

Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club Newsletter

From The Desk of The President.....

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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So often I hear many of the newly licensed amateurs talking about antennas, and how much the cost is to get on the air. How about a \$60 dipole for 20 meters, or an \$80 dipole for 40 meters. When I hear this, I get the feeling that I am a dinosaur, or maybe I should start making and selling antennas.

Antennas are not the only thing. There are many things that amateurs, both old, and new, are opening their wallet and happily spending money for things that are super easy to make. This should not surprise anyone, because today the method of obtaining a license does not lend it's self to proper mentoring and instruction. This is where your local amateur radio club with well seasoned membership comes in.

When you come with us on a ham radio outing, be it a special event, or field day, or just an get out of the house radio trip, you will learn something. During the special event on Peters Mountain, attendees had the opportunity to learn how to build a dipole antenna for 40 meters, and to work stations using that very same antenna. You will also learn how to use various pieces of equipment, and why you may want to add some things to your toolbox.

This month during the Elmer Time presentation I will be bringing something we did during one of the special events this summer. You will learn how a trip to your favorite hardware store, and a few dollars can save you hundreds. I will give you a list of things to purchase, so bring a paper and pen. (pencils are okay too).

You see, I started this amateur radio adventure in 1975 when I was a financially disadvantaged newly married young fella, and had to make every dollar count. I also had an advantage of being a broadcast engineer and all that comes with that experience. It is always more fun to make your own things, and save money. Stick with me and the members of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club, and we will not steer you wrong.

Terry Snyder
Wb3BKN.

July 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The July 10, 2019 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1859 HRS by the President, Terry Snyder (WB3BKN). The usual member introductions were made.

Secretary's Report –The minutes of the June 12, 2019 meeting were read by the Secretary Steven (KA3PDQ). Doug (K3DRE) made a Motion to accept the minutes as read; Pete (KB3WIH) seconded the motion. Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report – Nick (AA3T) read the report.

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

Equipment Trustee – All equipment accounted for and insured.

Repeater Committee –Terry (WB3BKN) reported that the new antenna for the 146.760 repeater was delivered to the site owner and will be installed at the convenience of the site owner.

Laurel VE Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next exam session is scheduled for August 17, 2019 at HACC. There were (2) applicants signed up as of this date.

Membership Committee –Tim (W4NKC) reported we have 81 members. 54 of which also belong to the ARRL.

Newsletter Editor – Terry (WB3BKN), reported that the newsletter editor needs complete articles proof read with corrections. Articles should be in plain English with NO abbreviations. Please send articles to HRAC.Newsletter@gmail.com. Deadline: **7 days before the end of the month.**

Web Page – No Report.

Emergency Communications – Richard Lenker (KB3YRC) announced the need for operators on July 27-28, 2019 for the Muckletatz Horse Ride. See Richard to volunteer. There was also a discussion about radio propagation changes before an earthquake.

DXCC Committee – No Report

Entertainment –Terry (WB3BKN) is always in need of topics and presenters.

Hamfest Committee – Firecracker Hamfest: The event went well. The President thanked all that gave of their valuable time to help with the event. There was a discussion regarding a donation for the (3) people who parked cars on the skid pad. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion to donate \$100.00 for the parking effort, Bill (KE3YC) seconded the motion. Motion Carried. A lengthy discussion continued on what could be done to make next year's event better.

WINTER HAMFEST – Tim (W4NKC) addressed the group about the status of the lease agreement between THE Vietnam Veterans at 8000 Derry Street and the outcome of the talks.

Hamfeast – No Action

Field Day – Richard (KB3YRC) gave a report on the very educational experience. A lengthy discussion followed regarding having a better inventory of the club equipment in the trailer as well as relocating the Site back to HACC due to other users at the park, especially if exclusive use of the facilities cannot be procured prior.

Elmer Time – None

Old Business – None

New Business – Bill (KE3YC) presented the President with the latest Keystone Award for his signature.

Good of the Club –Terry (WB3BKN) brought up the possibility about the Club buying a metal shipping container to store the club equipment. This would be a one time cost instead of the monthly rental payments. Terry offered to have the container dropped off at his lot. This lot has electric on it. No action taken at this time.

Adjournment – With no further business Chuck (N3WL) made a motion to adjourn; Pete (KB3WIH) seconded at 2025 hours.

Respectfully Submitted

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

Volunteer Examiner Report

Next session at HACC on 8/17/19. For directions, please visit our club web site at <http://www.w3uu.org/license-exams/>.

Elmer Time (6:30 pm meeting night).

This month: Antennas Done Dirt Cheep



Upcoming Events for 2019

Watch our Facebook page "**Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club**" for surprise last minute events, or follow us on Twitter **@hrac_pa**

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** on 28.495 MHz USB

Ham Shack Talk Net - **Monday at 9 PM** on 28.335 MHz Delaware

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

10 Meter Ragchew Net - **Every evening starting 7:30PM** on 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 at 8:30 PM**.

Harrisburg Area Skywarn Group Net is every Wednesday night **at 9 PM** on the **145.11**.

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

The following articles were provided by Karl (W3KBG) from different cited sources:

One Dead, One Injured in New Hampshire Ham Radio Tower Mishap

07/31/2019

A tower dismantling turned tragic on Saturday, July 27, in Deerfield, New Hampshire, when two radio amateurs working some 40 feet up on the tower were carried to the ground when the structure collapsed. Joseph Areyzaga, K1JGA, 52, of Goffstown, New Hampshire, did not survive his injuries sustained in the fall, while the tower's owner, Michael Rancourt, K1EEE, 65, was seriously injured and remains hospitalized. Rancourt was taking down the tower in preparation for selling his house, and the pair had nearly completed their work. They were tied into the tower and went down with it as it collapsed.

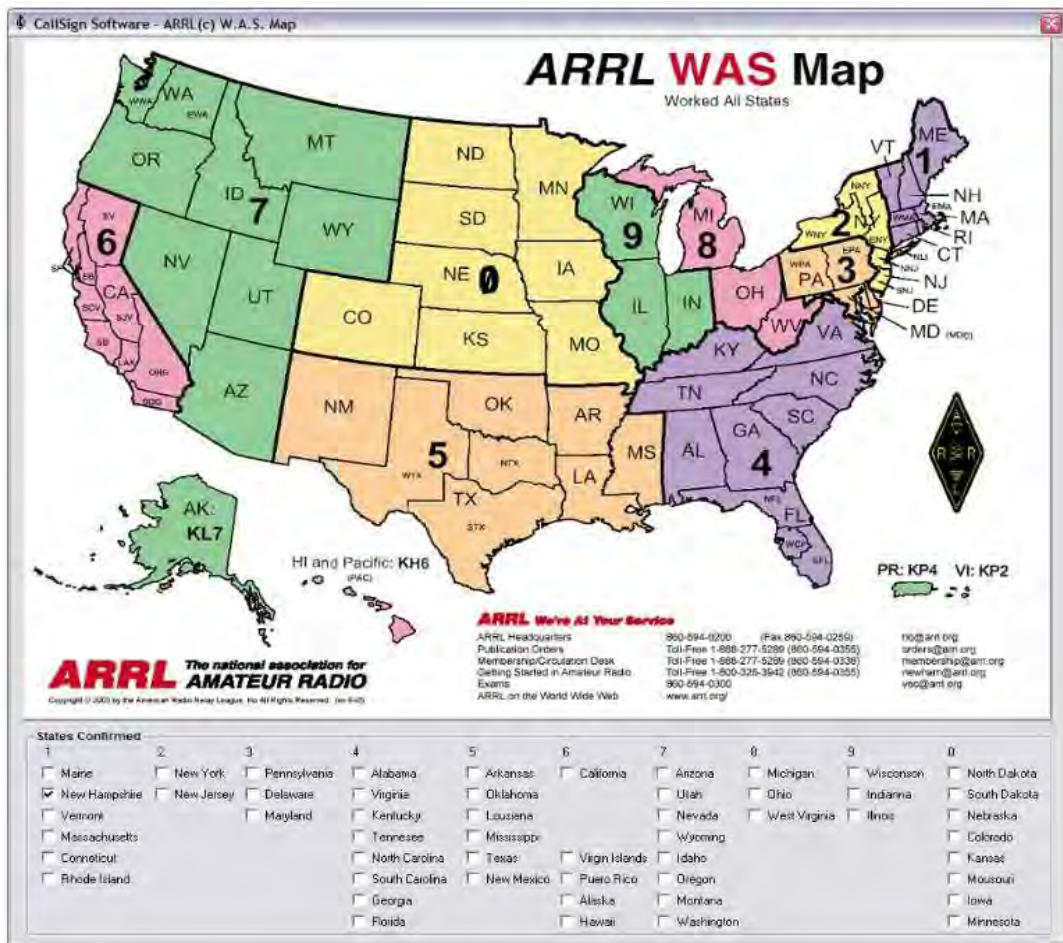
The tower, a tilt-over model said to be 40 to 50 feet, had been bolted to prevent it from tilting as it was being dismantled.

A law enforcement source said a number of people were at the site at the time for a social gathering as the tower was being taken down, and they witnessed the tragedy.

No official determination has been made regarding the cause of the structural failure, but a radio amateur who visited the scene afterward observed that two of the tower's three legs were clearly compromised and split cleanly and the third leg bent, just above the fully intact tilt base.

The New Hampshire Amateur Radio tower-related fatality is the second such deadly incident in a little more than 6 weeks. In mid-June, a Pennsylvania radio amateur died when the tower he was installing collapsed as he was attempting to attach a guy line to the structure's bottom section.

Extracted from ARRL Website: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/one-dead-one-injured-in-new-hampshire-ham-radio-tower-mishap>



Logbook of The World Adds FT4 for Digital Worked All States (WAS) Award Endorsements

News Item - July 29, 2015 - ARRL News



ARRL's Logbook of The World has been updated to embrace FT4 contacts for the Digital Worked All States award — one of many digital WAS Endorsements. This follows the WSJT-X Development Group's July "general availability" release of WSJT-X 2.1.0. No other endorsements are under consideration at this time.

LoTW users are currently able to upload all FT4 contacts they have made. While the FT4 Digital WAS Award Endorsement functions are now active, award processing and fulfilment remain pending the availability of the new endorsement sticker. Watch ARRL News for this and other updates.

Source: [ARRL](http://www.arrl.org)

<https://qrznow.com/logbook-of-the-world-adds-ft4-for-digital-worked-all-states-was-award-endorsements/>



Free HPM 150th Birthday Event Logging Software Now Available

Proceedings (vol. 71) 2018 in Honor



Scott Davis, N3FJP, perhaps best known for the ARRL Field Day software that bears his call sign, has developed a free logging program for ARRL's **Happy 150! Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration** on-the-air event that gets under way on August 31 and runs for 9 days. Davis calls his software **Hiram Percy Maxim Contest Log 1.0**. Maxim, 1AW, who cofounded ARRL, was born on September 2, 1869.

"I've never created a program for a non-recurring event before, because the coding time required is too large," Davis said in a post to the *N3FJP* software user group. "I've made this exception because this is a really nice, simple rule set with the very popular field day-style exchange that has the added bonus in schedule flexibility of running for 9 days. The Hiram Percy Maxim celebration sure looks like a well-designed event that will be a lot of fun for us all."

The Happy 150! event will begin at 0000 UTC on August 31 and continue until 2359 UTC on September 8. It is open to all radio amateurs. The goal is straightforward: Contact as many participating stations as possible. W1AW and all ARRL members will append "/150" to their call signs during this event (DX operators who are ARRL members may operate as <call sign>/150, if permitted by their country of license.) Participating stations will exchange a signal report and **ARRL/RAC Section**. DX stations will send a signal report and "DX." All Amateur Radio bands but 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters are available. Permitted modes are CW, any voice mode, and digital.

Davis said *Hiram Percy Maxim Contest Log 1.0* is full featured and "very easy and intuitive to use."

"If the Hiram Percy Maxim celebration is received as strongly as it appears, my hope is that ARRL will decide to make this an annual event," Davis allowed. "After all, birthdays come once a year, and we now have the infrastructure to continue in place."

Source: **ARRL**

<https://qrznow.com/free-hpm-150th-birthday-event-logging-software-now-available/>

HRAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Tim Lehman (W4NKC)
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

