



# 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.....**

**Why should I join a club, and if I do consider joining one, what should I look for in a club?** This is a question that has been haunting radio amateurs since the early days of radio. Many say things such as, "I don't need to attend club meetings to be a ham. Anything that I need to know, I can find in a book, or on the net." To this I say, nothing beats learning from an old ham that has tried everything and can help you along, and by old, I mean long tenured and experienced in many things.

There are lots of clubs around that boast large membership numbers, and mentorship, however when picking a club, there is a lot to be said about the age of the members, and their experience. I hear it all of the time; I'm not joining a club filled with old people, what could they possibly know about amateur radio in a modern age? You would be surprised. These "old guys" really do know more than you give them credit. In my opinion and experience, clubs that are filled with hams who have been licensed less than ten years, are full of newbie operators, and you end up with newbies who think they know everything, leading you down the wrong path. I do see first hand, and hear it on the bands.; People are using incorrect procedures and terms were taught by people with no practical experience. The wealth of incorrect technical knowledge is astounding. To many of us, even a ten year veteran is still learning. (when you are old, you will understand )

Here at the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club, are some of the best teachers that you may find in the area. Here we treat everyone with mutual respect and do not talk down to new hams. Everyone adds their questions, and input to the discussions. Most of us will gladly help you and often, and even when you don't know what to ask, we will help you to fill in the gaps. When we have to work with members of other clubs, we often find those who have been wrongly educated, and they are often so far off that it is hard to re-teach. Save the trouble. Join a club that can really help you and not one that just seems to be a cool collection of newbie ops.

What do we do here? Each club meeting begins with a 30 minute educational presentation. Subjects are tailored to help newer operators to fill in the things that they only memorized answers to in order to pass the test. Often to older hams, the subject may cover something that they have not yet tried. Experienced hams in attendance often help during discussion time to bring the subject of the day to a clearer understanding.

We put on the area's most talked about hamfests, we have a fully operational communications trailer that goes out on special and some not special events for the club's enjoyment, and we have get together events often. Come check us out.

73, Terry WB3BKN

## September 2018 Meeting Minutes

The August 8, 2018 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1900 HRS by the President, Terry Snyder (WB3BKN). The usual member introductions were made.

**Secretary Report** – Upon motion of Doug (K3DRE) the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter, Seconded by Rick (K2RBT). Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report** – A motion was made by Doug (K3DRE) to accept the Treasurers report as read pending clarification of the August 8, 2018 Treasurers report. Motion seconded by Rick (K2RBT). Motion carried.

**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 was proud to announce that a new editor-in-chief has been found for the newsletter. A sincere thank you to Jeannie Gardner for taking over this important task.

**Web Page** – No Report.

**Emergency Communications** – Nothing to report The President stated the need for Net Control Operators during Severe Weather Warnings. This was especially important as we await the remnants of hurricane Florence.

**Entertainment** – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that Glen (K3SWZ) would be conducting a presentation on the PA QSO party.

**Hamfest Committee** – Flyers for the winter Hamfest to be out soon.

**Field Day** – Richard Lenker (KC3YRC) presented to the club the idea of moving Field Day to Veteran's Park 1955 Elmerton Ave, Susquehanna Twp. After some discussion Doug (K3DRE) made a motion to proceed with the arrangements to move Field Day Activities to the Park Glen (K3SWZ) seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

**Old Business** – Terry (WB3BKN) reported on a Special Event Station to be held at Millersburg Ferry. Operations are being planned for 20 or 40 meters. August 11 starting at 11 AM. Operating Frequencies to be 7.260 and 14.260 mhz with site talking on 147.240mhz tone 123hz.

**New Business** – No items at this time.

**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. Rick (K2RBT) seconded at 2000 hours.

Respectfully Submitted

*Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ*

## Volunteer Examiner Report

Next session back at HACC on October 20, 2018 in the Shumaker Public Safety building, Gate 5 on Industrial Road, Harrisburg. We have 1 applicant at this time. With plenty of time left for more. We will meet at HACC at 8:30 AM with the exams starting at 9:00AM.

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



For directions, please visit our club web site at <http://www.w3uu.org/license-exams/>

See you there -

Steven, KA3PDQ

**Elmer Time** (6:30 pm meeting night)



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

**October:**

**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 attached flyer)

**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA SKYWARN TRAINING:** Dauphin County EMA will host two SKYWARN training sessions presented by the National Weather Service in October. This training will serve as the October Dauphin County EMA training session and is open to the members of Dauphin County Department of Public Safety, EOC, LEPC, Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators, Emergency Responders, School District Representatives, Storm Ready Business Partners and the public. The training lasts about 1.5 hrs. The class size is a maximum of 50 participants per session. **Please RSVP as soon as possible but no later than Monday, October 15 to reserve your seat.** For administrators who are sending members of their staff please respond by identifying the time slot and the names of the participants in the body of the email.

**Please RSVP by noon Monday, October 15**

Topic: [SKYWARN](#) (click link to visit the NWS SKYWARN website)

Instructor: Peter Jung, National Weather Service

Dates/Times: **Thursday, October 18** at 1300 (1pm) **OR** Thursday, October 18 at 1900 (7pm)

Location: Dauphin County Department of Public Safety, 911 Gibson Blvd, Steelton, PA 17113

**RSVP: Email to [dscully@dauphinc.org](mailto:dscully@dauphinc.org) (indicate which time slot)**

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

73 Glenn, K3SWZ

## Upcoming Volunteering Opportunities for HRAC Members:

Marine Corps Marathon is **10/29/18**. They are looking for Ham Radio Volunteers to Pass messages for the MCM team quickly and accurately. Change nothing in a message! AND Be the MCM team's eyes on the course, alerting the MCM team with clear, accurate facts. All Hands ON Meeting is **10/13/18**. **If you would like to volunteer, please register ASAP here:** <http://www.mcmham.org/Volunteer/>. You can also visit their [Facebook](#) page for other topical information. Thanks to Richard, KB3YRC for supplying the link to the info above.

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Thank you to Tim, W4NKC for submitting the following:

Hello Everyone!

As you all know, the last two months in PA have been very hard on our families, neighbors and friends. We have been hit hard with flooding, not once, not twice, but three times. Pennsylvania needs your help. We at MDR, along with Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (PA VOAD), need your help doing mud outs and rebuilding the homes of 466 clients, for starters.

I know that, in the past, ham radio has been nothing more than a check mark on someone's log. Well, here at MDR, we want to change that. MDR directors Joe "KB3POC" Ryan and Tim "W4NKC" Lehman, along with three other members of our board, are also ham radio operators. We have a chance to show the PA VOAD that we are more than "just" communicators; that we have other valuable skills as well. If you can help us strip out homes, hang drywall, move debris to the curb or work on furnaces, air conditioners, plumbing or electrical wiring, we need your help.

All supplies will be purchased by FEMA under a new program called Voluntary Organizations Leading and Organizing Repairs (VALOR). The PA VOAD and its member organizations will supply all labor to clean out, strip out and rebuild homes.

This is our chance to shine. We can give back to our communities. We can also demonstrate that there is more to amateur radio folks; the side that has other skills and is willing to help their neighbors when they are in need. These clients really need our help to get back into their homes before cold winter weather arrives.

If you can help, please call: (717) 623-0164; or email us at: [director@masonicdisasterrelief.org](mailto:director@masonicdisasterrelief.org)

Thank you,

Joe Ryan, KB3POC



W3UU - Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club – WinterFest

**JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**(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](http://www.w3uu.org)**

**SNOW DATE January 19**

For further information or questions contact:

Terry Snyder

717-979-9515

Wb3BKN1@Gmail.com

## 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](mailto: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 there is nothing to report, and the newsletter suffers. Send any info (in the form of a link) that you find on the internet that impacts Ham Radio world to:  
**Hrac.newsletter@gmail.com**

Thank you,

Editor: Jeannie Gardner

The following extract (from <http://www.arri.org> ) was submitted by Karl, KC3JRO

## Scouting's 2018 Jamboree on the Air Set for October 19 – 21

09/25/2018

Scouting organizations are still **registering** to participate in the 2018 Jamboree on the Air (**JOTA**) over the October 19 – 21 weekend. With about 1 month to go, JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, told ARRL that registration is "probably on target" at this point. US registrations stood at 235 as of the end of last week. Right after JOTA 2017, 489 US locations had signed up, although that included both Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) participants, which, Wilson said, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have "remained steadfast" in considering separate events, although, he noted, this is not the case at the world level.

Held each year on the third full weekend in October, JOTA is the world's largest Scouting event. JOTA uses Amateur Radio to link Scouts and hams around the world. Scouts of any age and gender can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers.

**Why is this important? Because one of your fellow hammers is attending this very event.**

# 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

