



# 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.....**

Amateur radio in Central Pa lost a great friend this month. Tim WB3BKN Shingara lost a brief battle with strokes. His impact on the local collection of radio amateurs was wide and his love for people will never be forgotten by those who knew him well. To all of his family, and all of his friends, my condolences, and please keep his memory alive. There are enough "Tim" stories to fill many books. Share those stories when you can.

Please read the attached flyers regarding the Firecracker, and the Field Day events. Download them, and email them to everyone, and share them on Facebook, Twitter, My Space, Compuserve.. Well, you get the message. Let everyone know about what we have going on here. We need club members and others to help with the hamfest, and other events. Contact me directly at the cell number and email address on the left side of this page to sign up.

The Special Events need operators, and people to greet the public in a friendly way to be at the events, not people sitting at home trying to contact us. These events are a public outreach to show off our hobby and to show how we help the general public. The events are a lot of fun.

Yes, I know that the newsletter is a bit late this month. You may blame my busy schedule.

Thanks, and 73

Terry WB3BKN

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## April 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The April 10, 2019 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1852 HRS by the President, Terry Snyder (WB3BKN). The usual member introductions were made.

**Secretary Report** – The minutes of the March 13, 2019 meeting were published in the Newsletter. Doug (K3DRE) Made a Motion to accept the minutes as published, Chuck (N3WL) seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**Treasurers Report** – No report.

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

**Equipment Trustee – Nick, (AA3T) requested model and serial number of the new radio for the insurance policy.**

**Repeater Committee** – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that the current antenna was to be replaced by the 4 bay dipole (Telewave) which was from the old site on Blue Mountain. This work is to take place at the convenience of the site owner. He also reported that other changes were being considered. All work was being done at **NO** cost to the club.

**Laurel VE Committee** – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next exam session is scheduled for April 20, 2019 at HACC. There were (3) applicants signed up at this date.

**Membership Committee** – No Report.

**Newsletter Editor** – Terry (WB3BKN), reported that the newsletter editor needs complete articles proof read and corrections made. Articles should be in plain English with NO abbreviations.

**Web Page** – No Report.

**Emergency Communications** – Richard Lenker (KB3YRC) announced the need for operators for the upcoming TMI nuclear drill. The date for the drill is May 7, 2019 Interested Amateurs to contact Richard. Discussion followed on locations that need coverage. Doug, (K3DRE) reported that also on May 7, 2019 that a Hurricane Hunter aircraft would be on display at HIA.

**DXCC Committee** – No Report

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

**Hamfest Committee** – Firecracker Hamfest – the facilities have been reserved and that the date is July 6, 2019. Terry (WB3BKN) encouraged the membership to volunteer their time for this event as the Hamfest is what keeps the Club solvent. There are many jobs that need done before and after the Hamfest and everyone's help is needed.

**Hamfest** – No Action

**Field Day** – The dates for Field Day is June 22-23, 2019. Due to changes with Susquehanna Twp., the location of the event is still not confirmed with the backup site being HACC.

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

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Good of the Club** –Terry (WB3BKN) brought up the topic of the Club participating in the operation of Special Event Stations this summer. After some discussion the tentative plan is to operate from Pine Grove Furnace State Park on June 8th, 2019 and Peters Mountain on July 27th, 2019.

**Adjournment** – With no further business Doug (K3DRE) made a motion to adjourn, Karl (KC3JRO) seconded at 1940 hours.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ*

## Volunteer Examiner Report

<http://www.w3uu.org/license-exams/>.

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



## Upcoming Events for 2019

**June 8:** Special event station on the Appalachian Trail in Pine Grove Furnace state park

**June 22-23:** Field Day; See the attached flyer for the new location of our Field Day

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

**July 27:** Special event station on the Appalachian Trail on Peters Mountain

## 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 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



**Dick Kerlin 70 years In ham radio - 2015**

### **ARRL FREE stuff**

If you are an ARRL member, there are a variety of bulletins and services that you can get from the ARRL on their web site. DX bulletins, EMCOMM bulletins, Contesting bulletins, etc.

Go to: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org); at the top of the page “log in” (you must set-up your access); “Edit your profile”; “Edit e-mail subscriptions”; Check the blocks of the stuff that you want. No cost!

You must be an ARRL member!

Check it out. Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

## FT-8 -- a beginners perspective

I have been on FT-8 for about a month. Dick, WA3USG and Dusty, K3WC helped me get things set up. The only thing I bought was a Signal Link to go between the HF radio and computer. You connect it to the radio data port or mic jack. You need to buy the correct cables also, based on your radio. DX Engineering has a big selection, so make sure you are buying the one you need! My system didn't work at first, because DX Engineering sold me the incorrect "interface module" for the Signal Link! There are a variety of interfaces available, Signal Link is probably the most popular. Once Dick figured that out and made the necessary adjustments to work around that issue, we seemed to be on the air. As we were testing on 20 Meters, a guy in Germany called me. I was running about 40 watts. That QSO ended and I made a few more contacts. Since then I have made about 200 QSO's on all HF bands, except 60 Meters. I even found that there were stations to be worked on 10 and 12 Meters, even in these times of terrible conditions. Most stations upload to LoTW and e-QSL many times, some after each QSO. I don't do either, but that is just me being stubborn. You can also follow your activities on PSK Monitor and see who is hearing you. The list of possibilities goes on and on.

I have worked many US stations, as well as DX stations all over the world. I did manage to work a new country on 160 Meters. SV5DKL on the island of Rhodes, which counts for Dodecanese. (Greece) That thrilled me! New ones are new ones, regardless of how you work them.

Operation is pretty straight forward. You should plan to watch a while before trying to transmit. It isn't too hard to figure out. I managed to! The software comes from Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, the guy who wrote it. It is FREE. Joe is a Noble Prize winner in Astro Physics and works at Princeton University. Look for WSJT (Weak Signal Joe Taylor) and download it. You will find there are a number of programs, JT-9, JT-65, WSPR, etc. The entire package downloads. You want FT-8. These other programs have their uses in VHF, EME, Meteor Scatter and LF activities. You can get away with low power, as in 50 or so watts and lots of hams are using compromise antennas. This mode is very popular with hams who cannot put up traditional antennas, yet they can still work the world. Many times, you don't hear anything in the speaker, except noise, but many signals are being decoded. This is why it is called "weak signal". Below the noise!

You MUST set the clock in your computer exactly! This is critical to the operation of the software. This can easily be done by down loading a program called "Dimensions 4". There are others, I am told, also. Again, it is FREE and takes care of that task. You will notice quickly why this is so important. Data "bursts" are 15 seconds long. That means you transmit for 15 seconds and then receive for 15 seconds. The computer does all of this... If you are on band where there is a lot of activity, you will hear seemingly hundreds of signals, all on one frequency! The software does all the heavy lifting. You get to watch the signals on the waterfall.

K1JT has an excellent written narrative that can also be down loaded that gives you all the information you need. You will have to read about it for yourself. I understand the concept, but the details are beyond my non-computer brain.

Being a card carrying old fart, I have a bit of a problem with this overall concept. It is literally, computers talking to computers, with little human input. I am still not sold on the fact that this is future of ham radio, but it is a way to make lots of QSO's if you are in a position that limits your antenna system. If computers turn you on, this mode might be for you. I think my days will be short in the FT-8 world and it is not going to be one of my daily operating modes.

You might like it. Many hams seem to, based on what I see every time I turn the radio on. You might want to give FT-8 a try?



## **For Sale**

Kenwood TS-930S HF Transceiver  
CW/SSB  
10-160 Meters including WARC Bands  
Built-in CW Filter and Antenna Tuner  
AC cord  
No mic, sorry --- can be found online  
Professionally reproduced manual  
Power Supply repaired and rebuilt to upgraded standards by John, WN3V  
Nice HF entry level radio.  
\$350  
Glenn, K3SWZ  
Phone: 717-774-1728  
e-mail: [k3swz@arrl.net](mailto:k3swz@arrl.net)

### Fred Villiard, K3VKY SK

Fred (age 80) died this past October in Binghamton, NY where he lived. Fred was originally from Mechanicsburg and worked for WHP-TV, AMP and Berg Electronics before moving to New York to work for Bendix/Amphenol. Fred served in the U.S. Army Special Forces and was in Viet Nam before the U.S. forces were officially there! He was always willing to show you the scars on his knee, where he was shot with a cross-bow! Fred had a heart of gold and would do anything for anyone who needed a hand. His car was a roving parts depot. He had everything imaginable stashed away in it. Fred was a member of the HRAC in the 60's and 70's.

RIP Fred, you had many friends in this area.

Glenn, K3SWZ

# 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

