



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.....

Summer is gone and it seems like it just started a couple of days ago. Where does the time go?

We had a great time at Field Day this year. We got to use the club trailer for the event and aside from a couple of hiccups, things went pretty smoothly. I think that most of the bugs have been worked out, but I'm sure more will show up during future outings.

The Firecracker hamfest was a big success this year. Not as big as some years, but better than most. I really want to express my appreciation to those who showed up at oh-too-early on Saturday to help with operations. It was a much more enjoyable and much less tense having plenty of help. I hope that will be the norm for future hamfests. Like they say, "Many hands make light work."

I did manage to get a couple of projects done when it wasn't too hot or too rainy. I got new supports installed on my 80 meter loop and did some general maintenance on the antenna farm. Hopefully nothing will go wrong during the winter. I really don't like having to go out and fix something in the cold and slush, even if it DOES (allegedly) get you another 5 dB of gain due to the weather.

We have our tour of the new PEMA facility coming up on the 11th. I'm looking forward to it and I hope that, if you wanted to go, you were able to get your name on the list. I'm sure it will be very interesting.

Because of this PEMA event, we will NOT have our regularly scheduled club meeting in September. Since there is no meeting, I'm told by our friendly neighborhood net control operator that there will be a club net on Wednesday, the 13th at the usual time and frequency. There will also be a Skywarn net, again at the usual time and frequency.

JOTA is about a month away. I have been invited to help handle the event for scouts in Northumberland county. If there is anyone out there who would be interested in helping, I could use someone to assist in facilitating classes for the radio merit badge as well as the electronics merit badge. It's really not difficult. All you have to do, basically, is walk the scouts through the worksheets for the merit badge and validate their work. If you think you might be interested, feel free to contact me and I can fill you in on the details.

I guess that's about it for this edition. I'll see you on the radio.

73,

Tim KB3OZA

August 2017 Meeting Minutes

The August 9, 2017 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1906 HRS by the President, Tim Lehman (KB3OZA). The usual member introductions were made.

Secretary Report – The minutes of the July 2017 Minutes were published in the newsletter. Motion to accept the July minutes Doug (K3DRE), seconded by Chuck (N3WL), 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 Richard (KB3YRC), 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 the repeater is working well. With the exception of interference from a high powered paging transmitter.

Laurel VE Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next exam session is scheduled for August 19, at HACC. He updated the members on the new FCC requirement requiring disclosure on the 605 form about being a felon.

Membership Committee – The Club has 101 members with 73 being ARRL.

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

Web Page – No Report.

Emergency Communications – Terry (WB3BKN) is still looking for volunteers to take over this position.

DXCC Committee - No Report.

Entertainment – Doug (K3DRE) reported about an Open house at PEMA on September 11, 2017. It was decided that the September Club Meeting will be held at PEMA. Members interested in attending should contact Doug.

Hamfest Committee – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that he is attending Hamfests in the area and talking to new equipment vendors about attending the Firecracker. Offering them perks such as advertising on the flyer and the possibility of a large tent rental for the fest.

Field Day – It was reported that the field day logs had not been submitted.

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

Old Business –

New Business – A Special Event will be held at the Millersburg Ferry on August 20, 2017. Set up to start At 11:00 A.M. More information and details will be e-mailed to the members.

Good of the Club – Ham Luncheon at the Old Country Buffet will be on August 31, 2017. Bill (KE3YC) brought up the need for a spare wheel and tire for the trailer. Terry (WB3BKN) will investigate sources.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1953 HRS. Motion made by K3DRE, Seconded by N3JQM

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.

Our June test session is scheduled for Saturday October 21, 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

At the August session we had 10 applicants and administered 12 elements. All elements passed.

9- Tech
1 - General
2 - Extra
1 applicant went from nothing to Extra "Teresa Okum" of Lewisberry".

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

Show Us Your Go Kits



Go kits have become the latest thing to build. Many are used to get away from the noise found in a city, by taking a full amateur radio station on the road, or trail. Most are battery operated, or powered by a small generator. Camping with a Go Kit has become a fun thing to do from a picnic table. They take up very little space when traveling. They also are quite valuable during an emergency situation such as a Hurricane and flooding. This Go Kit is housed in an equipment rack normally used by pro sound techs, DJs and bands.

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

Food For Thought

Dan Rapak - WA3ATV

I'm sending this to a few of my ham radio friends, public safety friends and broadcast colleagues. Forgive me if this is old news to some of you.

In recent years public safety officials, broadcasters and others have come to rely more and more on the public infrastructure for their communications needs. Public safety radio has come to rely on trunked communications systems which are often (usually?) interconnected using the public infrastructure. Broadcasters are transitioning from ENG live trucks and satellite trucks to cellular and Internet based video and audio transmission systems. While this may be fine for day-to-day operations, Harvey demonstrates how things can go south very quickly when disaster strikes.

Attached is the August 27th FCC report on the status of the public communications infrastructure in the Texas and Louisiana area. As the report states, this is a snap-shot and things evolve rapidly. A quick summary based on my read:

- 55 counties in the affected area
- 17 "911" call centers are down
- On average, 4.1% of the cell sites are down over the entire area. However, the numbers vary widely by county. In some areas well over half of the cell sites are down, some in the 80% to 95% failure range.
- 145,565 cable and telco subscribers are without service.
- 11 landline switching centers are out of service.
- 21 switching centers are on backup power.
- 9 radio stations are off the air. All TV stations are still on the air. Unknown how many are on backup power.
- Unknown how long the backup power will last.

While the FCC report describes what's working and what isn't, it doesn't discuss how well the remaining facilities are performing. I was in San Francisco for the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989. The public infrastructure was swamped. You could pick up the phone, you had battery voltage, you could hear yourself talk, but there was no dial-tone. The phone company's central offices were beyond their capacity to connect calls. I was in NYC for the northeast blackout and for September 11th. In both cases, land-line phones were swamped making it difficult to get dial-tone. Ditto the cell phone network. It too was maxed out making it difficult to impossible to place a call. In other words, the systems were in fact up and running, but they were so overloaded as to be nearly useless. The FCC report doesn't discuss this aspect. Things may be electronically operational, but as a practical matter - not so much.

All of this highlights the need for backup communications systems that do not use the public infrastructure. Here in Central PA, ham radio operators continue to serve our communities with alternate means of communications. An example is the recent Three Mile Island disaster drill which exercised the VHF and UHF voice communications nets. Less well known is The Central Pennsylvania IT Network (CPIN) which is a digital microwave network currently being built and maintained by ham radio operators that links 911 call centers, emergency operations centers (EOCs) and other key locations with digital communications including PBX-like telephone and FAX communications. This system does NOT require the presence of a ham operator for use, making it ideal for larger scale events when there may not be enough ham operators available for all locations.

Hopefully we will be able to expand CPIN to additional counties in the area and also beyond the county level to the local community level as well. For minimal cost, local towns might consider connecting their police and fire stations to CPIN. Broadcasters might also consider connecting to this independent system as a means of getting information from government officials to the public. By way of example, during the Three Mile Island accident in 1979 there was an erroneous report on NBC that Central PA was being evacuated. NBC did a special report and the phone lines at every broadcast station, government office and every police and fire station went into meltdown. It was impossible for broadcasters to place a call to contact government officials to confirm or deny the report and the public was left hanging. Something like CPIN would provide an alternative means for broadcasters to contact officials should a situation like this present itself again.

Ham radio operators continue to develop emergency communications systems and procedures. Hopefully the lessons of Harvey will encourage local officials and broadcasters to increase their participation as well. Those who are interested can drop us a note and we can begin the process.

Food for thought . . .

Special Event from The Millersburg Ferry

It was a great day to do a special event at a place as picturesque as northern Dauphin County along the Susquehanna River nestled in the mountains. The bands were suffering from solar-flare-itus, which made on air operations a bit challenging. Another thing that we had not counted on was the uptight attitude of the local government. We were not permitted to use our communications trailer around the ferry landing area. We were able to use two picnic tables, partly covered by two of our 9 ft table umbrellas. We had our personal Go-kits and my Honda generator, along with one Buddy-Pole, and my MFJ portable vertical with a Wolf River Coil, on 40 meters.



Several of the locals stopped by to learn a bit about amateur radio, and several amateur radio people came by too. One was a sixteen year old young man and his father by way of a canoe. They were from the Lancaster area. The other amateur to stop by was Joe, WA3EYQ, the guy who gave me my novice exam way back in 1974.

Club members to work the event were Bill KE3YC, Charlie W3CWT, and me, Terry WB3BKN. Neil N3JQM came by for a while, and one of the boat captains was very interested in amateur radio.



This Go Kit is in one of those plastic tool boxes. Note the external connections for power.



For Sale (PRICE REDUCED!!)

Somebody PLEASE read this. There are lots of things in this truck.

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 duplexers 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

The reason we are selling it is the did have all but gone away with their pocket. We used to provide events a year. **\$2,000.00** Contact 717.439.0090 7am to 9pm REACT



equipment.
I hope this answers your questions. public service events that we once everyone having a cell phone in communication support for 20 Steven Gobat Ka3pdq@arrl.net Communications Truck



This Go Kit looks a bit like it was made from an old high chair or maybe something from IKEA

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.

