



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.....

I field a lot of questions about antennas from new and tenured amateurs regarding antennas. Situations change and people move into new neighborhoods where antennas have to be disguised, or possibly space is limited. I will attempt to present solutions at the meeting this month during Elmer Time. There many factors to consider.

Repeater activity is defiantly not like it used to be in our area. I believe it is because, in part, that just as on HF, there are more listeners than participants. This was proven by Tom Shingara when he took over the 145.21 repeater. There are quite a few who came out of the listening mode, and started talking because he encouraged it. We have a decent coverage on 146.76 (100hz) and lots of amateurs are listening. Stop just listening, but start calling. You may be surprised how many people may be around.

Thanks for being part of our HRAC family.

Terry WB3BKN

October 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The October 9, 2019 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1902 HRS by the President, Terry Snyder (WB3BKN). The usual member introductions were made.

Secretary Report – The minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting were Published in the newsletter. Chuck (N3WL) Made a Motion to accept the minutes as published George (Ac3EA) seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Nick (AA3T) read the report. Steve (KC3EUU) made a motion to accept the report, Glenn (K3SWZ) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

License Trustee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported 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 was to be installed at the convenience of the site owner.

Laurel VE Committee – Steven (KA3PDQ) reported that the next exam session scheduled for October 19, 2019 at HACC.

Membership Committee – Tim (W4NKC) reported we have 83 members, 54 of which are also ARRL members.

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 – Jamboree on the Air for the BSA will be held October 18, 19 and 20.

Trailer Committee – Dan (WA3ATV) reported on options that the club might be interested in pursuing. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that a budget would be presented at the November meeting.

DXCC Committee – No Report

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 St on January 11, 2020.

Hamfeast – No Action

Field Day –A brief discussion was held on finding an alternate location for the event. A number of suggestions were made, including the 40/8 Club and a location on Piketown Rd. Field Day will be June 27 & 28, 2020

Elmer Time – None

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Good of the Club –There is a Special Event Station for the US Coast Guard being held on October 18-20. There will also be a Special Event Station at Harris "Railroad" Tower, 7th and Walnut in April 2020.

Adjournment – With no further business Rick (K2RBT) made a motion to adjourn; Robert (K3RTS) seconded at 2014 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.

EXAM SESSION RESULTS FOR 10/19/19

We had 4 applicants and administered 5 elements.

We added 1 new Tech and 1 new General (took 2 elements).

Those VEs in attendance:

Steve, N3FWE

Curt, K3URT

George, AC3EA

Frank, KB3PQT

Barry, KB3MCK

Doug, K3DRE

Steven, KA3PDQ



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

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:

W1AW to Commemorate 98th Anniversary of First Amateur Radio Signals to Span the Atlantic

December 11 marks the 98th anniversary of the success of ARRL's **Transatlantic Tests** in 1921, organized to see if low-power amateur radio stations could be heard across the Atlantic using shortwave frequencies (i.e., above 200 meters). On that day, a message transmitted by a group of Radio Club of America members at 1BCG in Greenwich, Connecticut, was copied by Paul Godley, 2ZE, in Scotland.

While the first two-way contact would not take place until 1923, the 1921 transatlantic success marked the beginning of what would become routine communication between US radio amateurs and those in other parts of the world — literally the birth of DX.

To commemorate this amateur radio milestone, Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be on the air through the day on December 11 with volunteer operators. The goal is to encourage contacts between radio amateurs in the US and Europe while showcasing the significance of the transmissions that pioneered global communication and laid the groundwork for technology widely used today. The event will run from 1300 until 0000 UTC. Some details are still being worked out, but operation will focus on 40 and 20 meters (SSB).

Contact Clark Burgard, N1BCG, for more information.

(Source: <https://qrznow.com/w1aw-to-commemorate-98th-anniversary-of-first-amateur-radio-signals-to-span-the-atlantic/>)

FCC Asked to Clarify Amateur Rules Governing Encrypted or Encoded Messages

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is soliciting comments on a **Petition for Declaratory Ruling** filed on behalf of New York University (NYU) seeking to clarify that Section 97.113(a)(4) of the Amateur Service rules prohibits the transmission of “effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over-the-air for true meaning.” Comments are due by December 2, with reply comments (comments on comments already filed) due on December 17. The FCC has requested that all filings refer to WT Docket No. 16-239, which grew out of an ARRL *Petition for Rule Making* seeking elimination of symbol rate limitations on the amateur bands and is unrelated to the wider encryption issue.

“For years, certain amateur licensees have violated Section 97.113(a)(4) by relying on an interpretation that contravenes the two bedrock principles — openness and transparency — that have enabled amateur radio licensees to self-regulate the Amateur Radio Service bands effectively,” the NYU *Petition* asserts. “This interpretation has restricted Amateur Radio Service

licensees' efforts to effectively self-police the amateur bands, thus enabling the continued violation of many other amateur rules. Accordingly, the Commission should eliminate the lingering uncertainty regarding Section 97.113(a)(4)'s meaning and clarify that the rule prohibits the transmission of effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over-the-air for true meaning." For a continuation of this article, please see **Source:** <https://qrznow.com/fcc-asked-to-clarify-amateur-rules-governing-encrypted-or-encoded-messages/>

The following is provided from Glen (K3SWZ)

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

73

de Glenn, K3SWZ

The following has been provided by the Editor:

Report Causes Concern and Confusion in California's Amateur Radio Ranks

10/15/2019

By all credible and reliable accounts, the State of California has *not* turned its back on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication resource nor have established repeater owners been asked to remove their equipment from state-owned sites unless they pay sizeable fees. The California controversy, inflamed by a viral YouTube video, stemmed from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) communication telling a repeater owner or group that Amateur Radio equipment would have to be removed from a state-owned site or "vault" if the owner(s) determined the cost was too great to proceed with a formal application to keep it there.

"I do understand and appreciate all of the service you have provided in the past," CAL FIRE's Lorina Pisi, told the unknown repeater owner(s) or group(s) last month. "However, with constantly changing technological advances, there is no longer the same benefit to State as previously provided.

Therefore, the Department no longer financially supports HAM operators [sic] radios or tenancy. If you desire to enter into a formal agreement to operate and maintain said equipment, you must complete and submit attached collocation application along with fee as outlined on page one of application. There is cost associated with getting an agreement in place."

It's not clear to whom Pisi's memo was addressed, since any name or names were redacted from the version of the memo that is being circulated. ARRL reached out to Pisi this week but has not heard back.

After receiving a **lengthy communication** from attorney Nathan Zelif, K6DPS, of Shingletown, California, citing Pisi's letter, Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko did some asking around of his own. He reported that Jim Price, the Communications Center Operation Officer for the State Office of Emergency Services, explained to him that the matter is not a new one, and the issue of repeater equipment in state radio vaults has been going on for 5 years or longer.

"He said this gets down to a local level, if the local officials feel there is a need to have the ham radio repeaters in vaults in their area," Bosenko told Zelif. "As such, this gets down to authorization for vault space, clearances and authorization to access equipment in the vaults and contract agreements for the equipment to be in the vaults. The matter of cost and who will bear the cost for contracts and vault space has also been an issue for years."

ARRL officials who have also looked into the situation agree that it's been blown out of proportion by parties with their own agendas.

"The State of California has not made any determination we can find 'that Ham Radio [is] no longer a benefit,'" Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, is quoted on the **Sacramento Valley Section website**. "What happened is that CAL FIRE has transferred responsibility for its communications sites to its property management department. That department has the task of evaluating each site, its condition, use, and tenants. If a repeater not known to be associated with the emergency management function of a local jurisdiction is found in a CAL FIRE vault, the default action is to move it out or subject it to commercial rental rates."

"Our contact in the California Office of Emergency Services suggests that, if any affected repeater is in any way involved with local emergency or government support activity, they should ask that agency to engage with CAL FIRE concerning the repeater. If the agency makes the case, there is a good chance that the repeater will be unaffected," Tiemstra added.

ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, has been responding to inquiries with the same message. (**Source:** <http://www.arrl.org/news/report-causes-concern-and-confusion-in-california-s-amateur-radio-ranks>)

For more thoughts on this topic, simply do a google search for "California ham radio repeaters"

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

