



W3UU NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

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NEXT MEETING IS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1830-
2030L at the Vietnam Veterans of
America Capital Chapter 542,
8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg.
All are welcome!

THE NEWSLETTER IS BACK!

The HRAC newsletter was something I always looked forward to receiving each month. I know the information in the newsletter was largely available on our website and Facebook page but I just missed it.

When Curt, K3URT, asked if anyone was willing to take on the responsibility I wasn't in a position to do it. Fortunately, things have changed a bit and I now have some time to commit to the newsletter. This first issue is a bit abridged compared to past newsletters but I plan to put my own spin on future issues.

Please enjoy, and feel free to send me ideas for future issues.

73 de Steve, KC3VPJ

This area left blank intentionally. This space plus the space above where "The Newsletter is Back" announcement appears will be the home of the "Member of the Month" profile. This is not an award, just some interesting information about one of our fellow members. We'll discuss at the March 11 meeting.

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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 2026:

- March.....8th Daylight Saving Time
.....11th, club meeting
- April.....8th, club meeting
.....18th, license testing
- May.....13th, club meeting
- June.....10th, club meeting
.....20th, license testing
.....27-28, Field Day!
- July.....4th, Firecracker Hamfest
.....8th, club meeting
- August.....12th, club meeting
.....15, license testing
- September.....9th, club meeting
- October.....14th, club meeting
.....17th, license testing
.....24th, Oktoberfest
- November.....11th, club meeting
- December.....9th, cookie exchange
.....19, license testing



Club Station W3UU

- Repeater Frequency:**
146.760 MHz, minus .600 MHz offset
- Repeater CTCSS Tone:**
100.0 Hz (Encole/Decode)
- Weekly Net:** Wednesdays at 1900L, except 2nd Wednesday of the month
- Website:** W3UU.org
- Facebook:**
www.facebook.com/Harrisburg-Radio-Amateurs-Club-208171495915056

DA FINE PRINT

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

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? Overcome "mike fright" and gain operating experience. It's easier than you think!

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).

If you are interested in serving as Net Control, contact Curt: K3URT@mac.com. Get on the air! If we get a cohort of volunteers, the duty will be spread out on a rotating basis.

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

The March 11 Elmer Time will be on the **Traffic System**, presented by **Tom Inman, KC8T**, ARRL-EPA Traffic Manager. Tom was licensed as a Novice in 1976, Tech, then General, then Extra in 1986. He became EPA Traffic Manager in August, 2022.

HAM HISTORY

100 Years Ago This Month

In March 1926, the world of amateur radio was experiencing a major transition away from older technologies and, notably, saw early experimentation that overlapped with the birth of modern rocketry.

Key events in March 1926 relating to radio and technology include:

Spark Gap Transmitters Banned: Following the rapid adoption of vacuum-tube continuous-wave (CW) technology, 1926 marked the year that spark gap transmitters were largely rendered illegal on amateur bands. This move was designed to reduce interference and move ham radio to more efficient, modern, and narrow-band transmissions.

Expansion of Shortwave and Experimental Activity: QST magazine in March 1926 featured discussions on advancements in receiver circuits, such as "multiple regeneration," and how to forecast radio reception based on weather conditions, reflecting the growing understanding of HF (high-frequency) propagation.

Robert Goddard's Liquid-Fueled Rocket: On March 16, 1926, Dr. Robert Goddard successfully launched the world's first liquid-fueled rocket in Auburn, Massachusetts. While not directly a "ham radio" event, this breakthrough was enabled by early 20th-century radio engineering principles and occurred during the same era of rapid innovation that defined amateur radio in the 1920s.

Government Policy Shift: A new government policy was highlighted in March 1926, emphasizing that while commercial stations would handle most traffic, private radio facilities were to be encouraged for national defense.

Experimental Television: Around this time in 1926, experimental television licenses were being issued, such as 7XAO in the Pacific Northwest, marking the beginning of visual broadcasting alongside audio experimentation.

This period was characterized by the "death" of spark-gap radio and the "birth" of more advanced, experimental radio communication.

HAMFEAST at Peachtree Restaurant, February 12

The annual "Hamfeast" was held at Peachtree Restaurant in Harrisburg on Thursday, February 12. About 20 members and guests were in attendance and enjoyed an evening of fun, fellowship and good food.

Club president Terry Snyder, WB3BKN, served as master of ceremonies and presided over drawings for many door prizes, including a \$25 and \$50 gift certificate to Quicksilver and one \$100.00 gift certificate for Ham Radio Outlet. Tom Shingara also donated some items he had created with his laser engraver. Tim Lehman, W4NKC, presented certificates to members recognizing them for the number of years they had been licensed (multiples of 5 years).

Steve Shoemaker, KC3VPJ, was selected as "Ham of the Year" for 2025 for his work organizing field days for the club. Terry, WB3BKN, presented the award.



The gang's all here



Door Prize table



Denny, Pete and Tom; special guests from the .21 group



"Ham of the Year" 2025 was awarded to Steve Shoemaker, KC3VPJ (right) presented by club president Terry Snyder, WB3BKN. Photo by Steve Hensley,

LOCAL AREA NETS (All times are local)

MONDAYS

- 1900: @145.110 MHz, 132.8 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, 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 third 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 net, LSB
- 1000: 7.068 MHz, Mid-Atlantic NBEMS Training Net, Thor22. <https://groups.io/g/MidAtlanticNBEMS>
- 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 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 the test date by end of business day.)

Testing is FREE*

The next test session is

Saturday, April 18, 2026 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

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, at the Lower Paxton Township Building, 425 Prince St., Harrisburg, PA 17109.**

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/@dauphincountyaresraces1195



NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM, NTS 2.0: "The National Traffic System (NTS) is an organized network of amateur radio operators sponsored by the American Radio Relay League for the purpose of relaying messages throughout the U.S. and Canada." See <https://nts2.arrl.org/> for more information.
EPA Section Traffic Manager is Tom Inman, KC8T.

NET	FREQUENCY	TIME
EPA Emergency Phone & Traffic Net	3918 kHz	1700 ET Daily
WPA Emergency Phone & Traffic Net	3918 kHz	1730 ET Daily
Pennsylvania Traffic Net	3585 kHz	1900 ET Daily

SKYWARN™

Learn more about SkyWarn at: www.weather.gov/SKYWARN
The Central Pennsylvania SkyWarn Group net is every Wednesday at 2100L on the W3ND 145.110 MHz repeater: 31.8 Hz Tone.

[Central Pennsylvania SkyWarn™ Facebook page](#)

March thru September is severe weather season for Pennsylvania.

Basic SKYWARN Training @ Millersville University

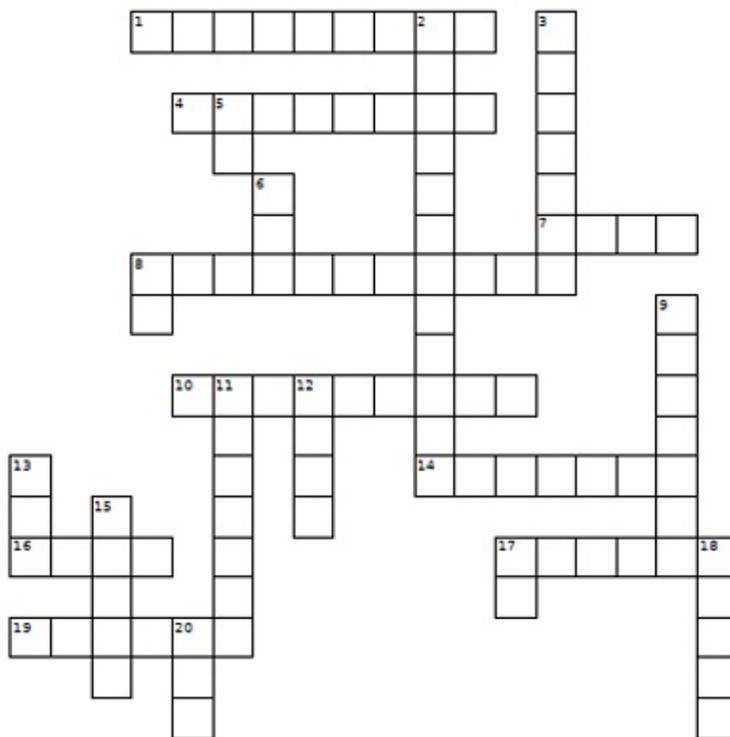
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 1700-1900L

Science Lane, Millersville, PA 17551

This is a basic SKYWARN spotter talk for new and returning spotters to familiarize themselves with the latest training materials. No registration is required. This training will be held at Millersville University in the Caputo building room 210.



AMATEUR RADIO CROSSWORD PUZZLE #1



- | Across | Down |
|--|--|
| 1 Takes a small signal and increases it's level | 2 Polarized capacitor |
| 4 Parallel feed wires | 3 A Ham Rock |
| 7 "A" to a ham | 5 Current that flows in two direction |
| 8 Focused antenna | 6 A form of communication using the moon as a satellite |
| 10 This component holds a temporary charge and large values are polarity sensitive | 8 Current that only flows in one direction |
| 14 Hams often spend weekends away from their wives in pursuit of this | 9 This form of communications consisting of 1's and 0's |
| 16 When wire is wound this way, it's referred to as such | 11 Ham radio operator, e.g. |
| 17 A popular, easy to build antenna and may be horizontal or in a V-shape | 12 Represents the interests of Amateur Radio Operators |
| 19 Removes an undesired frequency or level from a signal | 13 Ham radio oversight group |
| | 15 May be electromagnetic or magnetic In magnets, it may be North or South in polarity In radio, it may change |
| | 17 Represents long distance communication |
| | 18 Ham mentor person |
| | 20 Shape of oval insulator |

Answers on next page

ANSWERS – AMATEUR RADIO CROSSWORD PUZZLE #1



- Across
- 1 Takes a small signal and increases it's level
 - 4 Parallel feed wires
 - 7 "A" to a ham
 - 8 Focused antenna
 - 10 This component holds a temporary charge and large values are polarity sensitive
 - 14 Hams often spend weekends away from their wives in pursuit of this
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 - 17 A popular, easy to build antenna and may be horizontal or in a V-shape
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 - 20 Shape of oval insulator



National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting

Open Saturday and Sunday, 1 – 4 PM

(Check website for hours of operation)

8070 Tylersville Road (GPS use Crosley Blvd.) West Chester, Ohio 45069

Ph: 513-777-0027 Website: www.voamuseum.org

HAMFESTS

FredFest 2026 is BACK!

Saturday, March 21st, 2026

8:00 am to 12 noon

Shake off those winter blues and join us for the first local Amateur Radio indoor tailgate hamfest of spring.

*** NEW LOCATION with LOTS of parking ***

Event location: AMVETS Post #2 FARM

9602 Baltimore Rd

Frederick, MD 21704

The Farm is about one minute off of Interstate 70, just east of the Monocacy River.

General Admission is \$7.00, with kids under 18 free.

Tables are \$15 for first table, and \$10 for each additional, and includes admission for one person

Seller setup begins at 06:45 am, doors open to the public at 8:00 am

We are accepting table reservations – email K3MMM@arrl.net to reserve yours

Raffle prizes throughout the morning – must be present to win

Did we mention lots and lots of parking?

Talk in on 146.73 (negative offset PL 141.3)



WINTERFEST!™

Vienna Wireless Society's 50th WINTERFEST matches Hams, Makers and Electronic Enthusiasts for a traditional Amateur Radio related HAMFEST

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Location: Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna Virginia, 22181

More than 65 Indoor and tailgating vendors and 450 attendees are anticipated to attend

Download the WINTERFEST 2026 Flyer [here](#)

Operating Hours: 8am to 2pm

Vendors: Contact TableSales@viennawireless.net for more information about indoor and outdoor opportunities, All tables are sold; contact TableSales@viennawireless.net to be placed on the wait list

Questions or comments? Contact WINTERFEST@viennawireless.net