



# 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.....**

So, how long has it been since you came to a meeting? As a club we plan events that everyone can get behind and learn as you enjoy a day with others who share your chosen hobby. Where do you think these events are planned, and organized? They are planned and organized at meetings. I field ideas from members, and non members alike to present to the gang, and present them. There is an interest in participating in Winter Field Day this year. We will be going over that at the meeting.

We have quite a few members, but on a typical meeting night we see about 20% of the members attend. That is very normal for any organization. Consider this. If everyone who attends would bring one or two prospective hams, or prospective members along to a meeting, many more ideas could be brought to the table, and more could be experienced.

73, and Merry Christmas to all,

Terry Wb3BKN

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## November 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The November 13, 2019 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** – The minutes of the October 9, 2019 meeting were published in the newsletter. Karl (W3KBG) Made a Motion to accept the minutes as published Neil (N3JQM) seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**Treasurers Report** – Nick (AA3T) read the report. Rick (K2RBT) made a motion to accept the report; Karl (W3KBG) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**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 discovered too large for the current configuration of the tower. Terry (WB3BKN) and Steven (KA3PDQ) will meet with the site owner to discuss alternatives.

**Laurel VE Committee** – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next exam session is scheduled for December 21, 2019 at HACC. Steven also reported that the Club will have opportunities for exams in January and February 2020.

**Membership Committee** – No report

**Newsletter Editor** – Terry (WB3BKN), asked that complete articles in plain English with NO abbreviations and proofread be sent to HRAC.Newsletter@gmail.com. DEADLINE is 7 days before the end of the month.

**Web Page – No Report.**

**Emergency Communications** – Richard (KB3YRC) there will be a PA state wide drill in the near future. No other details at this time.

**Trailer Committee** – No report.

**Elections** – The following members volunteered to staff the committee; Rick (K2RBT), Zachary (W3ZTB) and Greg (WB3AMB).

**DXCC Committee** – Chuck (N3WL) reported that Glenn will be preparing a mailing of QSL cards in December. Members are encouraged to gather their cards along with their QST mailing label if they want to participate in this free service to the Bureau.

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

**Hamfest Committee – WINTER HAMFEST:** Will be held at the Vietnam Veterans Association, 8000 Derry Street on January 11, 2020. Terry (WB3BKN) reported that the winter Hamfest flyers are available on the website (via the internet). Terry also encouraged the membership that help is needed to make this event a success.

**Hamfeast** – No Action

**Field Day** – No Action

**Elmer Time** – None

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Good of the Club** – Karl (W3KBG) reported on a CW OPS Training course that is available on the internet. There was a brief discussion about winter field day to be held January 25-26, 2020. Terry reminded the members that the December Meeting would include the traditional Christmas Cookie Feast.

**Adjournment** – With no further business, Karl (W3KBG) made a motion to adjourn Joe (W3JPH) seconded at 1926 hours.

Respectfully Submitted

*Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ*

## Volunteer Examiner Report

Next session at HACC on 12/21/19. For directions, please visit our club web site at <http://www.w3uu.org/license-exams/>. The session following that will be on 1/11/20 at the HRAC Winter Hamfest. See our website for more details.

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



## 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](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** 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 article was provided by Karl (W3KBG) from different cited sources:

More than 1 Million Contacts Logged during ARRL Field Day 2019

11/14/2019

ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, reports that nearly 1.1 million contacts were made during the 2019 ARRL Field Day — the most popular operating event in North America. Bourque reported the **2019 ARRL Field Day results**, which are available starting on page 64 of the **digital edition** of the December 2019 issue of *QST*. Bourque says in his article that more than 36,000 radio amateurs took part in ARRL Field Day 2019 across all 83 ARRL/Radio Amateurs of Canada sections, up slightly from the 35,250 reported last year. The total number of contacts was down by about 7% from 2018's 1.18 million contacts.

“This year, 3,113 entries were received from local clubs and emergency operations centers (EOCs), as well as individual portable, mobile, and home stations,” Bourque wrote in *QST*. Most entries were in Class A — club or non-club groups of three or more. Of the nearly 1.1 million contacts, approximately 46% were made on phone, and 456,000 (42%) of contacts were made on CW. The remaining 138,000+ (12%) of the contacts were made on digital modes, such as FT8 and RTTY.

“This is a substantial increase compared to 2018, when total QSOs on the digital modes numbered just over 56,000,” Bourque reported. “With the last 2018 release of **WSJT-X** (which now supports Field Day exchanges), many participants made use of FT8's ability to communicate when band conditions weren't being cooperative.” Top 10 scores ranged between W3AO's Class 14A entry from Maryland-DC, with 32,356 points, to W1NVT's 14,876-point Class 2A entry from Vermont.

Bourque said that 95% of the 3,113 entries received came through the Field Day web applet.

“Not only is ARRL Field Day an opportunity to sharpen operating skills in temporary and portable locations, it's also an occasion to showcase amateur radio to the local community, with clubs often setting up in publicly accessible locations and interacting with non-hams,” Bourque wrote. (Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/more-than-1-million-contacts-logged-during-arrl-field-day-2019>)

The following (2) articles were provided by Glen (K3SWZ):

## CW Operators' Club 10 Year Anniversary



January 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the CW Operators' Club (CWops). In the ten years of promoting the use of CW in amateur radio communications, the club has grown to more than 2000 members worldwide. To honour the members' devotion to CW and the efforts of many volunteers toward promoting its use and educating new devotees, CWops members are celebrating with a month-long on-air event in January 2020.

The following rules have been adopted for the event:

- **All radio amateurs are welcome to participate**
- **Timeframe: 0000z, 1 January 2020 to 2359z, 31 January 2020**
- **Bands: 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m**
- **Exchange: Signal report. Participants are encouraged to send additional information at their discretion such as member number, name, state or province, etc. NOTE: CWT QSOs are valid for scoring purposes and are exempt from these rules.**
- **Scoring: 1 point per unique member or Special Club Callsign worked per band**
- **All QSOs with Special Club Callsigns or members must be via CW**
- **Special Club Calls will be activated as well as a number of unique Special Anniversary Celebratory Calls – e.g. K3CWO, GB10CWO or N5A. A complete list of special callsigns is available at <https://cwops.org/cwops-10th-anniversary-celebration/>**
- **Special Club Callsign stations and members should call CQ CALL/CWO or CQ CALL CWO\***
- **Members calling another member or Special Club Callsign station should send CALL/CWO or CALL CWO\***
- **Reporting: See <https://cwops.org/cwops-10th-anniversary-celebration/> for reporting information**
- **Awards: See <https://cwops.org/cwops-10th-anniversary-celebration/> for awards information**

Please see the website for further details, updates and latest news – <https://cwops.org/cwops-10th-anniversary-celebration/>

## **ARRL DX QSL Bureau mailing for HRAC members**

I plan to make the annual mailing to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau 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 – the QSL Bureaus don't handle stateside cards) Not sure how to correctly fill out QSL cards, let me know and I'll be happy to send you my PP presentation on the subject. Please place the cards in prefix order according to the DXCC Country List (found on the ARRL web site in the DXCC section) 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 November or December HRAC meeting or the November or 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. NOTE: Since the ARRL reduced their costs associated with this service, I will be making two mailings in 2020, as in the years prior to them raising the costs significantly. Watch for announcements in the newsletter. You may send one card or a thousand! Questions -- feel free to contact me at 717-774-1728; or [k3swz@arrl.net](mailto:k3swz@arrl.net)

The following was provided by Terry (WB3BKN); the original source is The Franklin Radio Club:

From Franklin Radio Club

To FRC Members,

I am one of several mentors from the Warminster Amateur Radio Club (WARC) who are helping students from Council Rock High School South in Southampton, PA make contact with the International Space Station on Thursday, December 5th as part of NASA and AMSAT's ARISS program. Three of us are also members of FRC.

Our group is in need of your help raising awareness in the Ham Radio community about the school's contact with ARISS and I'd like to ask a favor to share this with as many Hams in your area as possible.

Our goal is to get as many people as possible tuning-in to the student's live stream on FaceBook and to give these young people the attention and recognition they deserve.

In particular we want to drive awareness via FaceBook, Instagram and other social media channels, and in particular to the school's live stream of the contact hosted on their FaceBook page. URLs for the school's "RockARC" homepage, FaceBook and Instagram pages are at the bottom of this message.

All of you are also welcome to join us at the school for the live contact if you wish. Council Rock South is located at 2002 Rock Way, Southampton, PA 18966 and the student assembly for the contact will begin at 12:30 pm. Please arrive 15 minutes earlier if you plan to attend.

Several Warminster Amateur Radio Club members including Michael Shanblatt (W3MAS,) Andy Vavra (KD3RF,) Joe Horanzy (AA3JH,) as well as myself (KD3TB) and ARISS advisor Fred Kemmerer (AB1OC) have been mentoring the teachers and students to help them set-up and operate a permanent satellite station at the school which they will use to engage in a conversation with the astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) this coming Thursday, December 5th at 17:56 UTC (12:56 pm Eastern Time.) After the ARISS contact the station will remain at the school to be incorporated into their astronomy and space science curriculum.

Starting at 12:56 pm Eastern time and continuing over the span of about 10 - 15 minutes the students will have a 2-way conversation directly with Dr. Drew Morgan - KI5AAA to ask about his personal experiences as an astronaut, what it's like to fly on the ISS, and how his education and training led to him being selected as an astronaut.

Dr. Morgan is from New Castle, PA and has been a NASA astronaut since 2013. He is also a Colonel in the U.S. Army and a Medical Doctor.

The following image was provided by Richard ( Kb3YRC )

**PAST**

# 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

