



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.....**

I hope October was a good month for everyone. We had the PA QSO Party. I only got to play for a few hours due to family commitments, but it was still fun. Then the very next weekend was the Boy Scouts' Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). The kids always seem to have a good time on that weekend. The group that I was with completed their electronics merit badge and played radio. Even though band conditions weren't the best I've ever seen, they made a few contacts, which made the weekend complete for them.

Coming up this month, there will be a lot of special event stations commemorating the founding of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. There will also be quite a few stations that will be celebrating Veterans' Day and recognizing veterans who check in during the weekend.

Closer to home, there will be local Veterans' Day parades and more restaurants offering freebies to vets throughout the day. Never one to pass up something free, I plan to get at least a free lunch. I just have to decide where.

On the contest front, this is ARRL's Sweepstakes month. The CW contest is over but the SSB contest is coming up later in the month. I'm not what you would call an avid contester, but hopefully I can find some time to participate. It's a lot of fun working those things but I just don't have the competitive spirit that some folks do, so I play for a while and move on.

I guess that's about it for this month. I'll close with this: If you know a veteran, thank him or her for their service and give them a hearty "Welcome home!" As a veteran myself, I think that's the greatest gift you can give.

73,

Tim KB3OZA



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## October 2017 Meeting Minutes

The October 11, 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; Have you tried any of the digital modes?

**Secretary Report** – No September minutes – Due to PEMA Tour in September.

**Treasurers Report** – Joe (KQ3F) presented the Treasurer's Report. Chuck (N3WL) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read, seconded by Jared (N3XDI), Motion PASSED.

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

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

**Repeater Committee** – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that the Club needs to update the repeater's coordination with ARCC. Terry had all the required paper work on hand and obtained the President's signature for submittal. Terry also reported that the .76 repeater was working well.

**Laurel VE Committee** – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next exam session is scheduled for October 21, 2017 at HACC. There are two applicants already registered for the session.

**Membership Committee** – The Club has 102 members with 74 /72.5% being ARRL members.

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

**Web Page** – No Report.

**Emergency Communications** – Terry (WB3BKN) has officially resigned from being the RACES/ARES Coordinator for Dauphin County. He will remain in the position until a replacement is found.

The Skywarn net continues on Wednesday Nights @ 2100L on the 145.11 repeater.

**DXCC Committee** - Glenn (K3SWZ) reported continued activity with a mailing likely after the first of the year.

**Entertainment** – Terry is always looking for suggestions for topics.

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

**Field Day** – No Action

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

**Old Business** –

**New Business** – The President reported on the PA QSO Party to be held the weekend of October 14 and 15, 2017.

A brief explanation of how the event works and some of the particulars involved in the contest.

**Good of the Club** – Ham Luncheon at the Old Country Buffet or the Chinese Buffet will be on October 26, 2017.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1930 HRS. Motion made by KA3VDA, Seconded by W3JPH.

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](mailto:Ralph.brandt@comcast.net)

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## 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](mailto:k3swz@arrl.net)

73

de Glenn, K3SWZ



Brandon Specktor/Oct 13, 2017

“Save Our Ship!”, “Save Our Souls!” “Save On Socks (at Sal’s Irregular Sock Emporium!)”

These are all things that “SOS,” the international abbreviation for distress, *does not stand for*. Best known for its appearances in desert island cartoons, maritime movies, and earworms by ABBA and Rihanna, the letters SOS have been used as a code for emergency since 1905. But what does SOS stand for, actually? The answer, dear readers, is **nothing**—and that’s exactly why it’s important.

Unlike WD-40, CVS, and TASER, SOS is not even an acronym: It’s a Morse code sequence, deliberately introduced by the German government in a 1905 set of radio regulations to stand out from less important telegraph transmissions. Translated to Morse code, SOS looks like this: “. . . - - - . . .”

Three dots, three dashes, three dots. At a time when international ships increasingly filled the seas, and Morse code was the only instantaneous way to communicate between them, vessels needed a quick and unmistakable way to signal that trouble was afoot. At first, different nations used different codes. Britain, for example, favored CQD; as the Titanic sunk into the ocean in April 1912, it broadcast a mix of CQD and SOS calls (the resulting confusion helped take CQD out of use for good).

The sequence of triplet dots and dashes proposed by the German government soon became the international favorite for its elegant simplicity. Transmitted without pause and repeated every few seconds, the message of SOS was unmistakable, specifically because it didn’t form any known word or abbreviation.

There was also a visual appeal. While the same series of dots and dashes could also just as easily translate to the Morse code sequences for VTB, SMB, and others, SOS had an instantly-recognizable symmetry. Not only is SOS a palindrome (a word that reads the same backwards and forwards, like civic, deified, and these other everyday palindromes hiding in plain sight) it’s also an *ambigram*, a word that looks identical whether read upside-down or right-side-up. When carved into a snowbank, say, or spelled out in boulders on a beach, SOS still no looks like SOS no matter which way the rescue chopper approaches.

By 1908, the code we know and love took effect as the official international radio distress signal, and remained that way until 1999, when Morse code was declared all but dead. Today, a ship can signal distress with the touch of a button, the lift of a phone, the launch of a rocket, or—if they’re feeling nostalgic—flashing a good ol’ SOS via light signals across the waves. Remember it fondly.



**A boy watching television for the first time from the shelf of a store in 1948.**

Don't let his young age fool you, everyone was equally fascinated with the magical box that was quickly dubbed "the home screen" upon its arrival. The late 1940s is when color television got its start in America but it wasn't really a commercially viable option for people until the early 1950s. Even black and white televisions weren't a common sight in people homes in the mid to late 40s. Only 0.5% of households in the United States had a television in 1946, but sales started to take off as the '50s neared. By 1954 that percentage jumped to 55.7% and by 1962, 90% of the population had their very own television set at home.



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>

**Power Company Smart Meter interference links:**

[http://www.ve3ncq.ca/wordpress/?page\\_id=10](http://www.ve3ncq.ca/wordpress/?page_id=10)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9U\\_3L8ZRC5g&feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9U_3L8ZRC5g&feature=share)

## 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

The test session results from October 21 are;

6 elements administered. 4 applicants

3 Tech passed  
1 General

Failed  
1 Technician  
1 Extra

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

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### Remarks from a ham found on the net:

This Morning I attended a Hamfest after about 10 years of being in hiatus. Here is what I experienced. Please do not flame me...I am just reporting my observations

1. Prices were quite high (Some at near market prices).
2. Lots of antique items - to be expected right?
3. Very few young folk. Only folks who were young at heart
4. Met many who were giving up voice for digital modes
5. Many commercial vendors
6. Lots of Junk (This is my opinion )
7. The ARRL was present - Membership is pricey. So were the publications.
8. It was nice to see the Boy Scouts represented

I left asking myself what direction the Amateur Service was headed. Hmm.....  
Time to get active and do something about it!

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



## 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.

