

Harrisburg
Radio
Amateurs
Club



W3UU NEWSLETTER

— SEPTEMBER 2023 —

Club Officers:

PRESIDENT:

Terry Snyder, WB3BKN
WB3BKN1@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chuck Maletich, KA1YSR
ka1ysr@outlook.com

SECRETARY:

Frank Aponte, K3FXA
k3fxa@frankaponte.com

TREASURER:

Frank Aponte, K3FXA
k3fxa@frankaponte.com

LICENSE TRUSTEE:

David Dormer, KC3MG
dddormer@gmail.com

EQUIPMENT TRUSTEE:

Terry Snyder, WB3BKN
WB3BKN1@gmail.com

Committees:

WEBMASTER: W3UU.ORG

Rick Taylor, K2RBT
webmaster@w3uu.org

EMCOMM:

Robert Saber, K3RTS
k3rts1@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP:

Tim Lehman, W4NKC
w4nkc.hv@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Curt Sanders, K3URT
newsletter@w3uu.org

ELMER TIME COORDINATOR:

Steve Shoemaker, KC3VPJ
steve7shoe@gmail.com

HAMFESTS & REPEATER:

Terry Snyder, WB3BKN
WB3BKN1@gmail.com

NET OPERATIONS:

Curt Sanders, K3URT
k3urt@w3uu.org

VE TEAM LEADER:

Tim Lehman, W4NKC
w4nkc.hv@gmail.com

QST:

NEXT MEETING is
**WEDNESDAY, 13TH
SEPTEMBER,**
1830~2030L at the Vietnam

Veterans of America Capital Chapter 542, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA. All are welcome! Business

meeting at 1830-1900~, followed by

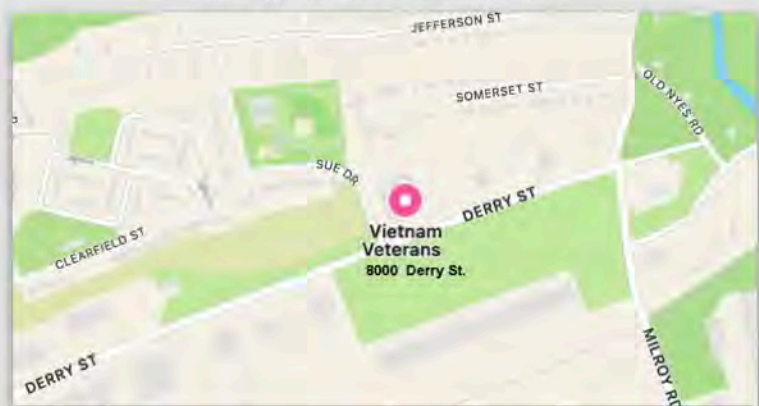
Elmer Time: "Operating the PA QSO Party" by Glenn, K3SWZ. PAQP is



next month! Glenn will PowerPoint™ the history of the PA QSO Party, an explanation of what it is all about, and tips for successful participation.



Coming October 14 & 15th, 2023!





The Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club Inc., [HRAC] formed 1 July 1946, as an association of individuals commonly interested in amateur radio, based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It is an ARRL affiliate club.

At the end of World War II, many veterans returned to the Harrisburg area trained and used radio communications in the military. It soon became a common factor among local hobby enthusiasts. Fifty-eight charter members developed the original constitution and bylaws for the club. In 1960, HRAC became a non-profit corporation in Pennsylvania.

The club continues to promote amateur radio in the area in many ways. HRAC is involved with young people by helping with scouting's JOTA activities and promoting amateur radio with school clubs and organizations.

Since 1949, members have provided communications for the American Red Cross in Harrisburg for Dauphin County and Pennsylvania Emergency Management. In addition, we conduct periodic training sessions for emergency responders.

HRAC has three hamfests throughout the year: July's **Firecracker Hamfest** / Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention is always the Saturday before the first Sunday in July. During the convention, you may hear special event station W3UU from the hamfest tailgating area. We set up and operate W3UU to demonstrate amateur radio and invite operators to join in and make contacts. Second: **Oktoberfest**. Third: the well attended **WinterFest** in January is an indoor tailgate fest.

HRAC Club calendar 2023:

- September**13th, club meeting.
- October**11th, club meeting.
21st, license testing (see page 4).
28th, **OctoberFest** (see page 5).
- November**.....8th, club meeting.
- December**.....13th, club meeting **ELECTIONS**; cookie exchange.
16th, license testing (see page 4).
- January 2024**.....10th, club meeting.
13th, **WinterFest**
- February**14th, club meeting
17th, license testing (see page 4)
- March**.....13th, club meeting.

Please consider making a presentation at "Elmer Time." Everyone has expertise in something and can bring something to the table. Do more than contemplate, DO it.

— Club station W3UU —

Repeater Frequency:
146.760 MHz, minus .600 MHz offset.

Repeater CTCSS Tone:
100.0 Hz (Encode/Decode)

Weekly Net: Wednesdays at 1900L, except 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Website: W3UU.org

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/Harrisburg-Radio-Amateurs-Club-208171495915056/

HAM HISTORY

—100 years ago—

Not much going on with Harrisburg Hams in September 1923 — just tapping away...

"3BRF is on again with new tubes. Harrisburg is strong for C.W. with 8CCX and 3BBV working their 50-watters hard. 3ADE helping out with 10 watts." — *"The Operating Department: Atlantic Division," QST September 1923, p. 38.*

DA FINE PRINT: The *W3UU Newsletter* of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club Inc. (HRAC) is published monthly and is © 2023: All Rights Reserved. Every effort is made to ensure that the newsletter is free from error or omissions. The HRAC, it's respective Officers or agents, shall not accept responsibility for offenses (e.g. injury, loss, or damage) occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of material in this newsletter, whether the offenses in any way are due to any negligent act or omission, breach of duty or default on the part of the HRAC, or representative agents.

Content may be freely used with proper source citation and is of reasonable "fair use" per 17 US Code § 107.

Please NOTE: underlined words in the newsletter are "hot" linked to emails and external websites. HRAC is not responsible for their content or performance. URL's are verified a few days prior to publication.

SWAP & SHOP SPOT

Per the affirmation of the membership, June 2021 meeting, members may post, one-time non-commercial advertisement of items relating to amateur radio, computers, and electronics. "Wanted" advertisements are permitted. Submission of photos are strongly encouraged.

Also, please see posts on the HRAC website and FaceBook™.

HRAC is not responsible for any typographical or other errors. While we endeavor to connect interested parties, all transactions are made exclusively between the buyer and seller. HRAC disclaims all responsibility for any issues arising out of the use of, or reliance upon, this information.

Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club News

★ **WEDNESDAY NIGHT NET:** Would you like to have an opportunity to operate the HRAC Weekly Net on the W3UU repeater?

Open to licensed HRAC members, the HRAC Weekly Net is held every Wednesday evening except the 2nd Wednesday of the month (club meeting night at 1830L). Topics range from club business and events, "Swap and Shop," and general information regarding amateur radio at large.

If you are interested in serving as Net Control, don't hesitate to get in touch with Curt: K3URT@w3uu.org

Get on the air! If we get a cohort of volunteers, the duty will be spread out on a rotating basis.

★ "MEMBER SPOTLIGHT" will feature a member from the HRAC community. A short bio with pre-questions like how you got into ham radio and your motivation. The editor will send you a final copy before publication. Please respond if tapped as the selected featured member. (Thanks to *Mike KD3MAD* for the suggestion.)

★ **MEMBERSHIP MANAGER, Tim W4NKC**, reports at the August 2023 meeting, there are 68 members, with 46 as members of ARRL, making 67.6% ARRL affiliation.

★ **ELMER TIME** coordinator **Steve, KC3VPJ**, is looking for folks to step forward to inform and educate. No experience is necessary! Contact: steve7shoe@gmail.com

August Elmer Time was presented by **Terry, WB3BKN**. Terry, and the attending audience put together a Go-Kit. Items were brought in for assembly.

★ See **Frank, K3FXA's** Bermuda report, page 8.

EMCOMM:

Dauphin County, PA
ARES/RACES



MEETING & NEWS

Bob Saber, K3RTS, Dauphin County ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer announces in-person meetings are on the **4th Thursdays of the month at 1900L**. The next meeting is Thursday, **28 September** at Lower Paxton Twp. Municipal Building, 425 Prince St., Harrisburg.

CONTACT:

☑ k3rts1@gmail.com

☑ ares.harrisburgpa@gmail.com

☑ **Dauphin County ARES Training Net:** every Monday at 1900L on 145.110 (W3ND, PL 131.8; emergency alternative: W3ND, 448.075, PL 123.0).

☑ **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067020090800

☑ **YouTube channel:** www.youtube.com/@dauphincountyares-races1195

EPA Simulated Emergency Test

The SET will be held in the EPA on Saturday, 7 October. ARES units in approximately 25 of the EPA's 34 counties will participate in an exercise supporting the American Red Cross. The drill will simulate a widespread communications outage resulting from a CME event. ARES units will support Red Cross shelter operations by relaying critical email message traffic via Winlink. Last year the SET operated under similar conditions and more than 100 operators sent hundreds of messages in a highly successful event.

Dauphin County ARES/RACES is not affiliated with any club — but all are welcome!

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) Section

epa-arrl.org

Bob Wilson, W3BIG,
Section Manager



The Section consists of the counties of Adams, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, York.

ARRL Atlantic Division

www.atldiv.org

Bob Framiglio, K3RF, Director
The division consists of ARRL Sections Delaware, Maryland/DC, Southern New Jersey, Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Pennsylvania, Northern New York, and Western New York.

Did You Know?

Pennsylvania has 3.2% of the nations licensed amateur radio operators:
277 Novice 10,726 Technician
6,343 General 1,313 Advanced
5,575 Extra Total: 24,234. —
www.arrl.org/fcc-license-counts as of
5 September 2023.

QUA HRAC? Send to: newsletter@w3uu.org

Deadline for next newsletter submissions is by end of business day, Wednesday, **4 October, 2023**.

LOCAL AREA NETS (All times are local)

MONDAYS

- ◆ 1900: @145.110 MHz, 131.8 Hz Tone, FM, W3ND, **Dauphin County ARES/RACES** Training Net.
- ◆ 2000: @146.970 MHz, 123.0 Hz Tone, FM, W3HZU **Keystone VHF Club** net, York.
- ◆ 2030: @146.460 MHz, 67 Hz Tone, +1 MHz offset, FM, N3TWT **South Mountain Radio Association** net, Mt. Holly Springs.

TUESDAYS

- ◆ 1900: @146.970 MHz, 123.0 Hz Tone, FM, W3HZU **Keystone VHF Club Digital Net**.
- ◆ 2000: @147.315 MHz, 82.5 Hz Tone, FM, K3LV, **Lebanon Valley Society of Radio Amateurs**, Emergency Net.
- ◆ 2100: @145.230 MHz, 114.8 Hz Tone, FM, K3IR **Southern Pennsylvania Radio Club** net.

WEDNESDAYS

- ◆ **1900: @146.760 MHz, 100.0 Hz Tone, FM, Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club Information net, W3UU (except second Wednesdays - meeting night).**
- ◆ 1930: @146.865 MHz, 123.0 Hz Tone, FM, Red Lion, W3ZGD, **Hilltop Transmitter Association** "Spikes and Frogs" railroad hobbyist net.
- ◆ 2000: 28.400 MHz, simplex net, USB, **Cumberland Amateur Radio Club** (except 3rd Wednesday)
- ◆ 2000: @145.210 MHz, 123.0 Hz Tone; FM, KA3TKW **Shingara Digi Trivia** net.
- ◆ 2100: @145.110 MHz, 131.8 Hz Tone, FM, W3ND, **Central Pennsylvania SkyWarn™** net

THURSDAYS

- ◆ 2030: @145.270 MHz, 74.4 Hz Tone, FM, N3TWT, FM Allstar **Echolink** net.
- ◆ 2100: @145.390 MHz, 118.8 Hz Tone, FM, W3AD **Lancaster Transmitting Society** net.

FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS

- ◆ 2030: 146.580 MHz, simplex, FM, Lancaster County.

SUNDAYS

- ◆ 0730: 3.583 MHz, PA-NBEMS, Thor22 and MFSK32.
- ◆ 0800: 3.9935 MHz, **PEMA statewide Auxiliary Communication Service**, LSB. First Sunday of the month only.
- ◆ 0830: 3.9935 MHz, **Central Pennsylvania Auxiliary Communication Service**, LSB.
- ◆ 1900: 146.490 MHz, simplex net, FM, **Cumberland Amateur Radio Club**
- ◆ 2000: @146.640 MHz. 85.5 Hz Tone, FM, AA3RG **Appalachian Amateur Radio Group** net.
- ◆ 2000: @145.210 MHz, 123.0 Hz Tone; FM, KA3TKW **Shingara Tech** net.
- ◆ 2030: @ 147.120 MHz. 100.0 Hz Tone; FM, W3ACH **Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club** net.
- ◆ 2100: www.w3nd.org **Central PA Repeater Association DMR** net.

DAILY

- ◆ 1700: 3.918 MHz, LSB, Eastern PA Traffic Net.
- ◆ 1900: 3.585 MHz, CW, The Dave Heller K3TX Memorial **Pennsylvania Traffic Net (PTN)**.
- ◆ 1945: @147.015 MHz, 118.8 Hz Tone, FM, W3RRR **Lancaster County Welfare Net; Red Rose Repeater Association**.

® = repeater. Members: Add or update your favorite regional net!

LICENSE TESTING: HRAC LAUREL VE

Affiliated with the Laurel Volunteer Examiners (VE), HRAC conducts testing in **February, April, June, August, October, December**, and other announced times. Sessions begin at 0900L at the announced location. Tim Lehman is the Team Leader.



We require:

- ◆ pre-registration for exams to ensure that we have the level of staffing necessary to conduct an exam.
- ◆ your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN).
- ◆ a valid email address *in advance* of registering for an upcoming exam.

Registration form and information is at the club's website: www.w3uu.org/license-exams/. (Registrations can be made online up to the Friday before test date **by end of business day**.)

Testing is FREE*

**The next test session is
Saturday, 21 October, 2023, at:
Harrisburg Vietnam Veterans
of America, 8000 Derry St.,
Harrisburg, PA
promptly beginning at 0900L.**

**Laurel VE Testing is FREE; however, you are responsible for applicable fees to the FCC. "While applicants for a new license will need to pay the \$35 FCC application fee, there will be no FCC charge for future upgrades and administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. Most current licensees, therefore, will not be charged the new FCC application fee until they renew their license or apply for a new vanity call sign."* — ARRL, 4/4/2022.

August 2023 test results:

We administered two tests: one new Technician and one upgrade to Extra (pending FCC approval and applicable fees paid).

A "Job Well Done" to the VEs who made it all happen:

**Steven, KA3PDQ
Curt, K3URT
George, AC3EA
Rick, K2RBT**

**Frank, KB3PQT
Tim, W4NKC
Alex, KC3SXJ**

W3UU - Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club OktoberFest

Saturday October 28th, 2023



OKTOBERFEST

Electronics Expo and Hamfest



**Vietnam Veterans of
America 8000 Derry Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111**

7:00 am to 11:00 am

- 🎃 Admission **\$5.00** per person
- 🎃 Sellers can **tailgate in parking lot or have table(s) inside;**
- 🎃 **Tables inside - \$5.00 each.**
- 🎃 **Tailgate spot - \$5.00 each.**
- 🎃 DXCC/WAS/VUCC QSL card checking on site
- 🎃 Coffee and snacks available

No reserved table space.

**Unloading can be done at the main doors,
and then move vehicle to parking area.**



For further information contact:

**Terry Snyder
717-979-9515
PO BOX 355
Halifax, PA 17032
Wb3BKN1@Gmail.com**

Web Site: www.w3uu.org



Save the Date! – W3UU WinterFest is January 13, 2024

W3UU The Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club, Inc.
President – Terry [WB3BKN], Vice-President – Chuck [KA1YSR]



MINUTES OF THE August 9, 2023 MEETING

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: The Wednesday, August 9, 2023, meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1836L by the President, Terry [WB3BKN], at the Vietnam Veterans Association Building, 8000 Derry St, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, those in attendance took the recommended precautions.

INTRODUCTIONS BY NAME & CALL SIGN: 9 individuals were present and introduced themselves briefly.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: July 2023 Minutes. Opened for comments, questions, and corrections. Motion to Accept the July 2023 Secretary's Report as published in the August 2023 Newsletter by Tim [W4NKC]. Paul [KA3SGY] seconded the motion; the attending membership approved the Meeting Minutes by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Frank [K3FXA] reported out the Treasurer's Report for July 2023. Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Reports by Steve [KC3VPJ]. Paul [KA3SGY] seconded the motion; the attending membership approved the Treasurer's Report by voice vote.

LICENSE TRUSTEE REPORT: Terry [WB3BKN] reported that there has been no news of complaints filed with the FCC. The club is looking for a new License Trustee, please let a Club Officer know if you are interested.

EQUIPMENT TRUSTEE REPORT: Terry [WB3BKN] reported that organization and cataloguing of equipment in the trailer is almost finished and as the weather gets better that will continue. Next up is organization and equipment inventory of the storage unit. Please contact Terry [WB3BKN] to volunteer to help.

LAUREL VE COMMITTEE: Lead VE Tim [W4NKC] reported that the next testing date is Saturday, August 19, 2023 at 0900L and that individuals must register by end-of-day the Friday before. Please arrive by 0830L in order to get checked in so that testing can start promptly at 0900L. The testing

location is the Vietnam Veterans Association Building, 8000 Derry St, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

REPEATER COMMITTEE: Terry [WB3BKN] reported that there are no changes or new developments with the W3UU repeater. Frank [K3FXA] reported that the annual fee of \$180.00 for the repeater was paid on August 1, 2023.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Membership Chair Tim [W4NKC] reported that there are no changes to membership numbers - 68 current members with 46 being ARRL members (67.6%). With more than 50% of our members also being ARRL members, we remain an ARRL Affiliated Club. Reminder to renew your memberships for 2023 if you have not already done so.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Curt [K3URT] reported that the next newsletter article deadline is by the close of business, Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Please send newsletter articles to newsletter@w3uu.org.

WEB PAGE COMMITTEE: No report this month.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS – Robert [K3RTS] reported the following via email and net to the Dauphin County ARES / RACES group:

– Contact ares.harrisburgpa@gmail.com to be added to the e-mail list for updates and announcements.

– Dauphin County ARES / RACES Net meets every Monday at 1900L on the 145.110 repeater (Ellendale Forge, W3ND). All are welcome to participate in the Net.

– In-Person meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month. Our next in-person meeting is 1900L on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at the Lower Paxton Township Building, 425 Prince St, Harrisburg.

– Winlink Thursdays – the next event is August 10, 2023.

– Swatara Township Hero Run 5k – November 5, 2023.

– Group participated in the Swatara Township National Night Out even on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. Lots of people stopped by our table with great questions and interest. We even got a

few people on the air for the first time with the Lancaster County group at their NNO event.

ELMER TIME: Elmer Time Coordinator, Steve [KC3VPJ] is looking for topics that we can match up with our experienced HAMs to present on. We had 9 people attend tonight's Elmer Time. Terry [WB3BKN] discussed "Go Kits" for a portable/mobile radio setup. We had some tools, a tool bag, two parts organizers, a small all-band radio, and a weather-proof hard case. We discussed some mounting options and worked as a group to start working on ways to put it all together. We also had a short discussion about HAM-Fests and Emergency Comms.

Next month's topic will be the Pennsylvania QSO Party.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS: The next Hamfest for the club (and the last Hamfest for 2023) will be the October Hamfest on October 28, 2023. We will be starting off 2024 with the Winter Hamfest on January 13, 2024. More details to follow. Please contact Terry [WB3BKN] to volunteer.

OLD BUSINESS: None Reported.

NEW BUSINESS: None Reported.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB: Short discussion about getting a larger storage unit for club equipment at our current rental place. Next step is to investigate what is available.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn by Paul [KA3SGY] and seconded by Tim [W4NKC]. The meeting closed at 1911L.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Frank Aponte [K3FXA], Secretary.

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING is a document of HRAC, Inc. Therefore, all content is unabridged from the original. Corrections to the Minutes are made at the next club meeting by a membership vote with approval/disapproval.

FCC club station license rule Title 47, §97.5: "The club must be composed of at least four persons and must have a name, a document of organization, management, and a primary purpose devoted to amateur service activities consistent with this part." In addition, the document of organization must be kept in the club's records and made available to the FCC upon request.

NEWS • COMMUNIQUES • MESSAGES • DISPATCHES • QST • REPORTS • TALK

ARRL Weighs-In on “Modernization”

“ARRL, as part of its mission to protect Amateur Radio, has filed comments against a proposal that would introduce high-power digital communications to the shortwave spectrum that in many instances is immediately adjacent to the Amateur HF bands.

The ‘Shortwave Modernization Coalition’ (SMC), which represents certain high-frequency stock trading interests, filed the petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). ARRL responded on behalf of its members and the 760,000 licensees of the Amateur Radio Service in the US.

The ARRL Laboratory performed a detailed technical analysis over several months to determine if the proposed rules would affect operations on the bands allocated to Radio Amateurs that are inter-mixed with the Part 90 bands in the spectrum in question.

ARRL’s analysis determined that, if the proposed rules are adopted, the new operations inevitably will cause significant harmful interference to many users of adjacent and nearby

spectrum, including Amateur Radio licensees. Ed Hare, W1RFI, a 37-year veteran of the ARRL Lab and internationally recognized expert on radio frequency interference, was the principal investigator on the study.

Hare concluded the petition should not be granted. ‘This petition seeks to put 50 kHz wide, 20,000-watt signals immediately next to seven different amateur bands with weaker protections against interference than required in other services,’ said Hare.

ARRL’s filed comments highlight flawed analysis and incomplete data submitted by the petitioners. It noted the petitioners ‘...significantly understate the harmful interference that is not just likely, but certain, if the rules proposed by SMC are adopted as proposed. It is noteworthy that SMC’s proposed rules would provide less protection than the much-lower power amateur radio transmitters are required to provide Part 90 receivers.’ ARRL’s opposition also noted that there was no reported tests conducted with Amateur or other affected stations,

greater transmitted power, and weaker rules that protect users of adjacent spectrum. ARRL’s comments expose the likely fallout:

‘Incredibly, notwithstanding the significant increase in potential interference that would result from using digital schemes with 50 kHz bandwidths and 20,000 watts of power, SMC also proposes to substantially lessen the protections required to pro-

‘That destructive interference would result if operations commenced using anything close to the proposed maximum levels.’

tect adjacent and neighboring licensees. SMC proposes [out-of-band emissions] limits that offer less protection than the existing Part 90 limits and would actually permit no attenuation (0 dB) at the edge of adjacent allocations, many of which are bands allocated to and heavily used in the Amateur Radio Service. Consistent with lessening protections while increasing the potential for harmful interference, SMC also proposes a lower limit for spurious emissions. SMC would reduce the existing protection of -73 dB for the applicable 1000-watt power limit to just -50 dB protection for their proposed 20,000-watt limit. Due to the much wider 50 kHz proposed bandwidth, the resulting interference would penetrate deep into the adjacent Amateur bands.’

The proposal has been assigned FCC Docket No. RM-11953. While the period for commenting on the petition has now closed, replies to comments in the record may now be submitted.

Part 90 HF rules currently authorize a maximum signal bandwidth equal to a voice communications channel, at up to 1000 W peak envelope power (PEP). The petition seeks multi-

Hundreds of licensed Radio Amateurs filed comments in the Docket, expressing overwhelming opposition to the proposal. Those interested may read ARRL’s full comments and the results of the technical analysis, which are included in the filing. ‘If granted as written, this would be devastating to Amateur operation for many tens of kHz into our bands,’ said Hare.”

— ARRL Bulletin 17, 3 August 2023 [excerpted]

The FCC is Coming to Harrisburg

Attention all broadcasters, ham radio operators, GMRS operators, public safety operators and business/commercial two-way radio operators. Four members of the Federal Communications Commission will be addressing the monthly luncheon of ham radio operators in the Harrisburg area.

The luncheon will begin at **11:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 28th at:**
The Hibachi Grill and Buffet
5080 Jonestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17122
 717-671-8818
<https://hibachipg.com/index.html>
 This is the same shopping plaza where Hobby Lobby is located.

The FCC will be making a presentation about what their responsibilities are and what our responsibilities are as commercial and amateur radio operators. Scheduled to make presentations for the FCC will be:

Dave Dombrowski	FCC Regional Director
Laura Smith	FCC Legal Department
Al Furlow	FCC Field Engineer
Riley Hollingsworth	FCC - Retired

This will be an excellent opportunity to learn where things stand in the current regulatory and budgetary environment and to have questions about your operations answered.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Tom Shingara at 717-421-3034 as soon as you can. Seating is limited and will be on a first come - first served basis.

— Thanks, Glen, K3SWZ

Radio Free Bermuda: evading undercover robot birds

de Frank Aponte, K3FXA/VP9

Most of the travel that my wife and I do in warmer climates is to go scuba diving or sightseeing, at the very least. Since



getting my Amateur Radio License in 2019, I also try to see if I can find a way to incorporate that into our travels. Earlier this year, we scheduled a cruise for Bermuda. After we picked a place to scuba dive with, figuring out the process for transmitting on the island with an FCC license was the next task. Are there reciprocal operating agreements between the USA and Bermuda? Is there another license that I can test for? Is there a visitor's license?

Well, most of those questions were answered by chance at our monthly HRAC meeting. While Rag Chewing about summer plans, I discovered that another member was sailing on the same itinerary on a different cruise line about a month before our trip. And as a bonus, they had already gone through all the leg work for their visitor's license and were able to point me in the right direction!

The first step was to confirm that I could get my visitor's license in time. I visited the website for the Radio Society of Bermuda (www.radiobda.com/), and right at the top of the page was a link for Visitor Information. A very informative page explained the application process, the information

for both of their repeaters on the island, and another handy link at the top of the page to download the application.

I received my license and visitor's Call Sign (my FCC Call Sign with "VP9" tacked on to the end) in a couple of weeks, and I was ready to go! And before I forget to mention it, they require at least a General Class License from the USA. There wasn't any cost aside from a few minutes of my time to fill out the application form and email it back.

I knew from sailing with Royal Caribbean/Celebrity before that I could not transmit from the ship. Still, there were plenty of places with park benches at the Royal Naval Dockyard to have a sit and

him for the reply and explained that I was on holiday and was just checking to see if I could make any contacts. I wrote the info down in my notebook and went back to listening. We only had a handful of minutes before catching a bus to start our "easy" tourist day, so I packed up my radio and laughed a little bit at how quickly everything worked out.

The next two days had a packed schedule of high-seas adventures (but thankfully not too high), so I did not get to play HAM again on our trip. Still, it was a fun experience and a nice introduction to traveling with my radio and making new contacts from somewhere other than my shack. I even managed to evade the undercover bird robots that the Regulatory Authority of Bermuda sent to keep an eye on me (because we all know that birds aren't real).

"Undercover"?



transmit. The dockyard was less than five miles from the transmitter I had programmed into my HT, so I installed the antenna I packed, turned on the radio, and listened for a couple of minutes. Hearing nothing going on, I called CQ, and less than a minute later, I received a pingback from a local! We traded call sign info; I thanked

Planning to vacation or visit abroad from the USA? Take your rig and ticket with you. Check out the reciprocal agreement with the visiting nation and do the paperwork. ARRL has resources at <http://www.arrl.org/international-operating>

Zoom Technician Licensing Course starting 7 September

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Technician Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, **7 September**, and will run through Thursday, **19 October** (7 sessions). The three-hour sessions will start at 1830 Eastern Time. These are the classes held for years sponsored by the [National Electronics Museum](#). Please publicize this with anyone you know that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email:

roland.anders@comcast.net

CARA Hamfest

The [Columbia Amateur Radio Association](#) (CARA, K3CUJ) is pleased to announce that the annual CARA Fest is on Sunday, 1 October 2023 at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Maryland.

CARA is also pleased to *provide indoor tables for our fellow clubs to spread awareness of their activities, free of charge*. If you have not already been in touch with us to coordinate an information table, you may book a complimentary table on the Tickets page of the CARA Fest website: contact coordinator Wendy Sauvageot, K3TBD, CARA Fest Communications, k3tbd@outlook.com

— Thanks Chuck, KAIYSR, and Glenn, K3SWZ, for the heads-up on these two items above!

CHOTA 2023 - 9 September

Another “OTA”: **CH**urches and **O**n **T**he **A**ir, sponsored by World Association of Christian Radio Amateurs and Listeners (wacral.org). The organization began in 1957 by the Huddersfield South Methodist Radio Club in Yorkshire, England. Ecumenical since 1978, all are welcome and the club call is M1CRA. Manager John, G3XYF, asks you email to him if you plan to participate in the no-contest, POTA-like event at jhwresdell@gmail.com. For more details on awards, etc., visit the website.

CONTESTING et al

From DXNews.com for September:

E51D, Penrhyn Atoll
IOTA OC-082, North Cook Islands, 19 August thru 10 September. Operations: 160-6m, CW, SSB, FT8.

ZL7IO Chatham Islands
ZL3IO will be active as ZL7IO from Chatham Islands, IOTA OC-038, New Zealand, in September. Operations: 160-10m, CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8.

T32AZ Kiritimati Island Eastern Kiribati
KH6QJ as T32AZ from Kiritimati Island, IOTA OC-024, Eastern Kiribati, 1 September thru 17 October. Operations: 80-10m. Modes TBD.

D44TWO Santiago Island Cape Verde Cabo Verde
D44TWO from Praia, Santiago Island, IOTA AF-005, Cape Verde, Cabo Verde, 2-17 September. Operations: HF Bands, CW, SSB, Digital modes and also using QO-100 satellite.

SV5/HB9OAU Karpathos Island
HB9OAU, from Karpathos Island, IOTA EU-001, 5-21 September as SV5/HB9OAU. Operations: 80-10m SSB, CW, RTTY, FT8.

V31KO V31XT Belize
V3O Team from Belize in WAE Contest, 9-10 September. They will operate before and after contest as V31KO and V31XT. Operations: 80-10m (SSB only during contest).

VK9LAA Lord Howe Island
IOTA OC-004, 20 September thru 4 October. Operations: 160-6m bands, including activity in CQ WW DX RTTY Contest.

ZD9W Tristan da Cunha
YL2GM, active as ZD9W from Tristan da Cunha Island, IOTA AF-029, 24 September thru 22 October. Operations: 160-6m, CW, SSB, FT8.

5X3K Uganda
5X3K Team Uganda, 28 September thru 8 October. Operations: 160-10m, CW, SSB, FT8, RTTY.

— Please check with DXNews.com for current updates, and watch your spots!

Contest Calendar September 2023:

www.contestcalendar.com/contest-cal.html

Popular for the month:

- PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial, 2-3rd
- Worked All Europe DX SSB, 9-10th
- ARRL VHF Contest, 9-11th
- Route 66 On The Air, 9-17th
- CQ WW DX RTTY, 23-24th

◆ **ARRL Contest Calendar:**
www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

◆ **One-By-One special events (65 calls):** www.1x1callsigns.org

Popular for the month:

- Route 66 On The Air (19 calls)

◆ **State QSO Parties (10):**
www.contestcalendar.com/stateparties.html

State QSO Party Challenge:
stateqsoparty.com

◆ **Contester Scores:**
www.3830scores.com/index.php

◆ **POTA:** parksontheair.com

◆ **SOTA:** www.sota.org.uk

◆ **VOTA:** vota.arrl.org/

◆ **WRTC (World Radiosport Team Championship):** wrtc.info/

◆ **The World Amateur Radio Contesting Association (WARCA)** published its annual ranking of all active international contesters. The full ranking table for 2023 is available at: warca.org/22-23

NOTE: by worldwide “gentleman’s agreement,” there is **never** any contesting on: 60, 30, 17, and 12 meter bands!

QSL Bureau, US 3rd Call Area:

The [National Capitol DX Association](#) is the managing organization — Jack Ference, W3KX, W3 Incoming QSL Bureau Manager. Address:

W3 Incoming QSL Bureau:
NCDXA
PO Box 190
Glenelg, MD 21737-0190

IMPORTANT: Please go to the NCDXA’s website to identify who specifically is your card sorter, and for additional information!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL FORM



MAIL TO:

Tim Lehman (W4NKC)
PO Box 453
Hummelstown, PA 17036-0453
717-982-8550

— Make checks payable to **HRAC** —

YOU CAN ALSO USE PayPal for payment of dues. The club's account is: HRACW3UU@GMAIL.COM The payee will appear as Dave Dormer. If using PayPal, please list the call sign(s) for which you are paying dues and the number of years you are paying in the "note" section of the payment page. Also, if there are any changes to your personal information please either put it in the note section or email the updates to: W4NKC.HV@gmail.com

Membership per year is: \$15.00, \$7.50 if over 65.

Family Membership per year is \$25.00 (Hams must reside in the same household.)

— Membership end December 31st of the year. —

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL* _____

ARRL Member? Y N YEAR FIRST LICENSED: _____

SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

I agree to abide by the by-laws and guidelines of the membership of the **Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.** and the use of its repeater, W3UU.

If you recently obtained your first license through our Harrisburg Volunteer Examiner Team, bring your application and CSCE to a club meeting and we will waive the membership dues for your first year of membership!

* **PLEASE NOTE:** the newsletter is available in portable document format (PDF) only, **via email**, so a valid, updated email address is important!

Join the Gang!