

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.....

As the year draws to a close, I think it appropriate to look back and take stock of what we've accomplished. There have been a number of successful accomplishments over the course of the year.

We moved the winter Hamfest to a new venue, the Vietnam Veterans of America bingo hall. We were expecting a drop in attendance such as we have seen in the past with similar moves. This was not the case. If I recall correctly, this year was at least on par with previous years, if not better. The VVA facility worked out very well for the club, as well as buyers and sellers. We'll be back in the same location next month and we're looking forward to an even better turnout.

Hosting of the Eastern PA Section Convention was moved from Harrisburg to Bristol, PA under the sponsorship of the Warminster Amateur Radio Club; the first time in quite a few years. The Warminster club thought that this would make the convention accessible to a larger number of hams. I haven't heard any reports on their event but I hope that their attendance was good and that they had as much fun running their Hamfest as we have running ours.

I would also like to thank all of the club members who showed up help at the Firecracker Hamfest. You made the workload a lot lighter for everyone. The more helpers we have, the easier it is to run the event and focus on the paying customers to make sure that they get the best experience possible.

We used the club trailer for field day this year as well as a couple of special operating events. It has reached the stage where it can be a pretty much "plug and play" operation. Big thanks to those who put in all the hard work to smooth out the wrinkles and get it to that condition.

So, that's enough time spent looking at where we've been. Let's look to the future. As I mentioned above, the Winterfest is about a month away. I hope we get an even better turnout than last year. Then in February, we have the annual Ham Feast. I hope we can get the room at the Old Country Buffet again and I hope to see you there.

73,

Tim KB3OZA



November 2017 Meeting Minutes

The November 8, 2017 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1907 HRS by the President, Tim Lehman (KB3OZA).

The usual member introductions were made. The question for the evening was; What year were you first licensed?

Secretary Report – The minutes of the October 2017 meeting were published in the newsletter. Karl (KC3JRO) Made a Motion to accept the minutes as published, Milan (KC3AYU) seconded the motion. 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 Bill (KE3YC), Motion PASSED.

Equipment Trustee – Terry (WB3BKN) reported All Club equipment was accounted for.

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

Repeater Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that it was working fine. A question was asked about a map of the coverage area. It was reported that we did not have one.

Laurel VE Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next exam session is scheduled for December 16, 2017 at HACC. There are five applicants already registered for the session.

Membership Committee – The Club has 106 members with 76 /71.7% being ARRL members.

Newsletter Editor – Terry (WB3BKN), reported that he is always in need of articles.

Web Page – No Report.

Emergency Communications – Terry (WB3BKN) had no updates. The Skywarn net continues on Wednesday Nights @ 2100L on the 145.11 repeater.

DXCC Committee - No Report.

Entertainment – Terry is always looking for suggestions for topics. A very popular one being videos from the Antenna Man in Chicago, IL. December is Christmas Cookie Night.

Hamfest Committee – *Winterfest*- Tim (KB3OZA) will verify the date and availability of the VVA on Derry Street for January 13, 2018.

Field Day – No Action

Elmer Time – Terry (WB3BKN) has several topics in mind.

Old Business –

New Business – The President reported the need for a nominating committee for election of Officers for 2018. After careful consideration Rick (K2RBT), Bill (KE3YC) and Joe (N3SZH) Volunteered to make up the group.

Good of the Club – Monthly Ham luncheon will be held at the Old Country Buffet on Old Jonestown Road in Harrisburg on November 30, 2017

Adjournment – With no further business Rick (K2RBT) made a motion to adjourn at 1943 hours Milan (KC3AYU) seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

General Class license classes.

Please pass this on as you see appropriate.

This is a great opportunity for a Tech to advance to General. I have worked with the people holding the class and can vouch that it will be a class act. See the announcement and Syllabus. Registration and contact information is in the announcement. I am a contact only if you can't get with the guys at Cross Keys Village. It is at the crossroads of US 30 and PA 94, a few miles north of Hanover.

Where: Cross Keys Village, Harmony Ridge Community Center, 620 Harmony Drive, Encore Room. Cross Keys Village is about 11 miles east of Gettysburg just off US Rt. 30.

When: Eight sessions from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Classes start on Saturday, January 6, 2018 and continue each Saturday until March 10, 2018. An exam session will be offered on Saturday, March 17. You may also take the exam on another date and location of your choosing.

Ralph K3HQI Ralph.brandt@comcast.net

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

Happy
RamaHanukwanzMas



Special Event Commemorates 50th Anniversary of Fermilab:

Members of the Fermilab Amateur Radio Club (WB9IKJ) will operate special event station W9F until December 16 (UTC) to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab), named to honor Nobel Laureate Enrico Fermi (1901-1954). W9F will be active on or about 7.250, 7.275, 14.260, and 14.340 MHz SSB and may operate CW on 7.040, 10.130, and 14.040 MHz. QSL to Fermi Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 500 MS #109, Batavia, IL 60510; [e-mail](#) to request a commemorative QSL card. A professor of theoretical physics at the University of Rome, Fermi emigrated to the US to escape the Mussolini regime after he received the Nobel Prize in 1938. At that time, he was considered the world's greatest expert on neutrons. Upon the discovery of fission, Fermi envisioned the possibility of a nuclear chain reaction, and his experiments led to the first controlled nuclear chain reaction on December 2, 1942, in Chicago. He subsequently played an important role in the Manhattan Project, which developed the first atomic bomb. [Visit](#) the Fermilab 50th anniversary website for more information. -- Thanks to [Nobel Lectures, Physics 1922-1941](#), Elsevier Press, for some information, and to the [Fermilab 50th Anniversary website](#)





For the 12th consecutive year, The 3916 Nets will be staging The Santa Net on 3.916 MHz. Good girls and boys will be able to talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly at 7:30 PM (Central) starting Friday, November 24, 2017. The Santa

Net will run nightly at 7:30 PM Central through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2017.

For more information on The Santa Net go to <https://www.facebook.com/3916santanet/> For more information on The 3916 Nets, go to <http://www.3916nets.com>



Yes! This is a real thing from Amazon Wenger 16999 Swiss Army Knife Giant

Only \$8,999.99 and \$5.49 shipping. Used, and only one remaining.

The New Ham Bands

Frank W3LPL Hope to work you on 630 meters soon!

I've been active on our new 630 meter ham band since the first day it was open. So far activity is relatively light, except for WSPR which is very crowded in its tiny 200 Hz sub-band.

CW activity reminds me of my Novice days, with an uncrowded band (we need much more activity!) relatively slow speeds (typically 20-25 WPM), lots of bugs and straight keys, lots of ragchew QSOs, lots of repeat QSOs with hams you'll get to

know as you work them regularly, and most QSOs are strong signal QSOs are east of the Mississippi. I'm sure activity will grow this winter.

Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Pacific WSPR reports are regular events, but trans-oceanic 2 way QSOs are uncommon on CW and the most popular digital mode - JT9. The advantage of WSPR on 630 meters is that its 30 dB of processing gain allows it to be heard when 5 watt CW signals can't be heard, allowing long distance band openings to be identified. For example, my 5 watt WSPR signal is heard in Hawaii on most days and its frequently heard in Europe and north Africa.

<http://wspnet.org/drupal/wspnet/spots> Click on specify database parameters, and select the MF band.

The simplest transmitting antenna in an inverted-L. Use as much wire as you can fit on your property, it will make tuning much easier. You can bend the top wire of the inverted-L as much as you need to in order to put as much wire in the air as possible.

It isn't necessary to use many radials or long radials because the power limit is only 5 watts EIRP, more radials just means you'll have to run less power. Eight 100 foot radials (or even much less) laid on the ground is completely adequate.

The most popular receiving antenna is a simple loop such as this extremely effective wide aperture active loop antenna that works well on every band from 2200 meters to 10 meters:

<https://www.loop-antennas.com/wellbrook/pdf/ALA100LN.pdf>

The easiest way to get on 630 meters is to use a ham transceiver already capable of 630 meter operation, such as an IC-706 or Elecraft K3 with the new KSYN3A synthesizer board.

<http://www.elecraft.com/manual/KSYN3A%20FAQ-ver-C-2.pdf>

You will need a very amplifier with the K3 such as this very simple 25 watt amplifier you can build in just a few evenings even if your electronic construction skills are very basic.

http://www.gw3uep.ukfnsn.org/25W_QTX/472_25W_QTX/472_kHz_25W_PA.htm

A completely assembled 80 meter to 630 meter 25 watt transverter can be purchased for only \$95.00 here:

<https://wg2xka.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/flyer-8.pdf>

You can easily get on 630 meters with WSPR by purchasing a WSPRlite transmitter from DX Engineering for only \$90.00, the new Flexi model covers every ham band from 630 through 6 meters. Its a great Christmas stocking stuffer!

<https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/sbm-wsprliteflex>

Here are some Quick Start links for the new 2200 and 630 meters bands:

<http://njdtechnologies.net/mf-and-lf-quick-start-links>

This article is particularly comprehensive:

<http://www.qsl.net/ve7sl/gettingstarted630mpart1.pdf> <http://www.qsl.net/ve7sl/gettingstarted630mpart2.pdf>

Coaxial Antenna By Jim Varner AE6N

(This antenna appears to be a center fed dipole with the feedline parallel to the dipole)

Here is a simple, rugged 2-meter antenna that needs no ground plane and which can be used almost anywhere. It is an ideal antenna for fiberglass boats, bicycles and emergency communications. I have seen this antenna called by several names, but I like to call it a coaxial antenna. If you like you can call it a modified ground plane.

The antenna is mounted on a fiberglass bicycle flagpole, which can be purchased at Wal-mart or K-Mart. The pole is flexible and allows the antenna to be mounted almost anywhere. To construct the antenna remove the braid from some RG-8 coax, about 20-24 inches should be sufficient. You will need two sections of this braid for the upper and lower half of the Slide one of the sections over the fiberglass pole. Then work a piece of RG-58 coax under this section of braid. The RG-58 will be your feed line to the transceiver. Tape the upper and lower sections to hold the braid and coax in place temporarily.

Now slip the other braided section over the pole to within an inch or less of the lower braid. Don't let them touch. Now temporarily tape this section in place. Now solder the inner conductor of the RG-58 to the upper braid and the shield of the RG-58 to the lower section. Remember the two sections can't touch each other.

Pull the braid of the lower and upper sections tight and tape firmly in place. At the same time measure and trim the length of the upper and lower braid so that they are each 19.5 inches. If you have access to an antenna analyzer, use it to be sure the antenna is resonant to your desired frequency. If you do not have an antenna analyzer, don't worry about it, as the dimensions given will be close enough to the 2-meter band.

Once your antenna is working satisfactory, place heat shrink tubing over the braid and heat to tighten and hold everything in place. I have had very good results with this antenna and it has taken a lot of abuse. You can build this antenna in an hour.



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.

Our next test session is scheduled for Saturday December 16, 2017 at HACC. We will be at the usual place and testing starts at 9:00 A.M. so please arrive by 8:30. Pre registration is required



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

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



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!



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 _____

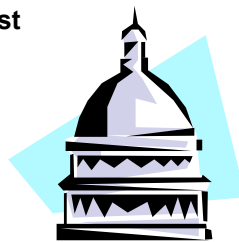
I agree to abide by the guidelines of the membership and The Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.



W3UU - Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club – WinterFest

JANUARY 13th 2018

(Saturday)



WINTERFEST

- **“A Harrisburg Pa. Hamfest”**
 - **Vietnam Veterans of America**
8000 Derry Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
 - 8:00 am to 11:00 am
- TALK-IN 146.76 (PL 100 hz)**

◆ Admission, **\$3.00** per person.

◆ **First table free. Additional tables \$3.00 each!**

◆ Food and drinks available

◆ DXCC/WAS/VUCC QSL Card checking on site

◆ Amateur radio testing at 9:00 am

◆ Please, be courteous to your fellow hams by using reasonable table space. If you can use ½ table, please do so. (based on demand)

No reserved table space

Unloading can be done at the main doors, and then move vehicle
to the parking area

- **General Admission: 8:00 AM**
Web Site: www.w3uu.org

For further information or questions contact:

Tim Lehman

717-982-8550

kb3oza@arrl.net

