



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.....

The first subject that I want to cover is the newsletter. I am no longer the editor of this newsletter, and the lady who so graciously took on the job is not a radio amateur. All submissions must be sent to the email address under NEWSLETTER EDITOR on the left side of this page. Any submissions absolutely must be a complete article written in Word, and have pictures sent along as an attachment as well as embedded in the text.

Please do not send emails saying something such as, here is some info on XYZ, see what you can do with it. Do not just send copied text with links to another web page, because that does not work. The article will have your name on it, so please have someone go over it for grammar, and spelling, because nobody wants to look like a fool in print.

The second thing I want to address is our events that we do over the summer. A great deal of planning goes into each event, and over the past year, only three or four of us actually came out to help. With a club the size of ours, that is a pity. Please help to come up with ideas and participate.

Lastly, Tom Ka3TKW has gone way beyond in helping to educate the masses via the 145.21 repeater in our area. He has organized a Sunday evening 8:00pm tech net that is really worth checking. The subjects covered are varied and offer a bit of knowledge on many subjects. Wednesday evening at 8:00pm Tom is hosting a Digital net for anyone who is looking to set up any form of text digital communications, and a chance to test your setup by sending messages. Check both nets for a real education.

Please don't forget our weekly net on 146.76 at 8:00pm

73

Terry WB3BKN

February 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The February 13, 2019 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was held at the Old Country Buffet, Jonestown Rd, Harrisburg, PA

The President welcomed the group to the annual Club Banquet, where the usual introductions were made.

A motion was made by Doug, K3DRE to table any additional Club Business until the March 2019 meeting.

Tim, WB3EYB seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The business portion of the festivities adjourned at 1908 Hours.

The Vice President Tim (W4NKC) presented certificates to members celebrating milestones in the Amateur radio service. W3DP and WA3QID received certificates for being licensed for 65 years, which were the noteworthy accolades.

Ham of the YEAR: Doug (K3DRE) spoke on behalf of the committee (Richard (KC3YRC), Nick (AA3T) and Doug (K3DRE)) regarding the contributions the recipient made to the Amateur Radio Community in general and the Club specifically wherein he has volunteered in the Volunteer Examiner Program for the last 10 years. Doug presented the award for 2018 to Steven Gobat (KA3PDQ). Steven thanked all the VE Team members for all their hard work without which he would not have been able to win the award.

The group enjoyed the rest of the evening socializing, as well as drawings for valuable door prizes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

Volunteer Examiner Report

Next session at HACC on April 20, 2019, Rm. 210 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/>.

Recent Testing Results:

February 16, 2019 - We had 2 successful candidates 1 Tech and 1 Extra.

VEs in attendance were;

Barry, KB3MRK
Bill, KE3YC
Doug, K3DRE
Steve, N3FWE
Frank, KC3PQT
Steven, KA3PDQ

Thanks for your help!

Steven, KA3PDQ

Elmer Time (6:30 pm meeting night).



Upcoming Events for 2019

April 27: 2019 York Hamfest, see [website](#) for details (8:00 am to 1:00 pm).

July 6: The award winning Firecracker Hamfest on the HACC campus in Harrisburg at the Shumaker Public Safety grounds.

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 can be found 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

As a special thank you to those Vietnam Vets in HRAC, please consider showing up for a free sandwich on March 29 at the Mission BBQ, 5045 Jonestown Road Harrisburg, PA:

**FREE CHOW
FOR VIETNAM VETS**
National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29

Thanks For Your Service, Vietnam Veterans.
When your country called, you answered.
You are Our Heroes every day! Please enjoy
a FREE Sandwich with our gratitude.

Know a Vietnam Veteran? Bring them in for a FREE sandwich on us. We'd like to say "Thanks" in person!

MISSION BBQ
The American Way

OTHER HAM HAPPENINGS

Recently the HRAC President, Terry (WB3BKN), received an email from another club, the Mid-Atlantic ATV. This club is a coalition of ATV repeater owners, hams interested in constructing ATV repeaters and hams generally interested in this aspect of amateur radio. As the name implies, members are from the various states that make up the Mid-Atlantic region of the US. A strategic planning meeting of sorts took place on 3/9/19 at Hoss' Restaurant in York, Pennsylvania. The meeting was held with an eye towards the future of this branch, including the possibility of linking ATV repeaters in the region together. It's also important to note that this is not a competing club. So, if you'd like to increase your knowledge, please feel free to visit <https://groups.io/g/MidAtlanticATV> and consider joining this group.



Do You Know?

21 February 2019

1. Do you know that in 2018 the Laurel VEC uploaded more applications for new licenses and upgrades than the W5YI VEC?

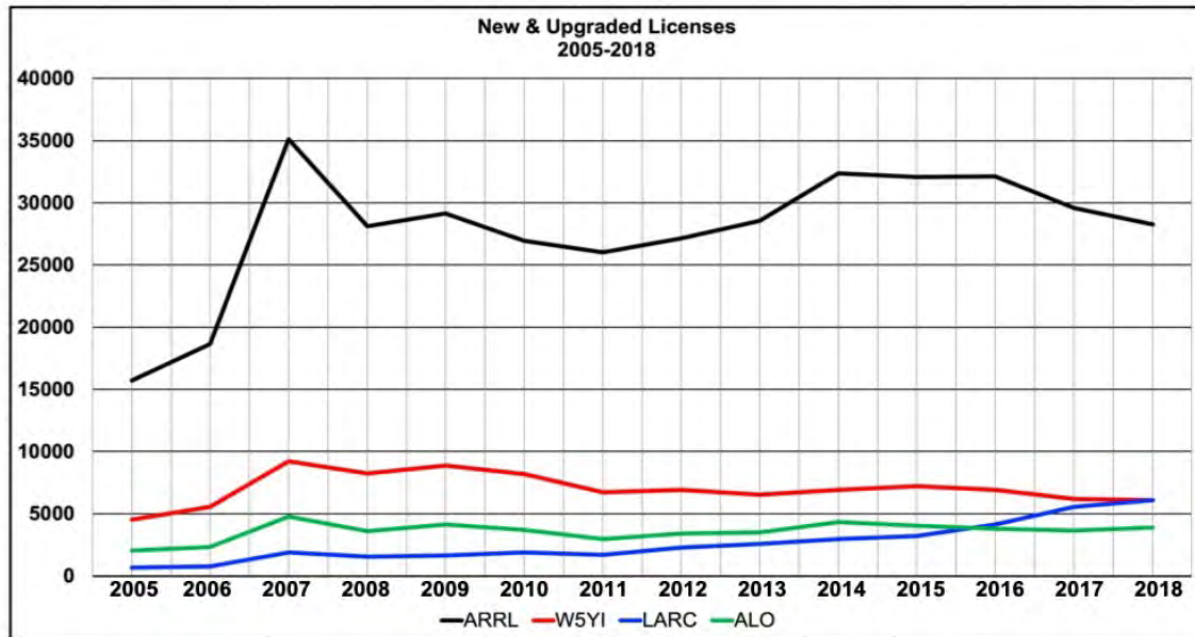
Notes:

All of the data used in this article is from the Universal Licensing System (ULS) or from historical applicant and session data from the Anne Arundel Radio Club VE Team in Davidsonville, MD. Your author collected the data from January 2000 through December 2013 while serving as the team leader.

The term "Upgraded Licenses" is used to indicate a Modified license which, by FCC definition, requires (1) an upgrade to the license class and/or (2) a systematic change of call sign. The overwhelming number of Modifications are due to a license upgrade.

ALO means "All Others" and refers to the other 11 VECs not specifically mentioned in this article.

The graphic below provides an interesting glimpse into the productivity of the "big three" VECs (ARRL, W5YI and LARC) and the other 11 VECs (ALO), as a single group, over the past 14 years.



2. Discussion about the above graphic. Since the VECs were created to primarily administer exams, the focus of this article is on the number of exams that resulted in a grant of a new license or an upgrade of an existing license.

- **ARRL VEC** (Black line) – The biggest and the busiest VEC. As the graphic indicates, the number of new licenses and upgraded licenses uploaded by the ARRL peaked in 2007 and again in 2014. Since 2014 the number of new licenses and upgrades has been declining. I can find no specific reason for the decline.
- **W5YI VEC** (Red line) – Through 2017, the W5YI VEC was the second largest and second busiest VEC. After peaking in 2007, the number of new and upgraded licenses uploaded by this VEC has been on a steady decline. I can find no specific reason for the decline.
- **LARC VEC** (Blue line) – Since 2005 the number of new and upgraded licenses uploaded by the VEC has steadily increased. In 2007 the Laurel VEC took over administering exams during the Dayton Hamvention® and in 2010 implemented its Regional Coordinators. Between 2010 and 2018, the number of teams increased, and our presence was expanded into new states. **During 2018 the Laurel VEC uploaded 6111 new and upgraded licenses compared to the W5YI VEC which uploaded 6090 new and upgraded licenses.**
- **ALO VECs** (Green line) - Since 2005, the number of new and upgraded licenses uploaded by the other 11 VECs (ALO) has been up and down year-to-year but consistently has stayed below 5000 new and upgraded licenses each year.

Note: In February 2007, the FCC dropped Element 1 (5 WPM CW) as a required exam element.

. So why is the LARC VEC the only VEC with steadily increasing numbers of uploaded new and pgraded licenses? I think there are three primary factors:

- The steady addition of new teams and expansion into other states beginning in 2010.

However, in some cases the addition of new teams has not been an overwhelming success. Fore example, in some cases, the new teams we've added have conducted only three exams per year with only 1-3 applicants per session or even per **year**.

- Increased advertising on the ARRL website.

Listing non-ARRL exam sessions on the ARRL website is easy and it's free.

When searching for "Ham license exams" or "Amateur radio exams" or some variation of both search phrases, the first website listed is always [Find an Amateur Radio License Exam in Your Area - www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session](http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session)

Hams and non-hams can enter their zip code and a search range (e.g., 25 miles, 50 miles, 100 miles) and find list of exam sessions within that range for the next several months.

You will find lots of clubs listed who offer exams including some Laurel VEC teams in the first 100 returns, but you will not see a specific listing for the Laurel VEC website in the first 100 returns.

- Word of mouth advertising.

An applicant shows up to an exam session, learns that is free and they get their results fairly fast and they tell people about their experience. One thing leads to another and

Regional Coordinators are contacted about creating a new team or transferring an existing team from another VEC to Laurel.

Questions or comments? Contact Bob/AA3RR (410) 353-0174 or aa3rr@cableone.net

The preceding was extracted directly from an email entitled 'Do you know – New & Upgraded Licenses in 2018'.

Gary, KV3Q, recently embedded a video entitled "How Do I Apply for the Required FRN?" on the website, under the FAQ's. He believes this will be a much needed improvement over the previous screenshots. Check it out for yourself at: <http://www.w3uu.org/license-exams/>. Let him know what you think and if you have any other suggested improvements. Thanks Gary!

SKYWARN TRAINING (CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY)

When: Monday March 18th, 2019 at 6:30 pm

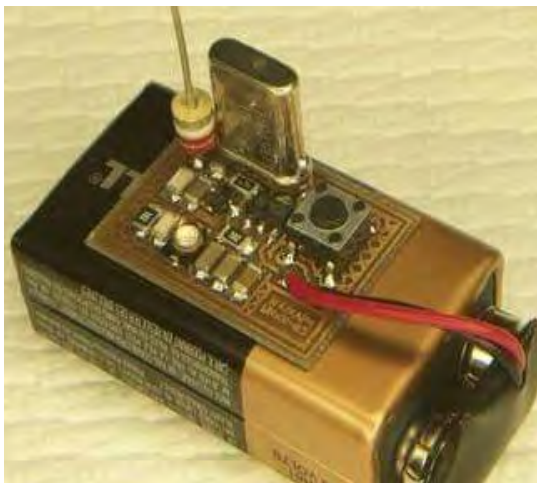
Where: Cumberland County Dept. of Public Safety
1 Public Safety Drive
Carlisle, PA 17013

YOU **MUST** register for this class by sending an email to pseptraining@ccpa.net. Remember to include the number in your group attending.

GENERAL REMINDERS FOR SKYWARN CLASSES:

- Classes are free and open to the public
- Attendees under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian
- Classes typically last about 90 minutes
- Bring a pen/pencil to the class
- If possible, bring the Latitude and Longitude of your home (see instructions at the bottom of the page.
- Current spotters bring your old ID Card or Spotter Number

And, lastly, this in from KB3YRC



No Ear Buds required

FACT OR FICTION?

Keep those ideas coming in for the newsletter. If you do send info into the email account, please clearly annotate if you want it included in the newsletter. This eliminates some unnecessary wading through of documents on my part, as well as emails to the originator requesting clarification.

Thanks again for all of your contributions!

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

