

Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club Newsletter

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)

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Terry Snyder
WB3BKN
(717) 979-9515
WB3BKN1@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Tim Lehman
KB3OZA
(717) 982-8550
Kb3oza@arrl.net

SECRETARY

Steve Gobat
KA3PDQ
ka3pdq@juno.com

TREASURER

Nicholas J Rylatt
AA3T
Aa3t@arrl.net

TRUSTEE

Steve Gobat
KA3PDQ
ka3pdq@juno.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Terry Snyder WB3BKN
HRAC.Newsletter@gmail.com

Webmaster

Gary Cappello KV3Q
Webmaster@w3uu.org

From The Desk of The President.....

The year keeps Marching on, and I still can't get used to how the winds are here on the farm. I have had to repair antennas more this winter than ever before. I was spoiled by having trees to shelter my things from the wind in the past. Hopefully the winds will at east be warmer in the next week or two.

It was great to see so many come out for the annual Ham Feast (Banquet) last month. Congratulations to Doug (K3DRE), who is our latest Ham Of The Year recipient. I am sure that a good time was had by all, and nobody went home hungry.

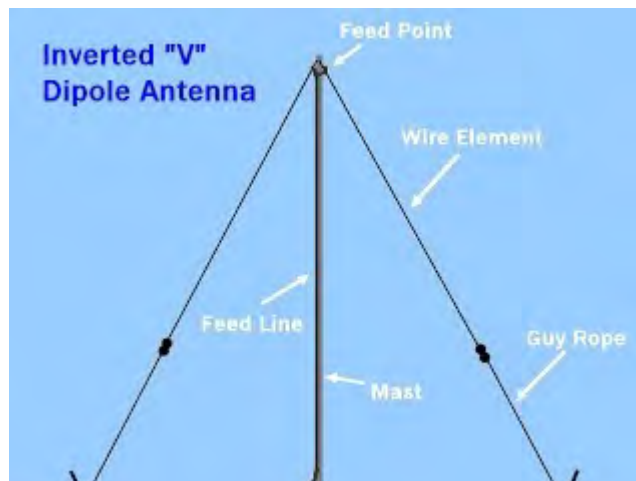
We are setting up this year's calendar of presenters for the meeting. Everyone has knowledge on something that members would benefit hearing about. To you, it may seem petty, and everyone probably already knows, or understands, but in all honesty, they probably do not. It takes only minutes to put together a 15 or 20 minute talk on any subject. With the help of the internet, you too can be a great presenter on just about any subject. As the Nike slogan states, Just Do It.

A great way to learn about how to use equipment and to get on the air is to join us on ham radio outings, and special events this summer. We are planning to do some with the club's communications trailer, as well as some where we will just set up somewhere portable. I'm talking about all bands and all modes. Get with me and let's talk about when, and where.

I hope you can make it to the meeting this month starting at 6:30 with Elmer to learn something new, and meeting at 7:00pm. After the business portion of the meeting we will have one of those presentations that I was talking about.

73

Terry Snyder WB3BKN



February 2018 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was being held at the Old Country Buffet, Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, PA.

The February 21, 2018 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1900 HRS by the President, Terry Snyder (WB3BKN).

The President addressed the group on upcoming Club Outings being planned for the upcoming year. This includes operating a Special Event Station from the deck of the Millersburg Ferry.

A Motion was made by Chuck (N3WL) to table any additional Club business till next month's meeting because of this being the annual club banquet. Doug (K3DRE) seconded the motion. Motion Carried

The business portion of the festivities adjourned at 1903 Hours.

The Vice President, Tim (KB3OZA) presented certificates to members celebrating radio milestones in the amateur radio service.

Ham of the Year – The committee consisting of Richard (KC3YRC), Nick (AA3T) and Pete (KB3WIH), then presented the Ham of the Year Award. Richard then spoke of all the contributions that the Person had made to the Club and was proud to announce that the Ham of the Year award went to Doug Evans (K3DRE).

The group then enjoyed the rest of the evening socializing including a drawing for valuable door prizes.

Respectfully Submitted *Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ*



Volunteer Examiner Report

Next session back at HACC on 21 April, 2018 in the Shumaker Public Safety building, Gate 5 on Industrial Road, Harrisburg. For directions, please visit our club web site at <http://www.w3uu.org/license-exams/>

Steven, KA3PDQ



Elmer Time (6:30 pm meeting night)



March: Elmer Time will cover an introduction to VHF and UHF propagation. I will touch on Tropo and thermal ducting.

I am working on a schedule of subjects for the remainder of the year.

Ham Of The Year 2017

At the annual banquet, held on Wednesday April 21st the last year's winner of the Ham Of The Year, Richard Lenker (KB3YRC) announced and presented to Doug Evans (K3DRE), the 2017 Ham of the year award.

Doug is the well deserving recipient honoring his time spent serving the club and follower the long list of other members who precede him. Doug in turn will pass the honors on next year.

Winners since 2005:

2005 Matt Kiner N3SOZ

2006 Terry Snyder WB3BKN

2007 Joe Stepansky KQ3F

2008 Bill Rawlings KE3YC

2009 Glenn Kurzenknabe K3SWZ

2010 Don Redman KB3NAQ

2011 Tim Lehman KB3OZA

2012 Shelby Miner K3EMT

2013 Gary Cappello KV3Q

2014 Pete Lehman KB3WIH

2015 Nick Rylatt AA3T

2016 Richard Lenker KB3YRC

Upcoming Programs for 2018 (After the business part of the meeting)

March: “Baluns – What can they do for you?” Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

April: “Why hams expect too much out of repeaters” John Jaminet, W3HMS

May:

June: Field Day and Hamfest planning Club

July:

August:

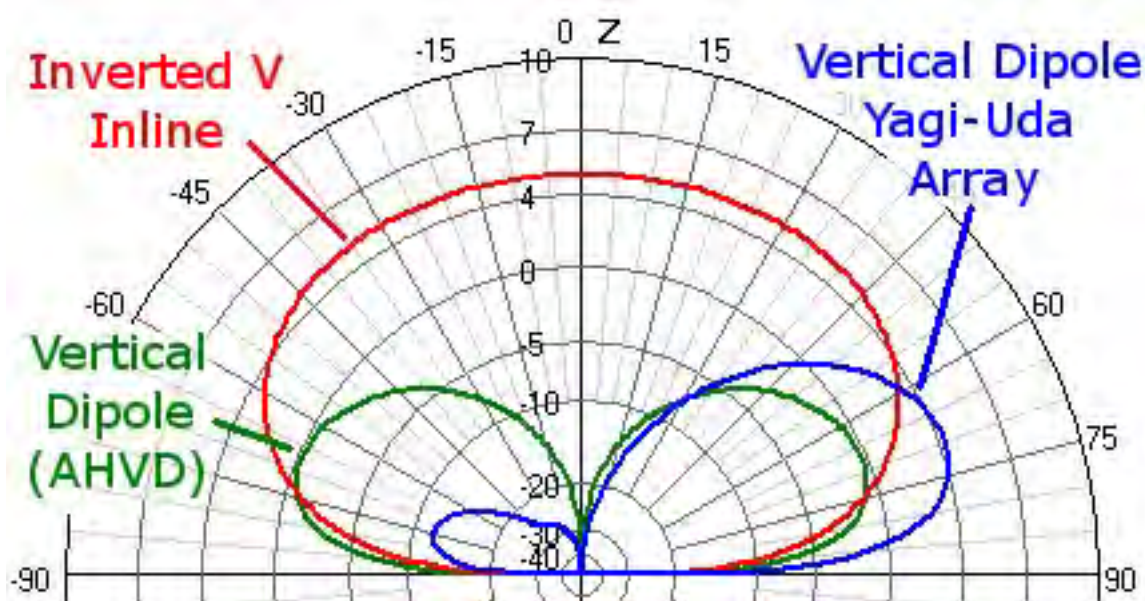
September: “Working the PA S QSO Party” Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

October:

November: “Building and using the Black Widow Antenna” Scott Walker, N3SW

December: “Cookie Exchange Night” Club

Please consider stepping up to make a presentation during one of the meetings that has an availability to do so. I know that everyone has an expertise in something, and can bring something to the table. Do more than consider, DO it.



Your Help Is Needed (This is worth repeating this month)

In recent months on 40M and 80M, there has been a concern by many Amateur Radio operators regarding certain individual's operating behavior, specifically on **7.200 MHz** and **3.822 MHz**. Constant vulgar and indecent language, music being played, transmitting without a call sign, hate language, threats, and the use of the "N" word, have been normal operating habits by a few.

In the spirit of "self-policing," when confronted by other Ham Radio operators concerned about the behavior, the result is a confrontation that does not resolve the situation but makes it worse.

For the reasons noted in the paragraph above, the FCC Enforcement Bureau has been contacted and notified of the behavior, which includes the Enforcement Bureau Chief and the FCC Chairman. The FCC has responded and is committed to eliminate the issues and will engage FCC resources to resolve this matter.

The FCC is requesting the Amateur community participate and assist in this effort:

"One of the ways that you, as amateur licensees, can assist the agency is to focus on long term patterned bad behavior yourselves. Begin a log of this behavior, noting days of the week, times of the day, and call signs of those stations that consistently and intentionally violate the Commission's rules. Track this behavior over an extended period of time – say 30 days – and then send me your logs. Once we establish a consistent "pattern" of behavior, I can then request that a field agent from one of our local offices be sent to that location. By working together and establishing the "pattern" of behavior, we can ensure that our agent is in the right place at the most appropriate time to monitor the behavior and confirm the possible violation of the Commission's rules. This helps to maximize use of our very limited and very valuable resource, our field agents".

Amateur Radio is an extraordinary service to our communities and a wonderful ambassador to the world. We should not allow this type of behavior on the Amateur Radio bands. It is an absolute shame this type of abhorrent behavior is being conducted on Amateur Radio frequencies.

This is a Call-To-Action for all Ham Radio operators to assist the FCC as is being requested to ensure this type of behavior is curtailed and eliminated.

Ron Lowrance, K4SX, is a special contributor to AmateurRadio.com and writes from Missouri, USA.

HeathKit History

This has got to be the most comprehensive 254 pages of Heathkit History and their Amateur radio Product line I have ever come across. This is a trip down memory lane.

<http://w5rkl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Heathkit-AGuideToTheAmateurRadioProducts.pdf>



The Worlds' First "Regenerative Repeater" Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

Bob Marzari, (ex WA3AVX, KC3BN) W3PT-SK of Harrisburg built the world's first Regenerative RTTY Repeater in the mid 70's. At that time there were a few on guys on 2 Meter FM RTTY simplex (146.70 MHz) in the Harrisburg area. The problem, as with all VHF communications, is that signals were up and down and some stations were stronger than others. Bob got the idea to build a repeater that would reconstruct each signal and re-transmit it, so there would be no distortion or fading on a signal. In RTTY, distortion equates to mis-copied text or no copy at all.. RTTY is transmitted by simply transmitting two audio tones.



The convention in the world on AFSK (Audio Frequency Shift Keying) at that time was 2125 Hz Mark and 2975 Hz, Space. (850 HZ shift) Bob built two Terminal Units (TU) that would convert the receive audio tones on 2 Meters into DC signal and then convert that DC signal back into another audio signal which was re-transmitted on 2 Meters. This was done at the repeater site. Transmitting this "new signal" from a mountain top would be exciting! No one would be weak!

In simple terms, he just took two TU's and mounted them back to back. Obviously, there was a bit more to it than this, but this gives you the idea. This approach was unheard of in Ham Radio. At that time in history, repeaters had special call signs. The WR3ACO went on the air on 147.975/147.375 MHz from the WITF-TV, Channel 33 site on Blue Mountain, north of Harrisburg. This was also the location of the Central PA Repeater Association repeaters, but it was owned personally by Bob, so the license was in his name. (Bob had WR3ACO on the license plate of one of his cars!) As a result, everyone now having a good signal, RTTY activity grew rapidly and TTY machines were hard to find. Most guys built the HAL ST-5 and ST-5A kit for their TU and the HAL AK-1 Tone Generator for transmit. These kits were reasonably priced and they worked well..

The Transmitter and Receiver portions of the repeater were built from a GE Base Station (tube type) as I recall. The RTTY population in the Harrisburg area grew rapidly until there were 100 or more stations using this repeater.

Most hams used a function called "Autostart". This allowed you to have your equipment on 24 hours a day. The motor in the TTY machine would only turn on, when a Mark signal was present on the in the audio. Your machine would copy the message and then turn off when the Mark signal went away. (after 30 seconds or so)

This was very popular until it grew old, like so many things in Ham Radio. Computers were becoming more popular and were more reasonably priced. A few guys actually started using computers on RTTY. Folks starting disposing of their gear and it eventually died a slow death in the mid 80's. I think the CPRA still has an audio repeater on the air on that frequency pair. Bob kept the electronics on the shelf in his basement and when he died Tim, WB3EYB grabbed it to make sure it didn't end up in the dumpster, and It is in his basement in Harrisburg for safe keeping. It was offered to the ARRL Museum, but they said they didn't have room for it. Bob never really bragged about his invention, but he did truly built the world's first "Regenerative RTTY Repeater"!

ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its Petition. "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League's proposal.

ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a "periodic rebalancing" between those two objectives, the League maintains.

"There has not been such a rebalancing in many years," ARRL said in its petition. "It is time to do that now." The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific data and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic that includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

"The Committee's analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago," ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 378,000, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL said that after 17 years of experience with the current Technician license as the gateway to Amateur Radio, it's urgent to make it more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service," ARRL asserted.

ARRL said its proposal is critical to developing improved operating skills, increasing emergency communication participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

"ARRL requests that the Commission become a partner in this effort to promote Amateur Radio as a public benefit by making the very nominal changes proposed herein in the Technician class license operating privileges," the petition concluded.

HAM RADIO CLASS (Manheim, PA)

Preparation and Test for FCC Amateur Radio Technician License April 7, 2018 (0800-1600) – April 8, 2018 (0800-1200) Testing April 8 (1230-300)

No Charge for the class, \$15 – FCC License Testing Fee.

Come with an open mind, pen and paper. This is entry level, there are no prerequisites. We discourage the use of SmartPhones, etc. during the class except for emergencies.

Class is held at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center, 101 Champ Boulevard, Manheim, PA 17545. (Adjacent to Spooky Nook Sports Center)

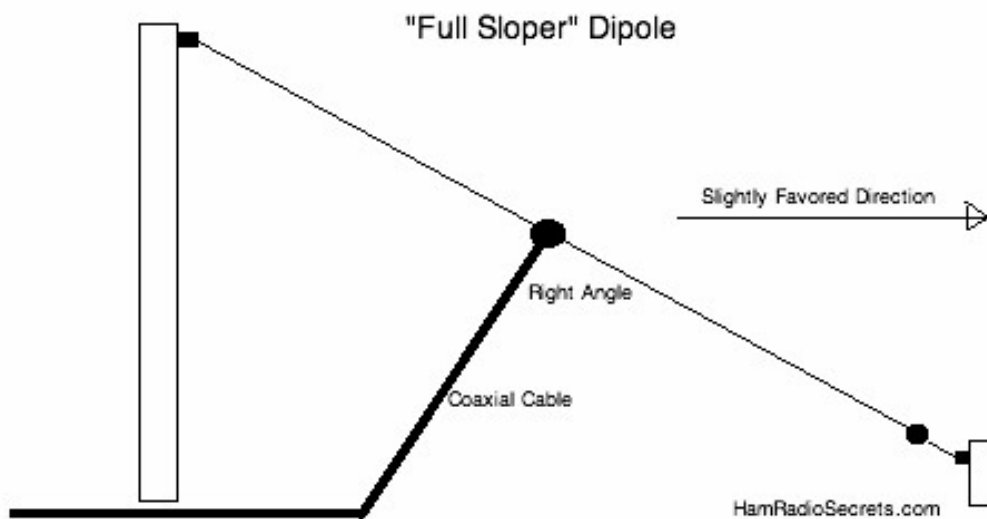
Registration contact: Ralph Brandt K3HQI ralph.brandt@comcast.net 717-885- 3063. Pre-registration is not necessary but helps us in planning. Payment of testing fee is at the time of testing. We work with several teams and the cost varies, \$15 is the highest. Please give a phone number where you can be reached if needed. Upon passing the test an FCC license is usually issued within a week. A very special Thank You to the Lancaster County for the use of their facility.

HAM RADIO TECHNICIAN CLASS FCC LICENSE (Perry County)

Class will be held at the New Buffalo Fire Department, Perry County Station 9,146 Old Trail Rd, Duncannon, PA 17020, March 17th & 18th

Please RSVP by email or by sending a message from the contact us section of this web site www.perrycoacs.org .

We will also be setting up a portable HF & VHF station at the class so those attending can see how it all works. The class is free for all who live in the area.



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@Gmail.com

Local area nets:

Capitol Area Traffic Net starts **Monday at 8 PM** on the South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) repeater on 146.46 (67.0 tone), 1 MHz offset.

The Combined Club ARES/RACES Net meets **Monday at 8:30 PM** on the Keystone 146.97 Repeater (Tone: 123 Hz).

South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) Net on **Monday at 9 PM** on the 145.43 (Tone: 67 Hz) repeater located in Mt. Holly Springs.

The Keystone VHF Club Digital Net on **Tuesday at 8 PM** on the York 146.97 Repeater.

The Keystone VJF Club ELMER Net on **Tuesday at 9 PM** on the York 146.97 Repeater right after the Digital net

A local FM Simplex Net runs **Thursday at 8:30 PM** on 146.55 MHz.

South Central PA 10 Meter Net **Friday at 8 PM** 28.495 MHz USB

Ham Shack Talk Net - Monday at 9 PM: 28.335 MHz. Delaware

Lehigh Valley ARC Net - Sunday 4:00 PM: 28.430 MHz Do Drop In net - Sunday 8:30 PM: 28.450 MHz Penn- Mar Club net - Friday, 8:30 PM: 28.495 MHz.

10 Meter Ragchew Net - Every evening starting 7:30PM: 28.600 Mhz

6 Meter Magicians Net from Pottstown Wednesdays at 8:30 PM on 50.130 USB. At 9 PM, they switch to 50.400 and run A.M. modulation and call themselves the Mini Boat Anchor Net. The KVHFC 6 Meter Activity Net run by Steve Cruse, K3WHC meets on 50.140 MHz USB on Wednesday evenings starting at 8:30 PM.

Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club Information net at 8pm on 146.76 (100 hz tone) every Wednesday except club meeting night, which is listed at the top of the first page of this newsletter.

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. Do not send articles to my personal email address. Send them to the address below.

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.

DIPOLE AND INVERTED "V" ANTENNA

