



W3UU NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

Club Officers:

PRESIDENT:

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WB3BKN1@gmail.com

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k3fxa@frankaponte.com

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LICENSE TRUSTEE:

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(non-elected position)

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MEMBERSHIP:

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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steve7shoe@gmail.com

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Steve Shoemaker, KC3VPJ
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WB3BKN1@gmail.com

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k3urt@mac.com

VE TEAM LEADER:

Tim Lehman, W4NKC
w4nkc.hv@gmail.com

QST:

NEXT MEETING IS

WEDNESDAY, August 12, 1830-2030L at the Vietnam Veterans of America Capital Chapter 542, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg. All are welcome!

Firecracker 2026 Attendees Brave Near-Record Heat

Several hundred amateur radio enthusiasts, spouses and children braved the 100 degree July 4 heat to attend the 2026 Firecracker Hamfest at the Postal Employees Picnic Grounds just north of Harrisburg. The record high for Harrisburg is 104 degrees set in 1966 but it was the hottest July 4 since at least 1888! This year's event welcomed several new vendors and welcomed back a couple that hadn't attended for 10 or 15 years.

The hamfest opened with the presentation of colors and singing of our national anthem by Elaine Deimler. Raffle and door prizes were announced throughout the morning.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make this event possible. We're always looking for more volunteers to keep these events running. Please contact Terry, WB3BKN, if you'd like to help.

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Presentation of colors



I need one of those, one of those...



View from the entrance



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 is always the Saturday before the first Sunday in July. During the hamfest, 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 2026-27:

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
 January.....13, club meeting
16, Winterfest
 February.....10, club meeting
20, license testing
 March.....10, club meeting
 April.....14, club meeting
17, license testing
 May.....12, club meeting



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

DA FINE PRINT

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Content may be freely used with proper source citation and is of reasonable "fair use" per 17 US Code section 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. 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 Elmer Time presentation for the August 12 meeting will be by Steve, KC3VPJ, who will talk about tape measure Yagi antennas and some of the lessons learned when he built his. He will bring the antenna he built for show and tell.

AMATEUR RADIO HISTORY AUGUST THROUGH THE YEARS

August 5, 1924 — First amateur radio contact between New Zealand and North America. New Zealand amateur Frank Bell, Z4AA, contacted Cecil Goyder, 2SZ, in London earlier in 1924 as amateurs demonstrated that shortwave could span enormous distances. The 1920s are a particularly rich period for a "this month in ham history" feature because amateurs were overturning conventional thinking about shortwave propagation.

August 1933 — The ARRL establishes the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps. During the 1930s, the ARRL increasingly formalized amateur radio's role in emergency communications. The Amateur Radio Emergency Corps was a predecessor of today's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

August 1940 — U.S. amateurs face wartime restrictions. Even before America's entry into World War II, international conditions increasingly affected amateur operations. After Pearl Harbor in December 1941, U.S. amateur transmitting was suspended for the duration of the war, although thousands of hams subsequently put their radio skills to work for the military and government.

August 15, 1945 — Amateur radio prepares to return after WWII. With Japan's surrender and the end of World War II, American amateurs began looking toward getting back on the air. Amateur operation had essentially been shut down since January 1942. Bands were gradually returned to amateur use rather than all reopening immediately.

August 1958 — The space age comes to amateur radio. During the late 1950s, amateurs were already experimenting with receiving signals from satellites and thinking seriously about amateur satellites. Those efforts led to OSCAR 1, launched in December 1961—the first amateur radio satellite.

W3UU The Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.
President - Terry [WB3BKN], Vice-President - Chuck [KA1YSR]
MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2026 MEETING

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: The Wednesday, July 8, 2026, meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1903L by the President, Terry [WB3BKN], at the Vietnam Veterans of America Post 542, 8000 Derry St, Harrisburg, PA 17111. **INTRODUCTIONS:** 11 individuals were present and introduced themselves by name and callsign.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The June 2026 Minutes were opened for comments, questions, and corrections. Motion to Accept the June 2026 Secretary's Report as published to the HRAC / W3UU Website by Tim [W4NKC] and seconded by Curt [K3URT]. The attending membership approved the Meeting Minutes by voice vote. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Frank [K3FXA] presented the Treasurer's Reports for May and June 2026. Motion to Accept the May and June 2026 Treasurer's Reports by Chuck [KA1YSR] and seconded by George [AC3EA]. The attending membership approved the Treasurer's Report by voice vote.

LICENSE TRUSTEE REPORT: Dave [KC3MG] not present. No Report.

EQUIPMENT TRUSTEE REPORT: Terry [WB3BKN] had nothing new to report.

LAUREL VE COMMITTEE: VE Tim [W4NKC] reported that the next testing date Saturday, August 15, 2026, at 0900L and that individuals must register by 1800L on Wednesday August 12, 2026. Please arrive by 0830L on test day to get checked in so that testing can start promptly at 0900L. The testing location is the Vietnam Veterans of America Post 542, 8000 Derry St, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

REPEATER COMMITTEE: Terry [WB3BKN] reported that the work has begun to link the club repeater [W3UU] to another repeater in Northern Dauphin County. The hardware installation is continuing, so more information will follow.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Membership Chair Tim [W4NKC] reported that we have 59 members. With more than 50% of our members also being ARRL members, we remain an ARRL Affiliated Club.

WEB PAGE COMMITTEE: Please send content and ideas to Webmaster Rick [K2RBT]. Please send updates and news items to Rick [K2RBT]. If you would like to volunteer some time as an admin for the club's Facebook page, please contact Terry [WB3BKN]

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS:
·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 at the Lower Paxton Township Building, 425 Prince St, Harrisburg.

ELMER TIME: Tonight's Elmer Time topic was Software Defined Radio in Amateur Radio, presented by Frank [K3FXA]. Elmer Time Coordinator Steve [KC3VPJ] is always looking for topics that we can match up with our experienced HAMs to present on.

CLUB NEWSLETTER: Steve [KC3VPJ] is leading the charge for the newest incarnation of the HRAC Monthly Newsletter, so if you have information to add to the newsletter or have ideas for things that you would like to see in it, please contact Steve.

FIELD DAY: The next Field Day will be Winter Field Day and it will be held on January 23 and 24, 2026. Preparations are starting now, so if you would like to volunteer or have any ideas for community outreach, please contact our HRAC Field Day coordinator Steve [KC3VPJ].

UPCOMING HAMFESTS: The next Hamfest for the club will be the Oktoberfest Hamfest in October. Please contact Terry [WB3BKN] to volunteer. Note that attendees can buy extra tickets to a better chance in the main prize raffle and are not limited to their entry ticket.

OLD CLUB BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

NEW CLUB BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB: Those in attendance discussed the general topic of HRAC Hamfests and the limited number of people we have to put them on, especially the Summer Firecracker Hamfest. We discussed different things that we could do to partner with other groups or radio operators in order to get more help, as well as the possibility of changing schedules or the number that we do. A lot to think about and continue discussing at future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Steve [KC3VPJ] and seconded by George [AC3EA]. The business meeting closed at 2005L with approval by all attendees by voice vote. 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, Section 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.*

HAMFESTS

READING RADIO CLUB HAMFEST

Saturday, August 29, 2026 · Rain or Shine
Heritage Park Sinking Spring, PA 19608
Across from Sunoco and Dairy Queen

EVENT HOURS

Hamfest opens: 8:00 a.m.

Vendors/Sellers welcome: 7:00 a.m.

ADMISSION

\$5.00 per adult · \$8.00 per tailgater

No admission fee for those taking license exams, Radio Amateurs under 18 yrs. of age, unlicensed spouses, or children under 18 yrs. of age.

DOOR PRIZES

Door prizes awarded at intervals. No need to be present to win.

FCC/ARRL LICENSE EXAMS

Exams start at 8:30 a.m inside the Freight Station.

Cost is \$15.00 (adults 18+ · under 18 \$5.00)

Pre-register at:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/RRC/all?startDate=2026-07-15>

Questions: Contact Stuart Higgins, W2SLH - exam@w2slh.com or 484-339-3456.

TAILGATING

\$8.00 per 4' x 8' space at your car (includes 1 admission).

Bring your own table. No indoor tables.

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS

Hot breakfast and lunch items, plus coffee, sodas, snacks & bottled water for sale.

TALK-IN

RRC Repeater 146.91 / .31 (CTCSS 131.8)

DIRECTIONS

GPS: 992 Clematis St., Sinking Spring, PA 19608

From Reading, go west on Rt. 422 past the McDonald's at Rt. 724. After about one mile, go left onto Park Ave. (just past the Sunoco station on the right). Travel on Park Ave. 0.3 miles to a dead end, then take a left onto Clematis St. Go 0.2 miles to the entrance of Heritage Park.

Watch for HAMFEST signs. ARRL-sanctioned hamfest. Free parking available. Handicap facilities.

Reading Radio Club, Inc. w3bn.rrc@gmail.com
Public contact: Jim Nicholas, W3ITH · hamfest@w3bn.org · 610-781-5508

Can You Still Pass the Technician Exam?

Think you've still got what it takes to earn your Technician license? Each month we'll feature a few questions from the current Technician Class question pool. See how you do before checking the answers below.

1. What electrical component stores energy in an electric field?
 - A. Resistor
 - B. Capacitor
 - C. Inductor
 - D. Diode
2. What type of electrical component stores energy in a magnetic field?
 - A. Resistor
 - B. Capacitor
 - C. Inductor
 - D. Diode
3. What electronic component allows current to flow in only one direction?
 - A. Resistor
 - B. Fuse
 - C. Diode
 - D. Driven element
4. What is the resistance of a circuit for which the applied voltage is 12 volts and the current flow is 1.5 amperes?
 - A. 18 ohms
 - B. 0.125 ohms
 - C. 8 ohms
 - D. 13.5 ohms
5. What are the names of the electrodes of a bipolar junction transistor?
 - A. Signal, bias, power
 - B. Emitter, base, collector
 - C. Input, output, supply
 - D. Pole one, pole two, output

Answers:

1-B, 2-C, 3-C, 4-C, 5-B

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 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 Tone, FM, W3AD, Lancaster Transmitting Society net

FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS

- 0900: 7.068 MHz, Mid-Atlantic NBEMS Training Net, Thor32. <https://groups.io/g/MidAtlanticNBEMS>
- 2030: 146.580 MHz, simplex, FM, Lancaster County

SUNDAYS

- 0730: 3.580 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
- 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, August 15, 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

ARES/RACES
Dauphin County, PA



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

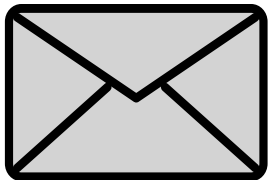
March thru September is severe weather season for Pennsylvania.

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.

· **HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB** ·**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 65Family Membership per year is ☐ \$25.00 (Hams must reside in the same household)**— Membership ends December 31 of the year —**

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL* _____

ARRL Member? ☐ YES ☐ NO YEAR FIRST LICENSED _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



I agree to abide by the by-laws and guidelines of the membership of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' 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!*80 years service to the Capital of Pennsylvania*