for this year's honor because of all the work he has done for the club. He has been our vice president and in charge of entertainment for our meetings for as long as I can remember as well as taking the lead in coordinating our Field Day activities. Nick chose to step down as VP this year and even though he received this honor previously (about 20 years ago) the members of the selection committee felt it was appropriate to honor him. Awards, good food, good friends and GREAT door prizes. If it got any better than that, I doubt that I would recognize it.

At the risk of jinxing everything, it looks like we are very nearly at the end of winter weather for this season. I, for one, will be glad for the more moderate conditions. I have some antenna maintenance projects that have been on old for several months and I would like to get them taken care of. Nothing really serious; mostly rerouting coax or repairing mounts. Just not the kind of things that I want to be doing in below-freezing temperatures and blustery winds.

The presentations planned for this month's meeting look to be very interesting. First, we'll have our own Terry (WB3BKN) regaling us with how not to behave on the air. He's promised that he will probably be stepping on just about everyone's toes to some degree. That's fine with me. I'll be wearing my safety shoes, so step all you want, Terry. Truthfully, I welcome the critique. It's easy to become complacent in your operating practices and a helpful nudge back in the right direction is a good idea.

Then later in the evening, we'll be hearing from an antenna manufacturer about his products. I'm always willing to hear about new and/or innovative products. It gets me thinking. (That can be dangerous.) Mostly about how I might improve my own station.

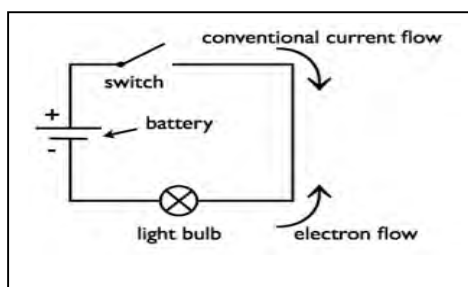
So, there you have it folks. Warm weather is on the way and a great line-up of topics for this month's meeting. How can it get any better?

Well, since you asked... We are still looking for a location for next year's winter hamfest. If you think of a possible venue you have two options. You can either check it out and report back to the club or let an officer know what you have in mind and we'll check it out.

I hope to see you at the meeting next week.

73,

Tim KB3OZA



February Meeting Minutes

The February 10, 2016 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order by the president, Tim (KB3OZA).

There was a motion made by Chuck (N3WL) to suspend the business portion of the meeting until the March meeting, seconded by Steve (KA3PDQ)

Adjournment – There being no further business to conduct, Chuck (N3WL) made a motion, seconded by Doug, (K3DRE), to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Pictures of the Ham Feast



Pete (KB3WIH) Tim (KB3OZA) Nick (AA3T) Gary (KV3Q)



Door Prize winner Pete (KB3WIH) and his new DMR radio, with Tim (KB3OZA)

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 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

VE Test results for Saturday February 20, 2016:

Great Job Everyone! We had 5 applicants, 3 general, 2 Tech all passed. VEs in attendance; KA3PDQ, KE3YC, K3URT, N3FWE, KV3Q, KB3OZA, K3DRE N3UGW

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

Ham Feast

The Ham Feast Banquet was held at the Old Country Buffet this year. It is always a good time with many unexpected happenings.





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.

SB QST ARL ARLB008

ARLB008 **FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses**

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760 - available on the web at, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001333714>) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise Part 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) (<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=RM-11760>).

ARLS001 Satellite Package Carrying Amateur Radio Payloads Released into Orbit from ISS

A package of two satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads has been deployed into orbit from the International Space Station (ISS) as part of a collaborative Texas A&M and University of Texas at Austin research effort. Built by Texas A&M students, AggieSat4 (AGS4) will release UT's Bevo-2 CubeSat in about a month, once it is far enough away from the ISS. Both schools received support from NASA's Johnson Spaceflight Center (JSC) for the design, construction, testing, and launch phases. The goal of the overarching LONESTAR (Low Earth Orbiting Navigation Experiment for Spacecraft Testing Autonomous Rendezvous and Docking) program is for the two satellites to individually rendezvous with each other and perform docking and undocking maneuvers.

"The overall objective is to find ways for small spacecraft to join together autonomously in space," Helen Reed, KD7GPX, professor of aerospace engineering and director of the AggieSat Lab at Texas A&M told NASA. "We need simple systems that will allow rendezvous and docking with little to no help from a human, which will become especially important as we venture farther out into space. Applications could include in-space assembly or reconfiguration of larger structures or systems as well as servicing and repair."

The AggieSat team received its first beacon signal from the satellite at its Texas A&M Riverside Campus ground station. The AggieSat4 team is asking any Amateur Radio operators receiving the beacon signal to send any data to the AGS4 team via email to, aggiesat@tamu.edu.

AggieSat4 will transmit 9.6 kbps FSK telemetry and 153.6 kbps FSK on 436.250 MHz. Once it's placed into its own orbit, Bevo-2 will transmit on 437.325 on CW and 38.4 kbps FSK.

Both satellites were launched to the space station during a December 6, 2015, resupply mission. Earlier last week, Astronauts Tim Peake, KG5BVI, and Scott Kelly made preparations to deploy the sizeable LONESTAR phase 2 mission satellite package from the ISS, using the SSIKLOPS deployer. The satellite mission also will demonstrate communication cross links, data exchange, GPS-based navigation, and other tasks. AggieSat4 will capture images of the Bevo-2 release.

The satellites were independently developed by student teams at the two universities. Both teams were responsible for development plans for their satellite and had to meet established mission objectives.

The Bevo-2 Satellite was designed, built, and tested in the Texas Spacecraft Lab (TSL) at the University of Texas at Austin. "This whole experience is very exciting," TSL Director Glenn Lightsey, KE5DDG, said last fall as undergraduate and graduate students were in the final stages of their project. "It's great to have a research program where our students can build satellites that fly in space."

Reed and Lightsey are co-investigators for the LONESTAR 2 project.

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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

I hope to see many of you at the Old Country Buffet (Rt 22 near Gander Mountain) on Wednesday the 10th. We can get into our room by 6pm, so come early, and stay late. You are responsible for paying for your own meal, and they have ice cream!

For the Elmer time in March, we will be covering the proper procedures to use when communicating on repeaters, simplex, and HF. If you thought you know how it is to be done, you may be surprised. There are things that you just can't learn by listening to others, because they may be doing it wrong.

For the entertainment part of the evening at the March meeting we will hook up via Skype with an antenna manufacturer to learn about his latest projects. (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



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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.

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

