

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.....**

Happy April to everyone. I trust you are all working on your code speed so that you can pass the upcoming Element One test mandated by the latest FCC rule. I'm sure you all read about it the last Saturday (April 1st).

March is one of our quieter months as far as club activity go. Too cold/wet/windy to really be able to get out and do much of anything. Now that April has arrived with warmer temperatures, there will most likely be a burst of station maintenance activity, getting new antennas built, tested and in the air. Getting new gear installed and integrated into the station and beginning to plan for upcoming events such as various hamfests, Field Day and, most importantly, our own Firecracker Hamfest on July 1st.

I'm sure that we will be planning several operating events using the club's trailer. Dates have yet to be determined, but they will not be much before the beginning of summer. I highly encourage anyone who has the time to participate in something like to do so. I think it's a fun time of operating and promoting amateur radio to the public. And the best part is that all you have to do is show up and participate. Stay as long as you like, operate for a while and/or talk with members of the public who inevitably wander over to see what's going on. No gear to pack. No driving an hour to the operating location only to find out that you brought your radio and your antenna, but forgot to pack the coax. (Don't ask me how I know this is frustrating.)

That's about all I have for this month. Hope to see you at the meeting.

73,

Tim KB3OZA



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## March 2017 Meeting Minutes

The March 8, 2017 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1905 HRS by the President, Tim Lehman (KB3OZA).

The usual member introductions were made with an additional question, Have you ever built a piece of Amateur Radio Gear, if so what was it.

**Secretary Report** – The minutes of the February Minutes were published in the newsletter. Motion to accept the February minutes Doug (K3DRE), seconded by Lee (KC3IPR) Motion Passed

**Treasurers Report** – Joe (KQ3F) presented the Treasurer's Report. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read, seconded by Jared (N3XDI), Motion PASSED.

**Equipment Trustee** – Terry (WB3BKN) approached the group with a suggestion to sell some of the club's items that are currently in storage. A discussion was held with the consensus being that it would be something to move forward with as soon as a fair and equitable method was devised.

**License Trustee** – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that there no changes.

### Repeater Committee

- .760 Repeater – The repeater is at it's new location. There are still a couple of issues that need attended to, the repeater shutting off and water getting into the feedline or antenna when it rains.

**Laurel VE Committee** – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next test session is April 15, 2017 9:00 AM at HACC.

**Membership Committee** – 2017 Membership Cards are available. The Club has 98 members with 71 being ARRL.

**Newsletter Editor** – No Report

**Web Page** – No report

**Emergency Communications** – The Skywarn Net continues to be held on Wednesday Evenings on the 145.11 Repeater @ 21 hours local.

On 4/11/17 the bi-annual TMI Drill will take place. Anyone interested in helping should contact Terry (WB3BKN). Terry also announced that he was stepping down as The ARES/RACES officer for Dauphin County and anyone interested in the position should Contact him. The Club Thanks Terry for all his effort in working in the position.

**DXCC Committee** - Glenn (K3SWZ) reported that he had checked several operators cards in the past several months.

**Entertainment** – Terry (WB3BKN) reported on several ideas and upcoming presentations. As always any ideas or suggestions on topics would be greatly appreciated.

**Hamfest Committee** – The Winterfest report was given. A motion was made to raise the admission fee to \$4.00 with children under 12 years of age at half price. Motion was made by Doug (K3DRE), and seconded by Jared (N3XDI) Motion carried. The President also noted that the Firecracker Hamfest is to be held July 1, 2017 at HACC, he then encouraged the membership to start talking about the hamfest at it is not too early to get the word out.

**Field Day** – A discussion was held on building a multi-band antenna for use at field day.

**Elmer Time** – Fox Hunting presented by Terry (WA3BKN)

**Old Business** –

**New Business** –

**Good of the Club** – Bill (KE3YC) awards manager of the highly coveted Keystone Award presented The latest certificate to the President for his signature.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1959 HRS. Respectfully Submitted *Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ*

## Weekly HRAC Net

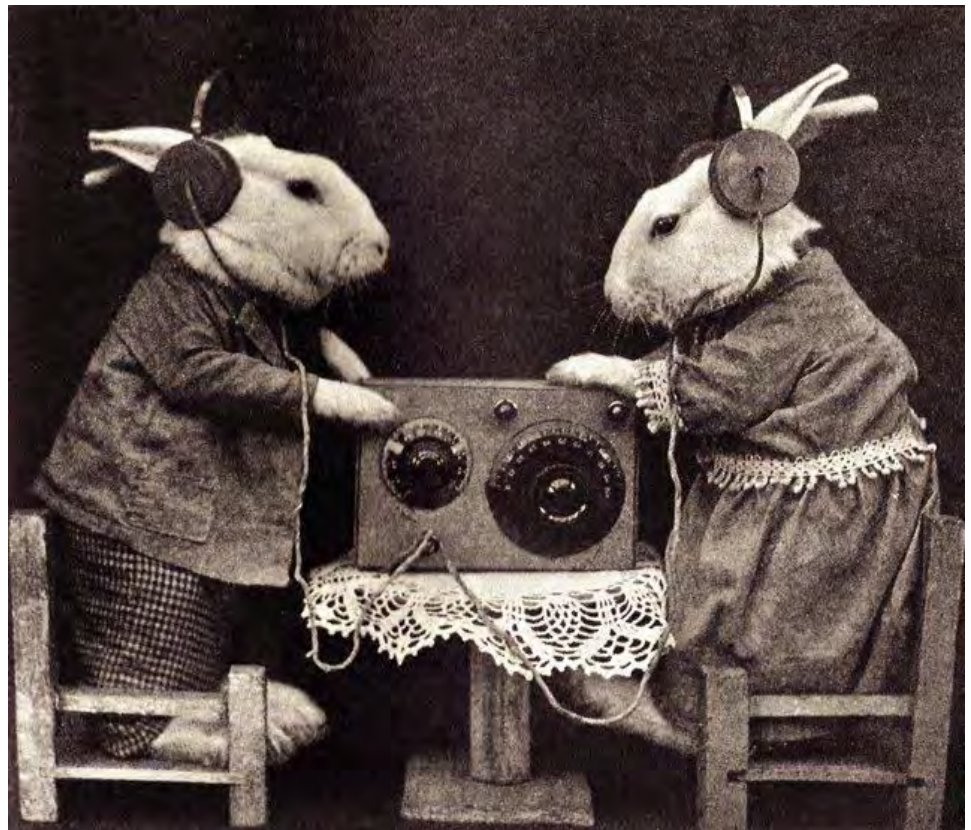
The weekly information net is held every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on the 146.760 repeater, except for the second Wednesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

On April 15 we will be back at HACC for our test session, which begins at 9:00 AM. Applicants will need to preregister to take the exam.

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

### NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

Consider starting a station notebook, paper or computer-based, if you've not done so already. Your notebook is the place to record information such as your station configuration, equipment settings, SWR readings, logging program settings, general observations -- anything related to your station. When you find a problem or solve a station problem, put it in the notebook. Specific things to remember from the last contest? Put it in the notebook. By consistently collecting and recording this information, you're creating a reference that can help you to save time when troubleshooting or getting set up for that once-a-year contest.



Please send any articles for the newsletter to [hrac.newsletter@Gmail.com](mailto:hrac.newsletter@Gmail.com)

## For Those Who Chase Special Events

04/01/17	04/09/17	St Louis and Suburban Radio Club Anniversary	K0A
04/01/17	04/30/17	20 Year Anniversary of MDXC	K1M
04/01/17	04/02/17	MO QSO Party	N0T, K0O, N0A, N0O, N0M, N0E, K0W, W0H, N0W, W0W, K0M
04/01/17	04/02/17	AM Rally	N1A
04/01/17	04/04/17	ARRL AM Rally	W4W
04/01/17	04/02/17	Chisholm Trail 150th Anniversary	W5C
04/03/17	04/09/17	PETAL/SOUTHERN MISS POWWOW	W0W
04/06/17	04/10/17	Georgia QSO Party	K4M, N4G,N4I, N0G,N4O, N4N, N4L, N4F, N4R, N4A
04/06/17	04/18/17	Nebraska Sesquicentennial	N1E
04/06/17	04/08/17	Mantime 2017	N4C
04/07/17	04/09/17	Venice Sharks Tooth Festival	K4S
04/07/17	04/09/17	Home Show	N9T
04/08/17	04/09/17	Georgia QSO Party	N4G
04/10/17	04/24/17	Nebraska Sesquicentennial	W0N
04/13/17	04/19/17	Williamsburg, VA Trip	K4W
04/13/17	04/17/17	First Space Shuttle Launch	N7S
04/13/17	04/18/17	Titanic Special Event Station	W0S
04/13/17	04/17/17	Michigan QSO Party	W8K, W8M
04/14/17	04/18/17	2017 Boston Marathon	W1M
04/15/17	04/30/17	Michigan State Police 100th Anniversary	W8P
04/17/17	04/27/17	Main St. Fort Worth Arts Festival	N5A
04/19/17	04/26/17	John Muir Birthday/Earth Day	K6M
04/19/17	04/24/17	International DX Convention	N6V
04/20/17	04/24/17	San Jacinto Day Special Event Station	K5J
04/20/17	04/24/17	Texas Independence Day	K5T
04/21/17	04/24/17	Dry Tortugas IOTA/LOTA	N4T
04/21/17	04/23/17	S-4 Order of the Arrow Section Conference	W0A
04/22/17	04/22/17	International Marconi Day Event	K2M, K5M
04/22/17	04/23/17	Earth Day 2017	N9E
04/22/17	04/22/17	17th Annual Bluebird and Bluegrass Festival	W4D
04/25/17	04/30/17	Chisholm Trail 150th Anniversary	K5B, W5A, W5C, W5F, W5G, W5B, W5D, W5E, W5W
04/25/17	04/28/17	WISCONSIN SIMCOM	W5M
04/28/17	04/30/17	Florida QSO Party 20th Anniversary	K4A, K4D, K4L, K4N, W4U, K4I,K4F, W4D, W4F, K4O,W4R
04/29/17	04/30/17	Samuel F. B. Morse Exhibition	N4M, W2M
04/29/17	04/30/17	March of Dimes for Baby's	W7Q

## ARE YOU A KERCHUNKER?

If you spend any time at all on any of the many repeaters serving the VHF/UHF bands you hear someone key up the repeater doesn't say anything and then disappears into the ether. Well first of all there was a transmission, that's what happens when you push that button along side the microphone or HT radio. Yes, you TRANSMITTED! Now according to FCC Part 97 97.119 YOU are required to ID your transmission. It does not say at the end of a conversation.

You transmitted. You need to ID your TRANSMISSION preferably with YOUR assigned Call Sign that you worked so hard to get.

Now why do they Kerchunk (Highly Technical Term)? I don't know, maybe a person knowing that the repeater is still there operating, it makes them feel all warm and fuzzy. You would not think it is to test their radio as you would hope in all the study it takes to get that coveted ticket that they may read about off the air testing. So that only leaves that the Kerchunker is just checking that the Repeater (owner/technician/control operator) hasn't passed away leaving his duties unfulfilled. No big deal I only keyed up the repeater RIGHT! Well yes it is and here is my story.

As any of you know we are having a problem with the repeater. The repeater for what ever reason just stops transmitting.

We don't know why however there are a number of things that could cause this. Anyway on a recent Wednesday Night Net the repeater suddenly goes quiet in the middle of the net. Oh well problem is still there. Well I switch to the DMR repeater to talk with a ham with lots of experience with the Motorola MSF 5000 series radio. As I am explaining what is going on someone Kerchunks the repeater. It responds, I immediately reach over to the other radio and try to key it up no response.

Ok it was a fluke that someone was able to key up the repeater. I go back to my conversation on the DMR repeater and low and behold the Kerchunker does it again. I try to bring up the repeater no response. Well of course the person who brought up the repeater did NOT identify. I wanted desperately to talk to this person to see how they were able to bring up the repeater. Where were they at, how much power were they using, what kind of radio were they using, can they do it again all questions that could help narrow down our problem. What a HUGE opportunity lost for the lack of IDing a transmission (required by 97.119).

Of course one thing a Kerchunker never realizes is that just because you can key a repeater up you might NOT be able to pass intelligible audio thru it. He goes away thinking all is right in the world never knowing he has the worst signal on the block.

Please be kind your transmission might be the key to someone else's quest.

Steven, KA3PDQ



# RADIO OUTFITS ARE TAKEN IN

## Secretary Daniels Instructed to Take Possession of All Stations.

Washington, April 7.—Seizure of all radio stations in the United States and its possessions, operation of those needed for naval communications and closing of others, has been authorized by President Wilson.

Enforcement of the order was delegated to Secretary Daniels and preliminary steps toward carrying it out already are in progress. It is understood that all plants for which no place can be found in the navy's wireless system, including amateur apparatus, for which close search will be made, are to be put out of commission immediately.

The president's order says:

"Whereas, it is necessary to operate certain radio stations for radio communication by the government and to close other radio stations not so operated, to insure the proper conduct of the war against the Imperial German government and the successful termination thereof.

"Now, therefore, it is ordered by virtue of authority vested in me by the act to regulate radio communication, approved August 13, 1912, that such radio stations within the jurisdiction of the United States as are required for naval communications shall be taken over by the government of the United States and used and controlled by it, to that all radio stations not necessary to the government of the United States for naval communications may be closed for radio communication.

"The enforcement of this order is hereby delegated to the secretary of the navy, who is directed to take such action in the premises as to him may appear necessary."



### **KB3OZA Shack:**

Bottom (L-R): FT-897, FT-7900, Radio Shack HTX-100, TS-520 w/Turner 254 crystal mic.

Middle (L-R): MFJ 941D Versa Tuner (for 897), Yaesu FP-1023 power supply.

Top (L-R): CDE rotator controller, Collection of HT's, HW-32 w/Heathkit desk mic.

Wall: Various bits of memorabilia from my military career, station license, Ham of the Year plaque.

Antennas: Mosley TA-33, Fan Dipole



## 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](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

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



# 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.

