



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)

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From The Desk of The President.....

It's Christmas time and that means all the new toy books will be here. For kids, that means trucks and trains and video games and all the other things that kids enjoy, but for us that can mean the New Ham Radio Outlet book showed up. If you're like me you go through the book and circle things that are of interest to you, and then start doing some research. The research is on the product usually, but for some people the research is how can I get this around my wife without her knowing it. The research really should be on the more about the product, rather than how to hide it from your spouse. This one of those times that working with a club filled with experienced amateurs can be a valuable asset. Often times you will find someone in the club who has either worked on that equipment, or heard it on the air, along with the comments that others have made about that piece of equipment. Let them be your guide. Without a practical working knowledge of any particular radio or piece of equipment your purchase is only based on a guess.

Do your own research as well. There are many forums that can be found on the net about any particular piece of equipment which are a huge help. It is a whole lot better to do your research in the front end of a purchase than it is to regret later. You will never get in resale what you paid for the unit when new, and with that in mind why not take a look at some used equipment available on many websites across the net. Qrz.com has a swap shop and it seems to be one of the more reputable ones. On that one you are dealing directly with hams and not somebody who is just in the business of selling things as you often find on eBay.

In my house I am inundated with ham radio sales catalogs as well as guitar and music equipment catalogs. Personally, is a difficult decision to choose between the two. In your home it might be toys for the kids, and I know that in your mind you are thinking, I do enough for those kids all year long it's my turn now. Whatever you decide or whatever you would like to have questions about answered, come to the meeting and bring your catalog with you. I'm sure that we can find enough people to guide you in the right direction. And don't forget that for the wife there's always Pajamagram, and Shari's Berries.

I hope to see you at the meeting this month as in show you why the name Random Wire Antenna is a stupid name.

73 Terry WB3BKN

October 2018 Meeting Minutes

The October 10, 2018 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1901 HRS by the President, Terry Snyder (WB3BKN). The usual member introductions were made.

Secretary Report – Upon motion of Karl (KC3JRO) the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter; seconded by Chuck (N3WL). Motion carried.

Treasurers Report – Due to the absence of the Treasurer there was NO report.

Repeater Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the repeater was functioning as well as can be expected considering the antenna. With the coming fall it is not expected to be changed until spring.

Laurel VE Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next exam session is scheduled for October 20, 2018 at HACC.

Membership Committee – The Club has 91 members. 62 which are ARRL members or 68.9%.

Newsletter Editor – The President reported that the new editor and chief was doing a fine job. He also asked that anyone submitting articles proofread their submissions as our new editor is not a ham (yet) and would not catch technical errors.

Web Page – No Report.

Emergency Communications – Richard (KB3YRC) reported that there will be a SKYWARN spotter class on October 18, 2018.

Entertainment – Nothing to report.

Hamfest Committee – Flyers for the winter Hamfest are out. The date is January 12, 2019

Field Day – No Report.

Elmer Time – Terry (WB3BKN) has several topics in mind. Terry also said he welcomes suggestions for topics.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Bill (KE3YC) reported a new recipient of the coveted Keystone Award and the winner is N2IPH who made his contacts using FT8.

The President announced to the group the need for a nominating committee for officers for the upcoming year. The following generously volunteered to take on the task; Bill, (KE3YC), Charlie (K3CWT) and Steve (KC3EUU).

Good of the Club – The club is in need of a Refreshment Officer 1st Class. This position involves bringing snacks and beverages to the Club Meeting.

Doug (K3DRE) spoke on the need of operators for Public Service Activities in the area. It appears that the word does not always get out to the area's Amateur's. Anyone who knows of such a need should send it to the newsletter editor and the Net Control station for publication and announcements.

Adjournment – With no further business Chuck (N3WL) made a motion to adjourn Bill (KE3YC) seconded at 1957 hours.

Respectfully Submitted

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

Volunteer Examiner Report

Next session at HACC on December 15, 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/>

Again, we need to start thinking about next year's "2019" schedule for HACC. We've had the same schedule for quite a few years now so if you have any input now is the time to speak up.

Steven, KA3PDQ

TEST SESSION RESULTS

We had 5 applicants show up to take the exam. There were 3 successful applicants for TECH. The 2 for General were not as lucky.

Thanks to the VEs who helped:

Steven, N3FWE

Curtis, K3URT

Frank, KB3PQT

Barry, KB3MCK

Bill, KE3YC

Steven, KA3PDQ



Other Exam Sessions:

December 16, 2018: Newberry EMA, 1915 Old Trail Rd, Etters, PA. Testing starts at 12:30 PM.

January 12, 2019: W3UU Hamfest, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA (see separate flyer). Testing starts at 9:00 AM

Thank You ALL again!

Steven, KA3PDQ

Elmer Time (6:30 pm meeting night)



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

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

December: "Cookie Exchange Night" Club; Submit DX QSL requests to Glen, K3SWZ (see details below)

January: Winterfest (see website for details)

ARRL DX QSL Bureau mailing for HRAC members

Next mailing to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau will be 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 may give them to me at the December HRAC meeting or the December Ham Lunch. You may also give them to Chuck, N3WL, as I see him often. As a last resort, you may mail them to me. My address on QRZ.COM is OK. This service is provided for free to all HRAC members. You may send one card or a thousand. Questions -- feel free to call me at 717-774-1728 or k3swz@arri.net

73 Glenn, K3SWZ

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 the club's 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, Costco and Home Depot.

It's a great way to meet new people!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I thought I would share some links regarding different multi-media sources out there, that are both educational and entertaining. There is a plethora of resources that you can find either in video or audio format. Some info is on YouTube; others, especially in audio format, can be found in apps such as Stitcher, PlayerFM, and iTunes which allow you to listen anywhere you have an internet connection. The following are just a small sampling of podcasts that you can find out there.

[International Radio Network Nets](#)

[QSO Today - A conversation for amateur radio operators](#)

[The Phasing Line Podcast](#)

[The Doctor is In](#) (can be found on iTunes and Stitcher)

In addition, a member (Karl, KC3JRO) shared this [website](#) which offers **FREE** ham radio courses on not just basic radio awareness, but also DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) – that's right **FREE!** So, if you're a beginner or just need a refresher, this site might just be for you.

If you know of any additional resources, please don't hesitate to send them into the newsletter account.

In other news, Glen (K3SWZ) stopped by the ARRL, while on his way to Connecticut to see his grandson play hockey. While there, he met with the folks behind the DXCC Desk.



Norm, W3IZ; Glenn, K3SWZ; and Sharon Taratula respectively. Thanks for sharing Glenn!

Lastly, thanks to Terry, WB3BKN for providing this piece from the [ARRL Letter](#). US Senator Roger Wicker from MS tweeted about the critical work amateur ham radio operators have provided during emergency operations and crises, such as the recent response efforts after Hurricane Michael in FL, at the very least. For his own state, Mississippians learned first-hand the crucial need for these volunteers filling a critical gap in the communications area during times of need, during Hurricane Katrina.

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.

Join the Gang

