W3UU NEWSLETTER
November 2026

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Curt Sanders, K3URT
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Tim Lehman, W4NKC
w4nkc.hv@gmail.com

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

HRAC Celebrates 80 Years!

Sometimes there are things that can not go by without celebrating. One such thing is our club's 80th year anniversary. Our club as founded on July 1, 1946, and to commemorate this milestone we will be operating an on air special event,and you are all invited to participate.

The time frame for this event will be the first two weeks in November. To participate you need only to travel to your on radio shack, where you will work on your own schedule for all, or part of the two week period, at your convenience. In other words, when you have enough time to sit for a while and handle some contacts. You will use the club call sign W3UU/A, B, C etc. Logging will be done on a logging program that will be networked so that we all log to the same database.

We will be active on any band that you are licensed to operate, on any mode that you like to operate. We will be excluding repeater contacts, however, simplex operation on VHF and UHF bands is encouraged. HF bands and modes that your license allows will probably be your best bet.. Spot yourself on DX clusters etc..

At the end of the two weeks the contacted stations will be sent a certificate showing the W3UU operators that were contacted by that station.

How you can participate. Contact me by text at 717-979-9515 because email has become too over saturated with unsolicited emails, and your emails will most likely be lost. Be sure to include your call sign, your level of license and your name, and any other ideas I should consider.

When it finishes, assistance will be needed to sort through the contacts and send out certificates.

Lets have some fun with this event.

Terry WB3BKN

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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 amont 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 amate;ur 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:

November.....11th, club meeting
December.....9th, cookie exchange
.....19th, license testing
January.....13th, club meeting
.....16th, Winterfest
February.....10th, club meeting
.....20th, license testing
March.....10th. club meeting
April.....14th, club meeting
.....17th, license testing
May.....12th, club meeting
June.....9th, club meeting
.....19th, license testing
.....26th, Field Day
July.....3rd, Firecracker Hamfest
.....14th, club meeting

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.

Octoberfest, October 24

Oktoberfest was a big success with close to 200 attendees. There were a lot of great conversations about amateur radio and other topics. The club invested in a coffee maker and extra carafe plus all the accessories for making coffee. That will be very helpful for future hamfests.

A few photos from the event are listed below. Rex Athey took a bunch of photos and posted them on Facebook. You can see them here.









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.

Steve, KC3VPJ, brought in two Raspberry Pi and one Arduino mini computers and led a discussion about how they can be used to power Ham Clock and other amateur radio related devices.

AMATEUR RADIO HISTORY NOVEMBER THROUGH THE YEARS

November 15, 1945 — Amateur Radio Returns to the Air

During World War II, amateur radio operators in the United States were prohibited from normal transmitting as the nation devoted its communications resources to the war effort. On November 15, 1945, amateurs were permitted to return to the air on frequencies above 28 MHz, including the 10-meter and 5-meter bands. The return to normal amateur operation took place in stages as wartime frequency restrictions were lifted.

November 27, 1923 — The First Two-Way Transatlantic Amateur Contact

A major milestone in amateur radio history occurred when American and French amateurs completed the first successful two-way transatlantic amateur radio contact. The achievement demonstrated that amateur signals could cross the Atlantic in both directions and helped establish the potential of shortwave communication. It was an important step toward the worldwide contacts that amateurs take for granted today.

November 13, 2000 — Amateur Radio Reaches the International Space Station

Amateur radio added a new chapter to its space-age history when the first amateur radio contact from the International Space Station took place in November 2000. The event helped establish a tradition of connecting astronauts with students and radio amateurs on Earth. Today, amateur radio continues to offer opportunities to communicate with astronauts and participate in educational contacts from space.

From the early pioneers who experimented with wireless across oceans to today's operators using satellites, digital modes, and space-station contacts, amateur radio has always been about experimentation, communication, and pushing the limits of what radio can do.

W3UU The Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

President - Terry [WB3BKN], Vice-President - Chuck [KA1YSR]

MINUTES OF THE October 14, 2026 MEETING

MEETING CALL TO ORDER:
The Wednesday, October 14, 2026, meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. was called to order at 1858L 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 September 2026 Meeting Minutes were opened for comments, questions, and corrections. Motion to Accept the September 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 Report for September 2026. Motion to Accept the September 2026 Treasurer's Report by Chuck [KA1YSR] and seconded by Charlie [W3CWT]. The attending membership approved the Treasurer's Report by voice vote.

LICENSE TRUSTEE REPORT:
Terry [WB3BKN] reported that there have been no issues with our license.

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

LAUREL VE COMMITTEE:
VE Tim [W4NKC] reported that the next testing date Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 0900L and that individuals must register by 1800L on Wednesday October 14, 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 he is working to schedule the work required to enable more features on our repeater and move the location of our antenna on the tower

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:
Membership Chair Tim [W4NKC] reported that we have 62 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 the use of Raspberry PIs and Arduinos in Amateur Radio. Steve [KC3VPJ] showed us some of the things you can do with them such as HamClock (HamClock.com). Elmer Time Coordinator Steve [KC3VPJ] is always looking for topics that we can match up with our experienced HAMs to present on. If you are interested, contact him for a list of topic ideas.

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 Hamfests for the club will be the Oktoberfest Hamfest on October 24, 2026 and the Winterfest Hamfest on January 9, 2027. 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: Terry [WB3BKN] led our discussion finalizing the operational details of the club's 80th anniversary event. Please contact Terry [WB3BKN] to sign up for the event and have your Special Event Station ID assigned to you.

ADJOURNMENT:
A motion to adjourn was made by Chuck [KA1YSR] and seconded by Frank [K3FXA]. The business meeting closed at 1958L 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.*

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. This month's questions are on regulations.

1. What is the maximum transmitter power authorized for an amateur station operating in the VHF and UHF bands?

   A. 50 watts PEP
   B. 1500 watts PEP
   C. 200 watts PEP
   D. 100 watts PEP

2. When must an amateur station identify its transmission with its assigned call sign?

   A. At least every 10 minutes and at the end of a communication
   B. Only at the beginning of a communication
   C. Every 30 minutes
   D. Only when communicating with another amateur station for the first time

3. What is the minimum age at which a person can be granted an FCC amateur radio license?
   A. 12 years old
   B. 16 years old
   C. There is no minimum age
   D. 18 years old

4. What is the normal term for an FCC-issued amateur radio license?
   A. 5 years
   B. 8 years
   C. 10 years
   D. Lifetime, with no expiration date

5. What must an amateur operator do before allowing another person to transmit using the operator's station?

   A. Obtain permission from the FCC
   B. Ensure the other person is authorized to transmit and maintain control of the station
   C. Notify the local amateur radio club
   D. Obtain written permission from the other person's license trustee

Answers:
1-B, 2-A, 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, December 19, 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

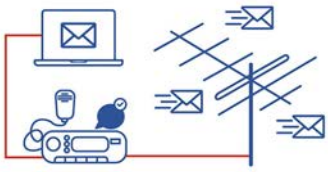
Bob Saber, K3RTS, Dauphin County ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer announces in-person meetings are on the **4th Thursdays of the month at 1900L, at the Lower Paxton Township Building, 425 Prince St., Harrisburg, PA 17109.**

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.

The Dauphin County ARES/RACES conducted the annual **Simulated Emergency Test (SET)** from the county Emergency Operating Center (EOC) in Steelton, October 4, 2026.
There were two check-ins: 0900-1000 on the 145.110 repeater conducted by K3RTS; collecting 20 contacts. From 1000-1100 a simplex check-in was conducted on 147.470 MHz by K3URT; there were 5 contacts, 2 were relays.
This was the first time Dauphin ARES/RACES conducted an exercise from the EOC. A report was sent to the ARRL EPA coordinator and to the officials at the EOC.

You Know You're a Ham When…

•You own three radios, five antennas, and a drawer full of cables — but you still can't find the adapter you need.
•You spend an entire Saturday getting an antenna perfectly tuned, then discover the band has gone quiet.
•Your family asks what you're doing in the shack, and you answer, “Just making a quick contact.” Two hours later, you're still there.
•You describe a perfectly good conversation as a “QSO,” and your family looks at you as if you've started speaking another language.
•You can identify a distant station by its callsign, but you can't remember where you put your car keys.

And the ultimate test:

Your spouse asks, “How much did that new radio cost?”

You reply, “Well, it's complicated. You have to consider the receiver, the transmitter, the antenna system, the power supply…”

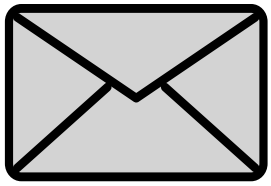
Your spouse interrupts: “So, more than you told me?”

You answer: “QSL!”

73, and may your SWR be low and your signals be strong!

· 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 65
Family 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