

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.....

Another month has come and gone. Where does the time go?

On the brighter side, it's about two weeks until the PA QSO Party. This year we (HRAC) get to be the bonus station.

"What does that mean?" you might ask.

I'm glad you asked that. That means that we, the membership of HRAC, get to operate as W3UU for some or all of the contest weekend. We get to be the hunted, rather than the hunter. We get to be the ones working the pile-ups instead of trying to break through the din of stations calling. We get to give out bonus points to each and every station that we put into the log. Sounds almost as good as Christmas, doesn't it?

Right now we have three teams committed to mobile operation and several individuals who will be operating from their home stations. I think that we will make a good showing as the bonus station, but in keeping with the "more is better" principle, it would be great if more members would step up and operate for just an hour or two. We want to saturate the airwaves with W3UU stations. I hope to hear lots of stations calling CQ W3UU.

I had an opportunity to help out members of the Lebanon Valley Society of Radio Amateurs at a charity benefit race. It was only a 5K run/walk, so the time commitment wasn't too great. The race started a little after 9:00 AM and it was all over and done by about 10:30.

I guess the point I'm trying to make here is that events like that don't necessarily have to be all day affairs. Some of them are, just by virtue of the length of the course or the number of participants. But there are just as many that only require a few hours of your time. After that, you're back home doing whatever you had planned for the rest of your day. So if you get a chance to get out and support an event like that, go for it! It gives us a chance to showcase our hobby to public, support a community event and get practice in operating under field conditions.

Our next meeting is coming up soon. I hope to see you there.

73,

Tim KB3OZA

September Meeting Minutes

The September 17, 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 August meeting were published in the newsletter. Chuck (N3WL) made a motion to accept the minutes as published, seconded by Glenn (K3SWZ) Motion PASSED

Treasurers Report – Joe (KQ3F) presented the Treasurer's Report. Steve (KC3EUU) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read, seconded by Glenn(K3SWZ), Motion PASSED.

Equipment Trustee – Terry (WB3BKN) Trailer – The trailer should be lettered before October 8, 2016 and the Hatch should also be completed.

Microwave Equipment has been returned with the new programming, Richard (KB3YRC) is locating the power supply.

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 back in the possession of the club. The repeater has a power amplifier problem with only 5 watts output. A discussion followed about installing the repeater in the trailer as a special event system.
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Laurel VE Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next test sessions are October 15 and December 17 at HACC at 9:00 AM.

Membership Committee – Tim (KB3OZA) reported 3 new members had joined the group.

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 – Gary (KV3Q) Not present no report.

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

DXCC Committee – Glenn (K3SWZ) reported that he is preparing for a mailing sometime after the PA QSO Party.

Entertainment – Terry (WB3BKN) asked the membership for ideas what they may want to hear.

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

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 – Joe (KQ3F) reported that W3UU is the bonus station celebrating 70th anniversary and discussed with the group for an all out assault on the PA QSO Party October 8-9 2016.

New Business –

Good of the Club – Tim (KB3OZA) reported that after a 10 year run as the Keystone Awards Manager. Mike (N3KLLK) was stepping down. The President presented Mike with a certificate showing the Club's appreciation for all his hard work. After discussion William(KE3YC) was appointed as the new awards manager.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1980 HRS. Motion to adjourn William(KE3YC) Seconded Glenn (K3SWZ)

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 October 15, 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 has changed on 7/1/2016

SKYWARN is a concept developed in the late 1960s that was intended to promote a cooperative effort between the National Weather Service and communities. The emphasis of the effort is often focused on the storm spotter, an individual who takes a position near their community and reports wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado. Another part of SKYWARN is the receipt and effective distribution of National Weather Service information.

The organization of spotters and the distribution of warning information may lie with the National Weather Service or with an emergency management agency within the community. This agency could be a police or fire department, or often is an emergency management/service group (what people might still think of as civil defense groups). This varies across the country however, with local national weather service offices taking the lead in some locations, while emergency management takes the lead in other areas.

Dauphin County Training -- 2 sessions on October 20

Please RSVP by noon Monday, October 17

Topic: SKYWARN (click link to visit the NWS SKYWARN website)

Instructor: Peter Jung, National Weather Service

Dates/Times: Thursday, October 20 at 1400 (2pm)
Thursday, October 20 at 1900 (7pm)

Location: Dauphin County Department of Public Safety
911 Gibson Blvd
Steelton, PA 17113

RSVP: to Dan Scully, Dauphin County EOC Specialist
dscully@dauphinc.org by October 17 and indicate desired time

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

ARRL Outgoing QSL Service to Raise Rates

Although ARRL believes it's important to maintain the long-standing tradition of the **ARRL Outgoing QSL Service** as a membership benefit, increased administration costs will require an increase in rates, in order to keep the Service available and viable.

"The Service has been a member benefit for decades," an ARRL statement said. "Since its official formation in November 1976, tens of millions of QSL cards have been shipped from ARRL Headquarters to Amateur Radio QSL bureaus of other national societies worldwide. At one time, this benefit offered a safe, reliable, and inexpensive way to exchange QSL cards for a fraction of the cost of the postal service. What Amateurs saved in financial cost, however, was made up for in time; it could take months, or even years, to send and receive a QSL through the bureau."

Effective November 1, the rate for 1 ounce of outgoing QSLs via the Service will increase to match the 1 ounce USPS international postage rate. As of September 2016, this rate is \$1.15 per ounce — about 10 cards. An additional service fee of \$7 will be charged per individual transaction, to cover administrative costs.

ARRL said QSLing is very different now, and, while postal services are generally more reliable than in years past, international shipping costs have risen significantly. "With the advent of the Internet and online QSL confirmation services such as ARRL's Logbook of The World, fewer and fewer paper cards are being exchanged," the ARRL statement observed.

Calling the Outgoing QSL Service "a significant tradition in the world of Amateur Radio," the League said it's committed to keeping that tradition and service alive for members who enjoy using it. "We are committed to ensuring our members will be able to send their QSL cards through the Service for decades to come," the ARRL statement concluded.

Interim Section Manager

Bob Wiseman, WB3W, of Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, has been appointed as the Interim Section Manager for the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section. He is fulfilling the current term of office that was declared vacant by the ARRL Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors this past June. Wiseman's interim appointment continues through March 31, 2018.

According to the Rules and Regulations of the ARRL Field Organization, when a vacancy occurs between Section Manager elections, the position shall be filled by appointment by the ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Manager in consultation with the respective ARRL Division Director. In this case, Dave Patton, NN1N, Field Services and Radiosport Manager, consulted with Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, Atlantic Division Director, before making the appointment, which is effective October 5.

Wiseman brings to the helm of the Eastern Pennsylvania Section his past experience as Section Emergency Coordinator, District Emergency Coordinator and Official Emergency Station.

I HATE BEING
SEXY
BUT I'M A
HAM RADIO
OPERATOR
SO I CAN'T HELP IT

Tip: Use Snap Ring Pliers to Tighten a Loose HT Antenna Connection



Got this great tip from **Larry KG4ZAR**:

Every ham seems to have a HT or two in their shack and sooner or later they find the rubber duck antenna loose.

Most times it's the locking ring/nut on the chassis mount that's worked loose. If you use one of the improved 1/4 wave aftermarket antennas, this becomes a more frequent problem.

Trying to tighten up this ring (especially on one of the Chinese radios) usually means grabbing a pair of needle nose pliers and making a mess of things, along with pinching your fingers when the pliers slip off the ring.

A much simpler way to tighten these rings is to purchase a cheap set of "snap ring pliers." A set of these pliers (with various interchangeable tips) are under \$10 at Harbor Freight and you'll find many other uses once you own a set.

A Tale about the HRAC PA QSO Mobile 1 unit

By Terry WB3BKN (Some parts of this may be embellished just a bit. You will know when you get there)

After weeks of work by several of the club members, the newly outfitted COM trailer rolled out for the public to see during the PA QSO party. It was a bit of a rocky start. The first thing was the fire. I believe there must have been 5 fire companies that arrived. I was connecting an antenna to one of the HF rigs when my head bumped some 12 volt wiring. Bill (KE3YC) and I were working on the final arrangements on the desk, and the LED lights went out. Then there was the smoke. After the volunteer companies left, we found the problem to be the 12 volt feed line to the LED lights. It became shorted when my head hit it because of what can only be described as a quick temporary taped connection.



Then we found another problem when Bill walked out through the back ramp in the rain. The beautifully polyurethaned wood ramp became a really cool slip and slide. Well, it looked cool, but after the paramedics braced up Bill and left, we decided to not use that ramp the remainder of the weekend.

We found that we needed a bit of a step to get into the trailer because it is so high above the ground. After searching through the trailer, we found the solution. A 2x4!! It made a perfect step to get into the trailer.

Our first location was Newport, Perry County. We learned quickly what it is like to be on the receiving end of a pile up. We worked for about an hour from the parking lot of the Giant.

Next was Juniata County. We found a place just off of the McAllisterville exit across from a small car dealer lot that was out of the way enough to have a low noise floor. This day was a short day for us because of the small problems starting out, and the fact that I had a gig Saturday night.



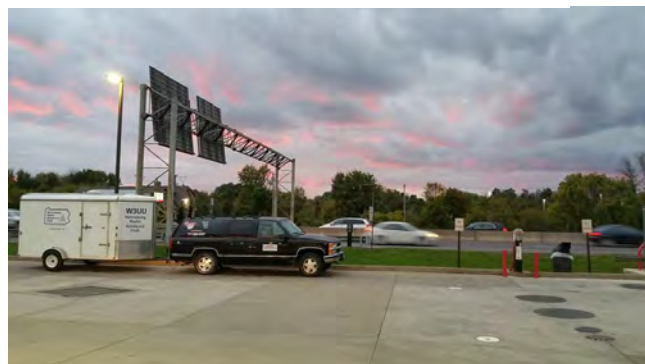
Saturday we got on the road by about 10:30 and headed for Mifflin County, next to Red's Diner. Worked for about an hour and kept moving. We hit 5 counties and ended at Northumberland County. It was a fun weekend being one of the hunted stations. It was hard to satisfy all of those trying to get the extra 200 points, because some just gave up and moved on.

I learned a few things about trying to get a rare DX by being on the receiving end. Often it was just a barrage of noise followed by a single weak signal coming through. Either use a KW, or wait until the others stop seems to be the answer.



We ended the day at Sheetz'es (That is how they say it up there) at Selinsgrove. We both are looking for another chance to go out and play radio with the trailer. There are two work stations with HF and VHF radios. We

used the roof top mounted Hamstick antennas, (They are only up when parked), and the Honda generator. From the time we pulled into a lot we only took 3 minutes to be on the air. Quick deployment is only one of the benefits of such a vehicle. I will bring it to a future meeting and to the Ham radio luncheon this month for interested people to see.





Mike, N3HLK receives a certificate of appreciation for his tenure as manager of the Keystone Award. Mike has carried out these responsibilities for more than a decade, following his retirement from Penn State. He wants to devote his newly found free time to other interests. He continues to serve his fellow hams as a Volunteer Examiner. Thanks, Mike, for all that you have done, and continue to do, for our hobby.



Credit: K3WWP and K9OSC



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



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.

Please note the new email address for articles:

Hrac.newsletter@gmail.com

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.

